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INSIDE TODAY

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■ PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID THE AREA, USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: WARNS OFFICIAL

Underpass spurs new traffic woes

■ Highways Department warns of traffic snarls when construction of Phuket's first underpass begins next month

By **Chutharat Plerin**

PHUKET motorists have been warned to expect major delays when construction begins next month on a 599-million-baht underpass at Darasamuth Junction, on the bypass road near the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall.

Chavalert Lertchavanakul, Project Manager at the Department of Highways' Bureau of Bridge Construction in Bangkok, broke the news at a meeting in Phuket this week to finalize areas of responsibility with local officials.

Mr Chavalert confirmed that Thai construction giant Italian-Thai Development Co Ltd (Ital-Thai) has been chosen as the contractor.

"The contract stipulates that the work must be completed within 720 days starting from the day after signing. I have been told that the Minister of Transport [Charupong Ruangsuan] wants the contract signed before the next fiscal budget year begins on October 1, so we expect work to start next month," he added.

The meeting on Wednesday, held at the Highways Department office in Phuket Town, was called to confirm which office heads in Phuket would coordinate with Ital-Thai in building the underpass.

Continued on Page 3



Hundreds of tourist arrive by speedboat and visit Phi Phi daily. Photo: Michael Spencer

Search for Phi Phi snorkeler slayer

THE search continues for a suspected fast-moving speedboat that hit and killed a French tourist while he was snorkeling with a friend off Phi Phi Island on August 18.

The victim, Olivier Raymond Philippe Jannequin, died from a severe head injury, most likely sustained from

the propeller of the boat.

Though the pair were exploring some of the coral reef outside of the designated safe swimming area, Mr Jannequin's friend said their hotel receptionist told them the area around the swimming zone was safe.

Full story on Page 5



Officials silent on claims deadly cocktail killed sisters

Full story on Page 3

'Walk-through' immigration within two years

By **Orawin Narabal**

THE Commissioner of the Thai Immigration Bureau on Wednesday announced that a new automated entry system will be installed at all airports in the country, including in Phuket, that will allow all passengers to enter the country without having to endure long immigration lines.

The technology, called "Advance Passenger Processing" system, or "APP", will be installed at all international airports in Thailand within two years, Lt Gen Wiboon Bangphamai told a meeting of Asean immigration chiefs at the Hilton Hotel Phuket Acadia Resort and Spa.

"The APP system will shorten the immigration clearing process at the airport. It will allow people to just walk through without having..."

Continued on Page 3

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Phone call with wife ends billboard suicide drama

By Atchaa Khamlo

A TROUBLED man climbed atop a large billboard opposite the Central Festival Phuket shopping complex on Monday afternoon, attracting crowds of onlookers and drawing passing traffic on the bypass road to a standstill.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikhong identified the man as Sathien Promsang, originally from Trang province.

"Mr Sathien told us that he had come to Phuket to find his wife 'Mia' and three children. He said that she had run off with them, reportedly to Phuket," said Col Sermphan.

"However, the wife's father told us that his daughter had left Mr Sathien because he was constantly unemployed and allegedly beat her," he added.

The father-in-law also explained that his daughter had never come to Phuket. Apparently, she remained in Trang province with the children, Col Sermphan said.

"Mr Sathien arrived in Phuket on August 20. When he finally ran out of money, he decided to climb



Mr Sathien threatens to end it all by jumping from a mega-billboard before being talked-down by his wife. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

the billboard with the intention of jumping," he said.

After the drama began, at about 1:30pm, police deployed a large inflatable air mattress to cushion his fall should he decide to go through with his suicide threat.

After about one hour, Mr Sathien climbed down to safety – but only after talking directly with his wife on a mobile phone while sitting atop the giant structure.

He is now in police protective custody.

Bike crash kills tourist and puts friend in coma after just one day on island

ONE French tourist has died and another remains comatose after the motorbike they were riding crashed on the beach road in Karon before dawn on Monday.

A resort security guard near the scene told police that he heard what sounded like a large motorbike heading toward Karon Circle, followed by a loud crash near the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort at about 3:30am.

The guard ran to the scene to find two men lying off to one side of the road, their Yamaha 400 Majesty motorbike lying in the middle of the road.

Police found the body of Ludovic Didier Donny, 36, in a canal on the other side of a stone retaining wall, and the severely injured Jerome Sebastien Heras, 35, in a small concrete pond beside the wall.



Marks on the road after the bike hit the curb, throwing the riders.

Mr Heras, from Perpignan in France, was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital with multiple injuries. He has yet to regain consciousness.

Mr Donny, from Noisy-le-Sec, a suburb of Paris, died at the scene. His body was transported to the Vachira Phuket Hospital morgue.

The two tourists had arrived in Phuket the previous day, said

Chalong Police duty officer Boonlert Onklang.

"Mr Donny received fatal injuries to his head. Mr Heras survived, but has cuts all over his body. His chances of survival are about 50-50," he said.

"It appears that the motorbike struck the curb before hitting the wall. We don't know who was driving the motorbike."

Police at the scene noted that neither were wearing a helmet.

Mr Heras' blood contained more than 200 parts per million of alcohol. Due to coagulation of the blood after death, the blood alcohol level of the late Mr Donny could not be checked, Col Boonlert said.

"The French Embassy has been informed of the incident," he added.

– Atchaa Khamlo

Phuket Police chief to moving on

PHUKET is to get a new provincial police commander as part of a nationwide reshuffle of top provincial-level officers.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Chalit Kaewyarat on August 30 confirmed to the *Gazette* the results of the reshuffle announced at a meeting of the National Police Committee at Royal Police Headquarters in Bangkok on August 29.

"Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul has been transferred to take up the position of Commissioner of Inspection Division 9, Office of the Inspector General, in Bangkok.

"His replacement is current Narathiwat Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Chote Chawanwiwat," Col Chalit said.



Maj Gen Chonasit Wattanavrangkul.

Col Chalit, a Phuket native who has also served many years as a police officer in Phuket, said he would be transferred to serve as commander of Phang Nga Provincial Police.

"The order will be effective from October 1," Col Chalit said.

– Chutharat Plerin



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Immigration 'fast-track' within 2 years



Assistant Commissioner-General Lt Gen Jate Mongkolhuthi chaired the meeting. Photo: Orawin Narabal

From page 1

to stop to get a stamp [in their passports] or other details checked," he said.

"The APP system is not ready to use at the moment. We still have to settle the agreement with AoT [Airports of Thailand] about an extra fee that may have to be charged when the system is in place.

"We proposed a fee of 80 baht per passenger, but that was rejected. So we will offer to make the fee about 40 or 50 baht per passenger," he added.

Gen Wiboon said he understood that not all Asean countries will have the same system up and running within the same time frame. Thailand would initially use the system with other countries that already use APP, bringing other countries online later.

"The APP system will also be used to check passengers to see if their names are on the [Thai Immigration] blacklist.

"If they happen to have their name on the blacklist or are wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant, the person who first notices such details can report them to the police in their area to have them arrested," he said.

The meeting also tackled the issue of Rohingya arriving in Thai waters and how they could be treated humanely in Thailand before moving on to their preferred destinations.

All silent on DEET 'cocktail'

By Atchaa Khamlo
and Chutharat Plerin

A SPOKESPERSON at the forensic laboratory at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok last Tuesday declined to confirm or deny reports that insecticide containing DEET had been identified as the cause of death of Audrey and Noemi Belanger.

The sisters, Audrey, age 20, and Noemi, 25, from Quebec, Canada, were found dead in their hotel room on Phi Phi Island on June 15. Police initially suspected food poisoning.

The spokesperson at the forensic laboratory at Ramathibodi Hospital, where examiners conducted autopsies on the bodies of the two women, confirmed that she had heard media reports identifying DEET as the poison likely responsible for the deaths of the two women.

She declined to comment, however, citing a request from the Belanger family to not publicly reveal any details of the case.

"I am aware that insecticide was named as the cause, but we have been asked by the Canadian Embassy to not to reveal any details regarding the Belanger sisters



Officials and police are keeping silent on any details of the investigation into the deaths of Audrey and Noemi Belanger (pictured). Photo: Facebook

in order to respect the privacy of the family," she said.

"I can confirm that the autopsy results have been reported to the embassy and the family," she added.

The comment followed a report by the CBC's French-language

news network that autopsies on the sisters' bodies revealed that both had ingested a "cocktail" known throughout Thailand as "4x100" (Four by one hundred).

Although 4x100 is generally not considered lethal when made using the usual ingredients of kratom

leaf extract, cough syrup, cola and ice, the addition of DEET may have had tragic consequences, according to the report.

Meanwhile, investigator Lt Col Jongrak Pimthong of Krabi City Police confirmed to the *Gazette* that his team was still working on the high-profile case.

"The case is not yet closed and we are continuing our investigation. I have been in touch with the Canadian Embassy, and we have yet to question the doctor who performed the autopsies.

"We expect to conclude our investigation by the end of the month. I will be able to reveal more details at that time," he said.

Barbara Harvey, Spokesperson for the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, told the *Gazette*, "Canadian consular officials in Bangkok and in Canada have provided consular assistance to the family, and our officials are in contact with authorities both in Thailand and Canada and will continue to liaise closely with them.

"Out of respect for the family and to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, further details on this case cannot be released."

French tourist confirmed Tiger fire victim

THE Royal Thai Police Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bangkok has confirmed that the fourth – and last – victim to be identified from the Tiger Discotheque fire in Phuket on August 17 is that of French tourist Emmanuel Becard, aged 30.

Friends of Mr Becard reported him as missing the day after the fire, which killed four people.

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Kittipong Klaikaew explained that positive identification of Mr Becard was made through matching DNA tests conducted in France with tests performed in Thailand.

"The officers at our institute contacted the mother of Mr Becard and asked her to send DNA lineage test results to Thailand so that they could be compared with the DNA test results from the body," said Lt Col Kittipong.



Rescue workers recover one of the bodies from the scorched remains of the Tiger Discotheque.

"The results from the two independent tests were a 100-per-cent match," he said.

The two other victims of the fire previously identified through DNA tests were Thai nationals Duangporn Budklor, 34, and

Nipaphat Sudtasorn, 36.

The body of British tourist Michael Tzouvanni, 24, was confirmed by dental records provided by the family.

Lt Col Kittipong said that police have yet to file any charges against the operators of Tiger Discotheque.

"We have questioned many people involved in the case, but we still have more to question regarding the building. We specifically want to question some officers from Patong Municipality. We have contacted them twice, but no one has shown up for the appointment. We will take care of this as quickly as possible," Lt Col Kittipong.

"As for determining the cause of the fire, we still have to wait for the results from Office of Forensic Science. I believe we will get the results back soon," he said.

Underpass to worsen traffic woes

From page 1

Among the issues discussed were relocation of utility poles and installation of storm drains.

"The complete work plan for the project is to be unveiled on September 18," Mr Chavalert said.

The project will extend 800 meters from beginning to end, taking 250 workers just under two years to build. The entire project would require about 50,000 cubic meters of concrete, he added.

In order to build the structure, the company will need to close both inside lanes on either side of the underpass, thus leaving only one lane each way open to traffic heading northbound and southbound.

"People who use that junction

should avoid the area while the construction is underway. They should expect delays and use alternative routes if possible," Mr Chavalert said.

Asked whether motorbikes and *saleng* (motorbikes with sidecars) would be allowed to use the underpass, he said it was a matter for local authorities to decide.

Regarding flood prevention measures, Mr Chavalert said that three pumping stations would be installed inside the underpass.

Ital-Thai, Thailand's largest construction company, built the recently completed Srisoonthorn Bridge that carries traffic northbound off the island. It has also been selected to build the port mega-project at Dawei in Myanmar at a cost of 268 billion baht (US\$8.6bn).



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Pian Keesin takes Patong by landslide

By Kritsada Meuanhawong

PIAN Keesin was re-elected to a third consecutive term as Patong Mayor last Sunday, with members of his "Rak Patong" party winning 17 of the 18 seats contested to give him an unassailable majority in the new city council.

Turnout for the polling, which ran from 8am to 3pm, was 63.5% of 12,831 eligible voters. There were 217 spoiled ballots and 420 "no votes".

In the mayoral balloting, unofficial results posted outside Patong City Hall on Sunday night showed Mr Pian with 4,352 votes to 3,154 for challenger Kittisan Kuru, a two-time council member and leader of the Patong Gao Na (Patong Progress) party.

Only one of his team members, Chalerm Sak Maneesri, was able to win a council seat, narrowly beating the only independent candidate for the last available seat in District 1.

Mr Chalerm Sak served a short term as mayor in 2003 before he was ordered by the Phuket Provincial Court to step down for electoral fraud after charges were levied against him by Mr Pian.

Apart from Mr Chalerm Sak and his brother Surasak, who is another former mayor ordered to step down on corruption charges, Mr Pian has had a virtual stranglehold on the Patong political scene since the early 1990s.

Last Sunday's win, if ratified by the Election Commission in Bangkok, will mark the start of his



BUSINESS AS USUAL: Pian Keesin has won again. Unless the Election Commission in Bangkok objects, he will be installed in his third successive term as Patong Mayor. Photo: Gazette file

fifth term as mayor of the popular tourist town.

Results (all Rak Patong unless otherwise marked):

District 1: Jaroern Khwanyeun, Prasarn Noochet, Prasit Phatkor, Mana Phanchalad, Narong Cheuayuan, Chalerm Sak Maneesri (Patong Gao Na)

District 2: Thanin Attasup, Wirapot Iabsup, Banyat Somnam, Prasit Changlek, Sawai Sanguanphon, Boontae Pimomrit.

District 3: Manit Yooyen, Saichon Sombat, Thamanoon Sombat, Thanichai Jamjarat, Wirawit Kreuasombat, Pradit Kongkaew.

The results must be confirmed by the Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok before the new city council can convene.

Election law dictates that the EC must either validate or reject the election results within 30 days of the election date.

Booze and ballots don't mix: poll

A MAJORITY of *Phuket Gazette* readers think the election-weekend alcohol bans should remain in place despite their cost to the local economy, the results of our online readers' poll reveal.

A total of 1,599 readers took part in the two-week survey, which was timed to span consecutive weekend alcohol bans: the first an island-wide ban for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization council seat election on August 26; the second, a week later polling for seats on the Patong City Council.

Readers were asked: *Given the importance of tourism to the local economy, do you think Phuket should be exempted from election-weekend alcohol bans?*

More than half of all those taking part (54.5%) answered, "No, Thai election law should apply to every part of the country."

Those in favor of lifting the restriction were split on whether it should cover the entire island (25.3%) or apply only to popular tourist areas (20.1%).

Thais were more likely to think the bans should remain in place (69%) than tourists (56%) and expat residents (52%).

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Gov Tri ordered better control of firecrackers during the Vegetarian Festival this year to ensure no tourists are injured. Photo: Dean Noble

Firecracker, food price crackdown for Veg Fest

GOVERNOR Tri Augkaradacha has expressed his concern over the overzealous use of firecrackers and the skyrocketing prices of vegetables during the upcoming Phuket Vegetarian Festival, this year to be held from October 15 to 23.

The news came at a meeting between Governor Tri, other senior officials and the Phuket Vegetarian Festival committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on September 1.

Among those present at the meeting were Phuket Culture Office Chief Thawichart Intararit as well as representatives from Chinese shrines across Phuket, including Prasert Fakhongphol.

Mr Prasert is the president of both the Phuket Shrine Society and the Theprasri Association, which administers Bang Neaw Shrine, one of the largest shrines that takes part in the annual festival.

"I will remind the relevant organizations to control the use of firecrackers and food prices, to ensure that the streets remain clean and that the safety of tourists is maintained throughout the festi-

val," Governor Tri said.

"Some food vendors might raise their prices during the festival just to take the advantage of tourists," he said.

The governor added that the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) had agreed to assist festival organizers by helping to manage traffic in areas affected by the street processions and by boosting security on the streets during the festivities.

"I have also arranged for medical units staffed by doctors and health officers to be on standby in different areas across the island for any emergency that might happen during the festival," he said.

Governor Tri noted that, in addition to the usual festivities, this year there will be a special street procession to honor HM King Bhumipol Adulyadej, HM Queen Sirikit and HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

The procession will be held on October 16, starting at 4 pm Sanam Chai field, opposite Provincial Hall in Phuket Town.

— *Orawin Narabal*

Hunt for killer speedboat

By Atchaa Khamlo

KRABI Police are still working to identify vessels that were at Tonsai Beach on Phi Phi Island when a French tourist was killed while snorkeling in the area on August 18.

Police suspect a fast-moving speedboat struck and killed French national Olivier Raymond Philippe Jannequin. The police report into Mr Jannequin's death included a statement from Phi Phi Island Hospital stating that Mr Jannequin died from a severe head injury. Minor injuries also recorded included lacerations to his right arm and knee.

From this, Krabi Police presume that Mr Jannequin was run over by a boat, the propeller blades inflicting the fatal injury.

Lt Col Bundit Khaosutham of the Krabi Tourist Police told the *Gazette* that he had informed the French Embassy of the incident.

Following the death of Mr Jannequin, who was a government officer at the French Ministry of Agriculture, his snorkeling partner Pierre Yves Martin submitted a written statement, in French, to Krabi Tourist Police.

Mr Martin, 37, who had been a close friend of Mr Jannequin for eight years, wrote in his statement that on August 18, at about 11:30am, he and Mr Jannequin went snorkeling off Tonsai Beach near the Mama Beach Hotel.

After snorkeling in the swimming zone, cordoned off by a line of floating pontoons, the pair decided to leave the safety zone to snorkel around some coral located outside. Mr Martin told police that there were three or four dive boats in the area at the time.

They had been snorkeling around the coral reef for about 30 minutes and were returning to shore at the time of the tragedy. Mr Martin was leading, with Mr Jannequin following some three meters behind.

In his statement Mr Martin



Speedboats tourists to Phi Phi Island for sight-seeing and snorkeling daily. Photo: Banghan

wrote, "While I was on the surface breathing, preparing to dive again, I heard a scream from behind me. I turned but was immediately struck and disoriented by waves."

Mr Martin said the waves were consistent to those created by a fast-moving speedboat.

After regaining his bearings, he saw his friend floating in the water and swam towards him. On reaching him, he saw the seriousness of the injury to his friend's head and realized that he was dead.

"I found him with cuts on his body and a severely deep wound to his head... his blood was everywhere around us."

"I supported him with one arm and shouted towards a dive boat some 300 meters from us at the bay's north end. No one heard us, so supporting Oliver I started to swim ashore."

"I do not think anyone else saw the accident because there was no one else swimming in the area. It happened a long way away from the dive boats."

"About 10 minutes after the accident, a black long-tail boat passed us and I asked for help. The boatman told us to wait and said he would get a dive boat to come and help us. After 10 minutes, I gave up waiting and decided to carry on swimming to get Olivier ashore."

"I saw a small hut on the rocky coastline but there was no one around, so I continued swimming, supporting him all the way, back to Mama Beach. It was there that people helped me take Olivier to Phi Phi Island Hospital."

Mr Martin thought the scream he had heard might not have been from Mr Jannequin, as his friend had a snorkel tube in his mouth.

He thought it more likely to have come from someone aboard the boat that he believes struck Mr Jannequin.

Although Mr Martin said he did not see a boat strike Mr Jannequin, he feels confident that it was a speedboat because it happened so fast. He discounted the possibility that it could have been a longtail boat, as these make a loud noise and can be heard from far off, even underwater, he said.

"I did not see what kind of boat it was because I was searching for Olivier. Although there were none in the area, I thought it was probably a speedboat moving at high speed. Also I'm sure that the boat would have been heading to the beach."

Lt Wissawa Sanaeha of the Phi Phi Island Police said that Mr Martin and Mr Jannequin arrived on Koh Phi Phi on August 14 and

were staying at the Sandview Hotel. They were scheduled to fly home on August 23.

Mr Martin told Krabi Police that their hotel receptionist told them that the area around the swimming zone, where they were snorkeling, was free from fast-moving speedboats.

"We went snorkeling nearly every day. In the time we spent on the beach we saw many speedboats taking tourists to the beach... My two brothers and I would like Olivier's death to serve as an example for the need to implement more safety measures," Mr Martin said.

Police asked Mr Martin to appear before the Krabi Prosecutor's Office as a witness, but he was forced to decline as he was scheduled to leave Phuket on August 23.

Col Bundit Khaosutham of the Krabi Tourist Police told *Gazette*, "We still don't know which speedboat hit the Mr Jannequin, whose body was repatriated two days after the accident."

"His relatives sent a message to us through the French embassy asking us to try to find the speedboat driver. We keep trying to find the guilty party, but it's not easy due to the lack of witnesses. We do realize the importance of this case," he said.

However, Col Bundit explained that safety measures were already in place, including a swimming zone, snorkeling zone and boat parking area clearly sectioned off by floating markers to notify tourists.

He added that efforts to warn tourists not to stray from the designated zones were continual.

"In this case the two of them went off at midday, when many boats are running to and fro for lunch on the island."

"Actually, a pontoon showing that the area [where the accident occurred] was offshore from a designated boat parking zone was in place at the time," he added.

Trial of Nong Som's killer delayed by forensics tests

THE delay in receiving test results from the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Police General Hospital in Bangkok has resulted in police having to defer bringing to trial the killer of 17-year-old Sunisa "Nong Som" Saiyoy.

Nong Som was killed by an intruder in her family home in Chalong on July 10 while her parents were tending to their fruit stall in Phuket Town.

The next day, police arrested Kittikhun Wonghajak, who confessed to the killing.

However, as he claimed he did not intend to kill Ms Sunisa and that she suffocated after being pressed against a pillow.

On August 31, Chalong



Arrested, charged and confessed, Nong Som's killer Kittikhun.

Police Deputy Superintendent Witchakhom Khamjumba said, "We contacted them [Institute of Forensic Medicine] last week, but they said the results have yet to be finalized."

— Chutharat Plerin

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Kata next on list for Phuket safety zone fix

By Atchaa Khamlo

FOLLOWING the launch of the much-lauded Patong "safety zone" scheme in early August, the focus now switches to Kata, the next area to become a Phuket safety zone.

The Kata-Karon area has been the location of attacks against tourists in the past, usually in the form of bag-snatching, often conducted by two people riding a motorbike.

Kata Noi Road was the site of the murder of Australian travel agent Michelle Smith in June. News of the killing spread rapidly through the international media and sparked a nationwide manhunt. Captured within days, the two suspects were tried and on August 8 sentenced to life imprisonment.

Chalong Police have the task of setting up the Kata safety zone, to be ready by September 15. Their plan is to break up the area into three smaller operational zones.

Zone one is an area formed by Thaina Road (near to the PPT station on Patak Road) Kata Road (along side the Club Med complex) and Soi Ket Kwan, to the junction with Patak Road.

Zone two, immediately south of zone one, is delineated by Soi Ket Kwan and follows Patak Road and Kata Road roughly south to Kok Tanode Road.

Zone three, follows the beach road (Pak Bang Road), taking in the Club Med Resort in the north, past the Kata Beach Resort to Katathani Phuket Beach on Kata Noi Road in the south.

Lt Col Pachai Mattayan of Chalong Police Station is heavily involved in the Kata-Karon safety zone project and in charge of zone one.

"Most CCTV systems in Kata belong to

hotels and business operators. We are contacting them, requesting that they point the CCTV cameras at the roads. In my zone there are 22 CCTV systems belonging to banks, shops, hotels and massage parlors."

Col Pachai admitted that all 16 of the local government's CCTV camera were now non-operational as there was no after-sale contract or budget to maintain the systems when they broke down.

The 16 units were among 48 installed under a 16-million-baht contract with CAT Telecom, that were announced as fully operational in February 2007. The others were in Phuket Town and Patong.

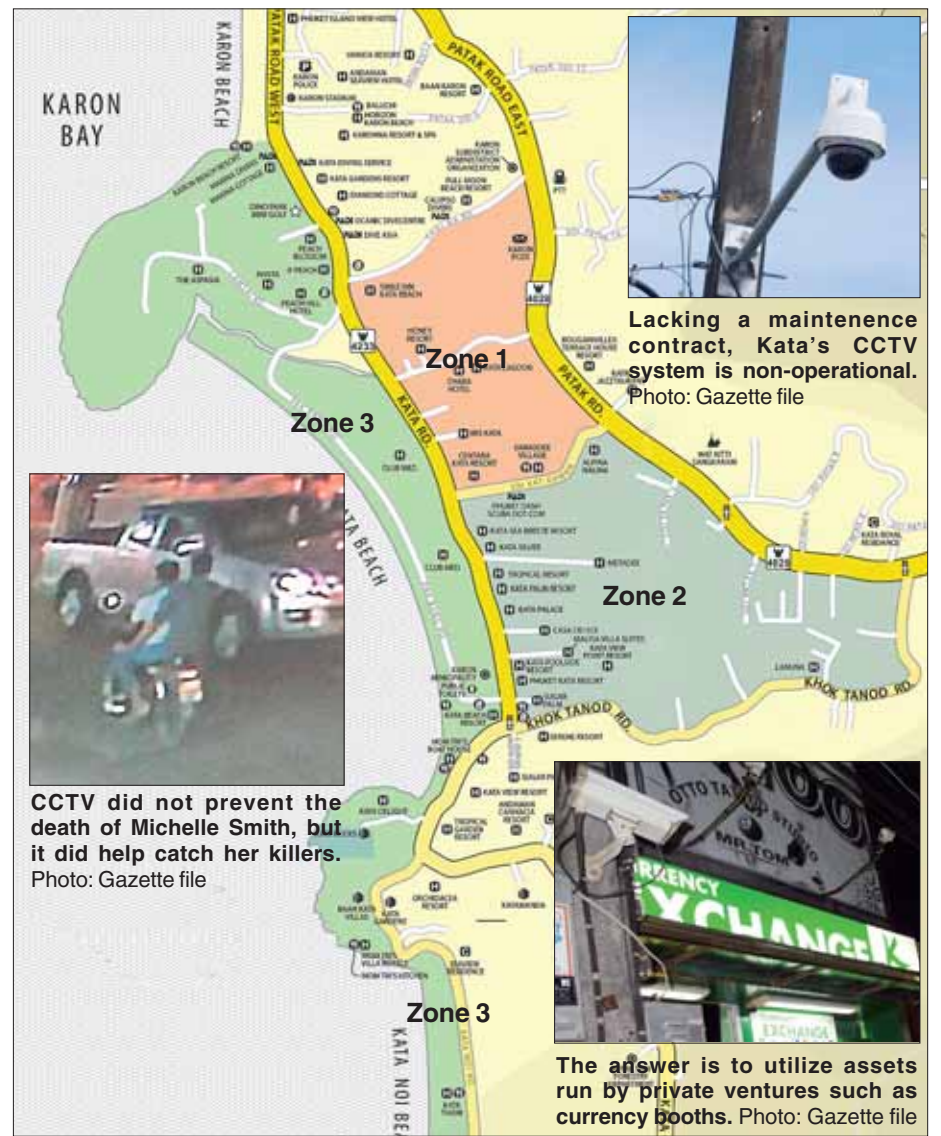
However, Karon Municipality have allotted a budget for new system which should be in place in about two months, said Col Pachai.

