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Corruption rife in all departments

Survey highlights perceptions of widespread corruption

INSIDE TODAY

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FINALLY!

DESPERATELY NEEDED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ROLLS OUT



Somphon Chaisawat (left) will be behind the wheel as the first bus in the six bus fleet of the Phuket Airport Express shifts into gear Friday.

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE new bus service from Phuket Airport to Patong Beach launched today with the man behind the operation saying he has "no fear" of retaliation from local tuk-tuk and taxi mafia.

The service is Phuket's first tourist-oriented bus line to directly serve a major tourism beach

area on the west coast. All the other bus services run from Phuket Town.

For 10 years no business owner has dared to confront the sometimes violent Phuket tuk-tuk and taxi cartels, notoriously known for ending the most recent attempt to launch a bus service on the west coast by pulling a driver from the bus and severely beating him in full view of the tourist passengers on board.

"I have no fear... It's my dream come true," says Airport Express bus operator Prakob Panyawai. "My hard work has finally paid off."

"I'm not afraid to run the buses to Patong," he said. "I have talked to Patong officials and Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin, son of..."

Continued on Page 2; Special Report: Pages 40-41

Mum pimps daughter for rent money

POLICE charged a woman for selling the sexual services of her 14-year-old daughter.

The woman was caught during a sting operation in which she sold the services of the girl to an undercover police officer for 3,000 baht.

Full story on Page 3

Go Eco Phuket takes plunge to remove fishnet

LOCAL marine conservation group Go Eco Phuket staged an emergency net removal operation after footage surfaced of a large fishing net entangled in the delicate corals of popular Phuket dive site Shark Point.

The operation, consisting of 25 dive volunteers and two dive boats donated for the cause, was hailed as a success by organizers after the remains of the net were safely removed from the reef.

Full story on Page 8

DSI readies for crackdown on airport taxis

DEPARTMENT of Special Investigations (DSI) officers will arrive on the island next week to begin a two-day campaign targeting airport taxi drivers and Russian business owners using Thai nominees.

Full story on Page 9

THE VIEW

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This Week



Property
Laguna Golf Club open for business during upgrade. **Page 13**



Business
Is China's expansion into Southeast Asia a boon or...? **Page 17**



Events
Dry Buddhist holidays and a fun Belgian National Day. **Page 34**



Food
Authentic Italian food not as complicated as you thought. **Page 36**



Explore
Baz ponders parallels between Provence and Phuket. **Page 44**



Sport
An exclusive interview with Australia's swim coach. **Page 50**

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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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DSI denies taking tea money for protection

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) denied providing "protection services" for illegal businesses in a notification released on July 12 which claimed that con artists in Phuket were using the department's name to squeeze people for protection money.

"We received reports that there are people using the DSI's name to collect money from business owners who illegally employ migrant workers, as well as those trading pirated goods," DSI Director Udom Phetcharakut said.

The reports of the incidents were filed from across the department's Region 8, which encompasses Surat Thani, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong, Chumphon and Nakorn Sri Thammarat, Mr Udom said.

"There is no such thing as 'protection money' that can be paid to DSI officers," he said.



DSI Director Udom Phetcharakut says con artists pretending to be DSI agents are shaking down illegal businesses. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

All provinces in Region 8 were ordered to take immediate action against con artists using the DSI name and posing as agents.

"Anybody with information about people illegally using the DSI name should contact us at 077-600606," he said.

Woman rescued from bridge jump

A 43-YEAR-OLD woman was rescued from the fast-flowing water in the channel separating Phuket from the mainland two hours after she was last seen standing at the railing of Thao Thepkasattri Bridge on July 11.

Rescue workers and Tah Chat Chai Police who rushed to the scene soon after 10pm found her car and searched it, said Lt Col Prakob Boonkwan.

Inside was a purse, a book and an identification card confirming the woman as Nisapat Petchkhao, 43, from Phang Nga.

"In the book was a message she

wrote to her family, asking them to forgive her and take care of her children," Col Prakob said.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers searched for two hours but could not find Ms Nisapat.

"At about midnight, villagers fishing at the northern end of the bridge saw a woman floating in the water," Col Prakob explained.

"She was rushed to the hospital and fortunately only suffered minor scratches from the rocks," he said.

"She declined to answer any of my questions," Col Prakob said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



Rescue workers searched for two hours in the dark but failed to find the woman. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Island rolls forward with buses

From page 1

...Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and head of the largest taxi driver association in Patong.

Mr Prakob's initial plan to have the new bus route also serve Kata-Karon was set to start in March this year, but met threatening opposition from Kata-Karon taxi drivers and did not get official approval, pending more talks with the local drivers.

Staunch support from Terayout Prasertphol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office, and the 29 government officers, airport officials and tourism and hotel industry representatives present at a meeting on June 11 saw the



Somphon Chaisawat will drive the bus on its first run from the airport.

route shortened, to Patong, but finally approved.

"We will launch our bus at 9am from the airport to Patong," said Mr Prakob. "And I haven't given up on getting all the way to Kata-Karon. We just need more time. One day we'll make it."

Japanese surfer pulled unconscious from sea at Kata Noi

A JAPANESE surfer rescued on the afternoon of July 16 from the strong surf at Kata Noi Beach, on Phuket's west coast, is conscious and recovering at a local hospital, the *Gazette* was told.

Lifeguards saw the man, who is believed to be in his early 50s, out surfing the large waves at the popular west



Surf at Kata Noi. Photo: Steve Martin

coast beach.

"The next time the lifeguards saw him, at about 4pm, he was unconscious in the water," said Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club.

"We believe he struck his head on his own board," he said.

Lifeguards pulled him to shore and transferred him to hospital. — **Orawin Narabal**



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First cop to be charged with trafficking suspended from force

SGT Maj Weerayuth Feuangfu, the Phang Nga policeman believed to be the first Royal Thai Police officer charged with human trafficking, was indefinitely suspended from active duty last week.

"He was suspended from the Royal Thai Police last week pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation," Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat said on Monday.

The "ongoing investigation" is being carried out by a task force of selected officers from the Phang Nga Provincial Police who will determine whether or not Sgt Weerayuth should be dismissed, and, if so, with or without pension, Maj Gen Chalit explained.

The investigation into Sgt Weerayuth's status as a Royal Thai Police officer stems from his alleged involvement in the case of

a Rohingya woman who asserts she was repeatedly raped after she left a shelter for refugees in Phang Nga on May 27.

Sgt Weerayuth is alleged to be the man who picked up the victim and four other Rohingya at the shelter.

The man charged with rape, Korlimula Ramahatu, is a former employee of Sgt Weerayuth.

In addition to human trafficking charges,

Sgt Weerayuth has been charged with deprivation of liberty by carrying out abduction through deceit, Gen Chalit explained.

Col Weerasil Kwanseng, Superintendent of Kuraburi District Police, whose officers placed Sgt Weerayuth under arrest, previously confirmed that, by law: "Because he is a police officer, his punishment will be double [that of a civilian] if he is found guilty." — *Chutharat Plerin*

Mum pimps out teen daughter

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET police arrested a mother last week for selling her daughter for sex.

The arrest took place during a sting operation in a karaoke bar in Wichit.

"An undercover policeman arranged to purchase sex from the 14-year-old girl in the karaoke on Kwang Road for 3,000 baht," said Wichit Police officer Passakorn Sonthikul.

When the girl arrived at a Phuket Town hotel on July 11 to meet the policeman, he explained who he was and took her back to the bar, Lt Col Passakorn said.

"We found out that the girl's mother owns the place," he said.

"She told us that she was 6,000 baht in debt and needed the money to pay for her rented room, so she decided to use her daughter as a prostitute," he said.

"We charged the mother with procuring a person to provide sexual services," he said.

According to Section 282 of the Thai Criminal Code, the punishment for procuring a child

'We often find women or teenage girls who say they were lured by others into prostitution'

— *Weeraphat Enamuna*

under the age of 15 is five to 20 years and 10,000 to 40,000 baht.

Cases of minors being sold into prostitution by their parents in Phuket is a rarity, Weeraphat Enamuna, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Office of Social Development and Human Security, said.

"However, we often find women or teenage girls who say they were lured by others into prostitution," Mr Weeraphat said.

"We are aware of and concerned about this human trafficking problem.

Every year, we hold a seminar for police... and local government offices about the Anti-human

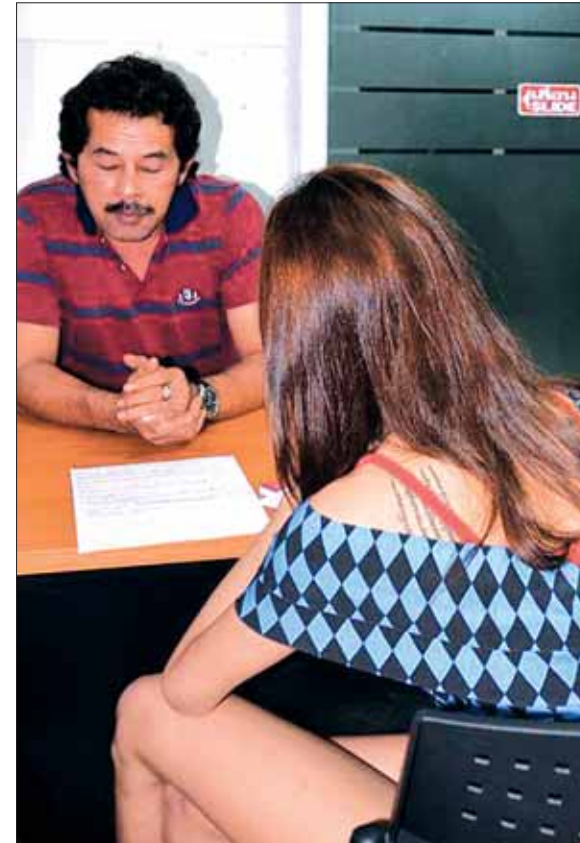
Trafficking Act and teach them how to prevent people in the area from being lured into human or sex trafficking. This year we held it on July 5 at Royal Phuket City hotel," he said.

Victims of sex or human trafficking found in Phuket are sent to the vocational rehabilitation center in Surat Thani or the Phuket shelter for children and families, he said.

Mr Weeraphat advised people in other provinces being offered



The 14-year-old's mother (bottom) was charged for procuring a person to provide sexual services. Other women working at the karaoke where the girl was sold were questioned by police. Photo: Chaichana Keowkaew



work in Phuket to get full information about the job they are being offered before accepting it, and advised against placing too much trust in strangers.

Anyone with information about

sex or human trafficking can contact local police at 191; Prachabodi call center at 1300; the Phuket shelter for children and families at 076-213315; or the Phuket Provincial Office of So-

cial Development and Human Security at 076-212726 or 076-240414.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal



One of the burnt motorbikes.

Motorbike arson re-ignites, three bikes torched

POLICE suspect arson in the latest motorbike blaze in which one motorbike was destroyed and two others damaged in Patong on Tuesday.

Maj Pattapee Srichay of the Patong police noted that 40 motorbikes have been destroyed by fire in Phuket in recent months.

"We are continuing our investigation and will arrest anyone involved in these arson attacks," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Two more sought in attack on Malaysian royal bodyguard

THE five people accused of attacking a Malaysian royal family bodyguard in Patong in May continue to be held in Phuket as police pursue two additional suspects.

"The court has issued arrest warrants for two Malaysian suspects," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee said.


"We have sent the warrants to Malaysian police, who are searching for them," he said.

Three Thais and two Malaysians have been charged with robbery and assault in the attack, which left bodyguard Mohd Sobri Bin Said severely beaten.

— *Orawin Narabal*

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Drive-by sighting nets teen motorbike thieves

POLICE arrested three Phuket teenagers last Sunday for stealing multiple motorbikes and selling the parts for pocket money.

The teenagers were caught in possession of nine stolen bikes in good condition and one that had been dismantled, said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

The teenagers' activities came to police attention on July 2 when a Mattayom 2 student at Baan Thungka School in Rassada reported his Yamaha Mio stolen from in front of the school.

"We checked the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization public CCTV cameras and saw three teenagers stealing the bike," said Lt Col Prawit.

Police assigned a team to look for them, and on July 13 a Phuket City policeman spotted a teen riding a motorbike that matched the description of the stolen bike and had the same license plates.

When stopped and questioned by the police, the teen, a 16-year-old given the pseudonym "A" by



The three teenagers stripped down stolen motorbikes to be sold as parts.

police, confessed to the theft and led them to the home of 18-year-old Narin Klongyuth, in Thalang.

Mr Narin and another youth – a 17-year-old given the pseudonym "B" – were found at the house with nine motorbikes in good condition. One motorbike, however, had already been stripped down for parts to be sold.

"From the preliminary investigation, we found that they had been stealing bikes and selling the parts for money to hang out," Lt Col Prawit said.

All three of the teenagers have been charged with theft and receiving stolen property, Col Prawit confirmed.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Keeping

THAILAND has again ranked poorly in Transparency International's annual report on corruption worldwide, released last week. How does this report affect Phuket? The Phuket Gazette investigates.

GLOBAL corruption watchdog Transparency International last week released its annual report on corruption worldwide.

Known as the Global Corruption Barometer, the report compiles an international index of all countries based on surveys of everyday people and how corruption affects their daily lives.

Thailand did not fare well: 71% of respondents felt that police were corrupt or extremely corrupt; 68% felt that political parties were corrupt or extremely corrupt; and 58% felt that public officials and civil servants were corrupt or extremely corrupt.

The surveys confirmed Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index released last year, in which Thailand ranked 88 out of 176 countries. Thailand's ranking identified it as worse than Serbia and El Salvador, on par with Swaziland, marginally better than Malawi, but much better than Iran, Uganda and Afghanistan.

The annual Global Corruption Barometer report this year also highlighted the fact that corruption reached into nearly every facet of people's lives in Thailand: 32% of respondents felt that education systems were corrupt or extremely corrupt and 21% felt that medical and health services were corrupt or extremely corrupt.

In short, over one fifth of respondents believed that parents in Thailand could not send their children to school or to hospital without facing corruption.

[32%] might be inflated because of the recent news of people cheating on the national teacher admissions test. This gives people a bad perception of the Thai education system," he said.

"Apart from the teacher admissions test scandal, I do not see any other problems that can be considered as corruption in the education system," he added.

Regardless, Mr Anurak called on all Education Department

officers to be transparent in their affairs as a personal responsibility in order to combat the perception of being corrupt.

"Each official must be held accountable for their work and everyone must be transparent – especially education staff," he said.

He added that his officers carry out random checks to ensure staff do not take advantage of their positions.

"We regularly check up on our officers, this is especially so when equipment is being purchased. I believe we have been doing great work to keep Phuket's educational system free from corruption," he said.

"However, every department has bad people, and I urge anyone who sees any corrupt activities in Phuket's education system to report it to us at 076-211591," Mr Anurak said.

HEALTH AND WEALTH

Phuket Provincial Health Office Director Bancha Kakong, likewise, sees corruption in the Health Ministry as a national issue, not a local one.

"I think Phuket plays a very small part in the 21% who believe that the Thai health ministry is corrupt. I believe we have a great system to check up on corruption," Dr Bancha said, without elaborating what measures are in place to curb corruption in his office.

SCHOOL'S OUT

Anurak Rungrueng, Acting Director of the Phuket Primary Education Area Office (PPEAO), and hence the chief administrator of all government schools in Phuket and the neighboring provinces, does not believe one third of a sample population accusing the education system of being corrupt constitutes a problem.

"I don't think the education system is that corrupt. This number

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an eye on corruption

"Where cheating can exist in Phuket is with the bidding for health ministry projects, but this is more about construction companies securing contracts and then passing on the work to another company to complete the project at a cheaper cost," Dr Banacha explained.

POLICE

While Phuket's top health and education officials are willing to dismiss corruption as a non-issue, the police – the worst-rated institution in the survey – recognized that corruption does exist in Phuket and that work still needs to be done to root out the culprits.

"I cannot deny there is a problem concerning police corruption across Thailand, including Phuket," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee.

"In Phuket, there are some lower-level officers who are involved in corruption. However, we are getting rid of them," said Col Arun.

"The Royal Thai Police is a big organization – there are more than 200,000 police officers across the country – so it is not easy to check up on all of the officers, but we



try to have our own officers investigate crooked police and we punish them in accordance with the law," he added (see page 3).

Col Arun believes that public perception may play a large part in such a high number of people (71%) believing that the police are corrupt or very corrupt.

"The nature of police work is

to arrest bad people and have them locked up. People do not like police when they are suddenly involved in their lives.

"This is so not only in Thailand; other countries have the same problem as well," he explained.

"However, we cannot blame the poll or people. We need to take a good look at ourselves to make

sure we are doing enough to gain the trust of the people, instead of making them fear or hate us," he said.

PAY DIRT

Among the top suggestions for combating corruption among the ranks of civil servants, according

to the World Bank and Transparency International, is to raise base salaries.

According to the Royal Thai Police Act BE 2554 (2011), a senior-ranking officer of the rank Colonel, usually indicating the officer is at least a police station superintendent, receives a starting salary of 18,910 baht a month.

A Sergeant Major, however, is to be paid a meager starting salary of 9,850 baht a month.

Col Arun believes that raising police salaries any further would have only a limited effect in reducing corruption among police in Phuket.

"Increasing police salaries might help stop some corruption, but lower-level officers would not gain much if their salaries were raised. The point is, regardless of rank, police officers should not receive any dirty money," he said.

"We need everyone to help us check up on police officers on the island and report any illegal activities to us," Col Arun urged.

"There are more than a thousand police officers stationed in Phuket. There must be some bad police in our force... We will investigate and get rid of them," he said.

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QUEER news

Monkey business on campaign trail



Who to choose? Photo: Law Keven

INVESTIGATORS in Songkhla puzzled over the murky identity of vandals who were destroying election campaign posters for the province's upcoming Provincial Administration Organization elections.

Some of the posters had been pulled down and ripped to shreds.

Unscrupulous political agents? Disgruntled voters? In fact, the culprits turned out to be far more devious: a crowd of monkeys living in the jungles of two nearby hills.

After posters belonging to both candidates in the tight race were found to have been destroyed, both parties complained to the local Election Commission (EC).

EC officials went to investigate.

When they arrived at the scene of destruction, it was clear who the culprits were. Casually sitting on and around the wooden poster frames were about 100 macaques, both adults and juveniles.

The Election Commission called off its investigation.

— *Manager Online*

Rights Commission silent on Rohingya shootings

THAILAND'S Human Rights Commission (HRC) told the *Gazette* on July 11 that they were "unable to report" on their own investigation into reports of Royal Thai Navy sailors opening fire on a boatload of Rohingya, allegedly killing at least two of the refugees, in February.

The news comes four months after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra promised the international press that the allegations would be investigated.

"We cannot reveal anything about the

investigation," said Ketsarin Tiawsakul, director of the HRC's human rights infringement investigation office.

"For now, we have nothing to say. We will release information to the public as soon as we can," she added.

According to a report by the international agency Human Rights Watch, Royal Thai Navy sailors opened fire on the Rohingya off the Phang Nga coast, after several of the refugees panicked and jumped ship.

At least two of the refugees were shot dead,

said some reports, while other reports quoted eye-witnesses saying as many as 25 refugees were killed in the incident.

Two bodies were pulled from the sea in the same area at about the same time as the alleged shootings, but neither their identities nor the cause of death could be established.

Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan, who is responsible for all naval operations along the Andaman coast, denied the shootings to Australia's ABC News. — *Phuket Gazette*

Jealous lover stabs himself

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A 19-YEAR-OLD man charged for assisting in the attack on Vorasit "Pla wan" Issara last year was found bleeding heavily in his Phuket Town room on July 14 after he reportedly stabbed himself in the leg in a fit of jealous rage.

Police arrived at the scene at about 3:50am to find Narubet "Goh" Tesnork leaning against a bed, smeared in blood.

The officers were alerted to his condition after his girlfriend, Waraporn Boonreungsri, 29, called to explain that he had stabbed himself repeatedly in the leg.

"His face was pale and he was bleeding from stab wounds to his leg," said Rachan Phunwai of the Phuket City Police.

"Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers rushed him to Vachira Phuket Hospital," Capt Rachan said.

Ms Waraporn told police that Mr Narubet found a message from another man on her mobile phone,



Mr Narubet hurt himself, not his girlfriend, when he feared she would leave him. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

which was the catalyst for a fight between the couple.

"He thought I was going to leave him for the other man," Ms Waraporn told police. "He was so

angry, but he didn't want to hurt me, so he started stabbing himself."

Officers confirmed that Mr Narubet was one of eight suspects charged for the attack on Pla Wan

Issara, managing director of the Sri Panwa resort and son of Thai construction magnate Songkran Issara, at the Rachada pub in Phun Phol on January 4, 2012.

Drunk rams truck, survives

A MAN charged for drunk driving survived slamming into the door of a parked 18-wheeler before dawn on July 15.

Rescue workers found Nattapol Kansol, 44, with a bloodied face next to his motorbike about 500 meters south of Tesco Lotus Thalang on Thepkasattri Road.

Witnesses said Mr Nattapol was driving in a drunken way before the accident, said Sub Lt Yongyuth Pechnuam of the Thalang police.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



Mr Nattapol at the scene.

Tip-off leads to bullets but no firearms



Mr Suwat had bullets but no gun. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A TIP-OFF led police to catch a man illegally in possession of over 50 rounds of ammunition for multiple types of handguns. Police found no guns in the July 14 raid on his house.

Phuket City Police secured a search warrant for the house of Suwat Saramas, 30, after receiving information that he was in illegal possession of firearms.

Over 50 rounds of ammunition were found in a backpack, said Capt Tawan Lakmas, but police could find no guns.

Mr Suwat was charged with illegal possession of ammunition.

— *Irfan Jamdukor*

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Debt takes fatal toll

By Saran Mitrarat

A SPATE of debt-related deaths has prompted the Phuket Social Development and Human Security office to make a public appeal for any persons suffering deep anguish over debt to call the Health Office hotline 1667.

The appeal follows the death of 28-year-old Dussadee Ngoy-phutorn, from Sakon Nakhon, last week. Police believe Ms Dussadee committed suicide due to the stress of overwhelming debt.

Local residents spotted her body in a lagoon behind Phuket Rajabhat University at 7:20am on July 11.

Ms Dussadee, owner of the My Mint beauty salon in Samkong, Phuket Town, was last seen standing and crying by the side of the lagoon before dawn.

"A local resident rode past and saw Ms Dussadee crying near the pond at about 4am," Phuket City Police Capt Rachan Phunwai told the *Gazette*.

"However, when he rode back about an hour later, she wasn't there. Only her purse and some tissues were left near the pond," he added. "Inside her purse, all we found were cosmetics and a debit card," Capt Rachan said.

Police investigating the case discovered that Ms Dussadee had money problems. One of her



Divers prepare to recover Ms Dussadee's body. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

neighbors told police, "She had not paid her rent, electric or water bills for months. Her rent was due again today [July 11]."

"Yesterday, her shop was closed. Last month, a neighbor saw her throwing belongings around inside her shop. Apparently she shouted, 'Take whatever you want, I will go kill myself'," Capt Rachan said.

The number of people in Phuket facing difficulty repaying debts is on the rise, said Human Security officer Tawatchai Hassama.

The day after Ms Dussadee's

fatal plunge, Wichit Police arrested a mother for selling her daughter for sex. Debt was identified as the instigator for the crime.

On June 30, a 52-year-old ice cream vendor - Chinda Kasiraksa, a known family man - was found hanged at his home in Baan Don, Thalang. His death was attributed to suicide instigated by depression over heavy debts.

"More people have been calling us recently about debt problems," said Mr Tawatchai.

He urged any persons who have problems repaying loans to

seek help. "If you have debts with a bank that you cannot repay, you should contact the bank directly..."

"If you owe money to a loan shark and can't pay it back, contact the police or the DSI [Department of Special Investigation]," he said.

The Human Security office also provides help for the destitute.

"We can give around 2,000 baht per case, not more than three times per fiscal year," he said.

Those who would like to apply for the money should visit his office with Thai ID card and house registration documents. Officials conduct an interview and a house inspection to confirm that the money is genuinely needed.

"We can help people who don't have enough money to buy food, who have many children or elderly people to take care of, or those with a fatally ill family member or whose head of household has died," he explained.

"We grant money case by case, but we have been able to help almost everyone who has contacted us recently," he said.

Anyone who needs help or knows someone who does may contact the Phuket Social Development and Human Security office at 076-240414 or 076-212726.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong



CCTV footage showed the man stuffing the panties into his jeans.

Knicker nicker caught on CCTV pocketing panties

POLICE are sniffing out the trail of a chronic underwear thief who was caught on CCTV stealing over 20 pairs of drying panties from a Phuket Town apartment complex.

Somsak Somjai, owner of Chaloemlarp Apartment, set up CCTV cameras after repeated complaints from tenants.

"On July 2 at about 9pm, the cameras captured a man, about 25 to 35 years old, arriving on a motorbike and pretending to be talking on his mobile phone," he told police last Thursday.

CCTV footage then shows the man walking to the back of the apartment where clothes are drying. Still talking on the phone he starts stealing the underwear - stuffing them into the front of his pants and his pockets.

"Now we know the face of the suspect, we are searching for him," vowed Phuket City Police case investigator Porntip Chumsri.

- Thawit Bilabduar

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The snagged fishing hook.

Sea turtle saved by hook removal

THE Phuket office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) rescued an Olive Ridley sea turtle with a large fishing hook penetrating one of its flippers on Monday.

"A fisherman near Lone Island notified us that there was an injured sea turtle that needed our help, as it had been pierced by a fishhook," Phuket DMCR chief Thanate Manno said.

DMCR officers took a boat to the area, and after locating the turtle were able to transfer it to the DMCR's Endangered Species Unit at Cape Panwa.

"The veterinarian was able to safely remove the fishhook," Mr Thanate said.

The turtle, weighing about 29 kilograms, is now under close observation while it is recovering, he added.

Phuket's sea turtles face multiple threats and their numbers have been severely depleted in recent years.

Commercial fishing kills thousands of them every year. Many more die from eating or becoming trapped in plastic debris littering the ocean, others are entangled in fishing nets and hit by speedboats, Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who heads the Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center, explained last year.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Volunteer divers take the plunge for reef recovery

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

LOCAL marine conservation group Go Eco Phuket launched two dive boats on July 12 in an emergency procedure to remove a fishing net at one of Phuket's top dive destinations, Shark Point.

At a Go Eco Phuket meeting two weeks ago, in preparation for the group's annual massive reef and beach cleanup, local dive company Sea Bees revealed video footage of two large fishing nets draped across pinnacle three of the dive site.

Knowing that the net would cause serious, lasting harm to the reef, Go Eco Phuket organized about 25 dive volunteers from over a dozen dive companies.

"We've got to keep places like Shark Point healthy because, as it has been reported in the media, the degradation of Thailand's coral reefs nationwide is a problem now. We need to hang on to what we've got," Go Eco Phuket organizer Kerry Leach said.

To support the initiative, Similan Queen Diving Center and Sea Bees volunteered their dive boats for the day, providing free air, Nitrox and food for volunteers.

However, to the group's surprise the amount of netting pulled from the reef was significantly less than was seen in the video.

Go Eco Phuket organizer Narong Chaimo explained that it was very likely that the fishing boat had returned to reclaim as much of the net as possible due to its value.

Nonetheless, dive teams made a second dive on the site to search for more nets. During the dive,



Go Eco Phuket volunteer divers untangle the fishing net from corals on pinnacle three of Shark Point.

volunteers spotted several fishing traps, said Vince Moy of Kiwidiver.

"The most detrimental part of having fishing cages so close to the reefs is that the reefs are the breeding grounds for the fish. If you don't leave the breeding grounds intact, the small fish don't become big fish and there are no more big fish in the sea," said Mr Moy.

"You'll find that if the breeding grounds are left alone, the regions around those areas have more plentiful and bigger fish," Mr Moy explained. "We all have to eat, so

it's just a very difficult balance between feeding mouths and [preserving] nature."

Some of the debris uncovered by Mr Moy's team was left in the ocean as an artificial reef.

"It was an old fishing cage that had collapsed in on itself. It was no longer acting as a trap for the fish and the cage had effectively become an artificial reef... so it was better to leave it in the water than take it out," Mr Moy said.

Thomas Schray, one of the Sea Bees' staff members that captured the net on film, was pleased with the final results of the day.

"I'm really glad that it happened so fast... We were all very sad that we found it [the net], because Shark Point is such a wonderful, stunning reef. But the reaction we got from our boss gave us a very good feeling," Mr Schray said.

Despite having been beaten to the majority of the lost net, Mr Narong and Ms Leach felt that the project was a success.

"It has highlighted the problem. We need to let people know this [fishing in the marine national park] is going on," Ms Kerry said.

Fishermen need to keep their distance from the reef, she said.

Severe coral damage spurs DNP to limit diver tourists to Phi Phi Island

CORAL reefs at the popular marine national park that covers the famous Phi Phi Islands near Phuket have reached a severe level of degradation due to bleaching, a senior government official revealed on July 11.

"Bleaching has affected up to 70 per cent of the coral reefs around Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park. Of the affected corals, 47.52 per cent have died," a senior government official disclosed at an academic seminar.

The state of the coral reefs at Mu Koh Lanta National Park, another popular dive destination for Phuket tourists, is even worse, with up to 80 per cent in poor condition.

"Now, only 17 per cent of the corals are alive," Songtam Suksawang, who heads the National Parks and Protected Area Innovation Institute said.



A piece of ghost white bleached coral from 2010. Photo: Gazette file

The survey also revealed that the size of living corals along Mu Koh Surin National Park had shrunk by 70 to 90 per cent, while those along Mu Koh Similan National Park had shrunk by about 40 to 50 per cent.

His institute conducted the survey between 2009 and 2013 across seven marine national parks and works under the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and

Plant Conservation (DNP), which hosted the seminar.

Coral bleaching emerged as a serious threat to Thailand's marine resources around 2010 and 2011, prompting the DNP to shut down at least 10 diving sites to prevent further damage.

Mr Songtam said there were signs that reefs in previously shut down diving spots such as Hin Klang at Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park had recovered satisfactorily.

"Now, we plan to propose that the number of tourists is limited at each spot," he said.

Meanwhile, DNP chief Manopas Hua-mueangkaeo said the number of visitors to national parks had risen by 8.2 per cent last year. This year, the DNP plans to open marine national parks to tourists from October 15.

— *The Nation*

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DSI to tackle taxi mafia

Russian operators to bear brunt of company ownership probe

By Orawin Narabal

A Department of Special Investigation (DSI) task force will arrive in Phuket next week to carry out raids and arrest illegal taxi drivers and foreign business operators found breaking the law.

The officers, expected to arrive on Thursday for a two-day campaign, will target taxi drivers at Phuket International Airport and businesses suspected of using Thai nominees.

The news follows Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak last Wednesday visiting the DSI's headquarters in Bangkok in person to seek assistance in curtailing what he called "mafia gangs" operating on the island.

Minister Somsak also specifically identified Russians as a target group who hired Thais as nominees to run restaurants, souvenir shops, and beach-bed rental services that had exploited tourists.

"We have been gathering information for some time," DSI chief



A traffic police officer snares an illegal taxi driver at Phuket Airport in a previous crackdown. Photo: Gazette file

Tarit Pengdith explained to the press on Wednesday.

"We have found that in some cases, the mafia gangs have even barred ambulances from picking up patients at hotels. The patients were made to take only unlicensed-taxi rides when they want to leave some hotels," he said.

Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special

Crime Unit 3, told the *Gazette* that Minister Somsak and DSI officers will begin by targeting illegal taxi drivers on July 25.

"We received complaints from foreign tourists and some embassies that many illegal taxi drivers at the airport take advantage of tourists by forcing them to use their taxis and overcharging them," he said.

"We will also call in officers from the relevant organizations to assist in following up on illegal foreign businesses using Thai nominees. We will hold a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Thursday... The day after that, we will raid illegal foreign-owned businesses," Col Somboon said.

Additional reporting by *The Nation*

Heroin lands Chin, police search for En

A MAN trying to avoid a police checkpoint in Chalong late on Monday night was caught by police and arrested for possession of heroin.

Mr Chin in custody.

"We signaled a man to pull over, but he turned his bike around and tried to ride away," said Chalong Police Lt Phansak Chaithong.

"When we searched him we found two bags of heroin weighing about 700 milligrams in his motorbike basket. We also found drug-taking paraphernalia – a glass bottle and needle," he added.

The rider, 28-year-old Burmese Chin So Min, told police he bought the heroin for 2,000 baht from a Mr En, a Burmese man in Wichit, Lt Phansak explained.

Mr Chin was charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic.

"We are looking for Mr En," Lt Phansak added.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



What would you spend 2.6 billion baht on? Image: Gazette Graphics

Blimp loses out to light-rail train

IN RESPONSE to the 2.6 billion baht that remains unaccounted for after Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi last month confirmed that Phuket will not be bestowed an International Convention and Exhibition Center "unless they vote for Pheu Thai" – readers of the *Phuket Gazette* have opted to have a light-rail system built instead.

The latest *Gazette* online poll asked readers: "For Phuket, what would you spend 2.6bn baht on if it were sitting in your living room in cash, shrink-wrapped, and ready for delivery?"

Overall, 44.2% of respondents voted for a light-rail system.

Thai nationals were the strongest supporters of the idea, with more than half of them voting for it. Local foreign residents and

tourists – all apparently seeing the advantages of the system – joined the call, making it their top choice also.

Setting up extensive, effective environmental protection measures placed second, garnering 31.9% of votes.

The environment-protection option saw the greatest amount of support from local foreign residents, with about 35% of the field making the choice. Close behind were tourists, voting at 29%.

However, the option was able to amass only 16% of Thai nationals' votes.

The choice to install island-wide CCTV systems and boost Phuket's police force received significantly lower support from all groups, collecting only 10.5% of votes.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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Ms Nontiya, 18, was one of the 71 who have died this year from Dengue in Thailand. Photo: The Nation

Thailand Dengue infections almost 70,000; 71 dead

ALMOST 70,000 people have caught dengue fever in Thailand so far this year, with the death toll hitting 71.

The Public Health Ministry has vowed to stop the spread of the Aedes mosquito that carries the disease, *The Nation* reported.

"I have instructed all provincial public-health chiefs to closely monitor the operations to eradicate mosquito larvae at schools and hospitals," Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong said.

Mr Pradit planned to write to ask the permanent secretaries for education and interior for their cooperation in eradicating the disease.

"Our surveys have found that more than 10 per cent of containers with stagnant water at home and schools had mosquito larvae in them," he said.

In the latest fatality, an 18-year-old engineering student in Khon Kaen died of the disease after developing complications.

Nontiya Puwanont, 18, was transferred to Srinagarind Hospital on the night of July 9. She died days later.

Hospital Director Dr Charnchai Panthongviriyakul said her death was unusual given that less than 1 per cent of dengue infections result in fatalities.

BRN promises attack-free Ramadan in Deep South

THE Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), the insurgent group in talks with the Thai government to end the nine-year conflict in the Deep South, has agreed to observe a ceasefire over a 40-day period including most of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Thai authorities are divided over whether the move represents a positive new phase in negotiations or is a ploy by the insurgent side to regroup while making an apparent goodwill gesture.

It is also far from clear whether the BRN has the power to control other insurgent groups not under its direct command.

On July 13 the BRN announced that it would "try its best" not to conduct attacks over the 40 days from July 10 to August 18, which covers the rest of this year's Ramadan fasting period of July 8 to August 7, *The Nation* reported.

The areas to be free from violence are Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and five districts in Songkhla, said Samsamin Bin Hazim, chief facilitator for the Malaysian government, which has hosted three official meetings between Thai officials and BRN members.

For their part, the Thai authorities have agreed to scale down raids and security blockades.