"The cameras will be placed in risk areas in Kata. Where exactly they will be sited will be discussed with municipal officers."

The Colonel went on to say said that presently the lead officers, responsible for each zone, were now collecting information on the number of CCTV systems at the various exchange currency booths, entertainment venues, massage shops, restaurants, car rental shops and other places, such as tuk-tuk and taxi stands.

"After that Chalong Police will assign responsibilities and manpower to the zones. It will probably be finalized next week, after which we will hold a meeting with local business representatives to coordinate the project," he said.

"With only a small number of police officers available, the project will start only in Kata. If it's manageable and works then the project will be extended to include Karon."



Songkhla man beaten unconscious by gang

PHUKET police are investigating the beating of a man from Songkhla who was set upon by a gang of youths in Cherg Talay on the night of August 30.

Local police received reports of gunfire and a wounded man outside a row of flats on Pasak Soi 4 in Cherg Talay Village 4 at 10pm.

At the scene, they found the victim, 21-year-old Nattaphon Nuanla-ong, with lacerations to the head, a bruise to his right orbital socket and a wound to the base of the skull consistent with being hit with a blunt object.

He was still partially conscious when Cherg Talay Police arrived with Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers, who rushed him to Thalang Hospital for emergency treatment.

Mr Nuanla-ong's condition

deteriorated and he lost consciousness, prompting staff to rush him to the better-equipped Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Nuanla-ong, from Ranode District in Songkhla, was employed as a security guard in the area.

Police questioned his friend, 25-year-old Chaiya Wongsanaow of Loei, who said he had been drinking whisky with Mr Nuanla-ong and another friend for about an hour when Mr Nuanla-ong left on his motorbike, saying he had to attend to "personal business".

About 15 minutes later, the friend heard the sound of gunfire outside. He called the police emergency number 191, then went to help his friend accompanied by the owner of the four-unit row of flats where they lived, he told police.



The injuries to Mr Nattaphon were serious enough for Thalang Hospital staff to transfer him to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

As he approached the group they fled the area, he said.

A rescue worker said that from the size and nature of the wounds it appeared that the youths hit Mr Nuanla-ong's head with both

sharp and blunt objects and kicked him in the head.

The rescue worker said he feared the man may have suffered a brain hemorrhage.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Loei woman found hanged at workers' camp

COLLEAGUES of a female worker found hanged at a construction workers' camp in the north of Phuket, have no idea why she decided to take her own life.

Police were notified of the death at 5:45pm on August 29.

Arriving at the camp with Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers, they found the body of 30-year-old Nuanchan Donphon hanged by the neck in a unit of the makeshift row of flats.

A sign at the entrance to the camp, in the Tah Chat Chai area of Mai Khao subdistrict, indicated it was built to house workers employed by the Bangkok-based construction firm World Construction and Engineering Co Ltd.

Ms Nuanchan, a native of Pha Khao district in Loei Province, was found suspended by a rope noose tied to a wooden support beam in the flat. Her feet were still touching the floor when her body was discovered.

Fellow workers said they had no idea why Ms Nuanchan chose to take her own life because she had never confided any problems to them.

Workers from the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation, Baan Kor En unit transported Ms Nuanchan's body to Thalang Hospital, where it will be examined and stored until claimed by relatives.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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Drug addict dies after injecting heroin in gas station restroom

POLICE believe a drug addict died of a heroin overdose in a gas station in Thalang on August 28.

Staff at the Shell station on Thepkasattri Road southbound in Thepkasattri Subdistrict notified Thalang Police of at 4:30pm.

Arriving at the station, police found the body of a man slumped over in a stall, his head beneath the surface of the water in the cistern and one knee in the squat-style restroom toilet.

The body was identified by a

driver's license as Kittipoom Rattapon, 35, of Thepkasattri Village 3.

Police believe Mr Kittipoom had been dead for about four hours. His right arm had puncture wounds consistent with injection by hypodermic needle.

Police collected as evidence two plastic straws containing heroin, a disposable syringe, a lighter, a glass vial and a Mitsubishi car key.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Patong Hill road fix to cost B20mn

By Orawin Narabal

THE section of hill road between Patong and Phuket Town that caved in during the heavy rain last week has received make-shift repairs and is now open to traffic, thanks to an emergency injection of cash from the Department of Highways.

The road was re-opened after two days of reconstruction, explained Samak Luedwonghad, the director of the Department of Highways Phuket office.

"We received an emergency budget of about 100,000 baht from the Highways Department to fix the road temporarily. We started the repair work on August 22 and the road was reopened to traffic by August 24," he said.

In making the temporary repairs, workers used rock as a base, as it's durable and able to support heavy vehicles, Mr Samak explained.

"After that we added sand, crushed rock, crushed rock soil, gravel, laterite [clay-type soil abundant in Phuket] and then concreted over the surface," he added.

Mr Samak admitted there would still be some road surface erosion during heavy rain, but he believes the surface will last until November, when a more lasting



Monsoon rains and constant heavy traffic caused the road to cave-in on Patong Hill, says Phuket Highways chief. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

solution will be implemented.

"We have already applied for a budget of 20 million baht to make permanent repairs that will include installing a retaining wall along the side of the road to keep the earth underneath the tarmac in place."

Mr Samak expects the money to be available by November 1 and work on the permanent solution to commence soon afterward.

"It's a small but urgent construction project, so it shouldn't take more than 150 days to complete," he said.

In the long-term Mr Samak thinks the recurring road collapse problems on Patong Hill will be over once the Patong to Kathu road tunnel is completed.

"The number of cars on this road will decrease, and with it the wear and tear; meaning it will last longer without repairs. However, the tunnel project hasn't started yet, so our team still has to maintain the road to keep it in good condition."

The planned 20mn-baht project to repair the Patong Hill road follows similar repairs costing 5mn baht made just three years ago,

after a huge sinkhole opened at the same location.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, who won a landslide victory in the election last week-end [see page 4], was driving along the road when the sinkhole appeared in 2009. He avoided plunging into the mini-abyss and called officials into action immediately.

Coincidentally, in the run-up to last weekend's election in Patong, Mayor Pian championed the Patong Tunnel project, which is expected to cost up to 6 billion baht.

Airport expansion project construction starts

WING Commander Pratheep Wichittho, Deputy Director of Airports of Thailand (AOT) Public Co Ltd, on September 1 announced that the long-awaited 5.7-billion-baht expansion project at Phuket International Airport is finally underway.

Mr Pratheep was joined at a press conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel by Phuket Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham, who said that the expansion project would not adversely affect passengers, as construction traffic would use a separate access point.

Mr Prathuang also reassured the audience that airport security would be maintained throughout the construction period.

"To protect against sabotage, we have implemented 'level 3' security measures, which include

random checks of vehicles entering the airport or construction site," he said.

Mr Prathuang went on to address the ominous topic of taxi and bus transportation facilities at the new, improved airport.

"Right now, as the project is starting, taxi management at the airport is run from an office beside the building. During construction, it will not descend into the chaos it was before, with taxi drivers trying to grab passengers just stepping out from the airport exit. The taxi operators will be at their own counters and the lanes outside arrivals will be for pick-up only," he said.

Mr Prathuang said that once the new building was finished, the various taxi, bus and car parking zones would be identified and clearly marked.

The new airport will increase the number of parking spaces from 500 to 1,500.

Looking at the bigger picture, the 5.7-billion-baht airport expansion will increase the number of both international and domestic passengers the facility was designed to handle from the current 6.5 million to 12.5mn per year. The current limit has already been surpassed, with 8.4mn transiting through the airport last year. That figure is projected to increase by 11 per cent to 9.3mn by the end of this year.

While the number of flights in and out of the airport will remain unchanged at 20 per hour, the expansion will see the addition of 10 more aircraft bays, bringing the total to 25, and another four passenger boarding gantries, to a total of 11.



An artist's impression of how Phuket International Airport will look after the 5.7-billion-baht project is completed. Image: AOT

One disappointment for the director was the lack of space to include a special handling area for small VIP jet aircraft.

"We would like to have a jet

terminal facility [to handle important passengers], but with the limited land available it can't be built," he said.

— Atchaa Khamlo

Blue Moon rises over Phuket

SKY-watchers were treated to an unusual event on August 31, as a "Blue Moon" graced the night sky.

"A Blue Moon refers to the second full moon within a given month," explained Dr Sarun Posayachinda, Deputy Director of the National Astronomical Research Institute (NARIT).

In reality, a Blue Moon is blue in name only, but very rarely, the moon can appear blue when a volcanic eruption, forest fires or dust storms send fine dust into the atmosphere.

A Blue Moon happens approximately once every 2.7 years. The last occurrence of a second full moon in a calendar month was on New Year's Eve in 2009. After this event, the next Blue Moon is due to take place on July 2, 2015.

This Blue Moon appeared over



The moon will not appear as blue unless there are dust particles present. Photo: Dean Noble

Phuket at around 6:18pm local time and reached its full phase at 8:57pm. The near cloudless conditions made viewing from the island almost perfect.

— Phuket Gazette



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HONDA

QUEER news

Woman cheats death with fake funeral

FRIENDS and family of 80-year-old Kulap Chomduang gathered at Sop Tui Temple in the northern province of Lampang for her funeral last month.

Mrs Kulap had been suffering from a variety of health problems.

But there was a catch: Mrs Kulap wasn't dead. Since then, Mrs Kulap has made a miraculous recovery – all thanks to the “Cheating Death” ceremony.

The fake funeral took place on August 7 at the temple in Pongsaengthong Subdistrict.

It was exactly like a normal cremation ceremony in almost every way, with monks praying and a picture of Mrs Kulap in front of her empty casket.

Worried by their mother's health problems, Mrs Kulap's children came up with the idea of holding a ceremony of gifting an “empty” spirit to “Death” so he wouldn't bother their sick mother.

Since then, Mrs Kulap has made an amazing recovery. Now she can walk around the house and feed herself.

– Sanook News

Hungry ghost festival to boost Phuket's tourism

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE new director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office is drawing up plans to push Phuket's cultural festivals after witnessing his first *Por Tor* Festival in Phuket.

Director Chanchai Doungjit told the *Gazette* that he is devising a four-year plan to bring tourists in from around the world by expressly focusing on Phuket's cultural festivals.

“In the coming year, I will make sure media outlets from around the world are invited to witness these festivals for themselves, so they can report back to their home countries and inspire people to come and join these events. Thai culture is one of the biggest attractions for tourists coming to Thailand, and Phuket has unique festivals that are celebrated in a way different from anywhere else in the country. The *Por Tor* Festival and the Vegetarian Festival are perfect examples of this,” he said.

Mr Chanchai's comments follow his attendance at the opening parade for the *Por Tor* Festival in Phuket Town last Sunday.



Children wearing traditional 'Peranakan' Straits Chinese attire are paraded through the streets of Phuket's Old Town on rikshaws as part of the *Por Tor* 'Hungry Ghost' festival. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

The procession started at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Road at 11:30am. It passed along Thalang Road, Yaowarat Road, and Phang Nga Road, through the Standard Chartered Bank Junction and along Rassada Road before reaching its destination, the municipal market on Ranong Road, where the festivities are taking place until September 15.

At the festival's opening

ceremony, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana explained, “The *Por Tor* Festival is a Phuket tradition that has been passed down for many generations. Chinese people believe that worshipping their ancestors who passed away during this time of the year will bring them luck, as well as longer and healthier lives.”

Unlike the Hungry Ghost festival celebrated by Straits Chinese

elsewhere along the Malay Peninsula, the Phuket version of the festival is centered around honoring the turtle as the symbol for long life.

The Chinese in Phuket honor the ‘hungry ghosts’ with cake, in the form of a “red turtle”; red being a lucky color.

During the procession last Sunday, devotees transported a large cake in the shape of a red turtle, which on reaching the market on Ranong Road was cut into pieces that were handed out to people as a way of making merit.

Mayor Somjai also explained that another street procession will be held this Sunday, September 9.

The procession will start at the Saphan Hin Mining Monument at 9am. The parade route will be along Phuket Road, Kra Road and Takuatung Road to the finish at the Bang Neaw Shrine, also called the *Por Tor* Kong Shrine.

“This is a beautiful tradition with a long history, and should be promoted throughout the world. This festival is a good activity for Phuket during the tourist low season for tourism,” she said.

See Your Phuket pages 24-25.

Police still hunting for nightclub cop shooter



The Saraphanpleng Bar, where Nikom Jeenyuen of the Chalong Police was hit by a shotgun blast on June 19. Photo: Gazette file

POLICE continue to search for a suspect who remains at large following the June shooting of an on-duty officer in a live music venue on Patak Road in Chalong.

Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette* that his officers are still searching for Phiromchai “Un” Tuaktham, the only one of five suspects yet to be arrested or turn himself in.

“The victim, Snr Sgt Maj Nikom Jeenyuen, received shotgun wounds to the neck, chest, stomach and arm in the June 19 shooting at the Saraphanpleng Bar. He is recovering, but he can only work part time in the office for about two or three hours a day because he is still suffering abdominal pain,” Col Boonlert explained.

“We’ve arrested four suspects

so far: Suppanet Sukkaew, Yoethin ‘Teng’ Ritthinil, Wutthichai ‘Aod’ Songsri and Khuanmuang Fuangfoong.”

Col Boonlert said he understood that the men were initially denied court bail, but that Yoethin, Wutthichai and Khuanmuang are now free on bail following an Appeals Court ruling.

“I am not quite sure whether Suppanet has also been granted a bail release,” he said.

All five suspects have been charged with attempted murder, weapons violations and obstruction of a law officer in the line of duty, he added.

The fifth suspect, Phiromchai, remains at-large. The outstanding warrant for his arrest was issued on July 2.

– Chutharat Plerin

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Red Bull heir kills cop in Ferrari hit-and-run

A FATAL car accident last week put two powerful forces in Thai society on a collision course: the Royal Thai Police and the Chaleo family, which owns the company that produces Red Bull energy drinks.

In the early hours of September 3, a Ferrari driven by 27-year-old Worrayuth Yoovidhya hit the motorbike of Snr Sgt Major Wichean Klinprasert, 48, of Thong Lor Police Station in Bangkok.

Maj Wichean's body was dragged a long distance, *The Nation* reported. He died at the scene, a road between Sukhumvit Soi 47 and Soi 48, of a broken neck.

Mr Worrayuth, grandson of recently deceased Red Bull founder Chaleo Yoovidhya, was granted bail on the day of the death on 500,000 baht surety. He admitted to hitting the officer but claimed the cop crossed in front of him dangerously as he was driving.

Senior Thong Lor police officer Lt Col Pannaphol Nammueang, who was the immediate superior officer to Maj Wichean, has been transferred to an inactive position for 30 days by an angry Lt Gen Khamronwit Thoopakjang, commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau.

Gen Khamronwit accused Col Pannaphol of attempting to cover up the accident by framing a bogus suspect. He also announced he would quit his position as commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau if he could not bring to justice the driver responsible for the death of Maj Wichean.

The police chief made the emotional announcement at a news conference at Thong Lor Police Station, drawing loud and long applause from the victim's fellow junior officers, after Mr Worrayuth agreed to turn himself in.



Officers inspect the vehicles. Photo: The Nation

Malaysian flags raised across South

AROUND THE nation

INSURGENTS bombed security forces, raised Malaysian flags and burned the Thai tricolor in more than 100 audacious coordinated incidents in a single day across the Deep South last week.

The wave of attacks and flag provocations took place on the anniversary of Malaysian independence from Britain on August 31. The day is also the anniversary of the of the separatist group Bersatu, a body that merged four older groups in 1989.

Lt Gen Udomchai Thammassarojrat, commander of Thailand's Fourth Army based in Pattani, told *The Nation* that the symbolic move was an attempt to incite hatred between Thai and ethnic Malay people.

He claimed the move was a common psychological ploy used by the rebels to foment bilateral conflict and undermine good re-



Thai security forces personnel watch a Malaysian flag that was hoisted by militants earlier in the day in Thailand's restive southern province of Narathiwat on August 31. Photo: AFP/Madaree Tohlala

lations. They wanted to send a signal that they have a large armed militia, when in fact their numbers are small, the general said.

He added that the recent

killings of four soldiers were intended to signal that "the overall separatist battle was nearly won."

A total of 102 incidents took

place on the day, which is known as Merdeka Day in Malaysia.

There were five separate bomb attacks in Narathiwat, injuring three Marines and three Army

rangers, said Army spokesman Col Pramote Phrom-in.

Many Malaysian national flags were placed at many sites in Songkhla, several bomb hoaxes were staged and Thai national flags were burned, among many similar incidents in Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala.

More than 5,000 people have died in the three Southernmost provinces of Thailand since the insurgency began in 2004.

The objective of the insurgents is unknown, as they have never revealed themselves or released official demands.

They are believed to be fighting for more autonomy. Most analysts do not believe insurgents want the three provinces to become part of Malaysia, making the flag incidents especially puzzling.

There has been a history of tension between Thailand and Malaysia over the insurgency, with the former accusing the latter of harboring fighters and their leaders on its territory.

Malaysia denies the allegations. It has also claimed it had nothing to do with the latest incidents

Thais shatter world record for simultaneous massage

THAILAND has snatched a new world record: the planet's largest ever simultaneous massage session.

In a record-breaking attempt organized by the Ministry of Public Health, 641 masseurs simultaneously practiced holistic head-to-toe Thai massage on 641 people for 12 minutes.

Guinness World Records certified the record, which was set during the Thailand Medical Hub Expo 2012 at Nonthaburi province's Impact Muang Thong Thani.

The previous record was set in Australia in 2010, when 263 masseurs kneaded flesh simultaneously for five minutes.

"I was happy that I was able to do it," said 87-year-old female masseur Pornpimol Panyawut.

Ms Pornpimol has practiced Thai massage in the southern province of Chumphon for 57 years. Her father taught her the



The record was made in 12 minutes with 641 masseurs. Photo: The Nation

skill when she was young.

"Thai massage is our heritage and we have to pass it on to future generations," she said.

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Time to roll on traffic law enforcement

ANY serious effort to improve road safety in Phuket will need a major shift away from the existing “police checkpoint” method of enforcing traffic law and instead move towards catching violators in the act.

Results of a recent *Phuket Gazette* online poll revealed that three-quarters of those taking part had never been fined for a moving violation of traffic law in Phuket.

Even more remarkably, the majority of these (42%) did not even know of anyone who had. While the figures may be skewed by the large number of tourists who took part, the results are nonetheless quite revealing.

In fact, the *Gazette* poll editor received a number of queries from curious Thai readers asking exactly what the term “moving violation” meant – as no equivalent term to describe such a set of infractions appears to exist in Thai language.

To keep all of our readers in the loop, we define a moving violation as any violation of traffic law committed by the operator of a vehicle while it is in motion: speeding, running red lights, dangerous overtaking and drunk driving are just a few of the infractions that exist under Thailand’s comprehensive traffic law. Unfortunately, these laws are far too poorly enforced where they are needed most: out on the open road.

It is unlikely that Phuket drivers from western countries, who are all too familiar with the term “moving violation”, would like to see Thai police adopt a US-style approach that involves pulling over drivers who fail to come to a complete stop at stop signs on deserted roads late at night, “speed traps” or similar tactics just to generate revenue by writing tickets to drivers who pose no real threat to others. When enforcement reaches that extreme it makes a mockery of the “spirit of the law”, turns the public against police and relegates driving – which can be a pleasurable experience – into just another anxiety-laced routine to plod through.

Unfortunately, here in Phuket the rule of the road seems to be almost the polar opposite. The almost complete disregard by police in regard to moving violations has allowed an extremely dangerous driving culture to develop – with near daily fatal results.

Phuket already has numerous factors that contribute to making it among the most dangerous places to drive in the Kingdom: roadways that are among the worst in Thailand; ever-increasing traffic congestion; lack of public transport that forces may visitors onto unfamiliar roads, including many on motorbikes for the first time. The list goes on.

Instilling just a small measure of cognizance among drivers that speeding, driving on the wrong side of the road and a host of other violations could result in fines or arrest is a necessary first step to making our roads safer for one and all.



New road leads to new ‘opportunities’

Re: *Gazette online, Push for new Patong Road in protected Phuket forest gains ground, August 27*

The road in itself should not be a problem. It could even be quite scenic – rare in Phuket these days. But as we all know, as soon as a road is built every kind of business, legal or otherwise, will spring up alongside it.

What people should be concerned about is controlling “enterprise” along the route once this road is opened.

Logic
Gazette forum

Call that a beating?

Re: *Police brutality complaint filed over drug suspect arrest, August 28*

Sorry, but even after four days the damage claimed does not seem to be present.

I have some great photos of a true beating I received at the hands of security at a Nana [Plaza, Bangkok] bar years ago.

I assure you the results were clearly visible after four days. Not one of the injuries he described can be seen in these pictures other than handcuff marks.

Not even a good try.

James Bond
Gazette forum

Cut the red wire or the blu... bang!

Re: *Gazette online, Officers ‘defuse car bomb’ in emergency response exercise at Phuket Airport, August 28*

I know it was raining and everyone probably just wanted to go home, but the bomb disposal officer’s actions to make the bomb safe, didn’t exactly fill me with confidence. Lucky, the “explosive” wasn’t fitted with an “anti-handling” switch.

Furthermore, what about the forensic evidence? No disposable

Letters to the Editor

gloves were worn when handling the deactivated bomb. Furthermore, when they blow the device up on the beach, all evidence goes with it

Mark Dee
Phuket

No sex, but lots of lies and video

Re: *Gazette online, Australian Govt rejects Bamford blast over Phuket rape claim, September 2*

Rape being such a serious charge, it is inconceivable that a foreign government department would advise a national to “lie” to cover it up and make it all go away.

The female in question is clearly in need of help; she has brought her own government into disrepute and given a totally false impression of Thailand.

If she were raped, then someone needs to go to jail.

If she lied, she needs to go to jail.

Kaf
Gazette forum

Tree hugger: Save the wealthy of Phuket

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket expat Frenchman stands to lose B100mn home in national park land raid, September 4*

My initial reaction to this story was pure joy, due to the fact that I am a self-proclaimed tree hugger. Though all the attacks on resorts and private residences that are encroaching on national parks could be a simple shakedown, the overall message it sends to the public is a good one.

The rapid development of Phuket is frightening – just look

at pictures of Patong from 10 years ago.

These sections of land and ocean that have been set aside need to be preserved, but it must be done in a fair way. Throughout this most recent land encroachment stage show, I was surprised that I didn’t hear a whisper about Freedom Beach, which was clanging bells and filling headlines almost a year ago.

Despite the pleasure it gives me to see authorities taking action to preserve national park land, I am concerned for the owner of the mansion.

If he went about purchasing the house and land (as much of it as a foreigner can legally purchase), and was told that everything was in good order by his lawyer, what message does knocking his home down send to those of us pouring money into this island?

As we continue to expand in the yacht market, as well as other luxury markets, there is a need to avoid alienating purchasers of these goods by knocking down other wealthy people’s houses.

Andy Churt
Patong

Slow and steady keeps a boat afloat

Re: *Gazette online, Sunken Phuket speedboat was legal: Marine Office, September 3*

It would be interesting to know how fast the boat was going.

I often see these boats bouncing and blasting along, perhaps trying to avoid the weather or maybe it is just the way they are operated. If so, it’s no surprise that it would capsize.

In those rough seas, going slow enough, the boat shouldn’t capsize. It seems an interview with the passengers is in order... let’s hear from them!

Phoot Len
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

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Phuket, the island to study forensic science

FIRST PERSON

PHUKET is one of the best places in Thailand to develop forensic science officers, due to the amount of unusual cases we deal with on a regular basis.

However, we didn't have the necessary specialists to deal with the Tiger Discotheque fire, which is why officers from Bangkok were called down to investigate.

We were the first forensic team on the scene at Tiger Discotheque, but we don't have chemical experts or experts in electrical systems. It's not that we don't have some specialists on our team, but they are geared towards different situations.

There are not many serious fires like the Tiger Discotheque incident in Phuket, maybe one big case a year, which isn't enough to justify having a specialists in the field at our office. It would be nice to have more experts on standby, because two heads are always better than one, but I really don't think it's necessary for us. Currently, we have experts for crime scene forensics and drugs. What we really need at the moment is more officers; the amount of work we have seems to be increasing daily.