To reciprocate, the BRN will not resort to violent acts, including armed attacks, bombs or ambushes on officials or civilians.

The agreement was received warmly by many residents of the troubled region. Nimu Makajae, a highly respected imam in Yala, said he was pleased that the two sides had reached an agreement during the holy month.



A group of Muslim women gather to pray during Ramadan in the Deep South. Photo: The Nation



Nevertheless, Mr Nimu was among many observers to express skepticism over whether the BRN had the authority to force all Deep South insurgents to stop fighting.

"We will have to wait and see if we can really have peace as they have announced," he said.

On the second day of Ramadan, eight soldiers were slightly wounded in a roadside bomb attack in Yala's Raman District.

National Security Council secretary-general Paradorn Pattanabutr said the BRN acknowledged that the bomb planted by a railroad in Raman in Yala on July 11 was the work of insur-

gents opposed to the peace talks.

Sources said security officials were taken by surprise when they heard the BRN would announce a break in violence, since Thailand had refused to accept its demands put forward on two occasions.

Although Pattani Senator Anusart Suwanmongkol welcomed the truce, he expressed concern that violence may increase after Ramadan, as it had intensified before the period began.

'Millionaire monk' defrocked

LUANG Pu Nenkham, the millionaire monk accused of a string of improprieties since a video surfaced of him travelling in a private jet last month, has been defrocked and is now back to using his original name: Wirapol Sukpol.

Mr Wirapol, who is believed to be living in the US, has emptied his 41 bank accounts of around 300 million baht, *The Nation* reported.

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has said a warrant for the arrest of the former monk will be issued and officials will look into all donations to his temple to see if money laundering has been going on.

Investigators from the Narcotics Control Board and the Anti-Money Laundering Office will also check the former monk's relations with major donors to see if the money was handed over for merit-making purposes.

Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul has said his ministry is ready to revoke Mr



Defrocked monk, Wirapol Sukpol (left), is wanted for rape. Image: YouTube

Wirapol's passport as soon as they receive an official request from monastic authorities.

As well as alleged money laundering, the ex-monk is also wanted for the alleged rape of an underaged girl, with whom he reportedly fathered a child.

The woman claimed to have

had a sexual relationship with Mr Wirapol from the time she was 14 until they had the child, now an 11-year-old boy.

Tarit Pengdit, the DSI chief, said there was a high chance Mr Wirapol would be extradited as the offenses he was accused of were serious in many countries.

Neighbors cash in on failing Thai rice pledging scheme

HIDDEN in 18-wheeler trucks, carts and pickup vans, hundreds of thousands of tonnes of rice are being smuggled from Cambodia and Myanmar into Thailand, although the country holds enough stocks to meet half the world's annual trade in the commodity.

A program to support prices has led to the government paying its farmers almost double prevailing prices in Cambodia and Myanmar. Farmers and traders in the neighboring countries are trying to take advantage, sending their grain across the border to be sold into the intervention scheme.

The equivalent of 750,000 tonnes of milled rice is being smuggled into Thailand a year, mainly from Cambodia and Myanmar, according to estimates of analysts and traders who have studied the illicit shipments.

"No one can differentiate which one is Thai rice and which one is



Thai farmer dries rice. Photo: Reuters

Cambodian rice. That makes it easy to smuggle rice in and make a profit by selling it to the government," said Kiattisak Kalayasirivat, managing director at Thai trader Novel Agritrade.

The quality of the rice in its warehouses has also dropped because most of the smuggled grain is broken rice, which is then blended with full-grain Thai rice.

— Reuters

Philippine peace

Historic agreement may end 40-year bloody conflict in Mindanao

By Ryan D. Rosaura

A RECORD six days of negotiations and a grueling 12-hour session on the last day of talks resulted in the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) hammering out a consensus on wealth sharing from operations on the southern island of Mindanao.

The deal brokered has drawn high praise from the international community, signalling that an end may finally be in the works to the 40-year conflict that has cost more than 120,000 lives.

The deal, enshrined in an Annex to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) brokered last October, would fulfill the aspirations for meaningful autonomy for Muslim Mindanao that was envisioned in the Constitution," said government chief negotiator Miriam Coronel-Ferrer.

"It will correct the flaws in the current fiscal system in the ARMM [Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao]," she explained.

As part of the deal, the area will be renamed Bangsamoro, named after the Muslims, or "Moros", who live in the southern region.

Earlier, MILF chief negotiator



Soldiers of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) cheer to the news of the historic peace deal. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

Mohagher Iqbal told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* MILF gave the negotiations for the Annex particular attention "because the resources

under the disposal of the future Bangsamoro will give real meaning to its political autonomy."

"Fiscal autonomy goes hand in hand with political autonomy," he stressed.

Central to the deal is that 75 per cent of "Central Government taxes, fees and charges collected in the Bangsamoro, other than tariff and custom duties" will go to the Bangsamoro Government, includ-

ing the shares of the component local governments. The rest goes to the central government.

The deal makes it more likely the two sides will end a decades-old conflict. A final peace agreement with the 12,000-strong MILF could be signed after the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which will conclude at the end of July, said Ferrer.

— *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

In brief...

Myanmar disbands suspect military Rakhine state unit

MYANMAR president Thein Sein has disbanded a security force accused of rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State, the scene of deadly violence between Muslims and majority Buddhists over the past year.

President Thein Sein, in the UK this past week, announced the news in a one-line statement dated July 12, but posted on his website on July 14.

The border security force, known as Nasaka, consists of officers from the police, military, customs and immigration.

— *Reuters*

Cop charged with double murder, faces death penalty

A SINGAPOREAN policeman has been charged with the brutal slaying of car workshop owner Tan Boon Sin, 66, and his 42-year-old son, businessman Tan Chee Heong.

Sgt Iskandar Rahmat, 34, a 14-year veteran of the force, made a two-minute courtroom appearance on Monday, during which the charges were read out.

Sgt Rahmat faces the death penalty if convicted.

— *The Straits Times*



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In brief...

Mexico captures leader of brutal Zetas drug cartel

THE Mexican government said on Monday that it had captured the brutal leader of the Zetas drug cartel in an early-morning raid, marking the biggest victory for President Enrique Peña Nieto in his fight against gang violence.

Marines arrested Miguel Angel Trevino, aka Z-40, after intercepting his pickup truck with a helicopter a few kilometers from his home town of Nuevo Laredo on the US border, government spokesman Eduardo Sanchez said in Mexico City.

Australia plans to link carbon tax to European rates

AUSTRALIA'S government moved on Tuesday to scrap its carbon tax and bring forward an emissions trading scheme in a policy shift to win over voters, angry over rising power costs, before an election expected within weeks.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said he wants the fixed price on carbon emissions to end on June 30, 2014. A floating carbon price, or emissions trading scheme (ETS) that will be linked to the European carbon market, will start the following day, a year earlier than planned.

On current prices, the shift would see the cost of carbon permits fall, saving big businesses billions of dollars in carbon costs.

Panama detains N Korean ship over weapons

PANAMA has detained a North Korean-flagged ship coming from Cuba as it approached the Panama Canal with undeclared weapons, President Ricardo Martinelli said.

Martinelli said the captain of the vessel tried to commit suicide after the ship was stopped. Panamanian authorities have detained some 35 crew members.

Seven dead as police and anti-army protesters clash in Egypt

SEVEN people were killed and more than 260 wounded when supporters of Mohamed Mursi clashed with the deposed president's opponents and security forces through the night as violence returned to Egypt's streets.

Two people were killed at a bridge in central Cairo where police and anti-Mursi locals clashed with some of his supporters who were blocking a route across the River Nile. Another five were killed in the Cairo district of Giza, said the head of emergency services, Mohamed Sultan.

The street battles, which raged into the early

hours of Tuesday morning, were the bloodiest since more than 50 Mursi supporters were killed a week ago. The violence overshadows attempts by the authorities to press on with a transition to full civilian rule by naming a new cabinet after the army pushed Mursi, an Islamist, out of power on July 3.

By sunrise calm had returned. The unrest is more localized than in the days after Mursi was toppled when 92 people died, but Egyptians still worry about the authorities' ability to restore order nearly two weeks after Mursi's removal.



Protesters flee tear gas. Photo: Reuters

"I've had enough of this chaos," said Ashraf Mohamed, who watched the clashes from a distance. — Reuters

Over 250 suspects caught in sexual predator sweep

By Deborah Charles

AUTHORITIES have arrested 255 alleged child predators in the United States and eight other countries in an operation led by a US agency that illustrated a growing trend called "sextortion" in which children are blackmailed into providing pornographic images of themselves, officials said on Monday.

The month-long Operation iGuardian in June, led by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, is part of a larger effort to identify and rescue victims of online sexual exploitation and arrest their abusers as well as others who own, trade and produce images of child pornography, officials said.

"In many instances, the abusers take advantage of a sexual image the child divulges in a chat room or over a text to force the child to continue to produce darker and more pornographic images on threat of broader disclosures of the images over the internet," ICE Director John Morton said.

From May 28 to June 30, the agency also identified 61 victims of child sexual exploitation in the United States, Canada, Indonesia and the Netherlands, officials said.

"The sexual abuse and exploitation of children over the internet is a pervasive and growing problem," Mr Morton said. "Far too many children are abused by



ICE Director John Morton (left). Photo: US Department of Homeland Security



sexual predators and then repeatedly re-abused through the online exchange of the underlying photographs and videos of their exploitation."

Mr Morton pointed to the "dis-

turbing trend" of sextortion, which occurs when child abusers coerce or trick children – typically teenagers – into sending them pornographic images of themselves. Mr Morton said the practice has been increasing in recent years.

He said sextortion has been on the rise over the past few years and can involve a large number of victims being blackmailed or extorted by one individual.

In addition to 244 arrests made in the United States, 11 other

people were arrested in Brazil, Canada, Israel, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand. ICE worked with local law enforcement authorities in those countries to catch the suspects, officials said.

Mr Morton said 17 of those arrested held positions of trust, including nine teachers and three clergy members.

Investigators pointed to the case of a 25-year-old former high school cheerleading coach from Caguas, Puerto Rico. He was arrested on June 4 after police in Colorado discovered he was allegedly blackmailing a 17-year-old girl he met online in an anonymous internet video chat website.

Investigators estimate that there are more than 80 other potential victims of the accused man who remain unidentified.

"The internet allows child pornographers to abuse on a sophisticated and international scale," Mr Morton said.

Among the 255 alleged child abusers arrested in Operation iGuardian, 20 were involved in online solicitation, including two large sextortion investigations, the agency said.

Federal officials have launched a new educational program across the country aimed at showing children and parents the risks children face online and how to report abuse.

— Reuters

Northern Ireland violence continues

PROTESTANT youths hurled petrol bombs at police in Northern Ireland, wounding at least 27 officers in a fourth night of protests over restrictions on traditional marches, as the White House expressed "deep concern" about the violence.

The regional parliament, recalled from its summer recess, was due to meet on Tuesday to discuss ways of restoring order.

Police said they responded with water cannon and at least one baton round in Belfast. Protests and other incidents were reported in at least five other towns across the British province.

Thousands of pro-British Prot-



Loyalist protesters climb onto police vehicles. Photo: Reuters

estants march every summer, a regular flashpoint for sectarian violence as Catholics, many of whom favor unification with Ireland, see the parades as a provocation.

Protestant marchers, unhappy

because authorities ruled they could not walk along a stretch of road that divides the two communities, started throwing bricks and bottles on Friday.

US Vice President Joe Biden expressed his "deep concern" about the violence during a phone call with Northern Ireland's leaders on Monday, the White House said.

The police service called on the regional parliament to help end the clashes.

"Today is a day for calming words and a renewed commitment from the Assembly to finding political solutions," the force's chief constable Matt Baggott said.

— Reuters

Thousands denounce verdict of Zimmerman 'race' trial

THOUSANDS of demonstrators demanding "Justice for Trayvon" marched in major cities across the United States on Sunday to protest the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin.

While a jury of six women absolved Mr Zimmerman of any crime with their not-guilty verdict, civil rights leaders decried the decision, and demonstrators took to the streets in New York, Boston, San Francisco and other cities.

US President Barack Obama

called for a peaceful response to the case that has polarized the US public over the past 16 months.

Defense lawyers argued that Mr Martin, 17, attacked Mr Zimmerman, who shot the teen in self-defense. Prosecutors said Mr Zimmerman, 29, who is white and Hispanic, wrongly suspected Martin of being a criminal because he was black. — Reuters



Mr Zimmerman

Laguna golf upgrade underway

LAGUNA Phuket Golf Club has begun a comprehensive upgrade of its 18-hole golf course to ensure its continued competitiveness as a world class golfing facility.

The entire project is estimated to take a maximum of 18 months to complete, with the upgraded course scheduled for full operation by January 1, 2015.

The 18-hole course has been reduced to nine holes, with members and guests currently having access to the existing front nine holes which can be played twice for a full round.

When the back nine holes upgrade is complete the procedure will be reversed and the back nine made available for play while the front nine are upgraded.

Assistant Director of Golf Paul Wilson, who is overseeing the upgrade said that the project, first envisioned in 2008, was put on hold due to the global financial crisis, but that now was the ideal time undertake the upgrade.

"The mandate we were given was to bring it up to international standards. When we hosted the Thailand Open in 2007, it was a very successful event and it went down well with players and the fans – so that's the potential of the course.

"We need to get the course back up to that standard to compete internationally with some of the courses that have come up since Laguna opened. You have a very competitive market in Thailand with Hua Hin, Pattaya, Phuket and Bangkok, so we need to get back up to be the top end [in Thailand].

Mr Wilson said the upgrade will be a complete overhaul of the courses irrigation and drainage system as well as tweaking the layout of the course to make it more

interesting for players.

"Over recent years the combination of age, drainage, soil structure and contamination of grasses has affected the overall quality of our playing surfaces," said Mr Wilson.

This project will see significant investments made to improve tee box areas, bunkers, green complexes, practice facilities, drainage, irrigation and all playing surfaces."

"We want to spice up the layout of the course a little bit, to create a bit more movement in the fairways with a little bit of contouring and grading which will also help with drainage. We will also raise the green profiles, just to create a bit more interest and to diversify a bit.

Water efficiency of the course, will also be greatly increased, creating long term water savings from 30 to 40 per cent. Mr Wilson also said the upgrade will also improve the overall experience for players and make play flow more smoothly.

"The big change is that the nines will swap around, the new first tee will be much more accessible from the practice facilities and the 18th hole will finish right in front of the club house. It will be a more seamless operation and the guests will no doubt have a better experience because of it."

Mr Wilson said they will be offering reduced green fees and spa packages to compensate members and regulars during the upgrade.

"We want people to know that we have still got nine holes available and although

PROPERTY
Gazette

it's not the 18-hole course it was, at the moment, it's still very pleasant to get out there, and you can do a nine and combine it with a spa."

The club is offering Thai and expat golfers cut-price green fees of 1,600 baht for 18 holes during the current low season – which is less than half the usual cost. There is also a range of great value golf and spa packages on offer..

"On our sport day on Wednesday it drops to 1,300 baht. That is so cheap, it's just crazy cheap for what we've got.

"Sure you play the same nine twice but it's got its own little charm in a way, because if you have a bad hole you've got a chance to make up for it, and correct what you did wrong the first time."

– *Phuket Gazette*



Laguna's Assistant Director of Golf Paul Wilson



UPGRADE: The entire 18-hole course at Laguna will receive a complete upgrade to improve its irrigation and drainage functionality as well as an improved layout. Photo: Laguna Golf Club

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SPECTACULAR: The breathtaking view from the new Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa

Hideaway above Patong

A NEW luxury 5-star hotel concept by Avista, the Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa in Patong Bay is located on Patong Hill close to Tri Trang beach.

The new hotel will build on the island's reputation for high-end tourism and its strong economic base.

The contemporary ultra-luxury property is set on a peaceful hill, and designed in a style that echoes traditional temples and village blended with contemporary styles, featuring a Welcome Court decorated by a mirror that reflects morning and evening sunlight to create an attractive and soothing welcome for guests.

The hotel's other highlight will be the breathtaking views of the sea from its vantage point on a lush tropical hill, creating a beautiful and peaceful environment for guests to enjoy their holiday.

Rames Khendry, the resort's Hospitality Investment CEO

told the *Gazette*: "We found that Phuket is a popular destination in the high end tourism market and we try to promote Phuket to a more exclusive type of traveller by showing them that Phuket is an amazing and fabulous island."



A luxuriously decorated pool suit

"With our concept of Thai contemporary, we aim to provide the best experience in Phuket for our guests and much more than just a relaxing holiday."

"In fact, it is important to mention that Avista Hotel is not located off Patong Beach, but still just three kilometers to Patong's shopping or entertainment area, so our guest's holiday will be more relaxed and private with the two fantastic views of the peaceful hill and beautiful Andaman Sea. The location is perfect for guests who are seeking something special."

"We want guests to enjoy themselves with all the facilities that we have on offer. We have three different pools, a kid's activity area, a virtual golf simulator and two luxurious spa experiences including an authentic Thai spa and an *Ayurvedic* treatment from India, which is increasingly popular in Phuket. We also offer a weekly treatment program for guests."

"When the guests come here, they will feel fully refreshed and enjoy services such as a 24-



The Thai contemporary design of Avista's Welcome Court. Photos: Avista

hour private butler, massages and spa treatments.

"We call this our 'anytime anywhere' service. All you need to do is call our hotline number and ask our staff to take care of your request," Rames Khendry added.

The Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa Phuket features 150 guest rooms, including Pool

suites and Jacuzzi suites, and all rooms feature lavish in-room facilities and cutting-edge technology. There are three different swimming pools – all with bars, a family games room and special touches like sleep therapy offered by the property's experts, which is ideal for stressed executives.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Real estate firm enters Myanmar

COLLIERS International has become the first international real estate services company to open an office in Myanmar.

"We see huge potential in the country, with many of our clients seeking new opportunities in what is arguably the last major frontier market in the region," CEO Piers Brunner said yesterday.

"It is important for us to have the operation in place in order to assist our clients as they expand their business or real estate portfolio in Myanmar."

Colliers now operates 39 offices in 14 countries throughout Asia. The new office will be opened in Yangon.

Tony Picon, the head of research at the Bangkok office, has been appointed as managing director for the firm's Myanmar operations. He began to focus on Myanmar real estate two years ago and moved to

Yangon last year.

"He has the knowledge and expertise to help our clients understand Myanmar's property market," Brunner said.



GROWING: Yangon's skyline. Photo: Soe Lin

Colliers' *Yangon Property Market Report*, published in 2011, is still recognized as the only extensive real estate research report in the country.

Myanmar offers great opportunities, but also significant challenges. Office rents are now passing US\$100 (3,100 baht) per

square meter per month, making them among the highest in Southeast Asia. The cost of Yangon office space now rivals that of Hong Kong and Singapore. Quality apartments are also hard to find and hotel rates are rising.

"Myanmar has remained more or less isolated for the past 60 years, and there are gaps in services here."

"It is therefore important for us as a service provider to manage expectations, and align the interests of local businesses and foreign companies that want to invest in the country," Picon said.

Colliers wants to become part of the development of the local community and Myanmar. Its extensive training programs will help equip local staff to deliver quality services and operate to international standards, he said.

Colliers International has over 13,500 professionals operating out of more than 482 offices in 62 countries.

– *The Nation*

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Ensuring land claims are legit

Current Land Department property registration issues affecting foreigners

IN THE last three to four weeks, some changes occurred in the application process and consequently the approval of registration for companies to purchase land, long term land leases, usufruct, superficies and/or lifetime living rights for foreigners.

Depending on which land office one is applying for registration of certain rights, the current handling of such registration is not the same, even between different land offices in the same province.

For example, companies having foreign shareholder(s) and/or director(s) might be refused to take ownership of land. Long term land leases with automatic or optional extension rights mentioned in such cases are currently generally refused to be registered. Usufruct and/or superficies or lifetime usage rights agreements are also refused to be recorded at many land offices.

These changes of handling the registration process comes from the accused foreign control in properties in Thailand and any person that wishes to register such agreements or companies to purchase land will have to give evidence and proof that there is no foreigner behind the purchase of land and /or a hidden nominee situation from Thai Nationals (Natural or Juristic persons) holding land on a foreigner's behalf.

It is solely the land officers decision to allow or not allow such registration if a nomi-

Property Legal By International Law Office

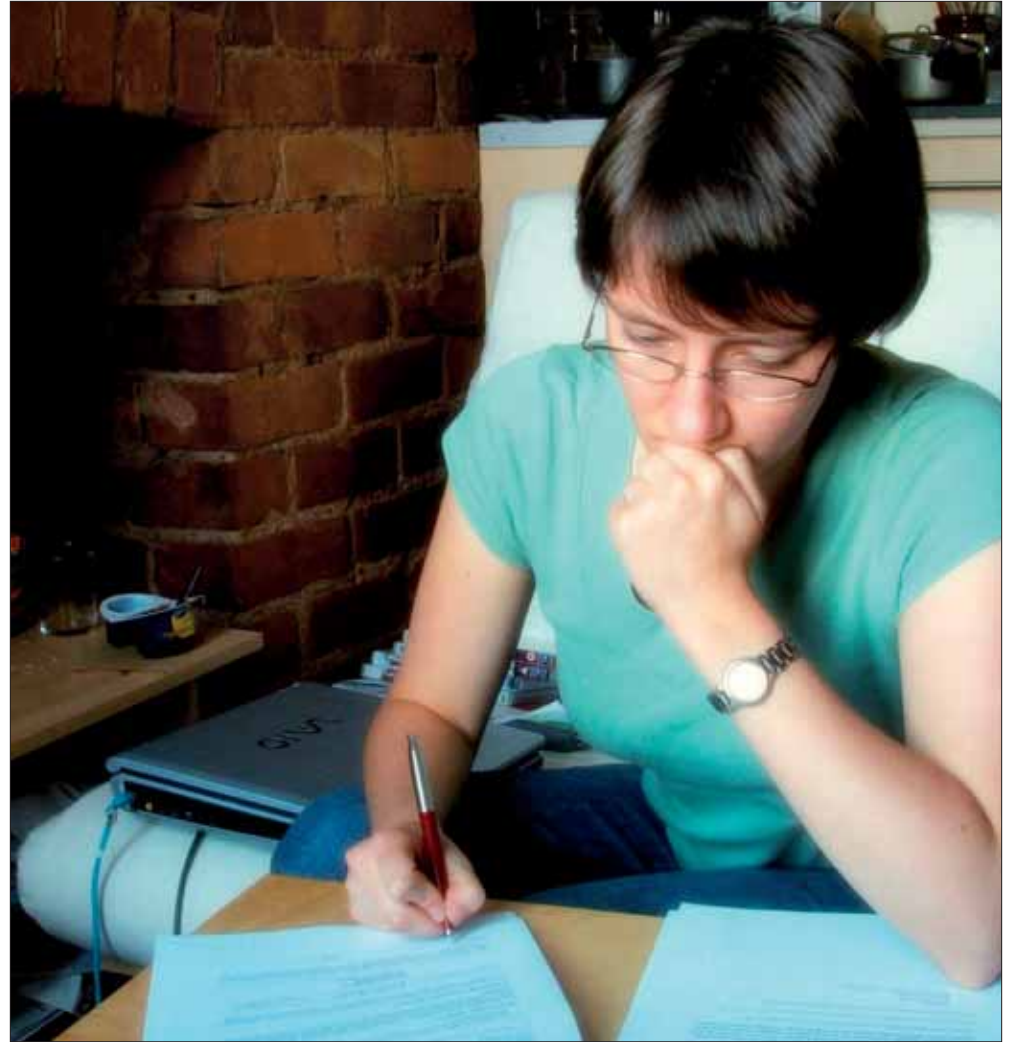
nee situation is alleged.

Therefore, the most important thing to know before entering into any such agreements is ultimately the decision from the land officer who is in charge of recording such agreements, if and under which circumstances such will allow the registration of your rights against the land title deed, as without such, any agreement signed will not be binding to third parties.

Naturally, as a foreigner, one does not have such problems on the purchase of a condominium (unit) and consequently the registration of such in the name of a foreigner – as long as the necessary 49 % total foreign ownership on the privately used portion of the condominium is not exceeded, and the evidence of payments are made as requested by the land office.

Showing the Foreign Exchange form or other evidence, the Juristic Condo Management does provide the list of foreign held percentage in the condominium and provides a letter certifying that such unit does not owe any fees to the Juristic Condo Management, the title is free from encumbrances and not frozen by any court order.

This article was written by the International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., since 1995 a Phuket based law firm. In case of enquiries, please contact Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma, Senior Partner and Consultant, by email: sam@ilo-phuket.com or phone +66-(0) 76-222 191-5.



READ BETWEEN THE LINES: A contract will not be honored in all circumstances. Photo: Skittledog

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SEA, SUN... SANSIRI: An artist's impression of the development's rooftop view upon completion in 2015.

Sea-view condo in the heart of Patong

Project aimed at premium holiday home segment

SANSIRI this week unveiled their latest Phuket medium-rise project – “THE DECK”, a brand-new condominium to be built in the heart of Patong, setting its sights on Phuket’s holiday home market.

Speaking at the project’s media-launch event, Mr Uthai Uthaisangsuk, Senior Vice President for Business and Condominium Project Development, Sansiri PCL, revealed that: “THE DECK Condominium has been created in response to the huge demand and high growth rates of the holiday-home market in Phuket, which is in part due to the desirability of the location and the growing worldwide popularity of Phuket as a tourist destination.

“To meet the holiday-home market potential, Sansiri has developed and launched a grand condominium project which

includes fully-furnished units featuring a large common area and high-standard amenities, situated right in the center of this most desirable location for both Thais and foreigners alike.”

“Phuket is a proven world-

the world, Patong is the top beach location, which is famed for its unique characteristics: both the spectacular beach and the proximity to a range of entertainment and dining venues. THE DECK condominium project will fulfill the desires for relaxation of our target customers, and is perfect for investment with [annual] rental returns being as high as 7-8%.”

THE DECK condominium project will be built on a 5-0-45-rai land plot on the north end of Rat-U-Thit 200 Years Road, the same road that runs in front of Jungceylon Shopping Complex. The development will comprise two 7-storey buildings with a total of 270 units.

With units priced between 2.9 to 11.4 million baht, dwelling areas will range from 29 to 75 square meters. They include Studio type (29-38sqm); One-bedroom (40.5-50.5sqm) and Two-



New Jaguars will be roaring into the Phuket showroom.

famous tourist destination and the most renowned location for holiday-home seekers in Asia, and welcomes more and more tourists to the Island every year. Attracting tourists from all over



EXECUTIVE EXPERTISE: Sansiri's Uthai Uthaisangsuk is confident that Phuket's premium holiday-home makers' market will continue to expand.



PATONG'S PRIVATE PARADISE: The 270-unit development will offer investors and homemakers a little piece of peace amid a bustling neighborhood.

Bedroom, 63-75sqm).

The project will be equipped with two state-of-the-art swimming pools, including one on the upper deck overlooking the western sea-view, and another one on a lower level which incorporates a jacuzzi, a fitness center, and a sauna room.

The lobby of the project will feature both an indoor area and a pleasant outdoor area interlinking the two buildings. Other first-rate amenities include a large recreational area with a BBQ terrace section, Wi-Fi Internet covering the area from the lobby to the swimming pool, and the project will be protected by 24-hour

security and CCTV.

THE DECK is only a five-minute stroll to Patong Beach and 10 minutes to the noted shopping and leisure venue of Jungceylon. To add to the investment attraction of the project, Sansiri also offers “Rental for the Holidays” service for unit owners who wish to earn income from their property.

With construction scheduled to begin by early next year, the development will be ready to occupy by mid-2015. Show units are available now at the Sales Gallery.

– *Infinity Communications*

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New Pruksa aims for all

PRUKSA Real Estate's restructured management team aims to focus on all market segments and maintain business growth of at least 25% a year, chief executive officer Thongma Vajitpongpan said.

He said Lursuk Chuladesa, former director-general of Government Savings Bank, had been appointed as the company's executive vice president and chief operating officer, effective on July 12.

Under a revised management structure, the company believes it will be able to become a leader of the property market in Thailand and in the top 10 in Asia. At present the company ranks 25th in the Asia market, Thongma said.

One goal is to boost presales to 100 billion baht by 2017, he said. This year, Pruksa has raised its presale target from 34bn baht to 42bn baht after the company reported presales of 22bn baht in the first half.

“We believe that the market will growth by at least 7% this year,” Thongma said.

Lursak said he would use his experience from the banking sector to keep business growth sustainable in the long term by focusing on the real sector rather than the speculator market.

“I also will use our experience in the banking sector to manage business risk for the long term and support our management team to drive growth in all market segments,” he said.

– *The Nation*

A love, loom affair with China



CHINA SYNDROME: It may only be a matter of time before Phuket is dealing with the same urban issues that Chinese cities like Shanghai (above) are dealing with. Photo: Slice of Light

OFTEN, one of the last interview questions to scientists or economic strategists is the ominous, almost motherly line: "What keeps you awake at night?". In most cases the answer is obtuse and rarely what they call in submarine talk, a direct hit.

In my own personal version of "Groundhog Day" [the blockbuster hit starring Bill Murray] – over and over again I see stories in the global business press about China's fairly imminent flat line trajectory and I find it pretty disturbing. No need to turn on the Discovery Channel for those loony doomsday prophets, when we have the real live monster in a box just outside the door trying to get in.

Maybe the Mayans had it right, except perhaps the guy at the top got things slightly off kilter by a year. We all know it's easy to throw in a number or two, and I'm not sure if espresso was available at the time? Sure there were those magical green leaves from South America that you could chew till your nickname changed to "night train" but regardless – is 2013 the year where the entire house falls down?

The conspiracy theories are starting to make more and more sense. Looking at natural resource-rich Asia-Pacific countries such as Australia and Indonesia, who have



Last Call

By Bill Barnett

pumped an infinite amount of product into the great mass of China Inc. In turn, personal and corporate

wealth have prospered along with tourism and real estate. A total state of economic bliss has spread the rays of sunshine across our modern day Oz.

While the politburo of power have been warning for sometime that things might be shifting from boil to a slow simmer, consumption and debt across the region have taken on the breezy feeling back last felt in the summer of love in 1995 or 1996. Even Asian currencies have created superhero alter egos and boosted their own value up, up and away.

As is often the case, many pundits are pointing to the US as the villain in this drama. When not reading our emails or SMS's, the US government has been busy easing the post GFC monetary stimulus drive. Capital which fled to Asia is now having buyer's remorse and much of the market liquidity is shrinking. At risk is mounting inflation, and now we are seeing rapid gyrations on currency trends.

We all know how the non-stop party ethos ends, stressed and frayed at the edges – it makes you just want to crawl under the covers and sleep the day away. But the blan-



PONDERING PROPHECIES: Maybe the Mayan's got it wrong and 2013 is the end of the world.

ket is so heavy with mountains of debt. Forget small little mounds, we are way high up in the Alps, with only the sound of tinkering goat bells off in the distance.

Phuket, like everywhere else in the world, is heavily invested in the jackrabbit pace of the present. Tourism and property are important economic indicators for the island and despite the love-hate relationship with China, the boom of the past few years and its pattern of sustained growth has been driven directly or indirectly to a great extent by our big brother up to the north.

If you did believe everything you hear, read or learn secondhand from the news you'd never get to sleep. That's where the walking dead or zombies come into play. Or even the Twilight thing, which I can't quite seem to get my head around. Of course, I also have a hard time coming to grips with Harry Potter

but let's leave that for another time.

Baby, the world is about to end is what the news seems to be saying or shall we soften the blow with a nice little ditty like "lead indicators seem to say we are headed into a rapid nosedive." Yes, there is of course hope, despite the fact that the Maldives or even southern parts of Rawai are about to disappear due to global warming. I wish Yao Ming was still in the NBA as he'd surely rise to the Chinese cause.

Yet the rise and fall of tides, be they economic, political, or natural, can be unpredictable, volatile and trade faces from friend to foe. I have enough trouble sleeping at my age without the weight of the global economy on my shoulders. If I can just find a blanket big enough maybe the entire mess will just disappear – well, for a few short hours at the very least.

Free investment seminar for expats in Phuket



Avoid ending up in a stalemate in your retirement. Photo: Dennis Wong

A FREE investment seminar focusing on portfolio management for expats living off the interest produced through their ventures will be held on July 25 at Loch Palm Golf Club.

The seminar is being organized by one of the longest standing financial consultancies in Thailand, Montpelier (Thailand) Ltd.

Leading the seminar for Montpelier Wealth Management will be Ron Keyte, who has over

14 years of experience in financial consulting in the UK and is now working as a consultant.

Though the seminar will focus mostly on portfolio management, it will also examine effective transfers of UK pensions to QROPS (Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme); tax free off-shore investments for expats; inheritance tax planning; tax planning; and investing for income and growth, Mr Keyte told the *Gazette*.

"If there are retired people here paying taxes on investments in Europe and Australia, they could avoid those taxes through offshore investments," Mr Keyte said, clearly targeting a portion of investors currently retired in Phuket.

Montpelier has had a presence in Thailand for over 16 years, from the merger of Montpelier Group and Expatriate Financial Services. The international brokerage has found an import niche market by specializing

in the financial affairs of expatriates and international investors.

It is the largest privately owned financial intermediary in Asia and has over 19,000 clients globally, including many expat residents who are currently "non-domiciled".

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

Those interested in reserving a seat at the event can contact Mr Keyte by phone at 087-417 8715 or email: Rkeyte@montpeliergroup.com.

Thailand to burn more garbage in its push away from fossil fuels

THAILAND has raised its target for its non-fossil fuel energy sources to increase to 13.9 gigawatts from 9.2GW currently, under the revised Alternative Energy Development Plan (2012-2021).

The National Energy Policy Council endorsed the revised targets, with wind power to 1GW, solar power to 3GW from 2GW, biomass to 4.8GW from 3.6GW, garbage to 400 megawatts from 160MW, biogas to 3.6GW from

600MW and hydropower to 324MW from 1.6GW.

The council also approved the Energy Ministry's proposal to offer a 25-year feed-in tariff (FIT) to sellers of solar rooftop power until next year. The rates will be 6.69 baht per unit for household rooftops with lower than 10-kilowatt capacity; 6.55 baht for SMEs producing 10-250KW and 6.16 baht for mid-sized and large factories producing 250-1,000KW. This incentive will add



GREY: Garbage is one of Thailand's prized alternative energy sources.

50 satang per unit to electricity bills. – The Nation

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Steering clear of dire straits

THE recent discovery and subsequent removal of a large fishing net from the well-known dive site Shark Point (see page 8) is just the latest in a long series of indicators that the marine environment off Phuket is in dire straits.

Government researchers at the National Parks and Protected Area Innovation Institute told a recent seminar that coral bleaching had affected as much as 70 per cent of coral inside Phi Phi National Park. The institute's research, conducted between 2009 and 2013, painted similarly bleak pictures of other Marine National Parks (see page 8) in the region.

Mankind's understanding of the sea has increased in leaps and bounds over the past century. New technologies allow us to accurately map the seafloor, navigate through the foggiest of conditions and do so many other things mariners 100 years ago would never have dreamed possible.

We have also made huge progress in understanding marine life. One international effort involving over 80 nations, The Census of Marine Life, is engaged in a 10-year scientific initiative to assess the diversity, distribution and abundance of all life in the oceans – from bacteria to the Giant Squid.