Our office, under the command of the Forensic Science Region 8, is responsible for assisting the police in searching a crime scene for drugs, as well as human remains. We also assist by checking the criminal records of people



Phuket Forensic Science Chief **Sirilak Kuntaro**, 45, started working in the office as a sub-inspector in 1997. Last year, she was promoted to her current position. Lt Col Sirilak explains why Phuket is one of the best provinces in Thailand to study forensic science and why it was necessary to bring in specialists from Bangkok for the Tiger Discotheque fire investigation.

involved in an incident, and by composing facial composites of suspects.

The majority of the work we do involves collecting evidence from a crime scene. We collect blood, weapons, fingerprints, hair and other materials that we believe are pertinent to the case. The evidence is then sent to the Region 8 office to be tested. Once they have the test results, they will be forwarded on to the team investigating the incident.

Our job is of utmost importance because we conduct the first steps of an investigation. If our officers aren't on the scene, other police officer aren't able to start their work; the faster and more accurately we fulfill our duties, the sooner other police officers are able to start on the case.

The other factor that makes our work so important is that forensic evidence is more substantial than spoken testimony. Oral evidence can often change, but when done

properly the evidence collected by our forensic officers is solid and substantiated.

Phuket is going to have two new police stations soon, which means we will have even more work to do. It would be helpful if we could get more officers for our team. I am more than happy to have team members of all ranks; they don't need to be experts. Because of the number of crime scenes we deal with in Phuket, we are able to properly train experts in different fields.

In many ways Phuket, though a smaller province, is a great place for recruits to do forensic science training. We have had many officers start without any expertise with us, but then get enough experience to become certified as an expert in one of several fields. So hopefully, in conjunction with the new stations being established, we will receive several more officers to help in our efforts.



Utility poles being 'uprooted' and their wires buried in Phuket Town.

Electric beautification lights up Phuket Town

Island View

By Mark Dee

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

THERE has been a lot in the news recently about things electrical in Phuket, including rumors that a transformer started the Tiger Discotheque fire, since discounted; and heavy rain causing sporadic island-wide blackouts. The later had Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority employees scrambling around like a bunch of mad things making repairs.

When I arrived in Phuket, I imagined that if you wanted another socket in the house to power the kettle, they'd run an extension cable all the way back to the power station and plug it in. Jokes aside, I can't help thinking that the current (no pun intended) wiring system is open to abuse from ingenious tinkers installing drop-wires from the overhead supply directly to their homes. It has been alleged that a few house fires have been caused by unauthorized modifications to the nearest pole.

Tourists can often be seen looking up at the spaghetti-like mess that joins the utility poles, wondering how on earth (if one is fitted) does it work. It's a

testament to the bravery and tenacity of the power-line gangs that it works at all. Having to climb a rickety bamboo ladder and start fiddling with the bird's nest of high-voltage wires must be one of the most dangerous jobs in Phuket, even more so in the wet!

Now, the provincial authorities have decided to bury large sections of Phuket Town's power supply under the streets. I know the cost, in both installation and maintenance, is higher than stringing cables overhead, but just look at the results. The whole street looks brighter. In Old Town Phuket the ornate house facades are now visible.

A lick of paint and the area will be positively glowing. More of the same around other areas of Phuket can only make the place look better.

Carry on, I say.

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

Food for thought: Makro scrubs up on basic hygiene

Why does Makro have a lack of basic hygiene?

I go to Makro about once a week, and I am forever involved in altercations with Thai shoppers. I regularly see normal shoppers and, in particular, market traders with filthy hands wading through fish, prawns, squid then moving onto the pork counter, picking up, sniffing and discarding ribs, livers and so on. They occasionally wipe their hands on filthy aprons before moving onto the chicken counter...

I have just come back from Makro, where a Thai woman was going through chicken fillets with her bare hands and alternately wiping her nose with the same hand.

I informed her in Thai that what she was doing was unhygienic, she looked at me as if I was an alien.

Swerv
Phuket



Get your bare hands of my legs. Photos: Snowpea&Bokchoi and Bin im Garten

Somchai Wanbaworn, Makro Phuket Fresh Food Department Manager, replies:

Our rules require that every Fresh Food Department staff member wear gloves each and every time they work with fresh meat or vegetables. Also, each morning before they start work, the manager of each team checks that his or her team members have

clean hands, that their nails are cut and that they are wearing clean aprons and gloves.

As far as I have seen, our staff are very cooperative. However, I now understand that sometimes after they have been working for a while, they might feel uncomfortable wearing gloves or changing their gloves and apron when they gets dirty, so they

ignore it and use their bare hands.

Thank you for informing me about this. From now on, I will focus much more on their hygiene and work practices.

Kanlaya Roengsamut, a Wichit Municipality Public Health officer, replies:

We don't enforce the health regulations on handling fresh produce as strictly as we do with processed food because we know that the consumer has to wash and cook fresh produce before eating it. Generally, we just check whether the fresh produce in question contains any contaminants, such as borax or dioxin.

However, three to four times a year, the Phuket Public Health Office and Wichit Municipality Public Health Office inspect fresh produce sections at stores and shopping malls to check for chemical contaminants. We also take this opportunity to check hygiene standards.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Based on our inspections, Makro is one of the malls that we consider clean and their fresh food department has hygienic work practices.

But now that we have read your complaint, our team will conduct another inspect next week.

If we find that they fail to conduct hygienic work practices in accordance with the Food Act issued by the Ministry of Public Health, we will warn them and return for a follow-up inspection later. If they do not improve their basic food-handling hygiene, we will report them to the police for breach of food safety regulations.

Thailand - US trade reviving

MORE than 700 American companies will have a combined investment of US\$40 billion – approximately 1.25 trillion baht – in Thailand by the end of 2012, a business leader recently told the Thai government.

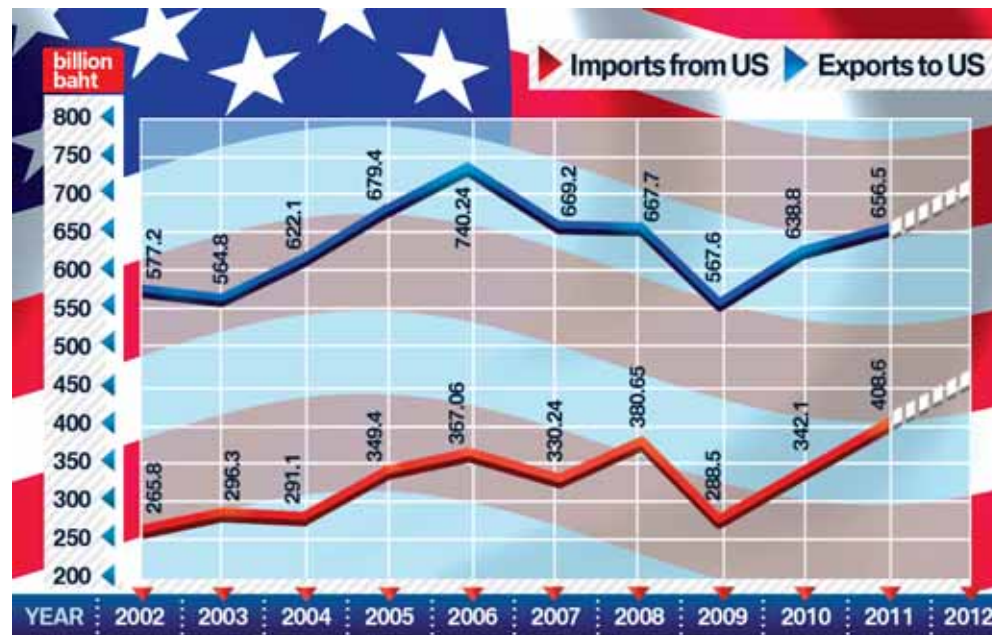
The president of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Joe Mannix revealed the figure last Friday in a speech given at a thank-you function for the government, hosted by AMCHAM at a luxury hotel in Bangkok.

Mr Mannix praised the Yingluck administration's efforts to push the 2012 GDP to a projected 5% growth, which is equal to the anticipated growth for the greater Southeast Asia region.

Thailand has shown strong commitment and potential for continued investments given its strong emergence economically, despite last year's massive floods, he said.

Mr Mannix went on to describe Thailand's ambition to manufacture two million vehicles as "historical," while also lauding the Thai government's projection for the number of foreign tourists to the Kingdom to exceed 20 million arrivals this year.

He said that American companies regard Thailand as one of the top countries for investment thanks to its economic revival, adding that a survey by AMCHAM found that 65% of US companies have plans to



RETURN TO FORMER GLORY: Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra told AMCHAM members that strong Thai-US relations could see the US become Thailand's top trading partner, again.

expand their investments in Thailand.

The president noted that US companies, however, doubted if ASEAN will achieve its goal to integrate into one single economic community (AEC) in 2015.

"We do hope that Thailand will be conducive for ASEAN to achieve the goal," he said.

Also attending the function, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra talked about the government's water management schemes and infrastructure development plans and their function to boost investment following last year's floods.

Stressing the government's anti-corruption

policy, the premier said the government will promote transparency in its administration for the benefit of foreign investors in Thailand.

She expressed hope that strong Thai-US relations will give economic benefits by elevating the US to become the Kingdom's top trading partner.

The US is currently Thailand's third largest export market behind China and Japan.

Last year, Thai exports to the USA were worth 656mn baht, compared to China-bound exports worth 791mn baht, exports to Japan valued at 719mn baht.

In the first seven months of this year, Thai exports to the US were worth 410mn baht, with exports to China and Japan worth 484mn baht and 422mn baht, respectively.

As for import markets, the USA is the fourth largest supplier to the Kingdom, behind Japan, China and the UAE.

The Kingdom's imports from the US in 2011 were valued at 408mn baht, compared to 1.28bn baht from Japan, 930mn baht from China and 442mn baht from the UAE.

In the first seven months of this year, American exports to Thailand were valued at 238mn baht, a slight improvement from the same period last year when the exports were worth 235mn baht.

– MCOT/Phuket Gazette

More French investments urged

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra last Friday urged France and Thailand to expand their reciprocal investments so as to help stimulate the French economy and expand business opportunities for more Thai companies.

As initially reported in MCOT, Ms Yingluck, who was in Paris on an official visit at the invitation of French President François Hollande, held bilateral talks with the president.

Following the talks, she had lunch with French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault. Both witnessed the signing ceremony of agreements on bilateral cooperation in education and research.

The Thai premier assured French leaders of Thailand's economic potential and recovery after the massive floods that had inundated the Kingdom's industrial heart last year.

She praised the French government's active role in solv-

ing the Eurozone debt crisis and affirmed Thailand's readiness to support European Union (EU) policies to promote good governance in the financial sector.

Ms Yingluck added that Thailand has closely monitored the development of the economic crisis in Europe as it was a major export market, expressing her hope that the EU would not apply market protectionism policies to solve its problems.

Thailand could play a role in helping stimulate the French economy by expanding more Thai companies' investments in major French businesses, she said.

Both Thai and French leaders have mutually agreed that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the EU should further strengthen their relations as strategic partners.

She said that Thailand also supports France in playing a role in ASEAN, particularly in the transfer of technology.

The French President is scheduled to attend the 9th ASEAN summit and other related meetings in Vientiane, Laos this November.

Premier Yingluck earlier met with French business representatives and urged them to expand investment in Thailand.

The Thai government's seven-year infrastructure investment plan worth 50 billion euro (1.96 trillion baht) will provide opportunities for French and European investors, she said.

French investors were also invited to join the government's plan to set up an aerospace industrial estate in Nakorn Ratchasima as a regional aerospace repair hub.



EVENING THE SCORE: In the first seven months of the year, Thailand's trade deficit with France was about 16 billion baht. Image: Gazette Graphics

According to the Commerce Ministry's most recent available Trade Report, Thailand – France trade from January through July, this year, totaled just over 77 billion baht.

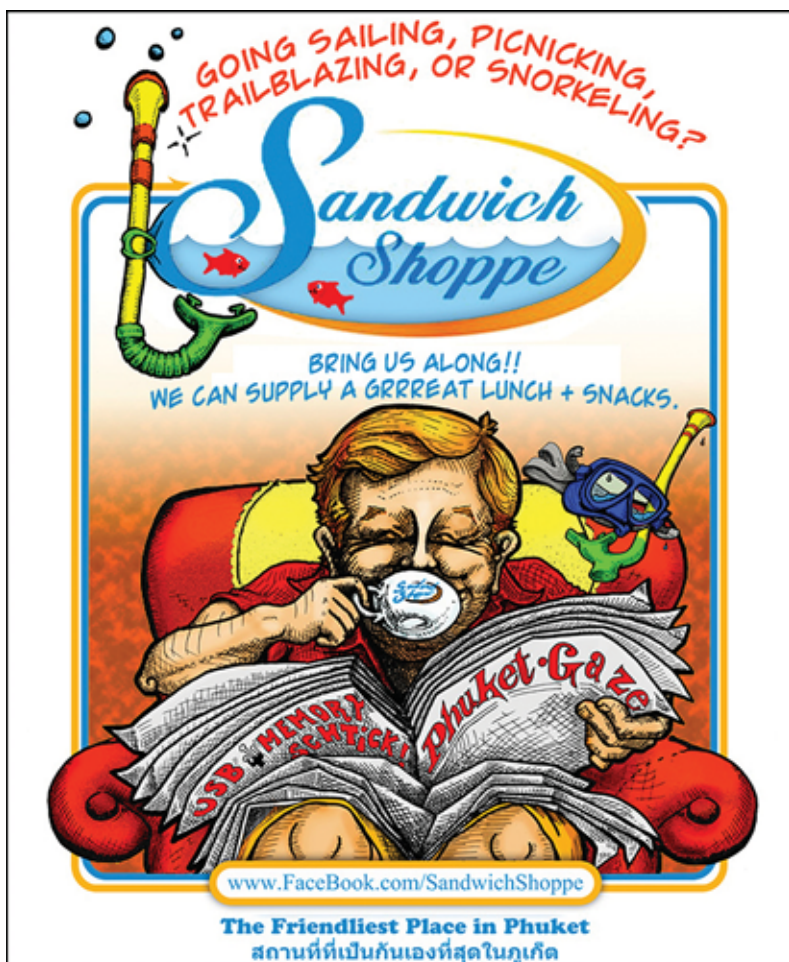
This came from Thai exports to France worth 30.28bn baht, in addition to 46.9bn baht worth of French imports into Thailand, equating to a 16.62bn baht trade deficit for Thailand, or surplus for France.

Thailand's top five exports to France this year are as follows: nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, and parts thereof, worth 4.24bn baht; rubber and articles thereof (3.92bn baht); electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof (2.93bn baht); vehicles other than railway or tramway

rolling stock and parts and accessories thereof (2.02bn baht) and natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof, imitation jewelry and coins (1.88bn baht).

France's top five exports to Thailand during the same period are as follows: aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof (18.6bn baht); nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, and parts thereof (4.02bn baht); electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof (3.1bn baht); pharmaceutical products (3.06bn baht) and essential oils and resinoids, perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations (2.43bn baht).

– MCOT/Phuket Gazette



Jewelry exports to grow by 6%: MoC



THAILAND'S Commerce Ministry (MoC) has projected the country's exports of jewelry and related accessories to grow by 6% this year, despite negative export figures of 16% in the first seven months.

Deputy Commerce Minister Siriwat Kajornprasart said jewelry and accessories is a major traditional sector driving the country's economy.

New export markets such as Hong Kong and China are replacing existing leading markets like the European Union and the United States, he said.

The sector's exports were valued at more than 370 billion baht last year, about 5% of the country's overall export value and ranked fourth among Thailand's major exported goods.

However, non-gold and non-silver jewelry exported to ASEAN

markets last year were worth only 2.6bn baht, accounting for less than 1% of overall jewelry exports.

Gold and silver accessories are among the primary jewelry Thailand exports to ASEAN countries, Mr Siriwat explained.

He said that the reason why Thailand exports only small amounts of non-gold and non-silver jewelry and accessories to ASEAN countries is because Thai entrepreneurs previously focused on European and North American markets due to their high purchasing power.

China and India are Thailand's main competitors in the jewelry market in ASEAN.

The minister added that Thailand will benefit from precious stone supply markets in Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia once the ASEAN

Economic Community comes into effect in 2015.

Mr Siriwat went on to promote the upcoming 3rd International Gem & Jewelry Conference (GIT 2012), to be held December 12-13 in Bangkok and Thailand's eastern province of Chanthaburi.

The event will bring together field experts and businessmen from across the world, with the aim of exchanging information and knowledge to bring about more understanding about the obstacles the jewelry sector is facing, as to improve participants bargaining power in the world market, he said.

The conference will continue from December 14-16 in the city of Pailin, Cambodia's traditional source of blue sapphires, which compare favorably with Kashmiri and Burmese rubies. — *MCOT*

TAT head bullish on tourism sector

By Orawin Naraba

THE new director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Phuket Town has proclaimed the "low season" a thing of the past with so many tourists arriving year-round.

Speaking at the "Governor Meets the Press" gathering at Provincial Hall last week, TAT Southern Region 4 Office director Chanchai Doungjit expressed confidence in the performance of the Phuket tourism industry, saying he expects total revenue generated in 2012 to be higher than last year.

"Although Phuket is in the 'green season' now, there are still many tourists coming to the island. I can even say there is no 'high' or 'low' season in Phuket anymore, since it always has lots of tourists all the time," he said.

The term "green season" was coined several years ago by the TAT and local tourism associations as a "rebranding" of what was formerly called the low season.

Phuket generates more than half of all the estimated 210 billion baht in tourism revenue annually by all 14 provinces in the southern region and remains the fastest-growing province in the region, he said.

"Even though many negative incidents have recently tarnished the image of Phuket, the province is still popular among tourists. Overall, I don't think these incidents...will severely affect the tourism industry — especially if relevant organizations cooperate to restore Phuket's positive image by increasing security measures to assure tourist safety.

"Over the past few years, political conflict has had a huge effect on tourism, but now the political situation has calmed down greatly, it shouldn't be a factor that stops tourists from coming to Phuket," he said.

Mr Chanchai named China, Russia, Australia, South Korea and Sweden as the top five source countries for foreign tourists visiting Phuket.

"In 2011, Phuket had more than six million tourists, including both Thai and foreign visitors. As arrival rates have increased 25% to 30% on last year, we expect the total number of arrivals to be 6.7mn to 7mn by the end of the year. This means Phuket will generate about 110bn baht in industry revenue," he said.



The new director of TAT Phuket office, Chanchai Doungjit.

Central looks forward to AEC

CENTRAL Retail Corporation (CRC) is optimistic that seamless trade anticipated under the Asean Economic Community (AEC) in three years time, will draw more shoppers to Phuket.

Lertvit Pumipitak, CRC executive vice president for business development, said the AEC, which will be fully effective in 2015, would increase the number of local tourists and in-bound travelers from outside and within ASEAN, especially from China and Russia, to Phuket.

With an increase projected at 35% on average, CRC plans to promote additional investments on the island.

Of its recent investments, it poured 200 million baht into a 'face-lift' of Central Festival Phuket, which was completed in June.

Lertvit said that consumers' purchasing power in Phuket had increased, as seen from average



CRITICAL MASS: Finding good parking at Central Festival can be difficult as is, and may become even more of a task when AEC comes into play.

transactions in the mall — by both Thai and foreign shoppers. Central Festival Phuket achieved 350mn baht in sales in the first six months of this year, up 20% over the same period last year.

The increase was attributed to more foreign tourists coming to Phuket over the period, up 12% when compared with the first half of 2011.

The shopping complex expects

to earn 700mn baht in sales for the full year, which would equate to a 25% jump over last year.

In recent months, the Central Group acquired the leasing rights to develop the 30-rai (48,000 square meters) plot of land on Central Festival's southern side, across Wichit Songkhram Road, where the iconic Thai Naan Restaurant sits.

The group held a meeting late last month, inviting key stakeholders as well as prominent community and industry leaders to discuss the potential scope of the mall's expansion onto the plot.

Attendees, including Central management as well as past and present heads of the Phuket Hotel Association, explored various possibilities including a new car-park, a convention center, family recreation facilities and more shopping outlets, among others.

— *The Nation/Phuket Gazette*

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A galaxy of pads, a clamour of nooks and an army of androids

WELCOME to the third of four installments in my ongoing series about where the computer industry is headed as we barrel along to the Christmas season.

If you are thinking about buying any new electronics – computer, tablet, phone, maybe even a TV – it would be worthwhile to stay on top of developments between now and Christmas. Some of the stuff coming down the pike is quite impressive, and we should be able to get at least some of it here in Thailand.

In this part of the series, I want to talk about Android phones and tablets, as well as Kindles and Nooks (which are, in fact, Android tablets, although you wouldn't know it from looking at them). They're doing well in the marketplace, and every indication is that they'll do even better later this year.

Android phones – typified by the Samsung Galaxy S III – are outselling iPhones by a very large margin: More than two-to-one by some measures.

Of course, Apple's only selling a very small number of different phones, while the Android universe is huge. Apple's making an enormous profit on each phone, whereas the Android manufacturers aren't making much at all. But in terms of sheer volume, Android is doing very well indeed.

I expect that the iPhone 5 this year will certainly take some of the steam out of Android phone sales, but exactly how much remains to be seen. Regardless, Samsung's going to have a kick-butt Christmas.

Other phones – notably the BlackBerry and Nokia's Windows Phone 8 versions – will probably get left in the dust. RIM has all



but run BlackBerry into the ground. Nokia didn't turn around its operation quickly enough to avoid junk-bond rating status. Maybe they'll be able to turn the company around, but I don't hold out much hope.

Google's in the fray as well, particularly since its acquisition of Motorola. There are rumors of a Google "gold standard" Android phone. If true, such a phone could become very popular.

The tablet market is heading in several distinct directions. At the high end, Windows 8 on a tablet – at, say US\$800 and up – will definitely eat into Ultrabook sales. Intel invented the Ultrabook design to convince people that Windows PCs can be as cool as the MacBook Air, but nobody believed it. Ultrabooks aren't selling worth beans anyway.

market, unless Microsoft works some magic with the price – possibly bundle it with a subscription service of some kind.

On the face of it, right now, I'd be willing to bet the iPad will absolutely roll over the tablet marketplace this Christmas, as it has every year since its introduction.

The next level down in tablets – say, US\$199 or so – is due for a huge shake-up. Amazon's Kindle Fire is a dynamite book reading machine, but the competitors are moving in. Larger tablets are getting better screens. Smaller tablets are getting cheaper. And if Apple puts a Kindle-size iPad on the market for \$199, all bets are off.

One of Amazon Kindle's great selling points is the enormous collection of books available on the Kindle. All it takes is a tap, a password, and a credit card, and you can be reading just about any book ever published in minutes.

Apple's in a unique position to match Amazon's ease of use, and even up the ante with a multitude of competitive products.

Imagine buying a copy of the latest best-seller and having it immediately available on your mini iPad, your full 10-inch iPad, your MacBook Air and your PC. Apple's iCloud does that already with photos. Apple might even make it work with Android devices.

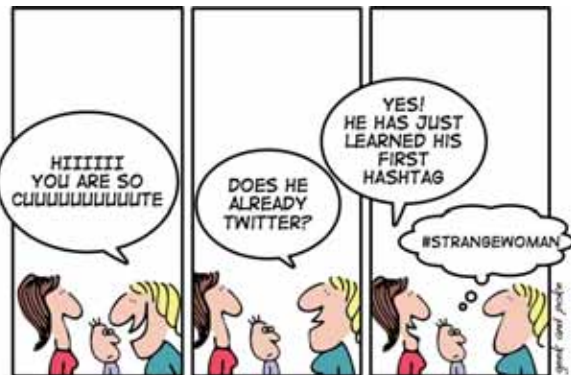
Barnes & Noble's Nook is another wild card. B&N put its Nook business up for sale, and in April,

Microsoft pledged US\$300 million to keep the product going. There's a lot of controversy and smoke about the exact corporate structure, but at this point, Microsoft owns a big chunk of the Nook, and anything could happen.

I've even heard rumors that the Nook could be re-born as a Windows RT tablet. Or maybe



HOT, TIGHT PADS: Come this Christmas, will we see the Nook (left) catch fire or will the new Kindle (above) be considered too niche? Photos: Intel Free Press



At the next level – say US\$400 or so – Windows RT will give the iPad 3 a run for its money, specifically if Microsoft can get the price of the Windows RT Surface machine down below the iPad 3, and if Microsoft can (finally!) get some decent Windows RT apps running.

I suspect that the iPad 3 will roll over Windows RT in the

Microsoft could call on its good friend B&N to supply electronic book purchases for its own Surface machines. Stranger things have happened.

There's even more uncertainty in the small tablet business. Google's new Nexus 7 – developed with Asus – has drawn very good reviews, at US\$199. It's showing other tablet manufacturers what a small 7-inch tablet running Android can really do.

Even Nokia's rumored to be getting into the small tablet business, in conjunction with its new best buddy Microsoft, which is subsidizing Nokia to the tune of billions of dollars.

Next week, in part four of this series, I'm going to tell you what I expect to happen with the computer market, particularly here in Phuket, and give you a few hints

about what to watch for as the holidays roll around.

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

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

Will the new Amazon tablet re-Kindle the Fire?

AS THIS *Phuket Gazette* goes to print Amazon has scheduled a press event on September 6 in Santa Monica, California; one of the centers for streaming entertainment. Speculation is focused on a new Kindle Fire tablet, a new Kindle e-reader, a new media partnership with someone like NBC, an acquisition of someone like Hulu, or even same day delivery of Amazon purchases. Whichever one it is, it could represent a new threat to Apple, Samsung, or other tablet or mobile entertainment device manufacturers.

Currently, Amazon Prime costs US\$79 a year or about US\$6 a month. So, for about the same cost of Netflix streaming you can get unlimited Amazon VOD streaming, a free monthly loan of an e-book, and free shipping on an Amazon purchase. What would happen if Amazon announced it was offering a Fire tablet for US\$99 (or even \$129) along with a Prime subscription? What if they offered a Kindle e-reader for free along with a US\$79 subscription to Prime? At the moment, no one else can offer as powerful a bundle as this.