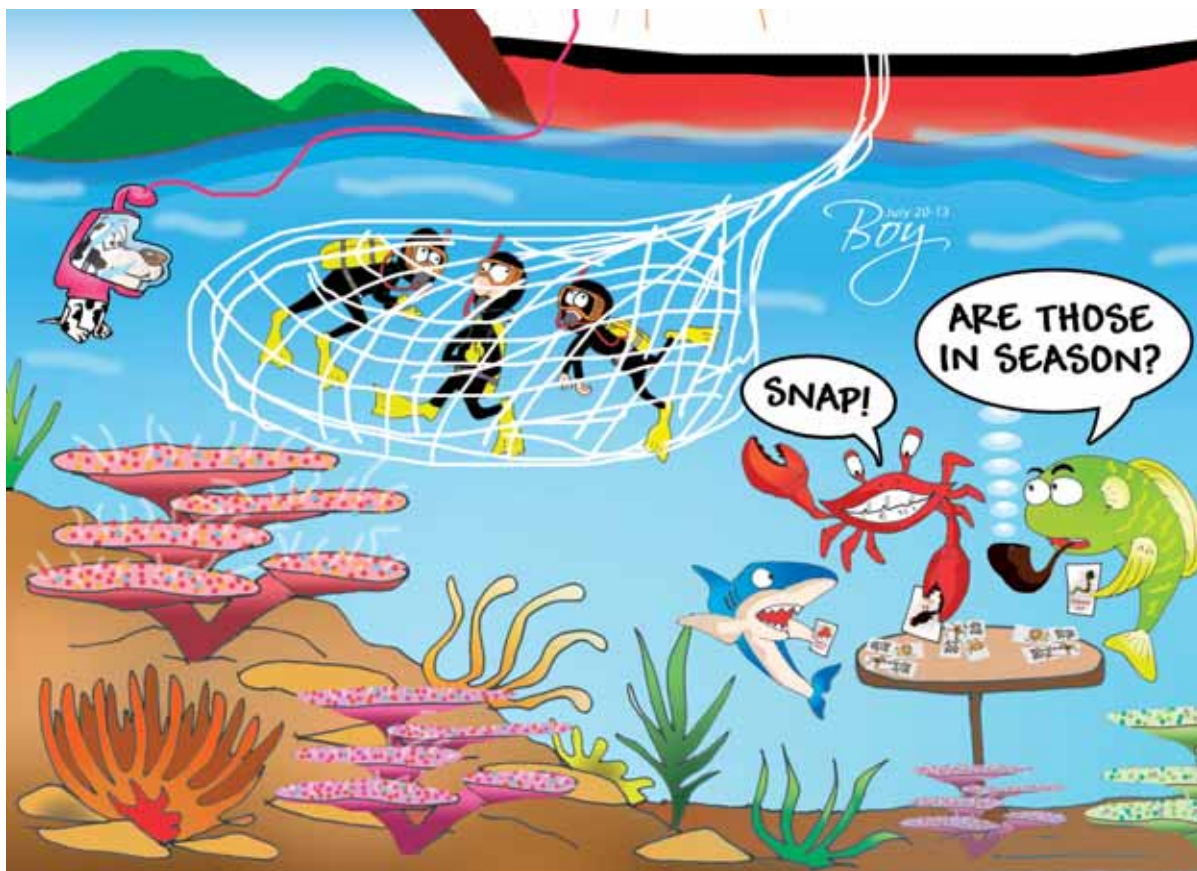
Sadly, all of these amazing tools and technologies have not helped much to prevent the continued degradation of the marine environment in many parts of the world; in fact, technology is probably speeding up the problem, rather than helping prevent it.

Improved mass-production techniques allow us to produce ever more, but increased production means more waste, and one of the many indicators that we have gone too far is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a huge gyre of pelagic debris, much of it plastic, that covers an area double the size of the continental United States by some estimates.

When it comes to marine environmental protection issues on Thailand's Andaman coast, lots of finger-pointing goes on. Fishermen blame divers, and vice versa. Exotic fish collectors and smugglers also play a role, as do some corrupt officials who look the other way. In the few cases when arrests are made, the inevitable excuse is: "everybody's gotta eat".

Authorities assigned to protect our seas from illegal fishing and other damaging practices point out the colossal scale of the task compared with their meager budgets, equipment and human resources. Who can blame them? If police cannot enforce traffic laws here on land, who could reasonably expect them to do better out at sea?

It is possible to better protect our seas, but the key to success has to involve a real change in public perception about personal responsibility and the environment. Sadly, Thailand and its Asean neighbors are lagging far behind most developed countries in this regard.



Circle's the way to go at Chalong

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Chalong underpass: six routes diverge in chaos and I choose... eh, um, err.... July 13

A roundabout would seem to be the most sensible solution, land permitting. Driving in Jersey (Channel Islands) many years ago the roundabout system worked very well.

The Road Traffic Law provided for alternate traffic access from converging roads. The police were always on hand at the major roundabouts to explain and offer friendly advice to any offenders... and then courteously and politely fine them on the spot, complete with a valid receipt! Car rental companies were obliged to provide an explanatory leaflet to tourists.

In conclusion: the traffic flowed freely in all directions. The police income in Jersey from fines was not enormous as most drivers obeyed the law. But the police income in Phuket from fines would be enormous as most drivers ignore the law.

Amazed in Thailand
Gazette forum

Clear thinking and straight talking

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Keeping Chinese tourists safe by certifying more guides, July 14

Just pure common sense, untainted by the usual local reluctance to confront reality.

Thank you, Khun Chaifu, for standing tall on this.

Art Anderson
Gazette forum

Asking for news of deceased surfer

Re: Gazette online, American surfer dies in Phuket, July 9

We are Mark's good friends in New Jersey. If you know anything about what happened, we would

Letters to the Editor

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

appreciate any information. We are devastated by this.

Send any information to coopsully@aol.com. Thanks. Mark loved Thailand. We'll miss you my good friend.

Adrienne Coppola
Gazette forum

The choice is hers

Re: Gazette online, Police: case of missing Phuket woman romantic, not criminal, July 10

It would appear this young lady does not want to go home. Surely she can choose who she wants to be with. She is after all 29 and an adult!

Perhaps she just needs to contact police and advise them she is fine and not in any danger. Hopefully, that is the case.

Let her live her life and be happy.

Ozmisty
Gazette forum

Protect cows too

Re: Gazette online, Save a life, get a friend, July 14

I understand [your concern for these dogs] and totally agree that something should be done to help these animals.

We must not forget, though, that it is not only dogs but other animals as well that we need to care for. We cannot feel the pain of the torture of a dog and yet at the same time sit at the table enjoying a fat steak.

Cows are animals too. Some people have helped by not eating meat at all.

Harry
Gazette forum

Taking comfort in a photo of strangers

Re: Gazette online, Swiss man breaks leg in fall from motorcycle, July 12

I love this picture. The simple placing of a hand by someone from a different culture reaching out to comfort someone who probably needed just exactly that.

Zim
Gazette forum

Tackling trash one topic at a time

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Waste 101 – Dousing the burning issue, July 11

I so agree that something has to be done. I still have a few kilos of empty batteries at my house.

Recycling did not happen overnight in Europe. Back in the '80s, it started with collecting batteries in designated containers at public buildings. Then the supermarkets no longer gave plastic bags to customers, but instead charged 5 baht per bag.

Step by step.

Tinkerbell
Gazette forum

DSI scammers have got the perfect con

Re: Gazette online, DSI denounces con artists' use of department name to squeeze criminals for 'protection money', July 13

No illegal staff, no illegal items: no threat. Actually, it's a very good scheme: No shop with illegal goods/staff can point the 'illegal DSI' to the legal DSI. Perfect.

But I wonder why only illegal DSI are able to find these shops so easily.

A friend
Gazette forum

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Our environment down the drain

FIRST PERSON

OUR office has recently received many complaints from local people about environmental problems. This is good news. It means everybody knows the importance of the environment, what pollution and environmental dangers are, and they know about us. We are the department tasked with protecting the environment.

The heavy rain we have had in Phuket recently has flushed out all the canals and the wastewater that has been pumped into them. Nature has ways of helping us deal with our waste. But one thing is for sure – the wastewater will be back if we don't take steps to prevent it.

When people talk about wastewater, they tend to think of factories, hotels and restaurants, but they nearly always forget about themselves.

Every business, in order to be issued a building permit, must have as part of its plans a wastewater-treatment system. Depend-

ing on the type of business, this could be anything from septic tanks to industrial waste-treatment facilities – but it must have a system and it must be installed.

Although the law requires that all buildings, including residential buildings, have wastewater systems installed to treat toilet



Pornsri Suthanarak, 50, is the director of the Phuket Environmental Office. She has a PhD in environmental engineering from Florida International University, and was formerly the director of the Environmental Quality and Laboratory Division at the Pollution Control Department in Bangkok.

Here, she explains how all of us can help to protect the environment by making inexpensive changes at home.

wastewater before it is emptied into a public waterway, there are no laws regulating how the average householder disposes of greywater down household sinks.

As there are no such regulations for houses, all we can do is offer suggestions as to what we think would be best for the homeowner to install.

Phuket has a lot more houses than businesses, which means that most wastewater pollution is actually created by residents, not businesses. I think people forget this.

Also, out of sight is out of mind. Not every neighborhood in Phuket has a canal running through it, so the government installs sewers underground to carry wastewater from houses to

the nearest waterway.

This means most people don't even think about where their wastewater goes except for those living right beside the canal. Those people are constantly exposed to a foul stench and the risk of disease.

One thing people can do to help protect the environment from sink greywater is install a grease trap. Installing a household grease trap is not expensive.

Depending on the type installed, it can cost 700 to 3,000 baht. This is very cheap when we consider that we are helping to save the environment.

Our office can show you how to set up a grease trap for households of five to 10 people that you can build yourself. The trap is made with a large plastic bin and a few pipes and is not expensive.

If you want us to show you how to make your own grease trap, call our office at 076-219329 or 076-219415, Monday to Friday, between 8:30am and 4pm.



A homemade, cheap grease trap.
Photo: Pollution Control Department



Thai-style 7-Elevens outdo their western counterparts. Photo: nist6dh

Can't live without it

LOVE it or hate it, the local 7-Eleven has become an integral part of daily life for most people living in urban Thailand.

From its humble beginnings in 1920s Dallas, Texas, where ice factory employee John Jefferson Green began selling milk, eggs and bread from an improvised store in front of the factory, it has grown to be the largest franchise operator in the world with over 50,000 stores. It seems to have found the perfect niche here in Thailand, with some 7,000 stores, surpassed in number only by the US and Japan.

So what is it that makes them so popular? Well, in a word, convenience. Where else can you grab a quick cheap bite to eat, withdraw some money from the ATM, pay a bill, top up your phone credit, buy a few beers and a copy of the paper in under five minutes, all in air conditioned comfort?

Well, nowhere else really, and that's the recipe for their popularity. But, before you accuse me of leading the cheer squad for this westernized shopping experience that has so rapidly encroached on Thai life, it's important to remember some of the ways the 7-Eleven experience has been "Thai-ified".

Firstly, the prices. Items at 7-Eleven are reasonably priced, unlike in the West where "convenience" is factored into the cost at an astonishingly high rate, often making items twice as expensive as those in a large

Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

supermarket. This points to the Thai eye for value and a good bargain. If 7-Eleven set their prices too high, no one would go.

Secondly, more often than not, the stores serve as a gathering point for local vendors, where they can set up their stalls with free lighting and the promise of a constant flow of foot traffic – so rather than completely nudging out local traders, a symbiotic relationship is often formed.

Thirdly, they function as a sort of all-hours banking service. There is almost always an ATM, bills of all sorts can be paid in one spot and you can reliably break a 1,000-baht note at any time of the day or night. They are also one of the only places you can consistently find a rubbish bin in a country sorely lacking public bins.

So despite the valid criticisms of the high-calorie, low-nutrition food they purvey, and their smothering of small mom-and-pop stores, it seems certain that they are here to stay. And if the decrepit soi dog that sleeps right in the doorway of my local store has any say in it, there are some things about Thailand that even 7-Eleven will never change.

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

Sit, roll over, breed

I have been looking for a breeder for Thai Ridgeback dogs for a while, but can't find anyone in Phuket or nearby. Can you help me find a breeder for this dog?

Kalle Thalang

Kiattisak Vichit, purebred Thai Ridgeback dog owner, replies:

I have purebred award-winning Thai Ridgeback dogs that I am willing to breed with tame female dogs.

You can come to my kennel at Koh Keaw, choose a dog, and then we can negotiate the cost.

I am also willing to sell or give away dogs to anyone who really loves and cares about them, and who lives in Phuket so I can visit them from time to time.

For more information, please visit us at 11/10 Moo 4 Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Keaw, or call us at 081-8934143.

How to dump garbage on your own land

Why is it acceptable to dump rubbish, rubble and old building waste along the road and in the countryside?

If you turn off from Route 4027 onto Route 4003, heading towards Cape Yamu, a large area on your left is now flattened and spoilt by rubbish being dumped there. It has had a gate and fence placed there recently, but I still see trucks open it and dump more rubbish.

More worrying is the recent dumping of rubble over the edge of the road leading down to Cape Yamu – brickwork, concrete and broken building rubbish, dropped right by people's houses, along the roadside and in the ditches.

How can this be stopped and cleaned up?

Brent Cowey
Phuket

Amornrat Paojumroon, Chief of Pa Khlok Municipality's Public Health and Environment Department, replies:

Thank you for your report. We drove along Route 4003 and found only the second garbage-dumping area that you mentioned. What we saw matches the photos you sent us.

This area is private land and the

owner has the right to dump rubbish there as long as it does not pose a public or environmental health risk.

However, there are certain conditions he has to meet, and we contacted him to discuss these.

If he chooses to dump garbage on his land, he needs to put a fence around it. This will identify that the area is private, will keep the garbage from flying out into the road and will make it less unsightly.

If he doesn't want to put up a fence, he has seven days to remove the rubbish.

We will check the area again. If he doesn't do anything, we will require him to sign a legal agreement to solve the problem, and send him a warning letter.

If he still doesn't do anything, he will be fined following the Cleanli-

ness and Tidiness of the Country Act, BE 2533 (1992). The fine is set at the discretion of a committee tasked with considering his case, but will be over 2,000 baht.



Garbage at Yamu was not properly dumped. Photo: Brent Cowey

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

YOUR

Phuket

CELEBRATION FOR FRENCH NATIONAL DAY

AT ROYAL PHAVADEE VILLAGE



Mr Claude de Crissey gave the opening speech.



VIP guests were welcomed by Phawadee de Crissey (center); Natthita SiriBuranapong (left); Nattaporn Phanichphichetwong (2nd left); Thanaporn Tanthai (2nd right); and Maleeya Charoenkit (right).



From left: Punnaporn Eamso Guinault, The Guide Phuket; Gilles Bassi, Xtrem Adventures Phuket; Rohn-Napa Kanjanayothee, Charter President and Advisor Lion Club Patong.



Another couple enjoying the evening, Christophe and Manassavinee Gestin.

LEARN TO SWIM

Kamala School students had a "Learn to Swim" session at Thanypura's world class facilities, with the help of some highly trained lifeguards. This was part of Thanypura's CSR program to support Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, the organizer of the Coconut Club program.



BIS SUMMER CAMP

AT ANTHEM



BIS students on summer camp all agreed: "We are having so much fun learning to wakeboard at Anthem Wakepark this summer, this is one experience we will never forget."

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PROPERTY of the week



See page 23

JOB of the week

The PARADISE KOH YAO
Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

See page 26

WHEELS & MORTORS of the week

**FORTUNER
FOR SALE**

See page 30

BOAT of the week



See page 31

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

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House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

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**CONDO IN
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For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

NEW HOUSE

Selling a new house at Siri Village, Pa Khlok. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, garden and car park. 2 aircons, curtains and 1 furnished bedroom. Tel: 088-760 6083 (English & Thai). Email: theeighthcat@hotmail.com

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

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2,400sqm in Cherno Talay, Chanote title, gentle slope, highest point of Pasak 8, access via public dead-end road. Can be divided. Agents welcome. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924. Email: claudebaites@gmail.com

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**3 BEDROOMS,
CHALONG**

Land & Houses Park. Land: 260sqm. Furniture, garden, parking, 24hr security. Quick sale. Price: 2.9 million baht. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

**CONDO AT
ROYAL PLACE**

Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

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3 BEDROOMS
CHALONG (BK)

Fully furnished, 2 aircons, good location, long term only. Available on 30 July 2013. Contact Tina. Tel: 085-935 0095.

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA
FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, 4 showers. Close to town, BIS and KIS. 125,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 3628.

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.

THE DOME
RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE

At Destination Patong Hotel and Spa
3 highly visible retail units available
Starting from 100 SQM
Hotline 081-751 4676.
Email: rinnwarra.k@destinationpatong.com

2 SHOPHOUSES
FOR RENT

Low rent! Can make business on the ground floor. Huge 2nd floor, fully furnished as 2-bedroom apartment with separate stairs to go up. Big kitchen and living area. Rental includes furniture. Tel: 084-189 7696 (English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW
FOR RENT

Villa/penthouse, 3 and 4 bedrooms, pool, 4km to BIS, on top of private hill overlooking lake at Loch Palm Golf Course. Quiet, maid, WiFi, furnished. 1 year: 65,000-85,000 baht. Tel: 087-2 69 8492.

STUDIO APARTMENT
IN PATONG

Living room with kitchenette, separate bedroom and bathroom, aircon, UBC ready, free WiFi, quiet location, western standard, nicely furnished. 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

HOUSE NEAR LOCH
PALM GOLF COURSE

Newly built in Sabai Village, Kathu. 2 stories, 2 bedrooms & bathrooms, aircon in master room, kitchen, living room. 24 security.

Tel: 086-476 9612

KATA BEACH
OCEANFRONT APT

Luxury 5-star 1-bedroom apartment, pools, gardens, gym. Very quiet area. Available now for long term. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.katasala.com

Let us take your ad to the top
of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144,
086-4780201, 088-1685032

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work
because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads
in print every week, all published simultaneously
and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

The PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi Island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket.

Our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complemented by the yoga and wellbeing center.

We are looking for a highly motivated marketing expert to join our dynamic team with office location on Phuket.

PRODUCT MARKETING MANAGER

Coordinating with the various parties concerned for on-line / social media marketing, content management as well as local sales to yacht charter and event companies.

Key responsibilities:

- initiate / coordinate content management / benchmark competitors' analysis
- support marketing activities both online & offline
- coordinate social media positioning and marketing
- coordinate with 'online travel agent' OTAs for optimum performance
- track / manage online guest reviews
- plan / attend to local (Phuket) sales / PR
- coordinate graphic design work

Your background:

- at least Bachelor's Degree in marketing or equivalent relevance
- 1-2 years experience in similar assignment
- fluent in English/Thai
- independent, self-driven, creative, result-oriented personality
- Thai national or locally assimilated foreigner

Comprehensive remuneration / incentive package, we are looking for a high-powered, self-confident leader, send your resume with picture to

joeraess@theparadise.biz
www.TheParadise.biz or facebook/theparadise.biz

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer Service Agents needed for internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? 25K+ Per Month. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com For full details : www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

MARKETING & GUEST RELATIONS

ApexAsia Group are now recruiting for its marketing & guest relations department to work at one of three hotels in Patong and Karon. Enthusiastic and of smart appearance with good English (written/spoken). Full training will be provided, excellent earning potential. Email: Kevin Baker at kevin@apexasia.asia

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatttri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr a week, send resume to phuket teacher@yahoo.com

DRIVER 16,000+ , COOK 15,000+

Private villa. Thailand area. Thai national only. Basic English. Contact Todd. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

EVENT/PR MANAGER

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is looking for a Thai/foreign national. Successful candidate will have strong written and verbal English skills. Position can be full or part time, based in Patong. Tel: 076-346927. Fax: 076-346927. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

KINDERGARDEN IN CHALONG

Thai teacher and Thai cleaner needed. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with fluent written and spoken English. A lady that wants a challenge where rewards will be exciting. Good computer and social skills. Based out of Chalong. Tel: 080-695 3933. Email: Beachsando1@gmail.com

MAID / HOUSEKEEPER

Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/maid with good English and Thai speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

ASSISTANT CHEF & WAITRESS

ASSISTANT CHEF: must have experience. WAITRESS: must have experience and speak English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING MAID

Housekeeper required to look after 4-bedroom pool villa and family of 4 people (including 2 children). Located at Nai Thon Beach. Good salary, health insurance and benefits offered. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

GENERAL MANAGER WANTED

Thai national only. If you are not Thai, please do not apply. Bachelors Degree or equivalent. Or 7 years manager experience. Minimum 4 years in general manager experience. Excellent English skills (written and spoken). Must have ability to hold and control department meetings in English & Thai. Must be able to re-locate if necessary. Must hold a valid Thai driving license. Must have good translation skills. English to Thai, and Thai to English. Please apply by sending CV to liam@phuketfit.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

DRIVER WANTED

Speak some English. Full Thai driving licence. Good salary + bonus Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

PROMOTERS WANTED

Popular bar for young "Farangs" looking for dynamic people to do promotion. Residents and travelers welcome to apply. Tel: 081-958 5394 (English). Email: collinniemi@gmail.com

SALES STAFF WANTED

Can assist with visas & permits. All nationalities. No experience necessary but a good idea. Must be very well presented and enthusiastic. Minimum commissions paid 35% of property values sold! Visit www.farang-living.com/careers and send your CV.

RUSSIAN SALES CONSULTANT

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

WEB MASTER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Must speak/write English, coding and social media is an advantage. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English). Email: alyona@princessyachtsthai.com

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Thai citizen, aged 21-40, basic computer skills, good spoken English. Salary is 12,000 baht + big commissions on sales. Tel: 076-333079. 080-698 8335, 082-417 9299. Email: iphone.dez@gmail.com

CAN YOU COOK?

Personal villa chef required. Must have experience in international cuisine and fine dining. Open to all nationalities. Tel: 086-282 9449 (English). Send CV to emmajones38@hotmail.co.uk

MILLIE'S DAY/ NIGHT CARE

Looking for 2 teaching assistants/nannies. 1 cook/cleaner. Must speak English and enjoy working with children. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED

Native English speaking Customer Service Agents needed for Internet fashion retailer. work permit. high salary. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: rawai@me.com For full details visit: <http://bit.ly/ROWNBD>

BAR MANAGER & ACCOUNTS CLERK

Seeking an experienced Bar Manager. Must possess fluent English / Thai skills. Position based in Patong. Also seeking Accounting Clerk. Tel: 085-475 8030. (English). Email: brucebenjaminthomas@gmail.com

WANTED: DESIGNER, WEB MASTER

English speaking. Thai national with a good understanding of basic design and web technology. Full time job, call today. Tel: 076-239739, 086-690 0444 (English & Thai). Email: Rico@princessyachtsthai.com

URGENTLY REQUIRE

English teacher. Good salary. Tel: 081-957 6092. Email: help2009@hotmail.co.th

ENGLISH PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Oxford University educated construction manager seeking employment projects in Thailand & SE Asia. Tel: 082-809 3705 (English & Thai), +44-79-7953 8478. Email: grahamross06@aol.com

DETOX CONSULTANT WANTED

English speaking. Nutrition & Detox experience required. Will be trained by us. All nationalities may apply. Start immediately. Good salary + benefits. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Experience in villa management, guest relations, maintenance, housekeeping & staff supervision, own car with license, Thai only. Tel: 087-881 0003. Email: hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

What we are looking for is a great all-rounder as this job has multiple roles. You will need excellent computer skills to manage operations and you will be assisting with the sales and marketing activities of the company. Thai nationality 30 years old with an excellent command of English. University degree or proven experience. People management skills. Outgoing, committed and energetic. Prepared to work in Patong & travel across the island. Email: info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com Find out about us on www.newspaperdirect.com

WAITRESS WANTED

Thai national, English speaking, Kata Beach. Please call. Tel: 081-895 5852

CLEANER WANTED

Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: mayphu@hotmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

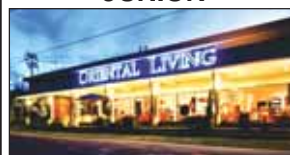
Thai male/female, 25-40 years old, fluent in English, good computer & communication skills, self motivated, background in marketing/real estate/travel agency is plus. Tel: 087-267 3747 (English). CV to helena@phuketabc.com

SALESPERSON WANTED

Must live permanently in Thailand and organise own residency status. Must speak fluent Thai and English. Must have experience selling food/alcohol to executive chefs and purchasing managers. Experienced in food service. Must have own car. Only people meeting all above criteria need apply. Please send resume to george_d@jagota.com

TEACHERS WANTED

We currently have the following job positions available: 1 x full - time English teacher, female under 35 years old, Degree + TEFL or CELTA. Must be from an N.E.S country: UK, USA, AUS, CD or NZ. 1 x part time English teacher, N.E.S. + SA, TEFL, male/female under 40 years old. 1 x part-time Russian teacher. English teacher applicants must be good with young students. Tel: 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR

We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

**Go Vacation Thailand™ and LTU Asia™**

is one of the leading inbound and airline ground handling agents in Thailand. We are part of one of the largest European trading groups, the REWE Group. Well-known overseas tour operators and airlines such as Meier's Weltreisen, DERTOUR, Emirates Holidays, Jahn Reisen, Aida Cruises, Airberlin Group, TUIfly, Novair, Virginblue and others, are our customers.

URGENTLY REQUIRED!!**Senior Accountant (Based in Phuket)****Qualifications:**

- Thai national, age preferably over 30
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- At least five years experience in preparation of monthly and yearly accounts closing
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good internal control concepts, and good accounting & administrative skills
- Able to lead and supervise accounting team (group of 5 people)
- Loyal, analytical skills, active, strong team spirit, willing to work hard
- Strong personality, and able to work with minimum supervision
- Computer literate in Microsoft Excel, Word, email, and internet

Accountant**Qualifications:**

- Thai national, minimum age 25
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- 3-5 years experience in tax accounting or general G/L accounting. Experience in airlines or tour business is advantageous
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Able to work under pressure to meet deadlines
- Able to work independently, hard-working, highly responsible, quick learner, and teamwork-oriented, ambitious, highly self motivated and results oriented.
- Good management, analytical, problem solving and leadership skills, service minded
- Good computer skills in MS office

Interested applicants shall send their curriculum vitae indicating their work experience, a recent photograph and the present and expected salary to: **Khun Thomas Berlin**

DER Asia Tours Co., Ltd

241/29 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, T. Patong A. Kathu Phuket 83150
Tel: 076-349964-9 | Fax: 076-349970
E-mail address: thomas.berlin@go-vacation.com

HEALTH FOOD COOK

Organize and control Health Food Kitchen. Thai national Only. Good English language skills required. Email: info@phuketfit.com

NEED COOK (FEMALE) URGENT

Female cook, breakfast, Thai food and Euro. Urgently needed. Contact me on my mobile (as above). Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

COFFEE & ICE CREAM

Vacancies: coffee shop assistant manager, baristas, waiters, bar assistants, experience and English. Tel: 086-276 4914.

Employment Wanted**REAL ESTATE REPS. NEEDED**

Phuket's Leading Agency is looking for new experienced property consultants. You should have an extensive sales background and knowledge of Phuket Island and its districts. High earnings is expected for top reps. Send your CV by email to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

Live in Town?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Nan: (076-255425)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET**!

Articles
For Sale

Business Opportunities

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

ENGLISH PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

Oxford University educated Construction Manager seeking employment projects in Thailand & SE Asia. Tel: +44-079-7953 8478 (English & Thai), 082-809 3705. Email: grahamross06@aol.com

SPORT BAR AND
GUESTHOUSE

Karon Beach. 9 en-suite rooms and laundry, bar equipped with pool table, 4 screens, kitchen. Tel: 085-795 0875.

RAWAI
BEACH HOTEL
PAY IN 10 YEARS

Selling for 15 million baht in 108 payments of 120,000 baht. Down payment: 2 million baht, 700sqm land, 12 bedrooms+2 shops, bar, beauty massage, 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

GOGO BAR /
NIGHTCLUB

For sale in Bang Tao. Needs slight alterations. Comes complete with kitchen and all furniture, website and marketing package. 1 million baht or nearest offer. No business like this within 20km. Fantastic business opportunity. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767. Email: woodlee1976@hotmail.co.uk

KARON
GUESTHOUSE
FOR SALE

Estimate 14 years old, Chanote title, 5 storeys, 12 rooms, laundry, sala, bar, net profit 2 million baht. Sale: 12 million baht. Owner retiring. No offers. Tel: 081-728 1862 (English), 081-370 8733 (Thai).

TOURIST SUBMARINE

A revolutionary underwater tourist activity partner, silent partner or investor wanted for this underwater tourist activity. The only one of its type in Thailand and ready to work in Phuket-Krabi area. Australian designed and built. Excellent returns. For more information and full prospectus, call 080-038 4916.

LAUNDRY FOR SALE

Professional machines, only 2 years old. Wash, dry, iron, roll iron. Reason for selling is expansion. Shophouse with 4 bedrooms. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English), 089-652 0975 (Thai). Email: peter@conceptfeeling.com

PATONG HOTEL
FOR LEASE

30-room hotel for lease. 160,000 baht monthly. Sale: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 092-374 8254 (English). Email: info@crlc.info

GUESTHOUSE KARON

5 luxury rooms. Cafe bar. Recently undergone a major refurb. 6-year lease contract (paid in full). Low rent. Excellent location. 2 minutes to Beach. 5.5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-891 9461.

GUESTHOUSE
CENTER OF PATONG

14-room guesthouse for sale in center of Patong Beach, 5 minutes from beach and 15 minutes from nightlife. Fully furnished, 1 apartment with 1 bedroom for accommodation and 2 shops for rent on ground floor. Tel: 076-290496, 083-526 4485 (English & Thai). Email: yohan_n@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH HOTEL
AND RESTAURANT

Built in 2009, near Simon Cabaret, 20 minutes walk to the beach. Fully equipped, 16 rooms. Key money 3.5 million baht. Monthly rent: 80,000 baht, long-term contract. Licenses for food, alcohol and tobacco. Training for web contracts and channel manager included. Contact Michael for viewing (English, Italian and Thai). Tel: 084-058 2210. Email: scotdragon@yahoo.it

RESORT
FOR LEASE

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 6 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

MASSAGE SHOP
IN NAI HARN

Beautiful shop, fully furnished, 2 floors, with small garden. 590,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. For more information, please call +35-102-3304 6229, 089-695 9536 (Thai). Email: hellojikkyy@hotmail.com

MASSAGE SHOP
PATONG

Good location, fully equipped with high end furniture and stock. 4 Thai massage beds and 3 oil massage beds. Cheap rent price: 400,000 baht. Tel: 087-073 4233. Email: judgedread73@hotmail.com

HOTEL - 24 ROOMS
OCEAN VIEW

Nice location, 1km from Patong Beach, 10 apartments, 14 rooms. 49 million baht. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE REPS
NEEDED

Phuket's Leading Agency is looking for new experienced property consultants. You should have extensive sales background and knowledge of Phuket Island and its districts. High earnings is expected for top reps. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Send your CV by email to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

HOTEL WITH
RESTAURANT
FOR SALE

Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished, lift. 32 million baht negotiable. Please contact Stefano. Tel: 086-279 8175 (English/Italian). Contact Ning. Tel: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

PROFITABLE
BAR & GRILL

Profit making Sports Bar & Grill in Nai Yang Beach. Everything included. Buy today, be open tomorrow. First come bargain price, 1 million baht. For more information, please call 084-852 4257 (English). Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

RAWAI INVESTMENT

We run a business in Chalong that has paid back 50% of its cash investment in the first year of operation. An opportunity for a similar business exists in Rawai. This is not a hotel, guesthouse, restaurant, dive shop, car rental or real estate. This business benefits Thai society as a whole and is neutral on the environment. We are looking for 1-3 equity investors to make a total 20 million baht investment. Email: tayana55islandgirl@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT
FOR SALE

Steveos tasty burgers for sale. 800,000 baht o.b.o. For quick sale. Contact Steve. For more information, please call 089-918 3718. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com www.steveostastyburgers.com

BAR FOR SALE
BANGLA AREA

Stunning lounge club over 2 floors, new fit out. Stylish, private venue, fully air-conditioned, ready to open. Own the best bar in Phuket. Tel: 087-881 7600 (English). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

BUSINESS
FOR LEASE

Indoor pub. 30,000 baht per month plus damage deposit. Fully equipped, stage, sound system, seating 65 pax. 8 years + 4 months lease. Tel: 087-244 1322, 087-884 8972.

SPORTS BAR
IN KARON

Newly renovated, trendy sports bar in Karon, Phuket. This bar comes fully equipped with three large plasma TVs, pool table, two bedrooms and website. For more information, please call +44-20-8688 4544. Email: nm.win dowcleaning@hotmail.co.uk

GREAT LOCATION
NEAR BEACH

Apartment building for lease. 150m from Patong Beach. Tel: 085-994 4199 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-296733. Email: natang8@hotmail.com

FITNESS CENTER
FOR SALE

A well established fitness center with a large membership base, situated in Phuket Town, for sale. Price reduced to 8 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English & Thai), 080-698 5021 (Thai). Email: coco_ivy@hotmail.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics
Anonymous

If you want to drink
that is your business
If you want to stop
that is ours
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiwc.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening
in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE
for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
Do not Fax!

Business Products & Services

BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-8. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. www.buds-phuket.com

TENNIS FROM 300 BAHT

Female ITF player available for professional coaching hit ups, cardio, all ages your place or ours. For more information, please call 090-706 6674, 090-071 7163.

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. For more information, please call 083-362 4144.

LOSE WEIGHT FEEL GREAT!

Organic, delicious, nutritious fruit & vegetable juice detox programs. From 5,000 baht. Delivered To Your Door. Contact Larry. Tel: 083-345 5540. Please see our website at www.weightwatchdetox.com

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. Please call 081-476 5808.

FOREX TRADING

Make money from home. Join our online room and get free one hour session. Book now. Tel: 090-071 7163. www.fxlive.traderoom.com

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German Golf Physio Coach and Physio Therapy offer help when you have problems or pain. Tel: 084-840 7531 (German/English), 085-145 8340 (Thai).

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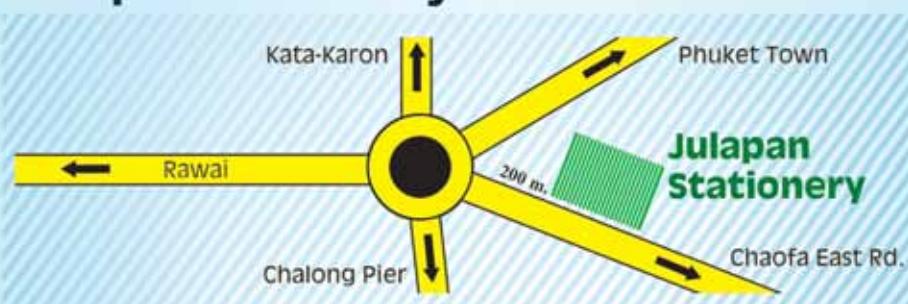
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RIVA HULL
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Cryptic Crossword

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If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

TECNAM P-92

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

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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



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Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
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Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

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WINGS PROJECT WELCOMED VAUBAN REAL ESTATE



Mr Kanokpan Pranveerapaiboon (front left), Real Estate Director of The Attitude Club Co., Ltd. was welcomed Mr Jean Philippe (2nd from left), Sales Manager of Vauban (Phuket branch) and team, who also led the inspection at Wings Project, with plans to introduce and expand the Wings project to the French and European markets and hopefully many more.

PHUKET CLASSIC 2013



At the press conference last Saturday, Wilaiporn Wannaklang, of the Phuket Body Building Club (left) and Krittaya Arjinajarn of Central Festival Phuket, one of the main sponsors of the event.



The boys from the Phuket Bodybuilding Club flex their muscles for the crowd.

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Photo: sippakorn yamkasikorn

Celebrate Buddha's wisdom

ON MONDAY July 22, Wat Chalong won't be the only crowded temple in Phuket. On this day, Buddhist celebrate Asaha Bucha to commemorate Buddha's first teaching of Dhamma to his disciples. What started as a sermon for just 5 believers turned in to a world wide phenomenon with an estimated 400 million followers.