There's no question that Apple's iPad dominates the market but when the US\$199 Amazon Kindle Fire and Barnes and Noble's Nook hit the stores, consumers who couldn't justify spending the US\$499 for an iPad jumped on these sub-\$200 tablets. Both Amazon and B&N need to come up with something to make their tablets competitive with the Nexus 7 not to mention the rumored iPad Mini which may be released in time for the holiday season.

– *Retrovo/Phuket Gazette*

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Taking care of your parents

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

NO, THE title of this article isn't a joke. Obviously, there is a big difference in cultural attitudes towards what responsibilities people have when it comes to family. There is no need to discuss this at length.

Generally speaking most Westerners are not under the same pressure to look after their aging family members as most Thais are. But, there are some things you should or could do, to plan ahead for your parents' final years back in your home country.

While every country has different rules, there is a general trend in the way laws are structured regarding what happens to an elderly person's assets when they reach the point that they can no longer take care of themselves.

Unfortunately, most often these laws punish those who have been financially responsible over the course of their lives, and provide a relative advantage for those who have not.

The most ideal situation would be to arrive at that point in life with a good enough insurance policy to cover all of these costs. Now, let's get back to the real world for most of us.

For most people I come across moving to a country such as Thailand with low labor costs, which allows for assisted living at a reasonable price, is not

viable. This is understandable of course, as the thought of going through culture shock at the very end of life is too much for many elderly to even consider.

Thus, most people are left in a situation where whatever assets they accumulated over the course of their life will be eaten up by the very expensive process of dying in the West. Especially, if it drags out and one needs a lot of medications and/or equipment to get by in the final years.

Most countries have some sort of means test, to determine how this is all paid for. This is when people who have been frugal and responsible, are very upset to find out a hard truth.

Their government has no problem paying for their broke compatriots who spent everything they earned, but refuses to cough up any money for them, until they also end up in the same boat.

The system essentially says, 'live it up while you're young because old age is going to take it all away anyway'.

This is a very unfair consequence of the way the system is set up. However, most countries have some sort of look back period where it is not considered a deprivation of assets to pass them on to your loved ones.

The main objective of this kind of financial planning for your parents is to get as many of their assets out of their name prior to the look back periods as possible, to prevent them from being eaten up by medical bills.

You need to consult an advisor back in the country where your parents will grow



A HARD TRUTH: Fiscal responsibility isn't always rewarded upon retirement. Photo: keebosr

old, and the sooner you begin the more of your parents' hard earned assets can be retained by the family, as opposed to getting eaten up in the process of dying.

These assets in turn can be used to provide them with the little extra niceties that may make those final years a little bit better. This will give them the fair reward they deserve for having managed their finances properly. Unfortunately, by the

time this becomes an issue for most people, it is already too late. Plan ahead now while your parents are still as young and healthy as possible.

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

APEC holds Economic Leaders' Meeting

SENIOR Officials from APEC's 21 member economies concluded their preparations on Monday in Vladivostok by finalizing their recommendations to leaders and ministers on advancing APEC's 2012 priorities.

Those priorities include strengthening trade and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and reinforcing its position as the vanguard for global growth.

The 2012 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, was held recently in Vladivostok, following the annual gathering of APEC Ministers.

During the meetings, APEC leaders and ministers will, in particular, consider the outcome of

work on: trade and investment, regional economic integration, supply chains, food security and innovation.

Setting the stage, APEC Senior Officials evaluated the organization's key achievements this year, including progress made towards creating an APEC list of environmental goods that directly and positively contribute to sustainable development.

"APEC members and stakeholders have continued to intensively work on 'next generation' trade and investment issues, to produce a set of specific and tangible deliverables for 2012," said APEC 2012 Chair Igor Morgulov, Russia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"The results are crucial to improve opportunities for businesses and workers by facilitating global supply chains, assisting small and medium enterprises, and promoting effective, non-discriminatory, and market-driven innovation policy."

APEC Senior Officials reached consensus on measures to further strengthen transparency in trade agreements and implement a systematic approach to supply chain chokepoints – points where disruption can interrupt a substantial volume of oil flow.

"Work on these issues drives APEC toward regional economic integration and contributes to building a Free Trade Area (FTA) of the Asia-Pacific," Morgulov said.

"Equally important," he added, "These actions also promote good regulatory practices, expand trade and foster an environment that supports increased productivity and growth, to help get the global economy back on track."

Updated policy reports seem to reflect the value of such efforts.

According to a new economic policy report that was presented to APEC Senior Officials, member economies improved the ease of doing business in the region by 8.2 per cent in 2011, exceeding the five per cent target for the year and keeping on track to meet the goal of a 25 per cent improvement by 2015.

– Apec Media/Phuket Gazette



Russian President Vladimir Putin. Photo: World Economic Forum

Briefs from around the region

VIETNAM is encouraging its businesses to invest in Laos' northern provinces, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told officials of the Lao province of Luong Nam Tha.

Phuc and his Laotian counterpart Somsavath Lengsavath were briefed on the socio-economic situation in Luong Nam Tha, which, is rich in natural resources, has favorable weather and land conditions that are ideal for farming and husbandry. Luong Nam Tha has close cooperative ties with several Vietnamese localities, especially the northern provinces of Vinh Phuc and Phu Tho.

The two sides have reaped practical outcomes in cooperative agriculture, infrastructure and human resource development. **-MCOT**

INDONESIAN President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has called for synergy between the government and business sectors in preparation for the Asean Economic Community (AEC) slated for 2015. "We still have three years left to enter AEC. All Asean member states must be prepared for economic challenges by establishing cooperation between the business world and the government," the President said during a limited cabinet meeting at the Industry Ministry.

The President noted that many investors still complain about poor infrastructure. "We should admit that domestic infrastructures are still poor. The government is inviting investors to jointly build infrastructure," he added. **-MCOT**



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Feeding the gypsy in you

IF YOU'RE passing through Cherng Talay, heading down to Surin or Bangtao beaches, you'd have to be blind not to notice the startling yellow and pink building on the left hand side of the road – opposite Tesco Lotus.

This is Gitano Restaurant & Love, the latest incarnation of the innovative couple, Miguel Kirjon and Lin Prachakrich. Miguel and Lin, here in Phuket for 17 years, have had other Gitano branches before, in Phuket Town, Patong and Pa Klok. They are presently planning one in the Boat Lagoon but this particular Gitano creation (opposite Tesco) perhaps best personifies their runaway creative impulses.

Is the inside décor less conservative than the 'look at me', almost shocking exterior? Er, not much.

The same yellow and pink theme runs throughout. There are trippy,

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

glazed ceramic floorings, 3D acrylic paintings (sporting what appear to be boobies), hand-painted lampshades, brightly colored furniture, a central aquarium and over in the corner a semi-partitioned kids' play area, complete with the Disney Channel on a large LCD TV, books and games. Oh, and a naked mannequin's torso stuck to the toilet door thrown in for good luck. It sort of comes as a surprise that the wait staff doesn't turn up on rollerblades, wearing fluorescent Darth Vader outfits with flashing helmets, but hey, that's life.

Still, Gitano makes a welcome difference from the somewhat

predictably average Phuket eatery where rocking the boat is the last thing on the designer's mind. Here, you can feel inebriated without a drink having passed your lips and that – when you stop and think about it – can only be a good thing.

But what about the food at Gitano? This is Lin's domain and she balances a one-page Mexican-tinged menu against several pages of photo-illustrated Thai dishes.

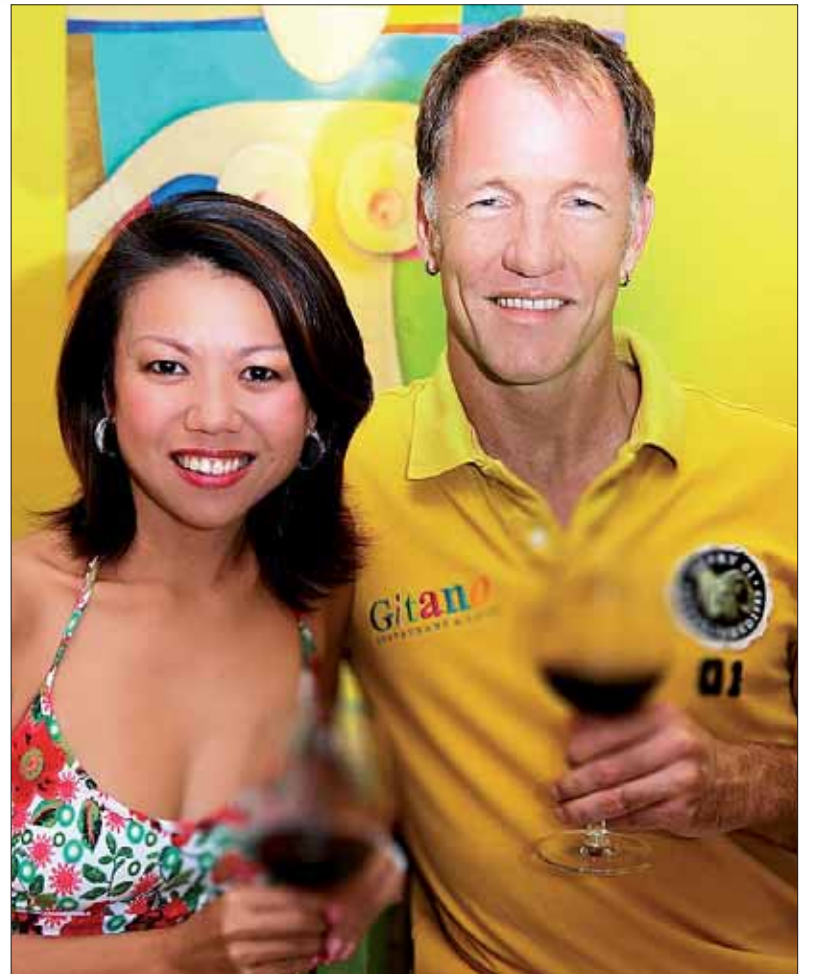
Anyone who has dined over in Patong knows that a dreaded photo menu means gulping down the aperitifs and heading for the next, photo-menu-less restaurant. But, Miguel's pics pull the trick off smoother than olive oil on aluminum roll-out paper.

We opt for a balance of Thai and Mexican dishes, starting with a pretty neat *chile con carne* with a great *enchilada pollo* complemented by a *panaeng gai grob* – crispy chicken in a clever *mélange* of what tastes like penang and massaman curry.

It has to be mentioned that attention to detail is paramount



THE WHOLE ENCHILADA: (above) Served up in the funky decor (left).



L'AMOUR: The innovative couple, Miguel Kirjon and Lin Prachakrich.

here. The square white plates and quality wine glasses are conducive to making the evening feel special, even though Gitano has no pretensions to fine dining, and the plate on which my grilled white snapper, mango salad and fried potatoes is served could easily carry a full round of Guinness pints in a backstreet Dublin pub.

That said, even though the other dishes were prepared to perfection, the snapper was overdone with the unusual result, that I paid more attention to the delicious salad and tasty potatoes than the actual, rather over-done protein.

Prices range from reasonable (a lunchtime set menu with a glass of lemon ice tea for 95 baht) to extravagant (a Billecourt Salmon Brut

Reserve NV Champagne at 4,990 baht) with a lot of dishes floating around the 170-200 baht region.

But what this place does more than anything is cater to families with its amusing and cool design, kids' facilities and youthful outlook. It's the mixture of almost childish euphoria, coupled with eclectic art and original creativity that makes Gitano Restaurant & Love stand out as a great place for fun-loving families and people looking for a great place to eat in a decidedly wacky atmosphere. Oh, and the food's pretty good too.

Gitano Restaurant & Love are open daily from 11am to 10pm.

Tel: 081892 2419

Website: gitanolove.com



SUCCULENT SEAFOOD: The main course of grilled white snapper sits amidst mango salad and fried potatoes.



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Expecting moms rejoice

New website extends support network to expats based in Thailand who are family-planning



THE ENERGY WITHIN: Three expecting expat mothers practice yoga.
Front page photo: pktures

EXPATS preparing to give birth in their domiciled home-away-from-home, will be happy to know of a new website recently launched. ExpectingExpats.com provides a forum for pregnant expat women and new moms living in Thailand and adjoining countries to share their experiences, learn from one another, ask questions and seek advice.

The first website of its kind in Thailand, ExpectingExpats.com incorporates blogging from moms, open discussions and real doctor input, with a panel of Samitivej Sukhumvit Hospital gynecologists regularly providing answers to community questions along with general advice.

The website's forums are open to all women, families and maternity care professionals.

"Expat women in Phuket can join the conversation about being a mom in Thailand and will have

access to a wealth of advice from Samitivej Hospital doctors and fellow expats in the various forums.

"The doctors and nurses are highly experienced in working with moms of all nationalities, so Phuket moms should feel at home on the site," said Ms Merritt Gurley cofounder of Bangkok based Bedside Media, which developed the community website.

"Our target is not only the mothers in Bangkok, but in Phuket and other provinces as well. The issues are often the same for expat moms regardless of location. For example, how to choose the right doctor, dealing with the tropical heat, whether to birth naturally or using a c-section, how to deal with dietary issues, how much physical exercise to take during pregnancy and more," she explained.

"There are a lot of benefits to having a baby overseas, but it can also be challenging without the support of your family and childhood friends near by," Ms Merritt continued, "That's why it is so important to foster the bonds of the expat community and create our own little family of moms."

ExpectingExpats.com was created on the understanding that there are so many choices for birthing in Bangkok and the rest of the Kingdom, with many internationally trained, top-tier physicians, new technologies and trends, that it can all be a bit overwhelming.

The website gives women a place to share what has worked for them and ask questions about new advancements.

For example, women's centers at Thailand's leading hospitals use Array CGH technology and 3D and



4D ultrasound that can detect any pre-natal abnormalities in the fetus. Women can chat about the value of these services and what the procedures are really like.

On the website's community forum pages, women are currently discussing subjects such as natural birthing vs c-sections, whether vitamin supplements are necessary or not, and the advantages and risks of water birthing.

Medical doctors from Bangkok's Samitivej Hospital specializing in natal care have responded to many of the questions posted.

"We are lucky that high quality care is so affordable and accessible at the leading hospitals in Thailand," said Ms Gurley, "but even with the best medical care in the world, you can always benefit from the advice of women who have already been through what you are about to experience."

She added: "If we lean on each other, and share what we've learned, we'll all feel a little more at home."

Mangosteen mask

By Surat Atta, Komchadluek

BREAKING ground in the Agri-health arena, Thai researchers have developed and launched a new type of hygienic mask they claim, with reasonable credibility, is capable of protecting humans from more than 97 per cent of harmful, airborne agents.

"Germ Guard" is a simple yet innovative product that emerges amid what some are calling a worsening dust crisis – marked by rampant spread of diseases linked to an increasing abundance of airborne bacteria and pathogens, many of which are drug-resistant and can't be seen by the naked eye.

At the core of the invention is a solution comprising Xanthone compounds extracted from the peels of Mangosteen, which is then applied to ordinary surgical or hygienic masks.

The masks, already developed into a packaged product ready for retail, were revealed last month at the Thailand Research Expo 2012 in Bangkok, and are expected to create more buzz at future events, worldwide.

Heading Research and Development for the "mangosteen peel mask project" was Dr Panit Suphaphon, with the project's prime backer being Chulalongkorn University's Petroleum and Petrochemical College.

Additional backers include the National Research Council of Thailand, Ramathibodi Hospital and Faculty of Medicine of Srinakharinwirot University.

Carried out for more than a year, their research tested and verified that mangosteen peel extracts do indeed have special properties that can be applied to effectively filter



Researchers display the new "Germ Guard" masks. Photo: Komchadluek

out airborne diseases, as well as eliminate bacterium linked to numerous respiration diseases, including evasive, drug-resistant Mycobacterium.

More importantly for them, their findings can easily be applied to industrial-scale production.

Indeed, the Germ Guard mask just may replace ordinary hygienic masks across the board – from hospital operation rooms to other closed, highly-congested living and working spaces around the world.

PPC Graduate student Pongphon Ekabut, who was part of the research team under Dr Panit Suphaphon, elaborated on the research methodologies and findings.

He explained that the Xanthone compounds found in Mangosteen peels contain not only anti-bacteria and antiinflammatory properties, but are also highly effective in killing drug-resistant pathogens, and even cancerous cells.

"In one of our initial tests, we dropped 1,000 cells of microbacterium into one milliliter of solution, and applied it on to a surgical mask which we had pre-applied mangosteen peel extract.

"The results saw half of the cells

killed instantly. . . after 24 hours, all of the harmful cells had died.

When compared to silver nano antibacterial technology, the mangosteen peel extract is safer. A drawback of it, however, is it has a faint smell of the fruit," he noted.

Requiring a period of only two days, their method can extract 40 grams of Xanthone per kilogram of mangosteen peel. The next test involved applying the extract on bandages, which were then applied to burns on testing animals.

A year of such tests concluded that the burns healed quicker with the extract covered bandages.

From there, the research team went on to develop small, nano fiber strands to be used for general air filtration applications.

Tests conducted at the Nelson Lab in the USA have verified that the product is capable of filtering out up to 97.8 per cent of diseases.

"Another important feature of this product is in regards to the added value for local, agricultural products," he concluded.

For more information about Germ Guard, call 02-579-9775 during government working hours.

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Come fly with me

By Bruce Stanley

SUCHARD 'Robert' Raksangob wants to share his enthusiasm for flying airplanes with visitors and residents of Phuket. On Sunday, September 15, he's inviting anyone with an interest in aviation to join him at the Phuket Airpark in Pa Klok where they can join the Phuket Flying Club.

"I flew for more than 25 years with the Thai Flying Club out of Bangphra Airport at Sri Racha and thought that Phuket would make an even better location for private aviation as the island is surrounded by so much natural beauty," he says.

Currently, there are six flying clubs around Thailand. The beautiful Phuket one, which Robert built on 124 rai of land about 5.7 kilometers east of the Heroines Monument, boasts a luxurious grass strip and an atmosphere reminiscent of a fine golf course. It's a barnstormer's paradise.

"My original plan included housing and community developments with the runway as the central feature. Other parts of the plan included condominium units; private homes with hangars, many on canals; and a Fixed Based [airport service] Operation (FBO), which [would] offer flight training and maintenance services."

Over the past several years, he's invited flying enthusiasts to join the local flying club where they can qualify for a license to fly and learn how to reach the most scenic areas around Phang Nga Bay and the rest of the Andaman region.

The club currently has about 50 members and many, many visitors, particularly on weekends.

The President of the Phuket Flying Club, which is currently the primary tenant at Phuket Airpark, is retired Thai Airways Captain Watana Thinphanga. An environmentalist, he encourages local small aircraft pilots to watch for threats to the ecology – not only in Phuket, but throughout the Andaman – and to report their sightings to

the club for action by local authorities.

An important member of the club is Pat James, an American pilot who flew helicopter missions during the Vietnam War. After he finished his second enlistment, he returned to his native Texas and set up his own FBO in Dallas at Love Field. Over the next twelve years, he expanded his services to Corpus Christi and Atlanta, Georgia.

By the late 1980s, Pat sold his aviation business and began consulting in Asia, first in Papua New Guinea and then in Myanmar, running helicopter services in remote areas to assist in oil and exploration projects. He is now based here and maintains his office at the Airpark.

The dynamic trio of Robert, Pat and Capt Wattana offers a package of talent, experience and local knowledge that would benefit any novice pilot.

"There are three flying clubs in Singapore and four in Malaysia, Robert notes. I anticipate that in the future we will have many more fly-ins and air shows, and will be able to offer, among other things, seminars and visits to the control tower at Phuket International Airport."

While the future of small-craft aviation looks promising for Phuket, Robert says that he is currently in negotiations to sell some of the land at the Airpark to enable extension of the runway (to 700m, from its current 500m) and to expand the services currently available to pilots and visitors.

"I'm looking to sell 15 rai to take care of what is owed on the property and to develop it further. Recently, I've had significant interest from several property developers who want to buy the entire Phuket Airpark for housing, as the land is flat, beautiful and has lots of water.

"But I'd much prefer to have the Phuket Flying Club and all its members, friends and activities continue to be based here. I think general aviation has a great future in Phuket," he concludes.



HIGHFLYERS: Suchart 'Robert' Raksangob with Pat James at the Phuket Flying Club.



The Airpark (below) attracts visitors like this Pilatus PC-12 that flew in non-stop from Bhutan. Photo: Mark Branson



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THAI ready to super size

THIS month, Thai Airways' first Airbus A380, will be rolled out to start its preparation and training procedures before being put into service on regular routes to Europe. The first Airbus A380 in the colours of Thai Airways is due to arrive in Thailand on September 27.

"We will first test it on routes to Hong Kong and Singapore. Then following the delivery of our second aircraft, we will start commercial operations to Europe with flights to Frankfurt from December, then to London and Paris from January and February," said Kritappon Chantalitanon, vice president of product and service development at Thai Airways International

(THAI). THAI will also introduce the aircraft on the route to Tokyo Narita out of Bangkok.

For Ampon Kittiampon, chairman of the board of directors, THAI's choice of the Airbus A380 was determined by passengers' preference for a more spacious cabin. To maximize the comfort on board in all classes of service, THAI is installing only 507 seats in its three classes with 12 seats in First class, 60 in Royal Silk Class and 435 in Economy Class for all six aircraft joining the fleet next year.

New products will also be put on board with the delivery of the new aircraft. The First class will have a large sleeper doted with a 26.5 inch individual video

screen all with a semi-privacy conventional, configuration. Pajamas, comfortable pillows and duvet, special toiletry kits as well as a private First class bar will provide new levels of comfort to passengers.

In Business class, passengers will enjoy a fully reclining 180° seat. A dedicated bar for Royal Silk Passengers, a 15 inch in-seat screen and electronic plugging will be part of the cabin's new services.

Economy class passengers will benefit from the same choice of entertainment programs as in First and Business classes and will also have the possibility to use internet and WiFi services.

– Phuket Gazette

Signs o' the times



ABORT: Photo: Bob Mott



Photo: Kevin Davidson



Now you too can ride in the shade, with your very own portable tree...
Photo: Bob Mott



GRAB BAG: Cutting humor from the International press



Tee Hee

MAKING the 'rounds' on the internet is news of a new golf book. Chapters include:

- How to properly line up your fourth putt.
- How to hit a Maxfli ball from the rough when you just hit a Titleist from the tee.
- How to get more distance off the shank.
- When to give the curator the finger.
- Proper excuses for drinking beer before 9am.
- How to find that ball that everyone else saw go into the water.
- How to relax when you are hitting three off the tee.
- How to relax when you are hitting five off the tee.
- When to suggest major swing corrections to your opponent.

The book also includes these latest golf terms:

- A 'Diego Maradona': A very nasty 5 footer.
- A 'Salman Rushdie': An impossible read.
- A 'Rock Hudson': Thought it was straight, but it wasn't.
- A 'Cuban': Needs one more revolution.
- An 'Adolf Hitler': Two shots in the bunker.
- A 'Kate Winslet': A bit flat but otherwise perfect.
- A 'Kate Moss': A bit thin.
- A 'Princess Grace': Should have taken a driver.
- A 'Princess Di': Shouldn't have taken a driver.
- A 'Ladyboy': Looks like an easy hole but all is not what it seems.
- A 'Condom': Safe but didn't feel real good.
- A Circus tent: A big top.

If you have a photo or story that you think might make our editors smile, please send it to features@phuketgazette.net

IN THE wake of the recent Republican convention, I thought I'd do an imaginary interview with US presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Imaginary interviews are always more fun than real ones, because you can make your interviewee say anything you want. This one would go like this:

Me: Our readers want to know what experience you have in foreign affairs.

Mitt: Well, gosh, Ess, my father was born in Mexico! I know all about those folks down there! I speak their language! *Hasta la vista, baby!* *Hola, amigo!* *Viva la siesta!* I eat their food, too: tacos, enchiladas, sombreros, hombres, senoritas—the whole delicious lot.

Me: Hmm. OK let's talk about the economy.

Mitt: I want your readers to know that I have a secret plan for economic recovery that will restore the United States to its God-given role as supreme tyrant of the entire planet and leave those brick fellows choking on our dust.

Me: You mean the BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India, and China?

Mitt: Yes, and I know those fellows! I can deal with them. Among my many accomplishments as a venture capitalist, I once owned several brickyards. I understand brick people – I speak their language.

Me: Can you say something in Russian, governor?

Mitt: Sure can! (Thinks, takes a deep breath.) *Nyet!*



Me: Vladimir Putin is sure to be impressed. Now, tell me about your secret plan to restore the US economy.

Mitt: Ha ha! Good one, Ess! If I told you what it was, it wouldn't be a secret anymore, would it?

Me: Now, it's been said that you have trouble connecting with the common people.

Mitt: Oh, that's nonsense, Ess! Some of my best friends are common people. I happen to be good friends with Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg. Steve Jobs was a close friend of mine. I've played golf with George Soros and the Sultan of Brunei.

Me: I'm talking about common people who aren't billionaires.

Mitt: Oh, THOSE common people! (Scratches his head.) Well, let's see, I connect very well with my butler, my maids, my driver, and my gardener every time I sign their paychecks. I connect with my house slaves every time I send one of them out to be flogged for pinching the silverware.

I'm connecting with YOU right now.

Me: Right. What would you do about the situation in Syria?

Mitt: I know about Syria! I understand the Syrians! Why, I used to own a hamster when I was a boy. A Syrian golden hamster!

Hamsters are from Syria, you know. Although mine was a good, hard-working, God-fearing, patriotic, conservative American hamster... until the cat got him.

Me: That's great, governor, but what would you DO?