The words "Asaha Bucha" derive from ancient Pali language and literally mean "worshiping fourth month". The fourth month of the ancient Indian lunar calendar is equivalent to the eighth month of the Thai lunar calendar. It's on the full moon of that month that Asaha Bucha takes place.

It is for the same reason that in Thai, Asaha Bucha is also referred to as *wun pen deuan bpad* the fullmoon-day of the eighth month. It is one of three lunar-based Buddhist holidays in Thailand. The other two are *Makha Bucha* Day typically a full moon in February, sometimes in March which commemorates the Buddha's sermon to 1,250 followers; and *Visakha Bucha* Day typically a full moon in May, sometimes April which celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death all in one. The intricacies of custom and tradition all too often cloud underlying meanings and purposes.

Contrary to popular belief, to understand the essence of Buddhism and benefit from its philosophy, worshipers do not have to be versed in ancient mantras and spells, nor do they need to seek the protection of a magical tattoo or amulet. In fact,

many of the practices we see today are contradictory if not irrelevant to what Buddha actually taught. The real point of Asaha Bucha day is to honor Buddha's

the ultimate truth of enlightenment, detachment and renunciation of the unessential and harmful things in life must be practiced. At the same time, it is important to avoid

and sermons during the day, there is a climactic moonlight candle procession during which participants, carrying a lit candle, three joss sticks and a lotus flower

KHAO PANSA

The day after Asaha Bucha this Tuesday, July 23 is Khao Pansa, literally the "rains retreat". This is the customary time for laymen to ordain as monks. For this three-month period, monks traditionally retreat to temples because the rains make it difficult for them to meditate in the forest or ask for alms in villages on a regular basis. To ensure the monks are able to sustain themselves, laypeople make larger-than-usual offerings during Khao Pansa.

THE ULTIMATE TRUTH

Aside from food, large candles have been the customary form of offering, a practice dating to times before the invention of electricity. Today, large candles are still offered but this is largely a tradition now as most temples have a continuous supply of electricity. During Khao Pansa, monks stay in temples, disciplining themselves by following hundreds of precepts which dictate that they abstain from everything – from growing eyebrows to even singing. This is in contrast to the five basic precepts that laypeople attempt to follow as outlined in the Buddha's principle sermon. Khao Pansa also sees an increase in social awareness through media campaigns on Thai TV, newspapers and radio; the most common of these is echoed in the nationwide alcohol abstinence slogan: *Khao Pansa Ngote Lao*.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Which Wat to wander to?

Want to join the celebrations?
Try one of the five most prominent temples in Phuket

Wat Chalong is the most famous temple in Phuket. It is dedicated to two monks who helped locals fight against a Chinese rebellion

Wat Thepnimit is located in Wichit district and is one of the oldest temples in Phuket

Wat Thepnimit is located in Wichit district and is one of the oldest temples in Phuket

Wat Mongkol Nimit near the old Phuket Town is very popular with local Buddhist because of its convenient location.

Wat Suvankeereewong in Patong is your temple of choice if you're staying in the popular seaside party town.

Wat Chalong. Photo: Nicolas Lannuzel

first and fundamental sermon, which explains that the Dharma Wheel – an analogy for our life cycle – comprises the "spokes" of birth, illness, death and rebirth. The wheel turns relentlessly; life is a constant cycle of suffering caused by our desires, dependencies and attachments. In order to break free from the cycle of pain and suffering that is life, not to be reborn again into the same cycle and thus obtain

extremes and instead seek a middle path, willfully and consciously living by the basic five precepts: to abstain from killing, stealing, lying, drinking and sexual misconduct.

ASAHA BUCHA DAY

Celebrations and ceremonies in temples are generally the same for all three major buddhist festivals After the offerings, blessings

encircle the temple's main Buddha hall three times. The number three in Buddhism refers to the "triple gem" and symbolically represents the Buddha, his teachings (*Dharma*) and the clergy (*Sangha*). This is the reason for circling a temple or crematory three times and also prostrating three times in veneration of the Buddha or a senior monk. That said, Buddha is not a god to be worshiped, but rather a teacher to be honored.

Double the fun from Belgium

ON July 21, the beer will be exceptionally cold, the waffles and chocolates exceptionally sweet and the french fries will ditch the French connection, change the name to *friets* and be served in their original style – the Belgian style.

Incoming celebrations of Belgian National Day will be double the fun! Not only will the Belgians be raising a glass of beer from one of the little European country's 178 breweries in memory of their first King, Leopold I who ascended to the

throne on July 21 1831. This year Belgian people also celebrate the



Photo: thepinkpeppercorn

coronation of a new King, Philippe I, who will wear the crown for the first time on this very day.

The Belgian embassy in Bangkok is organizing a special reception to mark this occasion. But the ones of the 2,200 Belgians officially residing in Thailand who live in Phuket will be heading for the the Brasserie (18 Rassada Road, T.Talandnua, Muang, Phuket). The country in question might be modest in size but the kegs of free beer at the Brasserie definitely won't be and will go nicely with fried chicken and fries that are also to be served accompanied by Belgian music.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 17-21, 2013, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

Four days of world-class yacht racing combined with four nights of magical, beachside parties at the 5-star Cape Panwa Hotel. Raceweek will welcome a large multinational fleet of boats to the 10th Anniversary edition. Over 30 boats are already signed up in six classes, and more than 400 sailors will be taking part.

July 18, 2013, 11:30am – 2pm Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch.

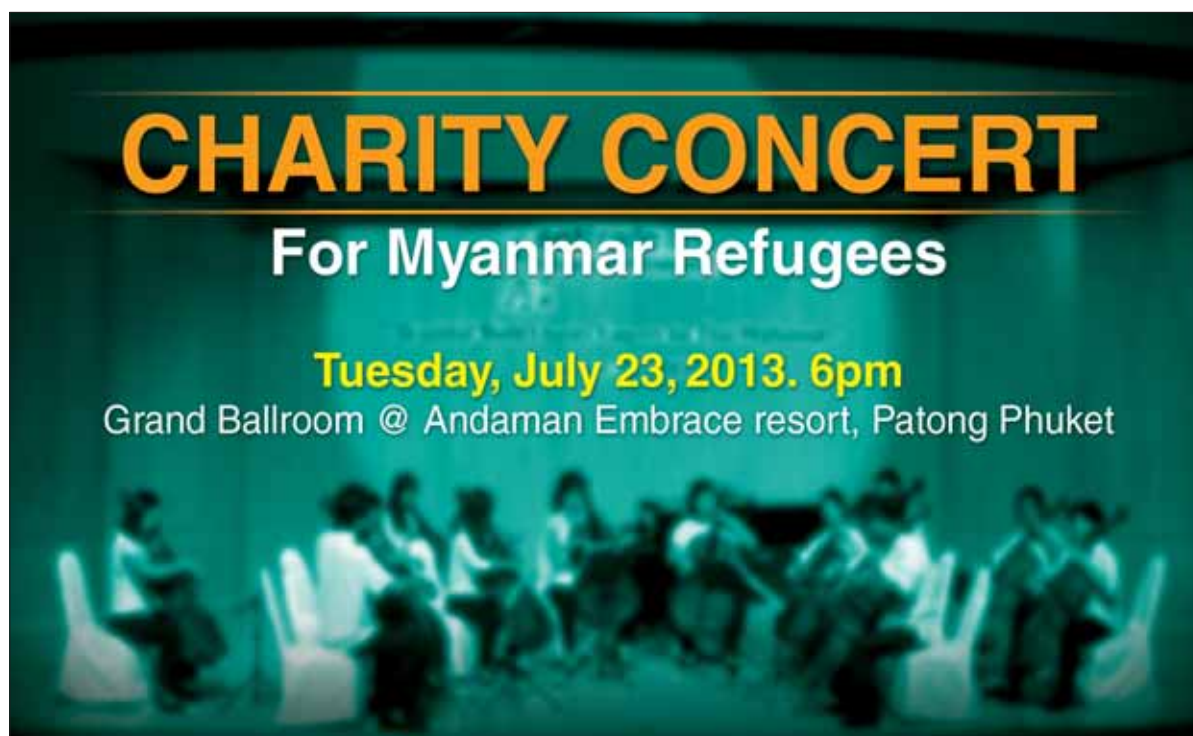
July lunch will be at a new venue. Salt at Surin. All are welcome but registration essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiw.com, mobile phone: +66-76-316711 or visit the website phuketiw.com

July 19, 2013, 7-9 pm, Exclusive Glenfiddich Single Malt Whiskey Appreciation.

Embark on a pioneering exploration of Glenfiddich single malt whiskey where the Brand Ambassador, Mr Matthew Fergusson, will bring you on a magical journey through the world of the 'World's Most Awarded' single malt whiskey, while you enjoy the exquisite range of Glenfiddich single malts – namely 12, 15, and 18 year old. Please reserve your ticket by mail or telephone. Limited space available, only 35 guests at Wine Lovers Fisherman Way Business Center. Contact Khun Gumrai on +66-76-384663 or info@wine-loversphuket.com

July 19, 2013, 7-11 pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal at Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with



our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. Contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464 or Email at info@navrangmahal.com

July 20, 2013, 9 pm - 1 am, Electric Beach Bingo - 'it's bingo, but not as you know it!' at XANA beach club with attica.

Inspired by the youth bingo movement spreading across the world, Electric Beach Bingo will combine getting your groove on with unleashing a guilty pleasure! Dance to the best party tunes in between playing bingo for prizes – from the ludicrous to free drinks. Admission is free and on arrival you will be given therules, bingo cards and more. Dress code: unusual headwear and wigs are encouraged and may be provided. Contact Khun Annabel Fox directly on +66-76- 324101 or email at annabel @xanabeahclub.com

July 22, 2013, Asaha Bucha Day.

This full-moon day of the eighth

lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 23, 2013, Charity Concert for Myanmar Refugees at Grand Ballroom, Andaman Embrace Patong.

This is for donating to Myanmar refugees. Please come to join with us. Contact Chompue on +66-84-545-7402 or email: wschomp@gmail.com

July 26, 2013, 7-11 pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal at Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For more info, contact Jaspal Singh call +66-76-286464, Email: info@navrangmahal.com

July 27 - 28, 2013, 6pm – 2am, Seafood & Prawn Extravaganza.

We are serving a large international seafood buffet, including some Scandinavian specialties. All you can eat for only 695 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. So come and try our buffet, "fit for a king". For more info, Call +66-76330065, visit website at twochefs.com or email: kataracer@twochefs.com

Aug 12, 2013, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday.

Her Majesty Queen Sririkit's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also celebrated as national Mother's Day. This year celebrates HM's 81st birthday.

Sep 19, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch.

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members B500 and guests B650. Contact: info@phuketiw.com or Carole Dux 076-316711 or visit website: phuketiw.com

Oct 8, 2013, 6 pm - 10:30 pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013.

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on +66-80-4718713

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Computer problems? Internet problems? Software problems? Hardware problems? Questions about phones or tablets or phablets, social software, antisocial software, or where to get the best deal on internet packages, TV channels, or phones?

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Go to thephuketforum.net and post your question as a 'New Topic' in the Tech Forum. The assembled local gurus – featuring "Mr. Live Wire," Woody Leonhard's friend from the States – may well be able to solve your problem, pronto.

If you need to talk with someone, drop by one of the informal Sunday morning computer discussion groups, starting about 10am every Sunday at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (about 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road). Consolation, commiseration, and old fashioned help await – for free.

Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

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And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

The secrets of DaVinci



RECIPE FOR A GOOD RESTAURANT: Great food, professional service, pleasant setting, friendly atmosphere, well paired wines...and passion, heaps of passion. Photos: DaVinci

By Maciek Klimowicz

WHAT is the secret of great, Italian cuisine? It's all in the quality ingredients.

"In Italy they say that a good chef doesn't need to use more than three or four ingredients. It's about freshness," says Jana Sasikova, co-owner and manager of the DaVinci restaurant. Jana is the wife of the restaurant's supervising chef and deli manager Claudio Pivotto, who adds: "If you start with high quality produce you can achieve great results. If you start with low quality, you'd have to be a god to achieve anything."

And he takes his own words very seriously. I've never met a man who talks about olive oil as much as him. He personally chooses all the olives used in the restaurant for different reasons – a separate kind in the kitchen, separate kind on the tables – all of the highest quality, imported straight from Italy. Same goes for

the meat, cheeses and mushrooms. And when he presents a flask of 25-year-old Acceto Balsamico Classico (7,000baht for 100ml) he does it with the care and attention you'd expect from a man holding a newborn baby.

"Our ingredients are the freshest of fresh, shipped to us by plane from Italy. Our food is of higher quality than what is served in restaurants in the North of Italy, where the ingredients are delivered with road transport," says Claudio.

But you don't have to take his word for it, the food speaks for itself. A childish simple dish of *Caprese* is elevated to a whole new level thanks to the fragrant *Mozzarella di Bufala* – original Italian buffalo milk cheese and perfectly paired virgin olive oil (the tomatoes come from Chiang Mai and are as good as they get in Thailand). Octopus replaced beef in DaVinci's *Carpaccio* but the Italian connection is kept alive with the addition of *bottarga*, "the

caviar of the South" – salted and dried fish roe, one of the most traditional ingredients of Sardinian cuisine. The *porcini* mushrooms in the *risotto* are perfectly crunchy, soft and aromatic and the whole thing melts in the mouth. The list goes on.

But you'd be mistaken to think that a supply of fresh ingredients would suffice. Claudio proves his and his staff's skills when he serves us a plate of *spaghetti carbonara*, a dish born in the last days of World War II when the Italian cooks turned the American soldiers' food rations consisting of dried bacon and powdered eggs, into what is now a world famous classic. Try to mix the ingredients in the wrong temperature and you'll end up with an omelet. Do it the right way and you'll make jaws drop. But what is the right way? When I ask Claudio for a recipe, he answers with a question "Can you keep a secret? Well, so can I!"

Luckily Jana is more willing to spill the beans. And the laid back atmosphere of DaVinci seems to have much to do with her warm, friendly character. I'm under the impression that she personally knows every single customer on the floor as our conversation is frequently interrupted by cordial welcomes and farewells she offers to other guests, often in their native tongue as she speaks seven languages. Maybe this is what convinced the investor and restaurant's major shareholder David Philip Roberts to join forces with the Czech-Italian couple to make DaVinci the place it is today.

So what is the secret of a great restaurant? Claudio firmly claims that it's all about food. "And food is only about taste," he adds. But restaurants aren't. Take great food, skilled staff, picturesque setting and pleasant ambiance – serve it at the right price nicely paired with wine and you might have a winner. To see how it works in real life, pay a visit to DaVinci.

DaVinci Restaurant is located in BZenter 28/46 Moo 1, Nai Harn, Phuket (Opposite 7-11 on the road to Nai Harn Beach). Open everyday from 5pm For reservations call 076289574, 0869475197 Email:jana@davinciphuket.com Corkage Fee is 400 Baht.



TREASURES: Claudio and his 25-year-old balsamico Photos: Mark Knowles



SECRETS: There is only one right way to make Carbonara. This is it.



FRUITS OF PASSION: Creamy Tiramisu and passion fruit Panacotta.



OWNERS AND OLIVES: The right people and the right produce.

Renaissance gets new GM

GOETZ Bauer joined Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa as general manager in April this year. The German national, who also speaks English, Italian and French, brings an energetic and youthful leadership style to Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa. Goetz said his new role presents several challenges and he looks forward to taking them on.

"The challenge is to learn how to manage a resort, I love it but I am not used to it. The management of the extremes between the seasonality, the strong impact of the elements as well as the nature are challenging and fascinating at the same time," he said.

"With this role a dream came true for me I love this beautiful property and I am proud to lead this great team. My goals match with my motto: 'the sky is the limit' and that is the attitude I have with this property and team," he said.

"I believe in the core value of Mr Marriott: 'If you take good care of your associates, they will take good care about your guests'," he added.

Mr Bauer is a family man who spends all his free time with his family, especially at the moment, as his second daughter was just born few weeks ago.

When asking about the places he likes to go, Mr Bauer told the *Gazette* that he likes the beach and beach clubs.

"I love the beach and its beach clubs, but Phuket also has great restaurants to offer," he said.

"The beach, the sea, the nature and the great Thai food. The clean air is great and the traffic is much better compared to Bangkok," he added. Mr Bauer is continuing to build on his 19 year career in the hospitality and management industry in the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia. This has included senior operational and management positions with the Hilton International, Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott and Renaissance brands. Most recently Goetz was a general manager at Marriott Executive Apartments Sathorn Vista in Bangkok.

Goetz worked for six years with Hilton International and he has been a part of the Marriott International team for 13 years and counting – for four different brands of Marriott, namely International Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Marriott Executive Apartments and Renaissance Hotels and in six different locations – Leipzig, Berlin, Karlsruhe, Saigon, Bangkok and now Phuket.

He started his long career in rooms operation, doing a side step into sales and marketing, before landing his first role as GM at the Marriott Executive Apartment Sathorn Vista Bangkok

"Marriott as a company is a great employer with good leaders which help develop your talents through training, as well as controlled pressure, which helps prepare you for jobs with higher responsibilities step by step," he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Mr Goetz Bauer, newly appointed general manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa.