Mitt: Well, I would call for a cease-fire between the opposing sides, stop the killing, and negotiate a settlement that would bring peace to Syria and the entire world.

Me: Easier said than done.

Mitt (sternly): Every great achievement begins with an idea, Ess. And I believe it was PT Barnum who said, "The man who most stands in the way of human progress is the man who says, 'It can't be done'".

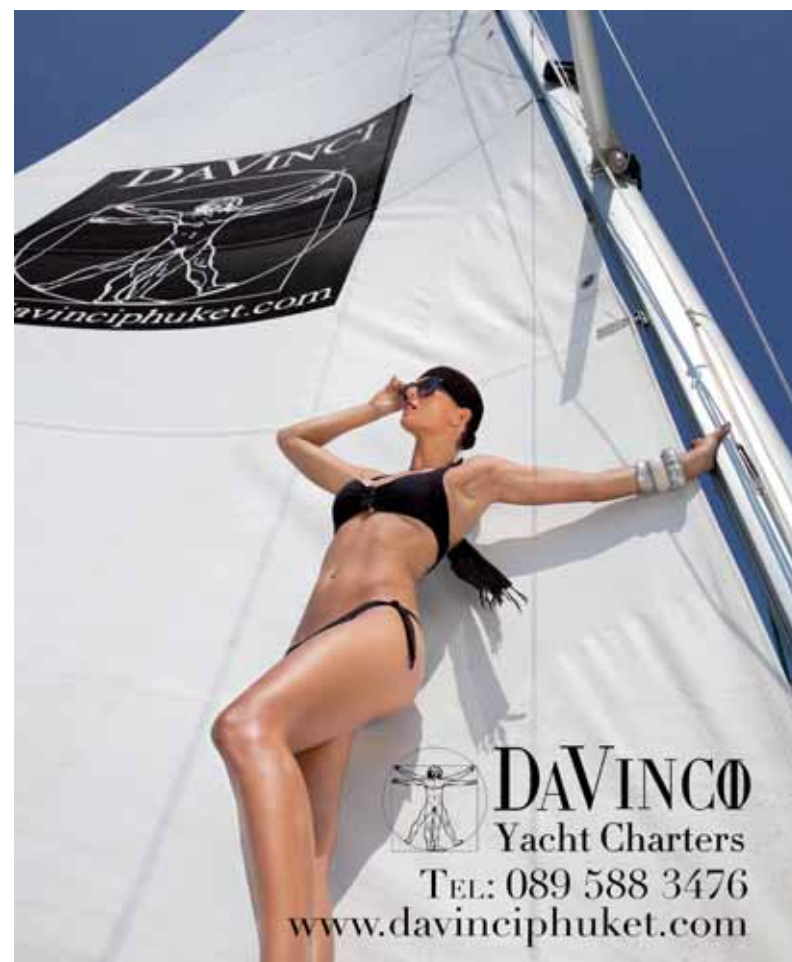
Me: Who would you send in to do the negotiating? Kofi Annan again?

Mitt: No. Kofi's a fine man, but he's too soft. We need somebody more hardheaded. I'd send in a select team of skilled negotiators headed by Dick Cheney and Oliver North, aided by Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and Sarah Palin. They'd waterboard that Assol fellow and bring peace and harmony to Assyria.

Me: His name is Assad, and the country is Syria, governor.

Mitt: Whatever.

Ye Olde Carmudgeon can be flamed at s.t.sow@gmail.com, but not while he's doing imaginary interviews. Any similarity with another writer who shares this same email address is purely coincidental. Kinda.



Out of the shadows ye self-reliant scuba diver

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

TEN years, five years, even two years ago, any conversations approaching the idea of “solo” diving were held in hushed voices in the back of small bars between experienced divers, or in the depths of online cave-diving forums. ‘Buddy diving’ was a philosophy heralded by Jacques Cousteau and the crew of the *Calypso* as early as the writing of *The Silent World*. It was established as a fundamental pillar to safe recreational diving – at the time it was an absolute.

But, divers did and do dive alone, either by choice, as photographers, spear-fishermen

or tech-divers; or effectively alone as dive masters or instructors leading a group of Discover Scuba students. Others find themselves alone after buddy separation. Most have never trained to be alone or have merely put together their own safety protocol from the bits and pieces gathered by sifting through backroom advice and forums.

In the eyes of PADI “solo-diving” is still not on the table, but the conversation has changed. The hushed whispers have become audible voices and the voices have been heard.

In broad daylight, aboard Kamala Dive Center’s *Similan Queen*, I listen to Kevin Black from Kiwidiver brief two students for the new PADI “Self-reliance Diver” course. This course represents a fundamental shift in the way rec-



UNMASKED: Spencer Felton swims along during his course. Photo: Kiwidiver.com

reational divers and professionals perceive the way they dive.

PADI Worldwide’s position has changed; it now states: “that responsible independent scuba diving is not for everybody, however, it does have a place”. This acceptance takes that “place” out of the shadows and caves and puts it back into the public forum – a safer space.

Dive instructors Matt O’Connor and Spencer Felton are geared up and on deck. They do a self-buddy check. An extra mask is tucked into a pocket, an extra cutting tool is

clipped to a BCD, an extra torch is properly stowed away and they double-check that their redundant air supply is ready to go.

“There are many, many problems where we rely on our buddy to sort them out for us. So, if our torch fails, it’s okay because our buddy’s got one... I’ve got an air-supply problem? No problem. I’ve got a buddy, we can share that air supply, not to continue the dive but to safely abort the dive.

“When it comes to having a problem, you can abort a dive using your buddy’s resources to get you safely to the surface. If you don’t have a buddy you must have a spare set of resources,” says Kevin, who is just one of a handful of instructors in Thailand currently qualified to teach the course.

Though currently a student, Spencer has now completed the extra work needed to become a certified instructor in the course.

“A large percentage of the people taking the course with me right now are instructors of all levels, who see not only the benefit of being a self-reliant diver, but also see it as something their customers, the average diver, will be interested in doing,” Kevin added.

Underwater, Spencer and Matt seem to be comfortable with the extra gear. The side-slung pony bottle, one of the many ways of establishing a redundant air supply, hangs under their arm and everything else is tucked away neatly.

Down to 20 meters and they start taking notes on their air consumption – something that will later be calculated to allow them to plan future dives on sites they are less familiar with.

Despite both of them being comfortable without their masks while underwater, their air

consumption jumps during the 18-meter no mask swim.

After closing our third dive, and diving into a third plate of Kamala Dive Center’s pancakes, Spencer and Matt admit that so much of the value of the course is that it asks you to think about things differently. In some ways the course is a “what-to-do-if...” list. Knowing the answer to these questions before facing them underwater could make all the difference when under pressure.

“This course is for the people, who are like the backpacker who decided to drive 100 miles in a direction and spend a week in a small village to get to know the locals, because that’s Thailand, that’s the Thailand the no one else gets to see,” Kevin says.

Though the course offers a new level of freedom for experienced divers, both professional and recreational, (course requirements include a minimum

certification level of a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver and 100 logged dives) PADI doesn’t absolve participants of the increased amount of risk.

“A self-reliant diver not only has to accept the increased risk that comes with choosing to dive alone, but also has a responsibility to ensure that family and loved ones understand this choice,” PADI establishes in the course material.

However, understanding that risk and having a place to openly discuss and plan dives where you are separated from your buddy, instead of quietly disappearing into the shadows, can only make the diving world a safer place for us.

This is part two of a four-part series on PADI’s new specialty diving certifications.



The course will offer some their first opportunity to release a surface buoy marker. Photo: Kiwidiver.com

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A teacher teaching teachers

By Andrew Scott

PHUKET'S schools are striving to attain levels of education not yet seen on the island and competition for places at prestigious schools remains high.

Different institutions offer varying programs; such as the International Baccalaureate, a program based on the National Curriculum of England and Wales and the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) to name a few.

With so many options on the island and parents wanting to give their children the best education possible, Vanessa Temple, has started a company called Teach Plus that offers professional development services to small schools and kindergartens on Phuket.

Each year, more schools open here and the demand for private education, particularly with Western standards, has increased rapidly. Teach Plus aims to support schools as they train and nurture their staff, offering curriculum appraisal and support, and individual support for teachers seeking to upgrade their skills to continue on their learning journey.

Vanessa has 22 years of experience in this particular field. After she was awarded a B Ed (hons) in Early Childhood Focus from Leeds University, she went on to work as a Principal at an International Kindergarten in Hanoi, an Early Childhood Education Coordinator in Shanghai and as an Early Childhood Coordinator in Hong Kong among other positions all over the world.

The *Phuket Gazette* talked to Vanessa about her new teaching program in Phuket.

Phuket Gazette: What is the aim of Teach Plus?

Vanessa Temple: This is a new company I have just started which provides professional development for schools, teachers and families on the island. A



IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING: A child receives a present provided by the Bloom Charity organization.

lot of schools don't have access to a trainer who can come in and set up a program; work with teachers or do some teacher evaluations. That is what I do.

How do you develop teachers?

It is based on on-the-spot mentoring. Teaching them in the day and then having a meeting to discuss the children; how the children acted; giving the teachers feedback and telling them what they can do for the next day. It is extremely intensive mentoring. For a long time I have been working on behavior management programs for early childhood.

I would bring in appropriate behavioral management programs for that school, working closely with other kindergartens in the same chain [of schools]. You meet with the owner or principal of a school and see what they want, then you meet with the teachers and see what they want.

You probably need one or two days in professional development. It is a workshop that gets them on board with doing it this way and then gives them examples. Professional development is not something that can be done in a day. You have to be available for the teachers... give them a week and then have a staff meeting to see how they are doing and discuss their findings. It is an ongoing cycle.

Where do you get the programs from?

I have just come from Vietnam, working for a large chain of schools, and what I did with my staff there was produce my own program based on research, linked to practical experience and to what schools need. I put in place curriculum support elements and trained teachers to gain qualifications from Australian universities. A lot of what I do is mentoring. What I think a lot of schools here need is somebody

in Phuket with my experience.

Schools can't continue to send teachers to Bangkok as it becomes too expensive; if someone goes away on the course, when they come back and give their version of the course to everybody else the information is diluted.

My aim here is to work with schools and find out what they want, how I can help them and what I can do with the teachers.

Appraisal would be the best way to start to find out what schools want and need and I can provide that.

Who are you aiming this at?

I am not aiming it at anybody in particular. Right now I am working with a family whose daughter has Down syndrome and I am working with her school and the family to develop a curriculum for their daughter.

I am also training the daughter's teacher in Western teaching methodology. I see myself as more of

a 'resource' for schools, teachers and families.

How do you view teaching in Phuket?

The start of term is when new teachers arrive who have never been with a group of kids before or planned a lesson or used appropriate language and behavior in front of children. It's because they have never been a teacher before. Then you have parents who pay a lot of money for a school that is fantastic and looks amazing, but if the teachers are not up to scratch then it is all very limited as to what they can do.

When I go in, I assess the environment and the teachers, and observe and reflect upon it. Afterwards I appraise it and work out what I can do with what is failing and that doesn't happen in a lot of schools here. Teachers also want to move on and the school has to ask 'well what can I do to keep them?'. A lot of the time they are happy here but they want to travel or go off and do a course.

The best thing schools can do is to keep teachers developing and move them up the management chain. The dividing line is where the bigger schools have a great international set up which the smaller schools can't reach and this limits what a small school can do... and because they have limited means they will get the less qualified teachers.

Do you plan to do anything outside of teaching hours?

I plan to organize small Saturday workshops that teachers can sign up for in Phuket Town. They will involve sharing stories, reading, talking, sharing role plays to increase enthusiasm. Everyone will be on a learning journey as listening to other people makes you realize that you are not the only one with a problem. Some workshops will be one day and some will require more time.

To contact Ms Temple email: vanessa@teachplus.biz



SAY CHEESE: Staff at the Kinder World International Kindergarten pose for a photo in Hanoi, Vietnam.

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A feast full of nonsense

GARRISON Keillor is an American institution. In 1974, he began broadcasting a screaming anachronism out of St Paul, Minnesota called *A Prairie Home Companion*: a radio show of musical acts and comedy skits. It proved hugely popular.

Director Robert Altman's last movie in 2006 imagined the night of its final broadcast but it is still going strong 38 years later.

The highlight of every show is Keillor's monologue about his ditzzy Minnesota hometown of Lake Wobegon "where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average". His bestselling book *Lake Wobegon Days* was published in 1985 and spawned a slew of sequels.

The tenth in the series is *Guy Noir and The Straight Skinny* (Penguin Books, New York, 2012, 206pp). This is based on a recurring skit about a sleazy private eye in St Paul played by Keillor and dedicated to the memory of Tom Keith "who did gunfire, squealing tires, the pigeon on the windowsill, the dripping faucet, the footsteps in the alley,

Books

By James Eckardt

the sirens, the voice at the other end of the line, the dogs, a squeaky chair, glass breakage, the beer tap and martini shaker, an occasional French waiter, a growly incomprehensible gangster named Biggie, and much more."

"So she was like, Huh? And he goes like, Whatever. And I'm like, No way. And she's like, Way. Kids with baggy long-slung pants and backward baseball caps and active vocabularies of about five hundred words..."

Guy Noir is a character from the 1930s dropped into a coffee shop in 2012: "Twenty or thirty students sat typing at laptops, texting on cell phones, talking their odd jittery talk - So she was like, Huh? And he goes like, Whatever. And I'm like, No way. And she's like, way! - kids with baggy, long-slung pants and

backward baseball caps and active vocabularies of about five hundred words... You're either awesome or gross. Either cool or a total loser."

The *femme fatale* is former stripper, turned academic Naomi Fallopian who entices the gullible gumshoe into a scheme for promoting 'Elongate', the ultimate weight-reducer: tapeworms in pill

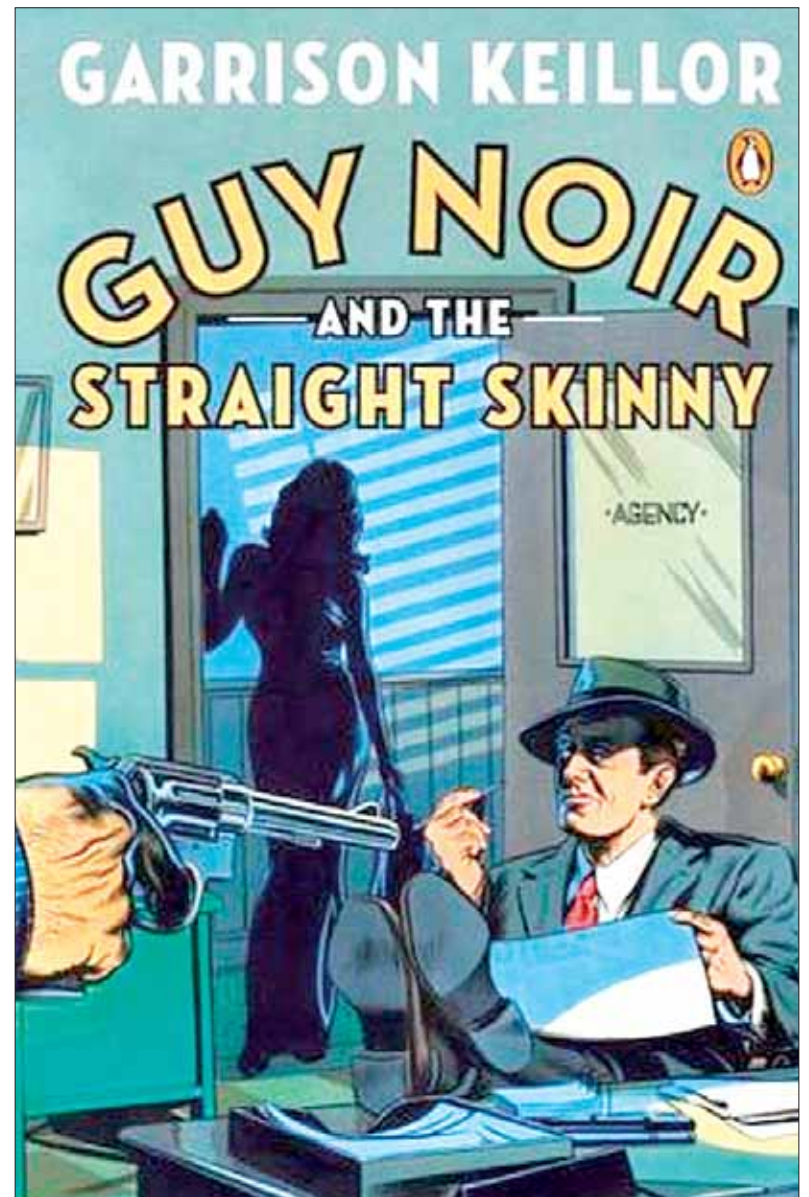
form. As she explains, "I took the pills and lost 70 pounds and gained a new personality. I became a third-wave feminist who wants to posit a poststructuralist positivist model of gender that embraces ambiguity and rejects the binary handcuffs of the first-wave paradigm. And, I also want to be fabulously rich and utterly gorgeous so that men are helpless in my presence. The worms made me gorgeous, and they are going to make me rich. And you too, if you want in."

Guy loses fifty pounds to the avaricious worms and is soon attracting scads of women including old flame Sugar O'Toole, Birch Berquist the lawyer, Nell the canoeist, Scarlett Anderson the spy from Pfizer and, ultimately, his mean landlady Doris.

Elongate has also done wonders for such behemoths as documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, New Jersey governor Chris Christie and radio attack dog Rush Limbaugh (who has turned sensitive and wistful and wants to write a children's book about llamas).

Meanwhile, Guy Noir has to fend off a host of heavies who are eager to obtain the secret formula: retired gangster Joey Roast Beef, sleazeball Larry B. Larry and his trio of goons the Bogus Brothers, the sinister Cliff Kress from the FDA and mafia kingpin Johnny Banana.

Noir desperately tries to contact Naomi Fallopian who is gallivanting about in Paris, New



WIT OR WITTING: Keillor's *Guy Noir* searches fruitlessly for life's meaning within a world of too much funny.

York, India, the Greek Isles, and Southampton, where she falls under the influence of a phony Indian swami: "His name was Rosen, he was raised on a resin farms in Racine, but he's risen from Rosen and become Rama Lama Monongahela."

You can see how much fun Keillor is having here but it gets old. Just too much funny fluff.

In the end, Guy Noir winds up where he started.

"What did I learn from the Year of the Tapeworm? That we're all full of need, and we're not sure what for... We want to be loved because we're unique, and not unique in the way that everyone is unique, but really unique. Love is what life is all about. Like all generalizations, that one is probably off the mark, But who knows? Like the song says, 'Freedom's just another word for not knowing what is going on.'"

Savaged by the critics

Film

By Alexander Maycock

Savages

Starring: Taylor Kitsch, Blake Lively, Aaron Johnson, John Travolta, Salma Hayek, Benicio del Toro
Director: Oliver Stone
Genre: Thriller
Phuket Release: Sept 20

A FEW weeks back, *Phuket Gazette* book reviewer James Eckardt threw wild praise at *The King's of Cool*, Don Winslow's prequel to his book, *Savages*. Mr Eckardt seemed to be of the opinion that it had been released in time to "cash in" on Oliver Stone's film version of *Savages*. It's disappointing that the reverse is more likely case.

Mr Stone's *Savages* has done poorly with the critics, scoring

lower even than *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* on Rotten Tomatoes.com, and it barely broke even at the US box office.

Why? *Savages* has an excellent pedigree: good story, three freshly famed faces up front, Benicio del Toro and Salma Hayek to handle all the heavy nostril flaring and John Travolta back in reserve to chew any scenery left over.

Moreover, there's the man who pulled off *The Doors* and *Natural Born Killers* at the helm. There's nothing here Oliver Stone hasn't handled before. That may be the problem. Could it be that critics and fans have come to expect too much from him?

Two buddies and their girlfriend (yes, it's like that) are being harassed by a Mexican cartel for being free spirited Californian entrepreneurs of the somewhat illegal variety. Inevitable bloodbaths ensue, and there's even time to fit in a double switch hostage drama, an



imagined ending and quite a bit of gratuitous sex (although don't expect that in the Thai release).

Messrs Tarantino and Rodriguez must be kicking themselves (or perhaps each other) for missing out on this one.

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Dr Prasert Theplaong

THE President of the Phuket Paragliding Club, Dr Prasert Theplaong never dreamed that, at the age of 43, he would be representing Phuket in the Thailand Paragliding Championship Open in Ratchaburi Province last July.

He came first in the cross-country category, in which gliders covered the longest route.

"I won, not because I am an able flyer, but because the bad weather forced the other contestants to give up. I was determined to hold on as long as I could and finish the course."

A sports enthusiast, Dr Prasert has always loved outdoor activities. He cycles regularly and used to dabble in diving. When he started paragliding, he was hooked.

"It suddenly dawned on me that I was made for this sport and I can't tell you what it feels like being up there flying like a bird. There's this marvelous sense of freedom. And the landscape looks different every time, the changing color of the sky is something to behold

Historically, man has always wanted to fly. What's fascinating about paragliding is that all your equipment is contained in one bag. That is your flying gear. Granted, the gear is expensive but comparatively it's the cheapest flying machine around," explains Dr Prasert.

Phuket-born Dr Prasert is a

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

practicing dentist at the well-known Phuket Dental Center in Samkong, a clinic he founded in 2004 after completing his medical training at Chiang Mai University.

Since then he has built up a reputation as an excellent dentist and acquired a following of patients both locally and abroad.

Speaking about his full-time work, Dr Prasert says: "This is a career that I am proud of. Dentistry is about skills and there's a bit of art in it, something I can do well. My patients demand the best from me and I am happy to deliver. Many satisfied customers even become friends."

But he adds that: "I have been in this career for 20 years now and it's a known quantity. I need something to counteract the rational world of science and to explore unknown territory. Paragliding answers my quest."

Dr Prasert still remembers his first flight clearly. "It was a world totally unfamiliar to me and the fear was crippling. But now that I have learned the techniques and feel in control, paragliding has become an exciting past-time".

As president of Phuket Paragliding Club, Dr Prasert is credited with bringing this recreational sport to the province, adding Phuket to Thailand's 20 or so flying sites.

In 2010, with support from the local government and the private sectors (of which *Phuket Gazette* was one), he organized the first Phuket Fun Fly, an event which was received with enthusiasm from locals and tourists alike.

Under Dr Prasert's leadership, Phuket now counts about 100 paragliding members who often meet at Laem Prom Thep, the only flying site in Phuket.

Dr Prasert has accumulated enough flying hours and training to be a "tandem pilot, which means he can take another flyer up with him.

He is also a certified co-instructor but is doubtful about becoming a fully-fledged instructor. "I am not sure if I want to be responsible for other people's lives," he jokes.

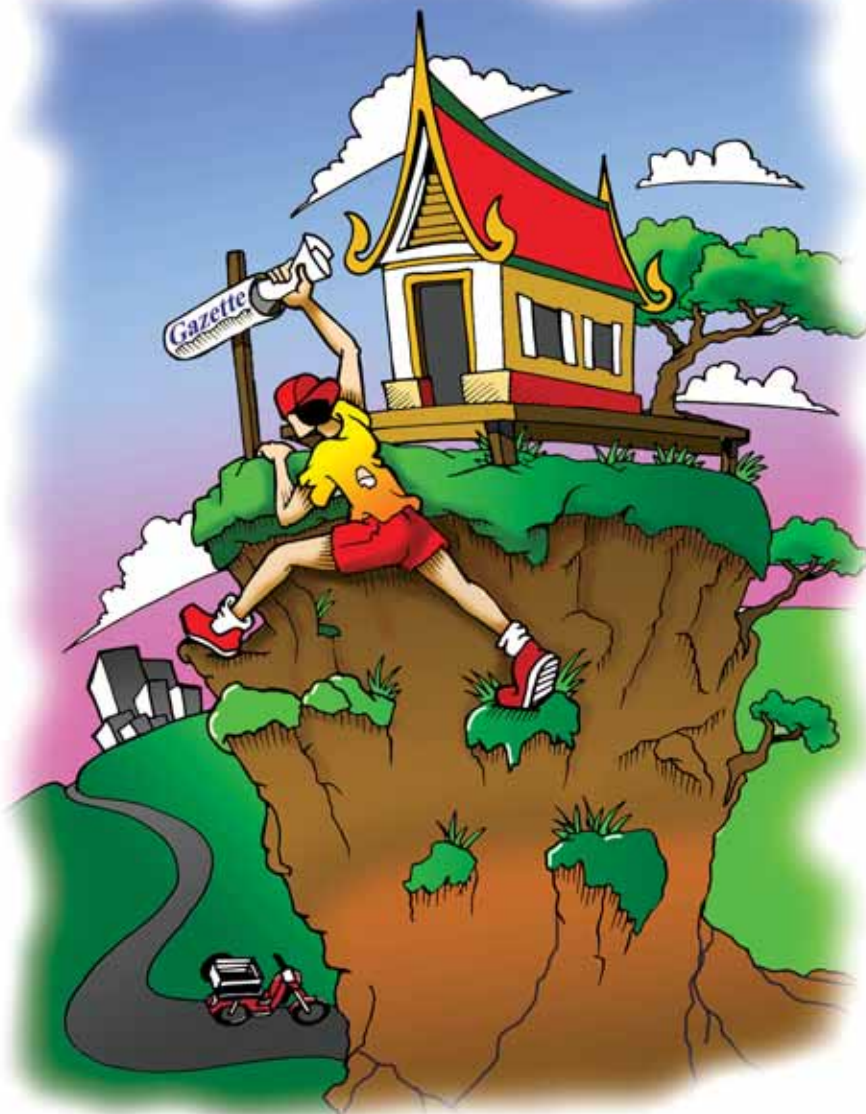
"I just want to promote a sport that doesn't use petrol and is part of the so called 'green' activities. I want to show young people that you can have fun using your own strength and skills without the need of an engine."

Dr Prasert is married and has two young daughters aged five and eight, whom he loves taking out on a tandem bike ride.



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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Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

“We ain't afraid of no ghosts...”

THE opening parade for the *Por Tor* or ‘Hungry Ghost’ festival took place in Phuket Town last Sunday.

At the festival's opening ceremony, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana explained, “The *Por Tor* Festival is a Phuket tradition that has been passed down for many generations. Chinese people believe that worshipping their deceased ancestors during this time of the year will bring them luck, as well as longer and healthier lives”. Unlike the ‘Hungry Ghost’ festivals celebrated by Straits Chinese elsewhere along the Malay Peninsula, the Phuket version is centered around honoring the turtle as the symbol for long life.

The Chinese in Phuket honor a “red turtle”, with red being the color for good luck. As such, during the procession last Sunday, devotees transported a large cake in the shape of a huge red turtle which, on reaching its destination at the market on Ranong Road, was sliced up and handed out to people as a way of making merit.

Mayor Somjai also explained that another street procession will be held this Sunday, September 9. The procession will start at the Saphan Hin Mining Monument at 9am and move along Phuket Road, Kra Road and Takuatung Road to the finish at the Bang Neaw Shrine, which is also called the *Por Tor* Kong Shrine.



Photos: Chris Hudon and Orawin Narabal



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YOUR Phuket



A group of eleven people, including men and women of various ages, posing for a photo in a restaurant setting. Some are seated at a table in the foreground, while others stand behind them. The background features a large framed artwork with a bird and calligraphy.

88

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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



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 1 to 15: Por Tor, "Hungry Ghost" Festival

Por Tor Festival started the first day of this month 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. You can see the festival in Sapan Hin or in downtown Phuket near the central market, next to the *Phuket Backpacker* hotel.

September 13, 27; 6 to 11:30pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KATA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off the drink list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late.

September 20, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at The Mövenpick in Karon. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome but prior registration is essential for participants. Entry for members is 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For



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more information or to register please send an email request to info@phuketiw.com. The club is a social network, providing educational opportunities for needy children in Phuket. It promotes friendship among women of all nationalities – including welcome support and information to newcomers living in Phuket.

September 21, 7 to 11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on every first and third Friday. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet every Friday. "Chicken Tikka Masala", very hot "Mutton Vindaloo", succulent Kebabs, Goan fish

curry and much more. All served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All the food you can eat for only 449 baht nett.

September 29, 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 what you want from our

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October 5, 19; 7 to 11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on every first and third Friday. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet every Friday. "Chicken Tikka Masala", very hot "Mutton Vindaloo", succulent Kebabs, Goan fish curry and much more. All served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All the food you can eat for only 449 baht nett.

October 13, 27; 12 to 3:30pm: 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 what you want from our free flow alternatives. Visit: twochefs.com.

October 18, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at The Boathouse in Kata. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome but prior registration is essential for participants. Entry for members is 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information or to register please send an email request to info@phuketiw.com. The club is a social network providing educational opportunities for needy children in Phuket. It promotes friendship among women of all nationalities – including welcome support and information to newcomers living in Phuket.

October 23: Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 6, 9am to 4pm: The Melbourne Cup

The Phuket International Women's Club will be hosting The Melbourne Cup – "The Race That Stops a Nation" – on Tuesday, November 6 at Latitude. Get a hat, come along and enjoy the fun. Tickets are 2,000 baht, including an Australian themed lunch, limited drinks, fashion and music. A full day of surprises is in store for you. All proceeds will go to the scholarship program of the Phuket International Women's Club. Contact info@phuketiw.com. The Phuket International Women's Club is proudly supported by the *Phuket Gazette*.



Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

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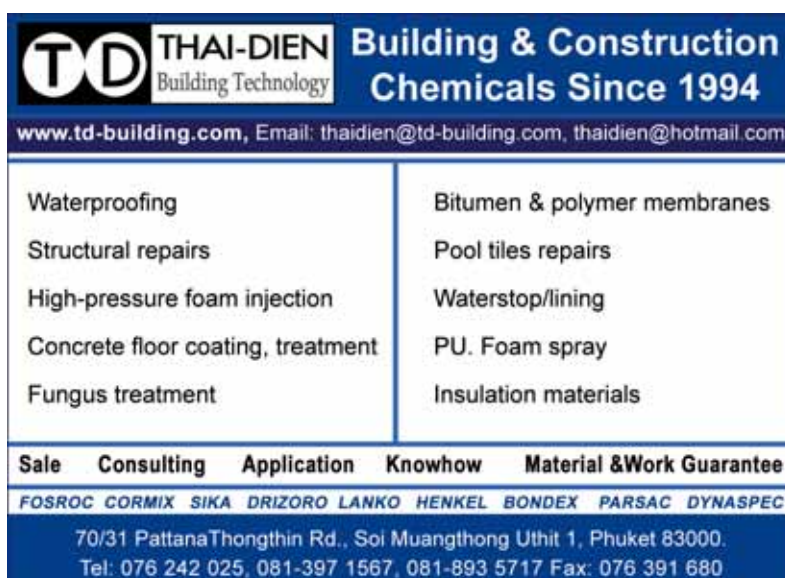
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COFFEE break

Across

9. Bird to take rap, maybe, out East (8)
10. A father for the girl (3)
11. Fugitive not in the French West (6)
12. Pass left, that is a dog (6)
13. Point possibly ending having put in a motor (7)
14. Throw out untidily to us (4)
15. I desert, cut away; things certain to happen (10)
17. Decide to alight upon (8)
18. Create wobbly line in molasses (7)
19. Not allow an unknown number in a farm building (4)
21. Drove around circle to go over the top (6)

24. Give a role to the one in front; notes moving to initiate an attack on the wrongdoer (4,3,5,5)

27. Afghan Official gets zero marks for Thai dessert (6)

29. Not odd to never return with-out right (4)

30. I teamed improbably to settle a dispute (7)

33. Aye, ran no change informally, none at all (4,1,3)

35. Mean I'd mean to disclose what she was called before the wedding (6,4)

36. Very expectant for a grand turn returning (4)

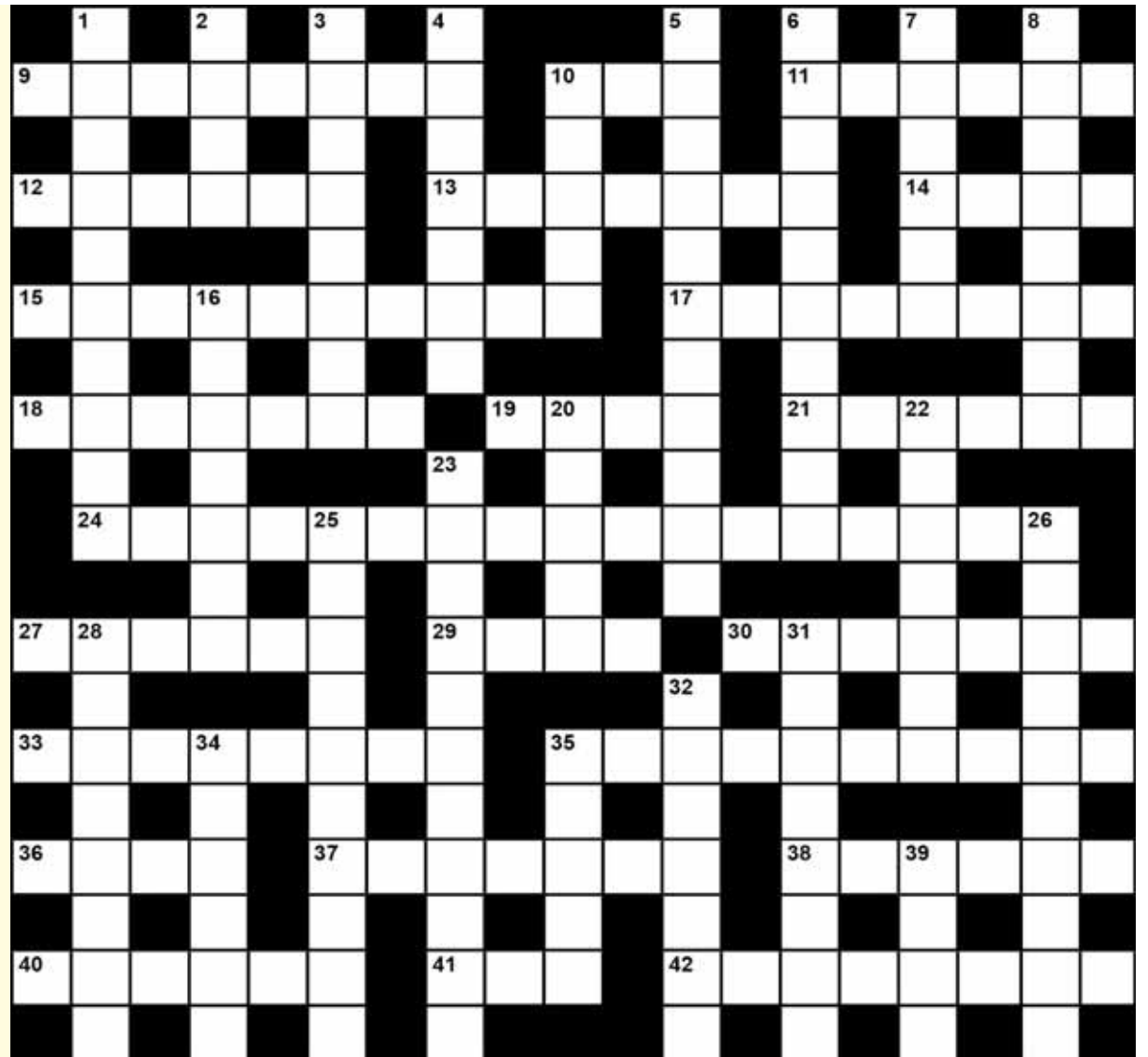
37. Desert, follow closely in a sort of file (7)

38. Pleasant experience unknown in formal agreement (6)

40. Unproductive to keep out in respect of Nationalist (6)

41. A new sort of shirt for the worker (3)

42. And I do it, maybe as an extra (8)



Down

1. Note a tremor shakes island about, relating to atmospheric pressure (10)

2. Following everything, collapse (4)

3. Sped late, moving to base (8)

4. A non-drinker finishes and waits (7)

5. Nearness set out as seriousness (11)

6. Makes fit stipulations (9)

7. In street, sway to walk in a leisurely way (6)

8. Secret code for father's weapon (8)

10. Gas i.e. could be an impregnable

defence (5)

16. Maybe think as the Thai bigwig who 'fled the scene' (7)

20. As I would shortly note a confidential remark (5)

22. Echo strangely I'm on to a strong feeling (7)

23. Compliant to put off in late variation (11)

25. But name Rio as source of Salvation Army instrument! (10)

26. Judgement on time, as it appears (10)

28. Miner's hat found at the top of

the colliery shaft (8)

31. Happening I'd note at the end of the day (8)

32. Give wrong impression Siam led off (7)

34. Turn in, go try new healthy dairy product (6)

35. Met an unusual 'intended' (5)

39. Note feet second in small amphibians (4)

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

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



An agreement made last month can turn into a promise you are unable to keep. The stars advise Virgoans feeling the heat to face this situation before it gets out of hand. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for honest talking and persuading others to see things from your perspective. Those celebrating a birthday this week will be more self confident in the year ahead. Your lucky color this week is seashell pink.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



News received can mean last minute changes to plans, but inconvenience turns out to have hidden advantages. Where relationships are concerned, Librans have reason to see how important trust is. The stars indicate that a fire sign could show that their loyalty lies elsewhere and a water sign's words are not as heartfelt as you think. Money matters are best taken care of after Wednesday. Your lucky color this week is maroon.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Scorpios are advised to keep distance from negative people this week. A vulnerable mood could mean that you are easily brought down to their level. The stars show a sun-

nier frame of mind developing towards the middle of this month. There are hints that your position within the world of work should become stronger later in September – this is an auspicious time to prove your merit. Your lucky color this week is gold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Many Sagittarians will be attracted to living life in the fast lane this week. Your heightened energy can also be put to productive use in other ways – the stars advise aiming for a good balance between work and play. Expect an air sign to be impressed by your ideas midweek, which could result in more lucrative possibilities. Dazzling days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Your lucky color this week is light amethyst.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



The astral atmosphere clears for Capricorns who started September in a cloud of confusion. Projects in collaboration with other earth signs and water signs get the green light, but caution with air and fire signs is recommended. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, you should be in tune with another earth sign, but being on the same wavelength as an air sign is unlikely. Your lucky color this week is chestnut brown.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



There are hints that an earth sign may have hidden motives in your world of work. Aquarians are advised to monitor this person's activities closely until they have tangible proof of what is happening. Your luck in love improves as the middle of the month approaches – another air sign is predicted to agree to the commitment you are ready to make. Your lucky color this week is hibiscus red.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



Pisceans who have been putting feelers out for a different employment situation could have a change of heart this week. The stars suggest that the arrival of a new work colleague will be the cause of fresh motivation. Money matters are promising; a windfall is likely to brighten the middle of this month. Romance with another water sign becomes more meaningful. Your lucky color this week is turquoise.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Steadier rhythm enables those born under the sign of Aries to make more progress. The stars recommend tackling tricky financial issues before the middle of September as you stand good chance of success. Luck is also on your side where romance is concerned. If you are single and seeking, an earth sign shows that they have what it takes to keep you interested. Your lucky color this week is tangerine.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Flexibility is the keyword for Taureans this week. Seeing everything in black and white can have a negative effect on both friendships and your working life. This is not an auspicious time to get answers to pressing problems; the stars show that this will happen more readily during the second half of September. Romance benefits from some quiet time together this weekend. Your lucky color this week is ivory.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Determination to go it alone can become a hindrance this week. There are signs that many Geminis will gain from others' experience, with a water sign being particularly helpful where a financial matter is

concerned. The stars recommend curbing your generosity as unexpected expenses are forecast towards the end of September. A romantic issue with a fire sign is hard to ignore this weekend. Your lucky color this week is silver gray.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Your world of work falls under the spotlight this week. The stars indicate that joining forces with a smooth talking fire sign could mean a slippery slope for some Cancerians. However, another water sign's tips for increasing your earning power can be worth their weight in gold. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an earth sign's puzzling behavior can't be ignored any longer. Your lucky color this week is violet.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



The lives of those born under the sign of Leo remain peaceful until the middle of September, when the pace picks up. Boredom at work won't be an issue for much longer – expect an air sign to liven up the atmosphere soon. In the realm of romance, the stars advise that a crush on another fire sign should be kept private until your emotions calm down. Your lucky color this week is olive green.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Drifting along the right track

By Andrew Scott

DRIFT Interiors is an up and coming design company based out of a stylish Sino-Portuguese town house on Krabi Road in Phuket Town.

Creative Director Craig Paterson and his Creative Partner Khun Yoo have worked their artistic flair on a number of projects ranging from resorts to residential villas on Phuket. Craig spoke to the *Phuket Gazette*.

Phuket Gazette: What is the main market you design for?

Craig Patterson: After the success of the Village I have had experience in commercial retail and residential. The real difficulty here is getting people to understand what you do. We will design for anything as long as there is a purpose towards it.

When you do a project do you have a recurrent theme?

People on Phuket like to use distressed wood for their projects but at the end of the day it really comes down to the client, and how they work their own briefs and how they approach me. If

they want a modern project, how modern? If they want a traditional Thai project, how traditional? My goal is to help the client with a return on what they come to me with. The brief from the client is very important and that helps me understand what they want. And as you can imagine this differs from project to project.

What is the first thing you consider when a client comes to you?

It is very important that a client understands their expectations and their budget. Everyone asks me about the "wow" factor, but the "wow" factor comes at a cost that some people don't understand. It helps me a lot if the client has been through the design process before and knows what they are doing. A difficult thing about designing something is that people will make a change to it that has a knock-on effect to the whole package.

This means one of the most important things to do in a design project is to have a concept that you can go back to. The concept should be bulletproof from the beginning, and the client should

understand it. The strength of the concept is very important. The key is weighing up the level of expectation and what the budget is. **Where do you source your materials from?**

I spend time traveling around Thailand and Indonesia. Indonesia is a great place to find materials. I like to look for the detail in furniture and the product. Nature is one of the best sources for inspiration. In general, I feel there are good materials in Phuket but they are a bit pricey, which is why I look to Chiang Mai for my furniture.

How do you integrate green design?

Green architecture to me is like organic food. Who is to tell you that this tomato is not organic? Who tells you that this sun lounger is not green? The main idea is to drop the cost of energy.

This can be done by solar power and in a number of other ways. A good example of green design is if you use the correct teak and get it from the right plantation and you understand they are replanting and not using young plants. In order to know this, you have to do the



MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: A view from inside the recently constructed Bread Bakery in Patong. Designed by Drift Interior.

research. But the need for the materials comes from the client.

Do you have a signature style of design?

What I like to do is an amalgamation of old meets new, which allows me to add a rustic and modern touch. In marrying these things together is where the designer shows his skill.

What projects are you working on now?

Just about to finish a Lebanese bakery called Bread in Patong; Bangkok Burger Company in Bangla Road; we have done a lot of work with Absolute World and we continue to work with the Village.

For more info visit: drift-interiors.com

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Time for a cool change



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

ALL too often, a long stretch of hot, humid island weather finds me sticking my head into the nearest refrigerator. No, I'm not going "Kevorkian" and trying to end it all; sometimes I simply just need to escape the savage heat.

Last week I headed up to the hills north of Bangkok, on a fast-tracked, two-and-a-half-hour ride from Suvarnabhumi Airport.

My driver went retro, flipped in a CD and out-bounced Bananarama with that quintessential 80s tune – *Robert De Niro's Waiting*. Ah those soothing girl sounds singing that line "talking Italian" seemed timely as I head upcountry.

With altitudes generally ranging from 400 to 1000 meters above sea level, Khao Yai has taken on a decided Tuscan vibe over the past few years. Sprawling hills, vistas, a mountainous forest and soaring national park, all before tea time from the nation's King metropolis.

Traditionally, both Cha-Am and Hua Hin have been the hot spot for Thais looking to escape the craziness of the city on weekends and holidays, but the times are indeed changing.

As the mass market is finding its way down to the Eastern Seaboard with its high-rise condos and fast and furious expressway, the upscale segment has taken on a distinct liking to the cooler



Tented camp Jacuzzi Kirimaya.

climes.

While Chiang Mai laid claim to Thailand's mountain getaway for decades, changing tastes and destination fatigue are creating a new roll call. Now Porche Cayannes, Ferraris and tinted window Range Rovers are common sites on the trek north to Khao Yai.

Indeed arriving in the rolling country hills, with white fences, stately Italian-like villas and some pretty cool weather, even in August, is a pleasant welcome.

And yes, even vineyards start to crop up, which certainly had me looking for Bobby De Niro out of the corner of my eye.

One of the landmark developments in the area is Kirimaya, which plays host to a 18-hole, Jack Nicklaus designed golf course. This was opened initially some 18 years ago, but a Thai entrepreneur, Kitti Thanakitamuay, took over the site, expanded it to now include luxury residential homes and two upscale hotels.

Aside from tasteful hotel units, with lovely, large day-beds on spacious balcony, are a select few luxury tents. These are large units



Tented camp unit at Kirimaya.

which have oversized balconies overlooking a lake, and feature an indoor Jacuzzi and simply ooze charm. A bit of adventure and the themed furnishing make it very unique.

Another option is the Muthi Maya pool villas, which are part of the destination resort and look out over the golf course and nearby forest. These are large, liveable and provide a good degree of privacy.

One of the area's most stunning hotels is the small boutique Sala Khaoyai. Set atop a hill, with 360 degree views of the valleys and mountains, this has to be one of the best located properties in Thailand. Suites, pool villas and a restaurant perched high up make this a very special retreat.

It's part of the chain that own and operate Phuket's Sale resort in Mai Khao.

Residential property is alive and well in Khao Yai, mainly with well-heeled wealthy Thai buyers, and perhaps the most high profile project being the Toscana Valley. Both foreign buyer and tourists are starting to flock to the area, with hoteliers this year see-



Pool villa Muthi Maya.

ing seen strong demand from overseas visitors.

For me, the location and product is creating a new element for Thai tourism and property. Perhaps the next decade isn't all about the beach, and going upcountry may well see a new revival of broader interest.

I loved beating the heat for a few days and lazing in the cool



Sala Khaoyai.

shade of the afternoon, checking out a panoramic technicolor skyline. If you find yourself stuck in a rut, take a few days off and head north up to Khao Yai. You might even catch yourself speaking Italian, if only in your sleep.

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



FREEZER BURN: Getting away from the heat is easier than you thought. Photo: wetwebwork

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Real estate rebounds from floods

HOUSING Business Association chairman Isara Boonyang said the real estate sector has expanded some 10-15 per cent since last year's floods, thanks to remedial measures implemented by the government.

The Bank of Thailand (BoT) is offering 300 billion baht in 'soft' or low interest loans for those affected by the floods. The government's "first house" scheme already provides home buyers with interest-free loans for three years.

The expansion of so-called horizontal residential projects has been overtaken by vertical housing – high rises or condominiums – for many pieces of land that have not been developed, he said.

The construction cost for a residence, as well as real estate prices, have moved up about 5 per cent as a result of rising land prices and the national minimum wage increase to 300 baht per day.

Many housing projects have adjusted home planning designs to be able to cope with future floods, he noted, such as dike construction.

Mr Isara believes Thailand will not face a flood crisis this year,



Mr Isara Boonyang (second from right) receives an award. Photo: TREBS

and said he thinks the government has measures to deal with such situations, despite its as yet unclear water management plan.

Kitti Pattanapongpiboon, Chairman of the Housing Finance Association said the aggregate amount of loan applications in the second quarter reached 270 billion baht, which he added was an improvement. The whole-year figure is expected to reach

300 billion baht.

The Housing Finance Association and Home Buyers' Guide Company joined together recently to sponsor a Home Buyers, NPA Grand Sale and Home Loan expos aimed at boosting the housing market.

Around 80,000 visitors joined the four-day event that was held at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. – *Mcot/Phuket Gazette*

Property firms increase revenue by 56 per cent

FIFTEEN listed property firms will show revenue from their condominium projects totaling at least 100 billion baht in the second half of this year, up 56 per cent from the first half thanks to transfers of completed condos, according to research by Asia Plus Securities.

The research said 85 main condominium projects worth 179 billion baht developed by the top 15 listed property firms would be ready for transfer in this current half.

These companies also have low-rise residences ready for sale, with transfers to customers in the second half worth 37.3 billion baht. Total backlog is worth 216.3 billion baht.

The top 15 property firms listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) are: Pruksa Real Estate, Land & Houses, Sansiri, Quality Houses, Asian Property

Development, SC Asset Corporation, Supalai, Noble Development, Lalin Property, Property Perfect, LPN Development, Major Development, Sena Development, Raimon Land, and MK Real Estate Development.

"We predict total revenue from their condominium backlog of at least 100 billion baht, or half of their condominium projects worth 217 billion baht, that will be completed and ready to transfer this year," the research said.

This will drive the nett profit margin of these companies to 15 per cent in the second half, better than the average 13.01 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

The top 15 reported total revenue of 63.9 billion baht in the first half, comprising 29.4 billion baht in the first quarter and 34.5 billion baht in the second.

They also showed net profit of 8.06 billion baht in the first



HEAD IN THE CLOUDS: The Bangkok skyline continues to grow as property firms reap the rewards. Photo: Paulo12

half, 3.57 billion baht recorded in the first quarter and 4.49 billion baht in the second.

Total presales of the 15 companies covered by the research were worth 54.3 billion baht in the second quarter compared with 50.5 billion baht in the first quarter, so overall in the first half they booked presales of 105 billion baht.

LPN Development managing director Opas Sripayak said it would book revenue of at least

10 billion baht in the current half of the year after transfer of its condominium projects to customers in the third and fourth quarters.

Property Perfect chief executive officer Chainid Ngowsirimee said the company would have 3 billion baht worth of condominium projects ready to transfer to customers in the current half. This will drive its revenue to 12 billion baht by the end of the year.

Sansiri president Srettha

Thavisin said it would have 15.8 billion baht worth of residential projects ready to transfer in the second half after the company delivered 3,185 units worth 10.16 billion baht in the first six months.

Asian Property Development has four condominium projects ready to transfer. They total 1,564 units worth 8.69 billion baht.

Most of the condo projects ready to transfer in the current half were launched in 2010.

— The Nation

First virtual hotel game launched



CYBERHOTEL: Turn on, log on and check in.

THE first global online hospitality competition aimed at creating employment awareness in hospitality and hotel management among young adults was launched by Laureate Hospitality Education this week.

You are 5 Stars is the first game of its kind with an online format that allows participants to create a virtual hotel. For eight weeks, 15 to 30-year-olds will be able to participate and promote their hotel ideas to friends and fans.

The game provides an easy-to-use platform for participants to create a hotel by choosing a particular design or theme, logos and features. Once they have developed their hotel and business plan, participants test their knowledge of hospitality and their ability to promote their venue.

Promotion happens via social media or email by inviting friends, family and fans to virtually "check into" their hotel.

Arie AJ van der Spek, Senior

Vice President of Laureate Hospitality Education Worldwide, outlined what will happen to the eventual winner of the game:

"The six players with the highest number of 'check-ins' for their hotel will be selected to

interview with a jury of industry professionals from top hospitality companies.

During the interview, the candidates will be questioned on their hotel construction, business strategy, promotion and their general knowledge of the hospitality industry.

The winner will be treated to a world-class hospitality experience at a Laureate Hospitality Education location either in Switzerland, China, the United States, Spain or Australia," he said.

For more information or to participate in the competition please visit *W: youare5stars.com* or *Facebook at: facebook.com/uare5stars* or *Twitter: @uare5stars*.



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Prickly plants: a rose among thorns



HIGH-RISE HANGOUT: Able to cope with dry weather and little upkeep, cacti are ideal for city folk. Photo: Victoria Peckham



A Crown of Thorns. Worn by Christ during crucifixion. Photo: Jim Capaldi



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

SINCE plants are sitting targets, they have developed many strategies for survival in the face of predators such as insects or herbivores. The simplest and most obvious defense is to carry armor in the form of thorns, spines or prickles.

You may think they are all one and the same thing – they certainly seem that way when they draw blood – but thorns are modified stems, whereas spines are adapted leaves.

Prickles on cacti are coarsened and often barbed hairs. Perhaps we would be less aware of these prickles in the West (after all, apart from the rose, there are relatively few spinous plants in

temperate regions), but myth and folklore have contributed stories about their significance.

Christ, one recalls, wore a crown of thorns at his crucifixion; there is even a shrub of the same name, which many believe was used for this purpose. The thistle, the national emblem of Scotland, became famous after it apparently foiled a nocturnal raid by Vikings.

In Greek mythology, Androcles, a runaway slave, was protected by a grateful lion after he removed a thorn from its paw.

But most of the time, thorny plants occupy a less exalted space; they are just trying to pull through in difficult times. It is no coincidence that many come from relatively barren desert environments where, to famished creatures, they literally stand out in the wilderness as alluring sources

of food and especially water.

It is self-evident that these same plants will adapt brilliantly to dry conditions they may encounter as potted plants or in dry landscape gardens.

Take cacti for example. At the very least, this genus of more than 1,500 species deserves a whole chapter. But, in the present context, let's just note that they are technically stem succulents, composed of up to ninety per cent water.

Their characteristic armory of spines not only helps to repel would-be invaders, but also to reduce water loss. Moreover, cacti transpire mostly at night-time when it is cooler; this tendency further assists the process of moisture conservation.

A trip around Phuket will reveal cacti of all shapes and sizes, a

surprising variety considering they are indigenous to America. Mostly they are in pots that seem far too small for them, and mostly they are positioned at the front of concrete yards, as though fulfilling their original function of providing a thorny barrier against intruders.

They can be tall and tree-like, or small and globular, some are even epiphytic and dangle elongated green stems from hanging baskets. Manageable ones are often used as house plants, since they adapt well to the low humidity within homes.

Other large varieties have been central to the development of xeriscaping (dry landscape gardening) in California.

But we do have our own favorite in Phuket, a cactus called *pereskia bleo* or wax rose. I have cursed more than once after being stabbed

by its sea-urchin-like bristles, but it is a plant I would not be without.

Some consider it to be the ancestor of all cacti, since it has a woody structure and conventional leaves, a type of foliage, which other species probably possessed, before they decided that thickened and ribbed stems worked better in dry habitats.

I have tried the wax rose as a container plant, but its leafy nature means that it needs water – much as conventional plants do. And unlike most cacti, it is grown for its flowers, attractive, scarlet blooms that superficially resemble roses.

A sizeable shrub up to five meters tall, it is, naturally, useful as a deterrent to burglars. I would certainly think twice before tangling with a hedge of wax roses.

Take it outside

OUTDOOR living comes with its ups and downs. To make the best of it, one has consider several factors. Comfort, style and durability are a just few of those factors, when choosing outdoor furniture.

The outdoor lifestyle is becoming essential to our daily lives here in Phuket.

Architects and interior designers are therefore planning and designing residences that incorporate large outdoor living spaces. Appropriate furniture is key when turning a simple area into the ideal place for spending time with friends.

Here are a few ideas for where to start:

Wood is an extremely popular material for outdoor furniture. Planked wood is a logical choice for a kind of furniture to put on a deck. Wood seating and tables are comfortable and homey, and just a little bit rustic, which is a great way to give the patio a casual,

outdoorsy feel. Teak and Ipe woods are naturally weather resistant, and will stand up to aging much better than almost any other type of wood.

Cottage Wicker: For a quaint, homey look this woven material is an iconic cottage style and good for creating a timeless lounge space – whether a sunny brick or stone patio, or even an enclosed porch. Natural wicker (sometimes called rattan) can be expensive and isn't exactly known for its longevity. Natural wicker is also extremely susceptible to harsh weather conditions, and will become brittle and crack over time.

Cutting Edge: Modern patio furniture is starting to become hugely popular. With simple, sleek lines and subtle but stylish design, modern patio furniture is easy to like, easy to place, and easy to sit on. Because it often has a modular design to it and is sold in individual pieces as well as larger sets, it is easy to accommodate in



COMFY: Phuket has great weather so take advantage of it in style.

a larger space.

With the latest developments in outdoor furnishing, people can bring what they enjoy doing inside – out. This is basic concept of Nakalina's new furniture line, 'Living inside Out'.

For more information visit nakalina.com.

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1 RAI SEA VIEW

1 rai, Chanote title, Yamu Hills Estates, East Coast. Sea view, large trees, underground electricity, phone, gated community. Only 3.45 million baht. Tel: 081-970 4765 for more info. Email: info@realestatephuket.com

3-STOREY SHOPHOUSE

Good location in Karon. For sale by owner. Tel: 081-958 3310 (English), 085-371 3053 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketdive.net

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaipruek Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalung. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

RAWAI 4-BED POOL VILLA

Fully furnished house for sale by first owner. Own water well. Price: 10.8 million baht. Email: info@saoirse.cz See details, photos and contact, visit www.saoirse.cz

PATONG, 2 BEDROOMS

2 bathrooms, 100sqm, freehold, fully furnished. Sale: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW

Freehold, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 090-802 0249. Email: adrian_troy@yahoo.com

BUNGALOWS FOR SALE

2 x 2 bedroom bungalows in secure plot of land with pool. Near Ao Makham bay. Tel: 076-315216, 081-187 6940 (English). Email: roybeattie63@hotmail.co.uk

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



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

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms, each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

KARON TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, car parking. Price: 5.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423.

LUXURY FREEHOLD APARTMENT

Kamala. 68sqm, full resort facilities, fully furnished. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 083-982 9105.

SALE/RENT SUPALAI HILL

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 2 aircons, carpark for 2 cars. Rent: 22,000 baht. Tel: 083-649 1218.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.35 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

3-BED POOL VILLA 6.5 MILLION BAHT

Gated community, Pa Khlok, land 432sqm, house 183sqm. Fully furnished, aircon, 3 bed, 2 bath with shower, True TV, 5Mb internet. 10 mins from Heroines Monument. Priced to sell, offers considered. Tel: 076-270750, 081-737 0722 (English), 089-288 6860 (Thai). Email: allan@pipsphuket.com For further details, please see our website at http://phuketvillarentals.com/villas_detail.php?property=214

KARON HILL CONDO FOR SALE!

Foreign freehold. Great sea view. 100sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Near the beach. Luxury upgraded. Good rental return. Bargain price: 6.9 million baht. Agents welcome. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

URGENT SALE / GOOD DEAL

Contemporary house, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Thalang area, near Laguna, Bang Tao, Layan Beach. 10 minutes to airport, 15 minutes to Phuket town. Discounted from 3 million baht to only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-795 6363.

SINO HOUSE FOR SALE

Krabi Road, Phuket town. 2-floor house, wood floor, built in the old style. 2 entrances. 23 million baht. Tel: 085-472 1914 (English & Thai), 081-719 3570 (English & Thai). Email: oak027@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT

Near BIS, 5 bedrooms, private pool. 1,000sqm. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

BANG TAO BEACH APARTMENT

Stylish, 2-bedroom-plus-study apartment in well-managed development on absolute secluded beachfront. Fully furnished and equipped. Great grounds, views and pool. Price reduced to 5.65 million baht for quick sale. Tel: +61-439-886520. Email: mark footner1@hotmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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.

3-STOREY SHOPHOUSE

Good location in Karon. For sale by owner. Tel: 081-958 3310 (English), 085-371 3053 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketdive.net

LAND FOR SALE 1.5 & 1 RAI

Cape Yamu - 1.5 rai. Mission Hills 1 rai. Tel: 081-087 9237 (English & Thai), 086-270 8727 (English). Email: crob58@gmail.com

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TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW

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

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

CONDO PATONG

At the corner 56sqm, 4th floor, fully furnished, ADSL, WiFi, 10 minutes to beach and Bangla Road. For sale: 2.3 million baht, freehold. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

2 PLOTS 180° SEAVIEW

At Yamu hills 2 plots +/- 1 rai each, seaview 180°, freehold, Chanote, villa, security gated com, electricity, road. Price: 5.5 million baht/plot. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: phuket.turquoise@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://phuketseaviewsunrise.com>

KAMALA 3-BED POOL VILLA

3bed, 3bath villa with private pool and sea view. Quiet location on hill behind Phuket FantaSea. 7.5 million baht. Tel: +34-63-918 8773, +66-81-7005451 (English). Email: imconnac@aol.com For further details, please see our website at villakamala.com

URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

7.6 RAI AT KHAO SOK NATIONAL PARK

Extensive river frontage. A rare opportunity to acquire land in a rapidly expanding prime tourist area on the edge of Khao Sok National Park. Tel: +44-778-749 9653. Email: keithshorrock@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.jangala.com

VILLA FOR SALE, PHANG NGA

Khok Kloy area. House of 400+ sqm on 4 rai of land. Large 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Laundry, storeroom, garage. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 076-494166, 087-284 9679 (English & Thai). Email: g_lovece@hotmail.com

LAND INSIDE GOLF COUNTRY CLUB

Land for sale inside Phuket Golf Country Club, 336sq wah + membership. Good house, 100m from clubhouse. Price: 10 million baht. Contact Prasert. Tel: 081-676 6214.

PATONG CONDO

In Patong Loft Condominium. 1 bedroom, 66sqm includes balcony, fully furnished, ADSL, WiFi, swimming pool, good view. For sale: 3.18 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

PLOT FOR SALE - BOAT LAGOON

Plots for self-build 13,750 baht/sqm. Tel: 076-238948, 081-968 9046. Fax: 076-273466. Email: marketing@phuketpropertytrip.com

CONDO RAWAI

Brand-new condo studio in Rawai: swimming pool, fitness, spa, guard, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, kitchen, fully furnished. Tel: 086-953 2322 (English & Thai), 080-699 6530 (English). Email: Ostrovph@gmail.com

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

OCEAN FRONT PLOTS



Twelve 600sqm land plots, opposite of Yacht Haven Marina, each with 15m water frontage, ready to build. For sale direct from owner 3.5 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777.

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kata Hill, 2-storey home. 240sqm house in a 1090sqm garden. Ocean view, only 2km to Kata Beach. Fully furnished, 4 sleeping rooms, 2 large living rooms, 2 American-style kitchens, 4 baths. Garage, lumber room, spacious terrace, and all comforts such as cable TV, fast internet, WiFi, 4 aircon units. Built 1998. Chanote land title deed. Fenced in with concrete perimeter wall. Available immediately. Tel: 076-284159, 081-788 2424 (English & Thai). Email: taenkerdpan@yahoo.com

VILLA FOR SALE, PHANG NGA

Khok Kloy area. House of 400+ sqm on 4 rai of land. Large 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Laundry, storeroom, garage. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 076-494166, 087-284 9679 (English & Thai). Email: g_lovece@hotmail.com

KARON BEACH CONDO

2 bedroom-waterfront suites overlooking Karon Beach, just 80 meters away. 17million baht. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

3 BEDROOMS, PATONG

House, fully furnished, garden, parking, in complex, clean, quiet. Price: 3.9 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.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

SEA FRONT VILLA



Luxury brand new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Grand Ao Por Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

POOL VILLAS



Next to PIA, located only 600m from Mission Hill Golf Course and less than 10 minutes to PIA or airport. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m long swimming pool, guest bungalow, nice garden, secured, family and friendly environment in gated foreigner community. For sale: 14.6 million baht. For rent: 100,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777.

SIRAE BEACHFRONT LAND

20.28 rai with 125m of beachfront. Chanote. Quick sale at 7.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND FOR QUICK SALE

4 million baht, bypass road, 9m x 27m. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. Land size is 53sq wah. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

Land and House for Sale Karon Hillside Seaview



House 100sqm-140sqm, 2-3 bedrooms, 2-3 bathrooms, livingroom 50sqm, 7.9 - 12 million baht. Land 400sqm, chanote 4.5 million baht.

naruchai@gmx.de
Thai/German/Italy/English

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Properties For Rent

700,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT



Rawai Bar Hotel, 9 bedrooms, 650sqm land, 100m to pier. Available now. Tel: 081-416 1072. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Price: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

KATAHILL ONE BED ROOM

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, terrace, bath, kitchen, aircon, internet and cable TV. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

7 BEDROOMS GOLF VIEW

7-aircon bedrooms, swimming pools, furnished, nice and quiet villa. 10 mins to Big C, Central, Headstart, 5 mins to Tesco, QSI. Please call 081-271 3228 or email: info@procarpentering.com for more info.

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, internet. Tel: 086-739 3220.

CONDO IN PATONG

Located at Phuket Palace. 1 bedroom, 54sqm with pool, parking, wifi. Rent in long term now and get good rate. Tel: 081-892 1621.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

HOUSE FOR RENT

At Boat Lagoon Residence, 2 bedrooms with balcony and furniture. Tel: 081-958 7684 (English & Thai), 084-629 3244 (English & Thai). Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



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

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT IN RAWAI

3 or 4 bedrooms. Super September price for 4 beds, only 2,000 baht per day! Tel: 087-893 8747.

THE POINT CONDO

2-storey loft in Phuket town opposite Big C, fully furnished, free swimming pool, fitness, internet and cable. Special discount. From 35,000 baht to only 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT, PATONG

1+2 beds, seaview, pool, wifi. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms pool villa, 500m walk to Bangtao beach for long term rental. Rental rate 90,000 Baht per month.

E-mail: sandra.oneill@oceanwp.com
Office Number: + 66 76 325986
Mobile Number: + 66 89 8677154

HOUSE FOR RENT

At Boat Lagoon Residence, 2 bedrooms with balcony and furniture. Tel: 081-958 7684 (English & Thai), 084-629 3244 (English & Thai). Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Located just outside Laguna, this large 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom- pool villa is available for long & short term rent. Tel: 081-892 0534 (English), 081-597 6911 (Thai). Email: barrett.damian@gmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms, each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Near Tesco shopping center, international school. Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach, Phuket International Airport, Ao Por Marina. Tel: 089-724 2787 (English & Thai), +61-43-035 8567. Email: sar_seal@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



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

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

QUIET AREA HOUSE



1 aircon bedroom, near Ao Makham Bay, free WiFi, 3km from town, 1km to Panwa Beach. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311 (English & Thai).

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full western kitchenette. All extras. Aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished, quiet setting near Nanai. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

5 BEDROOMS FOR RENT

At Khoktanod area, near Bangtao and Layan Beach. 5 beds with big garden. Special rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363.

CHAOFA GARDEN HOME, 2 BEDS

Fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons, living room, kitchen, fridge, dining and washing machine. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-048 6906 (English & Thai). Email: j7chin@gmail.com

LARGE KAMALA HOUSE

Furnished, 300sqm, 2 bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, aircon, carport, sundeck. Rent: 32,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months -- or buy for 3.65 million baht. Includes use of pool near beach. Tel: 084-716 0502.

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RAWAI BEACH FRONT POOL VILLA



Rawai, beach front pool villa. For rent and sale. 3 bedrooms, furnished, land: 1 rai. Contact Siriporn. Tel: 089-649 9939.

LUXURY APARTMENT

At Kata Beach. Stunning sea view, pool, gym, restaurant. Contact James. Tel: 090-864 4519.

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished, kitchen. Tel: 087-966 7191.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at http://panwa.green.weebly.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

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ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER

To assist GM in maintaining a successful and profitable hotel - 42room boutique hotel in Karon

- Bachelor's degree in Sales or Hotel Management or at least 2 years management experience

- Managing 32 staffs

- Thai national, fluent in English

- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Photo Shop

- Salary 18,000 baht per month plus service charge

-Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email CV to sales@ccbloomshotel.com

COOK NEEDED (FEMALE)

Cook (f) needed urgently for only morning shift (Breakfast/Thai/Europe). Tel: 082-270 6385 (English). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

SALES ADMIN INTERIOR DESIGN

We are hiring a motivated person with a passion for sales/admin to join the team at our furniture showroom in Bang Tao. We offer an attractive salary and benefits. Tel: 076-325 419, 081-400 4678. Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com

For further details, please see our website at oriental-living.net

SHOP STAFF NEEDED

Need more staff for our shops in Kamala and Patong. Rent out motorbikes. English talking Thai. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

NEW HOLIDAY CLUB IN SAMUI

Infinity Vacation Club is opening soon in Koh Samui. We are in need of a sales manager, good salespeople, OPCs and receptionists. If you are a proven performer, we want to talk to you. Our commissions and bonuses are the best in Koh Samui. We are looking for top people who want to grow with us in Southeast Asia. Tel: 086-690 6977 (English). Please send your CV to tjrgolfer72@gmail.com or call James.

LIVEBOARD OFFICE

Thai, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills, marketing, at least 2 years experience. CV wanted! Tel: 088-500 6150 (English). Email: info@nautica-diving.com

BARTENDER

A bartender with experience to a new nice bar in Kamala. Tel: 083-634 5772 (English & Thai). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

A leading Home Automation and MEP Engineering company in Cherg Talay is looking to fill:

- | Secretary
- | M&E Engineer
- | Autocad draftsman

Good Salary. 5 day week.
Email: info@avcpuket.com
Fax: 076-6615811

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Need 1 Chef, 1 Sous Chef, Help Cook, Waitress and Waiter for Thai and International Restaurant. Please Contact K. June 081-970 5830 or Laurent 081-693 3940. Email: alain.laurent8@gmail.com

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computersavvy and fluent in English? Salary of 17-27,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289 472. Email: graham.kay@mac.com. For full details click here: www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

EXPERIENCED ELDERCARE NURSE

Available: Nurse/helper for older person or invalid. Two years experience with Alzheimers patient. Reliable, hard-working, excellent references. Some English. Tel: 089-196 0940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

EXPERIENCED YACHT CAPTAINS

Applicants must hold valid license or permit. The position is based in the Philippines and duties include repositioning of corporate & private yachts within the SEA region. Attractive salary package for those with the necessary qualifications & experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please send your resume to blackwall88@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Reliable female staff is required. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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- Female, aged between 24-35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Education or equivalent
- Minimum 2 years experience in teaching English
- Good communication and teaching skills
- Office administration skills and computer skills
- Can work independently without much supervision

Applications should provide a full detailed English resume, expected salary and a recent photo to

Human Resources Department

Tel: 076-324374 # 6944, 6918

Email: rattana.rittisak@banyantree.com

CHEF WANTED

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.

- Salary negotiable.

Please contact Kim Mitchell. Tel: 090-705 9466, or email resume to kim_a_mitchell@hotmail.com

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

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalemprakiat School is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree & TEFL is required. Tel: 084-446 3049. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For more information please contact Clarke.

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

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 - 12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cra vensnurseryphuket.com

WANTED SECRETARY

At Patong. Searching for qualified secretary. Speaking and writing English and Thai (French if possible). Interesting salary. Tel: 080-712 1699.

MAID FOR APARTMENT NEEDED

Maid needed for apartment in Karon. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht. Age 20-37 years. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: likhovroman@mail.ru

HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a Thai female with teaching skills to four English teachers English to our Security Guards. Tel: 076-336 084, 081-607 6637, Fax: 076-336 085. Email: pornthip@sgsphuket.com

EXPATRIATE MARINE MECHANICS

Looking for the experienced expatriate marine mechanics. Duties include general and preventive maintenance of corporate and yachts positioned within the SEA region. Attractive remuneration package for those with the necessary qualifications and experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please contact Mark Jones and send resume to mark.jones288@gmail.com

BARTENDER REQUIRED

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

Mechanical/Structural Engineer

Thai National required for Phuket office.

For an interview please contact:

thamersley@australiancad.com.au

**RED PLANET HOTELS LIMITED**

Red Planet Hotels (Thailand) Limited (RPHL) is a regional hotel investment company focused on Asia's emerging markets. RPHL is developing a portfolio of budget hotels in the following key countries:

- Thailand
- Philippines
- Indonesia
- China

The company is an asset owning company that operates its own hotels under a franchise agreement from TuneHotels.com

We are looking for a pre-opening team

1. **Hotel Manager** (1 position)
2. **Guest Service Supervisor / Guest Service Executive** (9 positions)
3. **Engineering Supervisor** (1 position)
4. **Technician** (1 position)

For Tune Patong, Phuket which will be opened by the middle of December. Team (Front Desk and maintenance):

Qualification:

- Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's Degree
- Good command of English. Experience of the hotel or service industries, or retail sales is most preferred in a guest or customer facing role
- Good attitude, 'Can Do' approach and excellent appearance
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of MS office
- Able to work on a shift pattern with a team or work independently
- Ability to upsell to guests or customers
- Confident
- Assertive
- Hotel experience is desirable but we will consider all candidates with previous retail sales experience who have not worked in the hospitality industry previously.

Interested applicants please send details to:

hr@redplanethotels.com or aree@redplanethotels.com

The Offices at Central world, Unit 1901

999/9 Rama I Road, Pathumwan

Bangkok 10330, Thailand

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Irish Pub at Jungceylon: Wanted female /Thai, fluent in speaking and writing English, good computer skills, accounting, preferably at least 2 years experience. Tel: 076-366 085, 081-788 4078.

NEW ESTATE OFFICE PHUKET

Require 2 persons: 1 experienced and 1 keen to learn. Tel: 081-958 3830.

WEB DEVELOPER WANTED

Siam Real Estate require 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, Please see our website at www.siamvillarentals.com

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedgeconcepts.com

THAI STAFF MANAGER

With good spoken and written English. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 080-879 6058.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Group of companies operating in the property and F&B market, is looking for a Human Resources Manager with experiences in recruitment and evaluation to support the organization's business goals. The ideal candidate is Thai nationality, organized, and confident. Tel: 076-383 435. Email: info@obiettothailandia.com

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Established in 1999, HotelTravel.com is a dynamic multi-cultural company, employing over 300 experienced, knowledgeable management and staff from six continents. In view of the company's continued rapid expansion, we seek experienced, enthusiastic candidates to join our team for long-term career opportunities in the following positions:

1. Software Development Manager	1 Position
2. Senior Web Developer (ASP / ASP.NET)	1 Position
3. Business Coordinator Hotel Partners	2 Positions
4. Admin Researcher	1 Position
5. CMS Officer	2 Positions
6. Data Entry Officer	3 Positions
7. Geo Coding Officer	1 Position
8. XML Data Entry Officer	1 Position
9. Accountant	2 Positions
10. Data Research Admin	3 Positions
11. Operator	1 Position
12. Data Entry (Part Time)	3 Positions

Qualifications:

- ▶ Position 1: Bachelor's Degree or higher in Computer Engineering or related subject. At least 5 Years in ASP.NET web development
- ▶ Position 3-12: Thai national only
- ▶ All positions must be fluent in written and spoken English

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please send current résumé or CV listing complete employment experience, a recent photograph, references and current remuneration package or salary expectations to jobs@hoteltravel.com. Or call 076-282808 and ask for HotelTravel.com's Director of Operations, Khun Arnupab Satakorn, for further information. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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

SKILLED TRADESPEOPLE WANTED

For very busy handyman company. Thai or farang. Good salary. Contact www.farang-handyman.com

ACCOUNTING BOOKKEEPING

Thai CPA knowledge of English. Dive knowledge a plus. Pay 20k working Mon-Fri. Send CV Email: phuket@sssnetwork.com

2 NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Required for Rainbow Land, Fisherman's Way, Chalong to teach a mixed group of 2-5+ year olds. Call, text or email for more information. Tel: 082-812 3610. Email: turnery5@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED YACHT CAPTAINS

Applicants must hold valid license or permit. Duties include repositioning of corporate & private yachts within the SEA region. Attractive salary package for those with the necessary qualifications & experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please send your resume to blackwall88@gmail.com or contact Shaun for further information.

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: info@coralseekers.com

IRANIAN PR STAFF NEEDED

The Absolute Group is currently looking to recruit an Iranian national to work in their promotions department. For more information contact Neda. Tel: 089-724 1935.

MALE WEDDING STAFF

- Hair and makeup.
- Flower arrangement.
- Dress maintenance and customer service.

Thai male with multiple skills more than two of above required. Driver's license, good command of English and computer are also needed. Email: info@sa-mer.com. For further details, please see our website at www.samerwedding-thailand.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Jagota Brothers Trading Co., Ltd. Long time well established food importer and supplier to hotels and restaurants welcomes applications from experienced sales people. Must be fluent in written & spoken English. Background in food industry preferred. Must have own car to visit customers. Tel: 082-790 5143. Please forward resumes and references to George. Email: george_d@jagota.com

THAI STAFF MANAGER

With good spoken and written English. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 080-879 6058.

URGENT CHEF INT'L CUISINE

High salary + service charge + bonus and all benefits. Tel: 089-908 7486.

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: info@coralseekers.com

ACCOUNTANTS / BOOKKEEPERS

Experienced Thai staff for immediate openings in a fast growing company with very positive working environment. English, written and spoken, are preferred but not mandatory except for senior management positions. Salary based on qualifications. Email resume to hr@freshgardenfarms.com



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Front Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night Manager • Duty Manager • Guest Service Manager • Guest Service Agent • Guest Service Officer 		Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room Attendant

For more information please contact us at Tel: 076-396433-41 ext 2610 or submit your CV with current photo by Email: Saktipong.Tuagtam@hilton.com

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa
333 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket | Thailand 83100
www.hilton.com

NEW HOTEL OPENING

Opening 01 October in Patong. Staff required in all areas: House-keeping, Front Desk, Security, and Bar Hosts. Men preferred. Tel: 60-16-974 6968 (English). Email: LouisLovestrand@yahoo.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

EZYSTAYS CO LTD

Ezystays (Travel Club), located in Patong, is looking to recruit a Thai Admin Assistant for its busy sales office. Candidates must have a good command of the English language and be able to work efficiently with Word and XL, and basic knowledge of accounts. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. All applicants must apply with a cover letter and CV in English with photo. We offer an excellent working environment and a 5-day work week. Tel: 076-341 421. Email: clientliaison@ezystays.com

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

Phuket Gazette



In connection with expanded production of our 'Phuket Today' show for MCOT World and True Visions, PGTV wishes to recruit a

TELEVISION PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

- ▶ Thai-English speaker
- ▶ Good communication skills
- ▶ Knowledge of Adobe Premier Pro or similar video editing software required
- ▶ Knowledge of graphic design software required
- ▶ A current driving license is essential
- ▶ Must be able to assist on video shoots
- ▶ Work schedule includes shooting at night
- ▶ Must be flexible and able to work in a creative and demanding environment
- ▶ Recent graduate preferred.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Natamon Meesin, Production Manager, at mon@phuketgazette.net.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Keaw, Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 502 Fax: 076-615240

Announcement

Csenki Company Limited

30th August 2012

Re: 2nd /2012 Shareholder Extraordinary Meeting Invitation

To: Shareholder of Csenki Co., Ltd

This letter is hereby making an announcement that the 2nd/2012 extraordinary meeting shall be held on the 14th of September 2012 at the conference room at 10:00 a.m. at the address of 74/8-9 Moo 2, Western Chao Fa Rd., Vichit Sub-district, MuangPhuket District, Phuket Province with the following agenda:

1. To consider the report of the Company administration concerning Company's operation.
2. To consider finance and accountancy of the Company.
3. To consider the alteration and selecting of new Director.
4. To consider the requisite power and authority of the Director.
5. To consider other topics (if any).

I would like to invite you to attend the meeting on such date, time, and place. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Shareholder


 Mr. Bela Szabad

Handwritten note in Thai script: # รบกวนแจ้ง... นานหลายวัน 2012.08.20 up: an

Dr. Róz Szilvia
 4181 Nádudvar, Dobó u. 1.
 Adószám: 50066517-1-29
 Tel.: 54/480-341

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Sincerely yours,

(Arkos Co., Ltd. by Mr. Jozsef)



Handwritten note in Hungarian: Törzsi & Pordán Ügyvédi Iroda
Handwritten note in Hungarian: Képviselet Dr. Törzsi Csilla
 ügyvéd
 2840 Orosháza, Fürst S. u. 30. sz. 2

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Sincerely yours,


 (Mr. Laszlo Uhrin)

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Sincerely yours,

Shareholders

1. Mr. Tibor Robert Kovacs..... 
2. Mr. Istvan Attila Beregszaszi..... 
3. Mr. Zsolt Kiss-Balint..... 
4. Mr. Tibor Istvan Beregszaszi..... 
5. Mr. Laszlo Gyorgy Darvas..... 
6. Mr. Gyula Gyulveszi..... 
7. Mr. Janos Molnar..... 
8. Mr. Attila Kovacs..... 

Countersigned by on the 29th of August 2012:

Dr. Várgati Zoltán Ügyvédi Iroda
Dr. Várgati Zoltán ügyvéd
 1172 Budapest, XIII. u. 15.
 Kamarai nyilvántartási szám: 01-019398
 Adószám: 18280014-1-14



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081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

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9 beds, 5 chairs, 3 years lease. Include bar, fridges, stock, all equipments and extras. Well set up. Must See! Sale: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-061 6412 (English), 081-055 0579 (Thai)

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

SOLVE YOUR LIFE PROBLEMS!

Come and see me at Baan Kanika. 1,300 baht or US\$40. Tel: 081-415 1894.

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	Wed.	8, 15, 22	5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 31	
	Sun.	5, 26	2, 9, 23, 30	7, 14, 21, 28	

WE ARE FULLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS AND NOTARIES
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PHUKET VISA LAW OFFICE

64/46 Moo 1, Chao Fa Road, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket District, Phuket 83000. Email: phuketvisa@hotmail.com
Tel: 076-263475, 076-264476. Fax: 076-374563 Mobile: 081-8929960

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- Dispute Resolution
- Notary Service
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Phuket Branch Office: 365 Srisoonthorn Road, Chong Talay, Thalang, Phuket
G.A.M. Enterprise Company Pty. Ltd. Room 3014, Level 30 Citigroup, 2 Park Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia
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\$450,000 USD

Tiara 4300 (1991)

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Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: jim@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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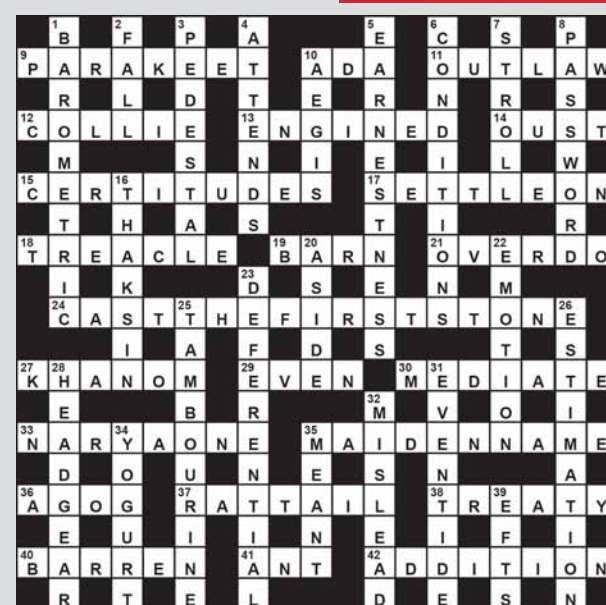
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Italian Grand Prix preview



Formula 1
By The Digby

IN MY last article I said I thought Hamilton would be a very strong contender at Spa together with Räikkönen, Rosberg, Schumacher, Grosjean and Button. I said it looked hard for Ferrari and Red Bull to shine, but also said "Who knows"?

In the event Hamilton, Perez and Alonso were shunted off the track by Grosjean at the first corner trying to cut across Hamilton from the off – so three of my tips were out.

It was a very dangerous incident for Alonso, who might have been seriously injured by an airborne Grosjean. He sat unable to breathe for a while due to the extinguisher in his cockpit, but finally and luckily escaped with a little whiplash.

Grosjean was subsequently banned from competing in this weekend's race at Monza for his dangerous driving. That was harsh, was it fair? It was. Grosjean was the only one who could have prevented the accident

he caused. He failed to do that. And it is not the first time Grosjean has made the same dangerous opening gambit across the line.

Button drove an exemplary race, leading from start to finish with a bold one-stop strategy. Räikkönen drove very hard in a car that was, for some reason, not performing as well as it should, to finish third. But Vettel was a huge surprise, qualifying 10th and driving an exemplary race to finish 2nd.

Alonso is lucky it was Button who won rather than Hamilton, as it kept his lead going well. Alonso has acknowledged that Hamilton is his biggest rival. However, Vettel is now within a race of challenging it.

So, it's on to Monza, north of Milan, and if Ferrari has any rabbits to pull from their hat, this, their home GP is the time they will do it.

Monza has hosted F1 ever since it was introduced. The track is another very fast one with long straights, only three proper corners and tight chicanes. Cars are set up with maximum performance on



Romain Grosjean, Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton collide at the Belgian Grand Prix. Photo:AFP

the straights, so the straight line speed of the Mercedes powered cars should be important again.

Due to the set up, and consequent low downforce, grip is very low and there is a premium on braking stability and traction. They approach the first corner at the end of the start/finish straight at 340 kilometers per hour and brake before the first chicane to under 80 km per hour.

This has been the scene of many first lap accidents. Look out for Maldonado. Monza is very hard on gearboxes, and with engines at full throttle for 80 per cent of the lap, engine failures are common.

Alonso will really want to impress, but it will be hard for him unless Ferrari really does have a rabbit in their hat. Hamilton des-

perately needs a win. Button and Vettel will seek to stamp their newly recaptured authority on the event, and Räikkönen will look to be on the podium as well. I suspect we are in for a fantastic race.

The race is Sunday at 7pm, and the practice is on at the same time on Saturday. It will be shown live on the big screen at the Green Man.



McIlroy's swing. Photo: internetsense

THIS week marked the second of golf's FedEx playoffs with the PGA's Deutsche Bank Open at the Tournament Players Club, Boston.

The parkland golf course with narrow curving fairways requires more precision than power off the tees and tests players accuracy and short games more than their all out power games.

Only 100 players from the FedEx points list were included in the field this week, and that number will be whittled down to

Rory continues to roar

70 before the next tournament.

Louis Oosthuizen split the field with a wonderful 63 on the third round to finish at 19 under par and Rory McIlroy was close on his heels after two 65s and a 67, sitting at 16 under par. Tiger Woods also made noise with three solid rounds in the 60s, and was close to the leaders at 13 under par.

The final round started well for McIlroy, who made three birdies in the first four holes and was out in 32. Oosthuizen, after an uncharacteristic double bogey on the 5th, was out in 37, two behind McIlroy. Tiger was playing like his old self, out in 32. His charge, however, lost steam on the back nine where he only managed one birdie and finished 18 under par, good for a 3rd place finish.

The round did move Tiger's career tour earnings to over US\$100 million. Not too

bad considering Jack Nicklaus earned less than six million dollars in his career.

With Tiger already in the clubhouse, this left Louis and Rory to fight it out, with the round literally coming down to the last putt on the 18th hole.

Needing to make a 10 foot downhill slider to force a playoff, Louis watched as his putt missed on the low side of the hole giving McIlroy a well deserved win.

McIlroy's putting was the difference and even TV commentators were quite surprised as he hit some uncharacteristically off shots down the stretch. But his putter kept coming through right to the end.

Oosthuizen's putting still holds him back from greatness. His butter-smooth swing is one to emulate for all aspiring golfers, especially juniors. But his putting must

improve for him to reach the next level.

McIlroy by contrast had the lowest number of putts for the week averaging 25.8, basically 10 under putts per round.

What was interesting about Rory's win was that it was the first time he had to grind it out and find that little extra something that made the difference.

For a young player these are the types of wins that can boost confidence and lead to sustained long term greatness.

McIlroy will start to hear comparisons to Nicklaus and Woods soon enough. For now, it's just fun to watch the 23-year-old fearless player make things that we all know are very difficult seem so easy.

– Martin Platts

For tips on how to improve your golf game, visit: W:thegolfguru.com

It's the start of the NFL Season

SUPER Bowl Champs the NY Giants hosted the Cowboys on Wednesday night to kick off the 2012 NFL regular season. These two teams clashed last year during the final game of the 2011 regular season, which decided the winner of the NFC East.

New York went on to win that game and gain a wild card birth, which paved the way for the team's eventual win at Super Bowl XLVI.

On Sunday, #1 overall draft pick Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts visit Chicago.

The new Colt's lineup contains only 9 players from their 2009 Super Bowl appearance.

Chicago, with a healthy Jay Cutler and new addition, Brandon Marshall are expected to compete in the highly competitive NFC North.

The Pittsburgh Steelers head to the Tebow-less, Manning-gained Broncos in Denver. Manning is expected to start his first regular season game since having three neck surgeries and his health will be tested by the stout Steelers defense. Pittsburgh is seeking revenge for its embarrassing loss to the Broncos in

the 2011 wild card game.

Monday Night Football is back for its 43rd year and brings two great games, both heated division rivals. San Diego visit the Black Hole in Oakland while the upstart Bengals face off against Ray Lewis and the Ravens in Baltimore.

In other action: Eagles at Browns, Patriots at Titans, Falcons at Chiefs, Jaguars at Vikings, Redskins at Saints, Bills at Jets, Rams at Lions, Dolphins at Texans, Seahawks at Cardinals, Panthers at Buccaneers.

– Mark Reynolds

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Islanders level in cat fight

By Steven Layne

PHUKET FC maintained their 10th place standing in the 18-team Yamaha Division One football league thanks to a 1-1 home draw against the Nakhon Ratchasima FC "Swat Cats" last Saturday evening.

The match, played under clear skies at Phuket FC's Surakul Stadium, drew a crowd of about 2,500 fans, including dozens of Korat "Swat Cat" fans who travelled all the way from central Isarn for the fixture.

The Islanders took charge early on, putting the opponents' travel-weary defense to the test on a number of nail-biting plays.

Phuket's Korean starter, Seongwon Byeon, was carried off the pitch late in the first half following a collision with a Korat defender inside Phuket's penalty box, leaving the Korean with a deep, stitch-requiring cut on his face.

Replacement Poramat Krongborisut came on the pitch to keep up the attack, though the scoreboard remained 0-0 going into half time.

It was the visitors who would open the scoring shortly after half-time when Brazilian import Rian Marques in the midfield directed a pass to Thawa Srithammanusarn, who was free on the left wing.

Thawa sent another beautiful pass to teammate Promphong Kransumrong, who had outrun his Phuket marker and drove deep toward the goal line before sending his shot to the far post, past the outstretched arm of the Phuket keeper and into the back of the net.

Phuket scored the equalizer 16 minutes later with a sublime goal from a beautifully-executed free-kick taken by newcomer Nontaphan Jiensathawong.

It was the third goal of the season for Nontaphan, who previously played for Thai Premier League powerhouse Muangthong United. Joining Phuket in the season's second half, his precision free-kicks have been an important factor in helping the Islanders rise from the relegation zone to mid-table respectability.

With the score level again, both sides enjoyed some decent scoring chances throughout the remainder of the match.

Phuket brought on two more foreigners from the bench in their effort to produce a winning goal, including Ivorian Kanoute and recently-signed Boas Chun.

In his debut at Surakul Stadium, the



BREAK THROUGH: Phuket's Watcharakorn "Bird" Klaithin dribbles past Nakhon Ratchasima FC defenders in Saturday's match. Photo: Pongpisit Raksakhet



Korean played deep far wing and impressed the crowd with his smart and evasive through-passing, working well with Bolivian Roland Vargas and local Thawin Butsombat on several attacks.

Kanoute, known for his superior ball handling skills, was unable to find his tempo and despite four minutes of added time, neither side could gain the upper hand before the final whistle.

Following the match, Phuket Coach Narong Arjarayutt told the *Phuket Gazette* that he was satisfied with the result.

"We conceded that goal way too easily, but after that we worked real hard and had many chances to score.

We were the underdogs, so the result is satisfactory," he said.

Korat's Brazilian Head Coach, Reuther Moreira, was also satisfied, albeit with some regret.

"We had the chance to win, but unfortunately for us, Phuket equalized and we couldn't get back on top. They played really well today, closing spaces and limiting our attacking options.

"Now that this match is over, my team will finally have a decent opportunity to rest a full week before our next home match against Rajpracha. We've had a hectic schedule, with 10 games in the last month. Our players have had little time

	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Ratchaburi	25	39	58
2	Bangkok Utd	25	14	52
3	Suphanburi	25	27	50
4	PTT Rayong	25	30	49
5	Sriracha	25	21	49
6	Krabi	25	19	47
7	Royal Navy	25	9	39
8	Air Force	25	2	36
9	Korat	25	-5	36
10	Phuket	25	-7	30
11	Khon Kaen	25	-9	29
12	Pattalung	25	-10	28
13	Saraburi	25	-5	27
14	Songkhla	25	-9	27
15	Bangkok FC	25	2	25
16	JW Rangsit	25	-23	21
17	Rajpracha	25	-20	18
18	Chanthaburi	25	-75	2

to rest and recover," he added.

Also speaking to the *Gazette* Roland "Pato" Vargas, who entered the fray for Phuket in the season's second half, said: "We're improving every match and learning to play with each other better. These kind of things take time. We are not only playing for ourselves and the team, but for our supporters as well."

The result sees Korat fall into 9th place – one spot ahead of Phuket.

Phuket's next match is an away fixture against 8th placed Airforce United, to be played on Saturday at North Krungthep University's Rangsit campus. Kickoff for the match is set for 4pm.

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The Hulk soar to finals



PHUKET FC fan club/futsal squad, the Hulk FC, finished top of their group in the Phuket Cup, following a 3-2 win over Len Chien and a 7-1 trampling of Thalang Villa. In the round of 32, the Hulk breezed past Rasadanuwat, 5-1, advancing to the round of 16 where they prevailed over Thammarak 4-3. They continued with solid form in the quarterfinals shutting out Rasadanuarn 5-0. A penalty shootout decided their semifinal match with Cherng Talay Wittayakhom following a 1-1 draw in normal time, the Hulk winning 3-1. In Saturday's final, they will meet Len Chien again. *See right for more info.*

Former England coach signs with Thai Premier team

Bangkok based BEC Tero Sasana hires new coach in deal worth a reported 50mn baht

FORMER England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has joined BEC Tero Sasana as technical coach until the end of the Thailand Premier League (TPL) season for an estimated salary of 50 million baht.

The 64-year-old Swede, who departed England in October last year after failing to guide Thai-owned Leicester City into the Premier League, started his first campaign in Asia in the Toyota League Cup against defending TPL champions Buriram last Wednesday.

Eriksson's official position as the technical director seems to end doubts about the future of

Belgium's Robert Procureur, who remains coach and manager of BEC Tero is currently ranked fourth in the TPL standings.

Eriksson said he was asked by BEC Tero president Brian Marcar to help the team, whose performances he has studied on DVDs.

"This is my first time working in Asia. I'm looking forward to Wednesday's match. I want to see how the players handle the game, especially their mentality. My job is to make them

get better this season. The match on Wednesday will tell me what the club needs



Sven. Photo: Doha Stadium



Sven Goran Eriksson with the rest of the BEC Tero Sasana. Photo: Bec Tera Sasana facebook

for the future," said Eriksson during a press conference at the team's Thephassadin Stadium before Wednesday's game.

The arrival of the experienced Swede comes a bit too late to fulfill BEC Tero's ambitions to be crowned TPL champions in October. With title favorites SCG Muang Thong FC a long way ahead in the standings, and only nine games remaining, the runner up place is a realistic target for Eriksson amid fierce competition from Buriram and Chonburi FC.

"The game against Buriram was difficult because the team was very successful last season.

It was a good test for my players," said Eriksson who coached England from 2001 to 2006.

Eriksson's eagerness to work as far afield as Thailand raises questions as to whether his illustrious career as a title winner in Sweden, Portugal and Italy is now in its twilight years. But the Swede showed no such concern.

"I don't know what other people think, but I am looking forward to this job. If I can handle it, it will be very good. And I think I can handle it, otherwise I wouldn't have accepted it. What other people think is not that important for me anymore," said the Swede, who insisted he would be working on a full time

basis for the next two months.

"I will be here as the advisor [and] technical director. I will follow training, I will follow matches and give players advice and work together with Robert [Procureur].

I come with a lot of experience from a lot of different countries. I hope I can help the team."

According to Procureur, Eriksson will take charge of training sessions throughout the week. But during games, the Swede will be in the stands while Procureur works pitchside. Procureur also said that the recruitment of Eriksson would broaden horizons for Thai soccer

— *The Nation/Phuket Gazette*



Phuket futsal

PHUKET is holding its first Youth Futsal Cup, with the final to be held at the brand new 4,000-capacity sports complex in Saphin Hin on Saturday. The event began August 30 and will finish September 8, when prizes totaling 165,000 baht will be handed out.

Teams, when prizes totaling 165,000 baht will be handed out. Teams, when prizes totaling 165,000 baht will be handed out.

The qualifying round for the tournament's high school category saw 31 teams from three districts: seven from Thalang, six from Kathu and 18 from Phuket Town. The general public category comprises 48 teams from Phuket, divided into 16 groups, with three teams per group. The top two teams from each group qualified for the knockout stage.

The top two teams from the high school category will play the final, Saturday 8, to determine who claims the trophy and prize money. Saturday sees the last day of action with the schedule below. All games will take place at the new gymnasium in Saphan Hin.

9 AM: Opening ceremony by Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr
9.30 AM: Third and fourth playoff (15 years old and younger)
11.30 AM: Final (15 years old and younger)
1.30 PM: Third and fourth playoff (general public)
3 PM: Final (general public)
4 PM: Closing ceremony

Laguna chases down another cricket win

ARCH rivals Laguna and Patong met in their second round match in the Outrigger T20 league on Sunday, September 2 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG). Both sides were looking to secure their third win from four matches to move clear to the top of the table.

Laguna eventually took the points, securing victory with one ball to spare in a closely contested match. Patong decided to set a target by electing to bat first, they managed a respectable 148 runs for the loss of 7 wickets from their allotted 20 overs.

However, Laguna managed to chase down the total, scoring 151 runs from 19.5 overs, edging out their rivals with one ball to spare.

The Patong batsmen got off to a slow start, finding it difficult to put bat on ball in the opening barrage of pace attack from Neill Culpan and Sami Ullah. Seemant Raju (1) was their first victim having his stumps skittled by Culpan. Fellow opener Richard Desmond (21) provided a little more resistance, along with his new batting partner Manesh Sadarangani (49) they put on a valuable 70 run partnership.

Desmond eventually suffered the indignation of having his stumps uprooted by young speedster Val Guiraud. Sadarangani

took it to the Laguna bowling attack, which included a couple of towering sixes including a straight drive from Sami Ullah into the adjoining rubber plantation. His innings eventually came to an end when Stuart Reading swooped on a shot at deep backward point and with a one handed pick-up made a direct hit as Sadarangani tried to scamper through for his half-century.

Rishy Sadarangani (25) also made a valuable quick-fire contribution to the innings along with Jhagta Kishor (11). Laguna also helped the Patong cause with 30 extras including 10 byes and 17 wides. Pick of the bowlers for Laguna were Neill Culpan (1 for 19), Val Guiraud (1 for 21) and Sami Ullah (1 for 25).

After the break, Laguna were looking to get off to a steady start with openers Damian Clowes (19) and Darren Shaw (16). Their partnership of 22 came to an end when Clowes mis-timed a shot and was caught.

Shaw fell shortly thereafter with the score on 36. However, Lijo Jose (32) and Laguna captain, Stuart Reading (17) put on a valuable 54 run partnership before Jose was trapped in front lbw off the bowling of Seemant Raju, with Reading falling shortly after with the score on 98.

Neill Culpan (30) and Roshan Jayasuriya (19 not out) combined for a 45 run partnership before Culpan was caught and bowled in the 19th over from the bowling of Marthinus Bester.

Eventually Ian Henry (8 not out) notched up the winning runs with one ball to spare, with Laguna scoring 151 runs for the loss of 5 wickets from 19.5 overs.

The Patong bowling was very tight throughout the Laguna innings, only conceding 10 extras (7 wides). Pick of the bowlers were Marthinus Bester (1 for 15) and Jhagta Kishor (2 for 19).

Laguna now move clear at the top of the table on 6 points, followed by ICC and Patong on 4 points while the Village is yet to get off the mark.

This weekend's action in the Outrigger T20 league will see the Village looking to register their first win in the competition against 2nd placed ICC on Sunday, September 9.

The senior league will commence on Sunday, November 18.

Anyone interested in joining a team or entering a full team should contact Martin Foster at clubaffairs@phuketcricketgroup.com For more information and the full T20 league schedule visit phuketcricketgroup.com

Triathlon comes to Phuket

PHUKET was selected to host one of the eight prestigious events of the International Triathlon Union (ITU) – the Long Distance World Triathlon Series.

The event is set to be held in Patong on May 4-5, 2013.

The news was delivered recently by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, accompanied by Bryan Lunt, chairman and CEO of title sponsor Absolute World Group (AWG).

Joining them at a press conference held in Provincial Hall were Jaray Jearanai, the race's ambassador and Thailand triathlon champion, and Chanchai Duangjit, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office.

More than 600 athletes, including top professionals, Olympians and world champions from 25 countries are expected to take part in the series.

"Leading cities around the world are targeting international sporting events as part of their corporate social responsibility strategies, and with our commitment to health and fitness within our resorts and organization, the Absolute World Group are proud to bring this ITU World Triathlon Series event to Phuket," said Mr Lunt.

"We are showcasing the island to participants, families and



READY, SET, GO: (from left) Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Absolute World Group CEO Bryan Lunt, Thailand triathlon champion Jaray Jearanai and local TAT director Chanchai Duangjit. Photos: Infinity Communications

friends, and to the world through dedicated TV broadcasts in more than 120 countries," he added.

The two-day event will feature a variety of swim-cycle-run formats, including Sprint (750 meter swim, 20 kilometer cycle, 5km run); Olympic Distance (1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run); Team Relay; Celebrity Relay; and an ITU Kids race.

On Sunday, May 5, the main event will be the Double Olympic Distance race which includes a 3km

swim, 80km cycle and 20km run.

Athletes will start with an open-water swim off Patong Beach, transition to their bikes and race south past Karon Beach to Kata Beach and back – a technical and hilly route, with one lap measuring about 25km.

The run is a flat road race around Patong, heading south along the beachfront, with one lap measuring about 5km. The finish line will be on Bangla Road, in the heart of Patong.

The event's race ambassador, Thailand Triathlon champion Jaray Jearanai, will be racing on the Absolute World Group team alongside some of the best triathletes in the world. Jaray will also represent Thailand and carry the hopes of his home province of Phuket.

There will be elite and age group categories, with world-ranking points awarded and a prize purse in excess of 30,000 Euros (roughly 1.3 million baht). "Phuket will be among one of



MEAN MACHINE: Jaray Jearanai, Thailand triathlon champion.

eight iconic global cities selected to be part of triathlon's largest world series, and the Absolute World Group is proud to have secured this great opportunity for Phuket, to be a part of the ITU World Triathlon Series, and to position Phuket as a world-leading sporting and tourism destination," Mr Lunt concluded.

Registration opens on November 1 at ituphukettriathlon.com (website yet to be launched). – **Phuket Gazette**



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