LUXURY: A beachside swimming pool at the Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa. Photos: Marriott



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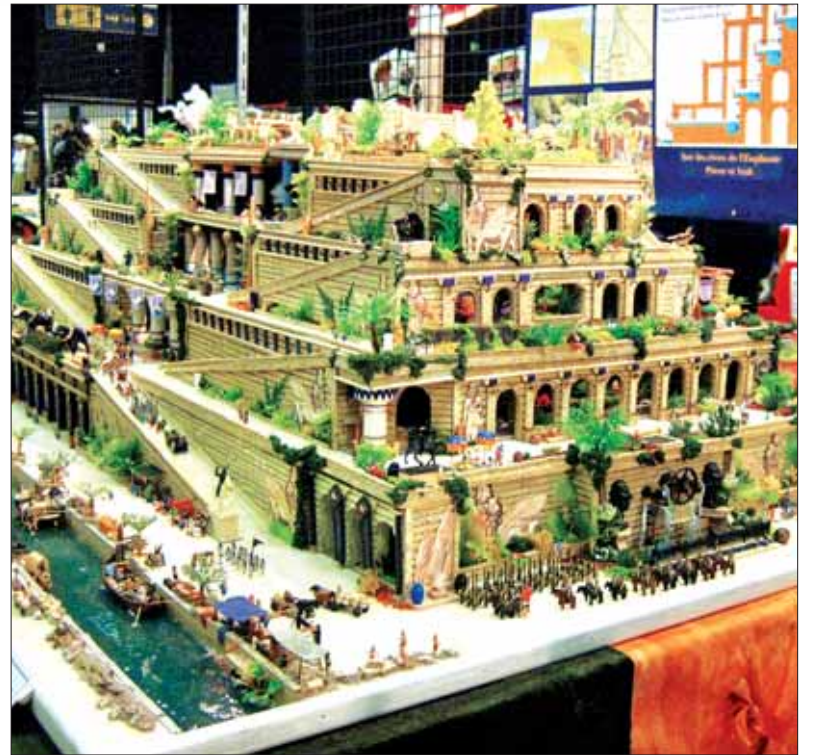
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COLORFUL HEDGE: In the style of Gertrude Jekyll – a herbaceous border at the Royal Horticultural Society in Harlow Carr, England is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Photo: Brockvicky



WONDER: A diorama of the ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world: Photo: Timo Beil

Screening out the world



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

CAN you reel off the Seven Wonders of the World without looking them up? The one we all remember is the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Nothing to do with hanging baskets. The Babylon one was hanging because it rose to a great height, and its main plants were substantial trees, not municipal petunias or busy lizzies. It was described later as “a palace... with very high walls supported by stone pillars... replenished with all sorts of trees... in exact resemblance of a mountain country.” Commissioned by King Nebuchadnezzar, apparently to console his wife who pined for her native forests, it is conjectured that some sort of screw system propelled water upwards from the river Euphrates in a massive feat of irrigation.

I only mention this wonder as a brief addendum to a recent piece about contemporary roof gardens.

Nowadays – and this goes without saying – we have so

many technical advantages over the ancient world. Pressured main's supplies, water towers or powerful electric pumps ensure that the vital fluid can be delivered to a penthouse roof or even an elevated hotel garden. Moreover, we have the advantage of computerized irrigation systems which can ensure that every plant gets the moisture it needs. Even so, few roof gardens can boast mature trees, even less a verdurous wonder on the scale of Babylon's marvel. It just shows what can be done.

The most impressive roof garden of my acquaintance was in Kensington, London, at the time the largest of its kind in Europe. It occupied the top of a large department store, 100 feet (30 meters) above street level, and contained three themed areas. One was a Spanish garden with Moorish arches, chusan palms and vine-covered archways in imitation of the

Alhambra in Andalusia. The second traditional garden boasted roses, lavender and hanging wisteria. But the *piece de resistance* was a simulated English woodland, with over 100 trees (30 native varieties), and even a pond with pintail ducks. Interestingly, the whole project sat



Lady palm will fill out gaps in borders. Photo: Kaiyanwong233

atop a meter of soil. Cultivating mature trees with substantial and deep root systems demanded nothing less. You can imagine how much reinforcement the roof required.

On a more intimate note. Every

gardener has their pet project, even if they are usually at ground level. I recently visited a superb garden in Cherng Talay. Two rai (3,200 m²) of manicured lawns with specimen royal palms. The owner's dilemma was how to render his garden more private, since the area beyond was being “developed” and he wanted to avoid being overlooked by a new neighbor. Interestingly, the development company had decreed that only a green fence must separate the terraced areas. A laudable idea and one that should be copied. But the bank which separated each plot was steep – maybe 30 degrees – and there could be no retaining wall below to prevent water loss and soil erosion. To compound the problem, the soil was the usual Phuket mix of coarse sand and brittle clay.

What our friend had done was to create, after the manner of Gertrude Jekyll's herbaceous borders, a graduated green screen

with larger trees including palms and champacas behind, then a layer of substantial shrubs and finally ground plants near the front border. In general, the scheme was working well, though a large bread fruit tree had died, the heliconias were parched, and there were visible gaps. Some of the background palms had sparse fronds, but smaller yellow cane (*dypsis*) and dense lady palms (*rhaps*) provided plenty of cover.

An additional array of evergreen shrubs such as *murraya*, *hamelia*, fast-growing *duranta* or bushy *shefflera* would help when the owner extends his green screen. That is something he plans to do once he discovers what his neighbor intends. Certainly, more compost or top soil will need to be applied, if only to help the roots retain precious moisture and nutrients.

Watch this space.

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

Dog of the week



ROXY is a cuddly loving poodle-mix who absolutely loves being bathed, groomed and fussed over.

Just last week she lost her sister and mother who were adopted into another family and so she'd love to find a companion who is able to give her lots of love, affection and cuddles.

At present, she's living at Doggie Heaven in Laguna, where there are about 12 other rescue dogs and survivors of the Dog Meat Trade. But she is not really getting along with many of them, because they are bossy and she'd prefer to be the dog getting all the attention.

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is based in Thalang. If you would like to adopt an animal or want to make an appointment, please contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com or visit doggieheaven.net

Tip of the Week

Verdant Screens

CONTAINER plants are an easy and movable way of screening unsightly objects. You need plants that will put on height quickly, and yet will adapt to life in a large pot. A bit of a contradiction since most container plants are naturally slow-growing.

Good choices include my personal preference, *Plumeria luxon*. That's the Plumeria with a very upright habit, and bright green leaves that look like



Plumeria rubra. Photo: Randy Bayne

arrow flights. The fragrant white flowers are produced at the ends of the long stems. I use mine to

blot out a plastic water tank that my neighbor unceremoniously plonked next to my garden wall. It grew six feet in a year.

Other sensible choices include non-woody *Cordylines* (though their sparse reddish foliage will sprout near the apex of the plant, and *Dracaenas* (corn plants) which are quicker off the mark and have lush leaves. A much denser, bushier alternative is *Schefflera* which has glossy, variegated foliage.

Party on for superyachts



Asia Superyacht Rendezvous Celebrity Yacht (above), and the luxurious, award-winning villa of Kata Rocks, one of the sponsors of ASR crew party (right). Photos: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous and Kata Rocks

ONE of the highlights of the 2013 Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, sponsored by FEADSHIP Royal Dutch Shipyards, Asia Pacific Superyachts and Kata Rocks, will be the special Crew Party for the participating Superyachts on the final evening, December 18.

The event will be held at the Boathouse RE KATA Beach Club and will be sponsored by Sevenstar Yacht Transport, a leading provider of yacht shipping services.

"Sevenstar Yacht Transport is very pleased to be a sponsor of the annual Asia Superyacht Rendezvous and the official Asia Superyacht Rendezvous Crew Party,"

said Judith Wind, marketing and communications representative for Sevenstar Yacht Transport.

With over 25 years experience in worldwide yacht transportation services on a lift-on-lift-off basis, Sevenstar Yacht Transport utilizes its own global network of offices and exclusive agencies. The company is part of the Spliethoff Group based in Amsterdam which operates its own fleet of over 100 independent carriers and ships, transporting an average of 1,500 yachts every year through more than 100 ports in over 40 countries, the firm can handle yachts up to 60 meters and 650 metric tons.

Judith explained: "Innovation has been one of the keys to Sevenstar's success, including the development of new loading methods and adaptable shipping cradles.

Next to that, the hard work of its skilled employees, flexibility and competitive pricing really makes

a difference in the yacht shipping industry. Sevenstar staff understands the unique requirements of yacht owners, offering them a virtually unlimited choice of transportation options to destinations of choice worldwide."

All crew of the participating



Delivery of yachts is handled by professional shipping company Sevenstar Yacht Transport. Photo: Sevenstar

superyachts will be invited to attend the exclusive Crew Party, where they will be able to enjoy RE KATA's delicious canapes, drinks and party the night away, in luxurious, yet trend-setting surroundings.

On the same night, inspired by luxury superyacht design, the multi award winning Kata Rocks will be hosting the prestigious "Gala Dinner".

"Food connoisseurs attending the event will delight in a mouth-watering cuisine experience, prepared by the executive of Kata Rocks – Chef Paul Quarchioni. A cuisinier who has created dining experiences for royalty and other dignitaries for over a quarter-century of work. Prior to his involvement at Kata Rocks, Chef Quarchioni mastered his art in a number of highly-rated Michelin Guide and Gault Millau restaurants; among them, eight Michelin-starred restaurants in France and the UK, including

Restaurant Les Quatre Saisons with Jean Michel Lorain and The Oak Room Restaurant at Le Meriden, Piccadilly with David Chambers," said Bryan Hoare, the marketing and communications director for Kata Rocks.

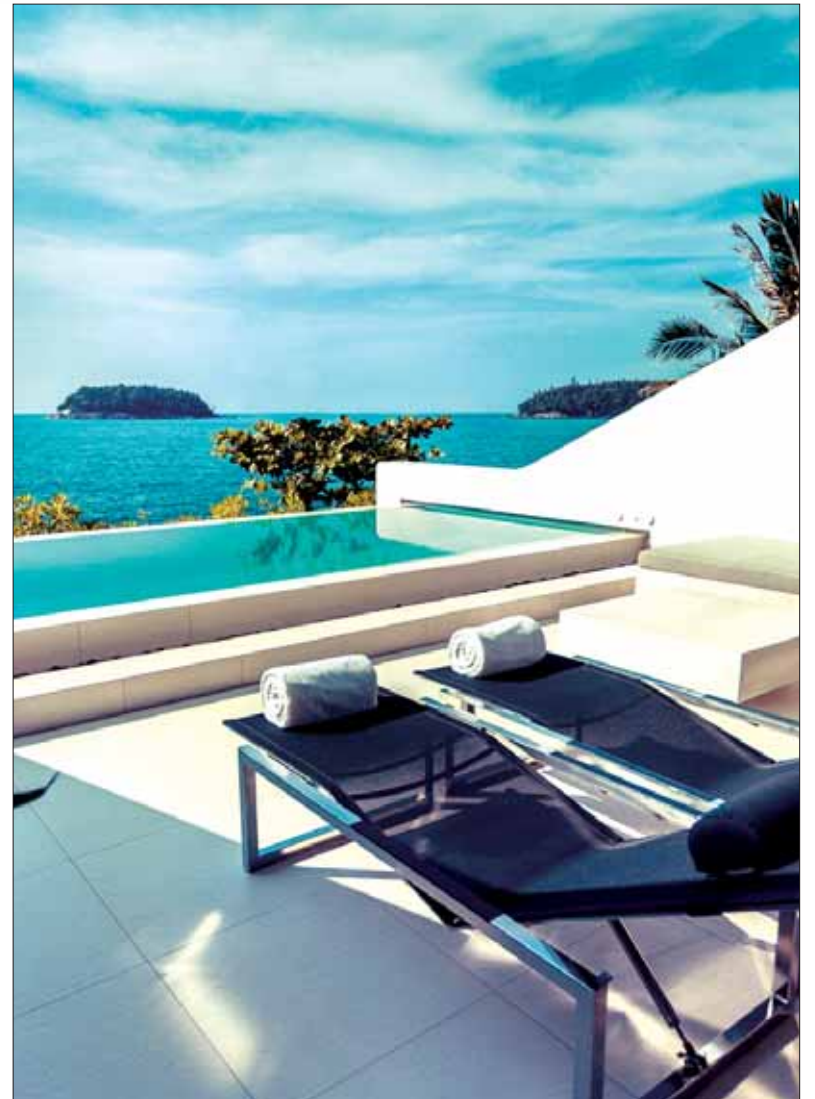
Talking about the Kata Rocks host facilities, Bryan expressed: "The event will take place on the gently sloping rock outcrop in front of this remarkable property. An enchanting space on the promontory between Kata Noi Beach and Kata Beach. The restaurant, bar and clubhouse will be employed to exciting effect, with activities and programs that reflect the luxury

and glamour of the numerous superyachts moored between Kata Point and Koh Phu, on this fully-moonlit night."

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous runs annually in Phuket on December 16, 17 and 18. Yachts of over 30 meters or 100 feet in size are eligible to attend the Rendezvous, however, the exclusive crew party is "by invitation only".

Yachts in the Mediterranean or Americas attending the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous can take advantage of Sevenstar's yacht transport service with departure ports at Palma de Mallorca, Genoa Italy, Marmaris Turkey, Palm Beach, Florida and Golfo de Costa Rica.

For more information contact Jan Maarten Boissevain at the Sevenstar Yacht Transport Head Office: +31 621534824, jmb@sevenstar.nl or asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com, katarocks.com, feadship.nl/ for more information about the Rendezvous and our sponsors.



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What do you think about the new bus?

It is a good idea. It provides more choice for locals and tourist. This bus also serves the needs of backpackers, who want to visit Phuket but don't want to spend a lot of money. The bus is a safe traveling choice and tourist can enjoy the beautiful view along the way to Patong.

Ms Aree Dumluck, 29, check point operator at Phuket International Airport.



I think the bus is a very good idea. It is not only convenient for locals and tourists but also good for Phuket's image. I wish we have more public transportation routes on the island.

Ms Laongdao Charoensub, 43, Kathu entrepreneur

The airport bus will not only make lives of tourists and locals easier, it might also help ease the traffic problem in Phuket. Some people might skip the car and use the bus.

Montira Intarat, 22, Teaching assistant at the Prince of Songkla University.



It's a good thing, even if some locals are against it. More choice for tourist will bring more customers to Patong. It will also help Phuket residents who live near the airport and work in Patong.

Kalaya Tongrach, 37, tour agency operator in Patong.

Schedule management is the key to success. If the bus schedule covers all departing and arriving flights, the bus will run for a long time. Reliable service is also important. The bus must stop at the dedicated bus stops and be on always time so people can trust it.

Tadchakorn Wattanabulkit, 35, Airline crew member





Transport evolution

THE long awaited new Airport Express bus service between Phuket Airport and the island's premier party and entertainment town Patong, is set to roll on July 19, four days later than expected.

"We thought we could start on July 15, but we had to push the launch date back," Mr Prakob Panyawai, the owner of the bus

operating company, explained adding that the extra time was necessary to take care of all the details "We have finished the graphic art for the posters to be displayed at the bus stops and sent it to a shop for graphic processing and printing."

Each of the nine bus stops will display a map of the bus route, a

picture of the bus, the company website address and contact phone numbers. The passengers will be able to board the buses at the following stops: Phuket Airport: under the pedestrian bridge to Terminal 2; Muang Mai: in front of the Highway Police checkpoint; Thalang: in front of Thalang Police Station; Tesco Lotus Thalang; Tah Reua: at the Heroines Monument bus stop; Kow Kaew: in front Boat Lagoon; Bypass road in front of Billion Plaza on Phra Phuket Kaew Road (heading to Patong); Thung Thong: in front of the Caltex gas station and in Patong: in front of JJ Plaza behind Jungceylon. The buses will only stay for 10 minutes at the final stop before departing. They will also not be allowed to pick up people from anywhere else in Patong. The prices of tickets will range from 50 to 150 baht.

With the bus stops ready in place, the buses checked and



READY TO DRIVE: Drivers eager to hit the road Photo: phuketairportbusexpress

registered and all the safety issues addressed, all that's left to do is advertise the project. "All the buses have been checked at PLTO and have passed inspection. However, the final details of the marketing campaign are still being drawn up. All this should be finished soon," added Mr. Prakob.

The beginnings of the service

will be modest with just six buses operating, but Mr Prakob is full of hope for the future. "It has taken months to get to this point, I want to see the buses on the roads as soon as possible. Once we have the Patong route, we can expand the service to include routes from the airport to Rawai and Kamala," he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*



TICKET TO RIDE: The first ticket for the new bus. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

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The wonderful world of puffies



IN WORLD War I they called it shell shock. In World War II they called it battle fatigue. Nowadays they call it post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Welcome to the wonderful world of puffies, where run-of-the-mill words are puffed up into ornate phrases intended to impress, seduce, and deceive.

I call them puffies; others call them euphemisms – or Orwellisms, after George Orwell, who first wrote about them in his 1946 essay *Politics and the English Language*. Orwell noted that totalitarian regimes bombed defenseless villages and called it pacification, drove peasants from their land and called it transfer of population.

Puffies are a vital part of the growing body of “politically correct” language. I met my first one way back in 1960, as a young recruit in the US Army. We carried little folding shovels to dig fox-holes with, and we were ordered to call them entrenching tools. But puffies have come a long way since the days of pacification and entrenching tools. Governments, intelligence agencies, and military establishments are addicted to them, but ordinary folk also succumb. Resumes (CVs) are a rich source. Don't have a job? Call yourself a consultant. You're an English teacher? Call yourself a catalyst/facilitator in the transfer of English-language communication skills.

Here's a list of puffies – some well known, some less so – with their definitions:

Enhanced interrogation: Torture.

Extraordinary rendition: Kidnapping somebody and whisking him off to another country to be tortured.

Person of interest: Candidate for torture.

Improvised explosive device (IED): Homemade bomb.

Data survey ship: Spy ship.

Terminate: Kill.

Terminate with extreme prejudice: Kill in a very nasty way.

Quantitative easing: Printing money.

Orderly liquidation fund: Bailout fund.

Financial allurements: Bribery.

Networking: Cronyism.

General time horizon: Deadline.

Transition: To lose your job.

Mentally problematic: Crazy.

Issues with attachment: Homesickness.

An adversarial relationship: Enmity.

Price sensitive: Stingy.

Creative class: The rich.

Wealth creators: The filthy rich.

Cardiac event: Heart attack.

Mating event: Copulation.

Tornadic event: Tornado.

Note the popular word “event.” If a tornado is a tornadic event, is a hurricane a hurricanic event? Stay tuned, I'm sure they're working on it.

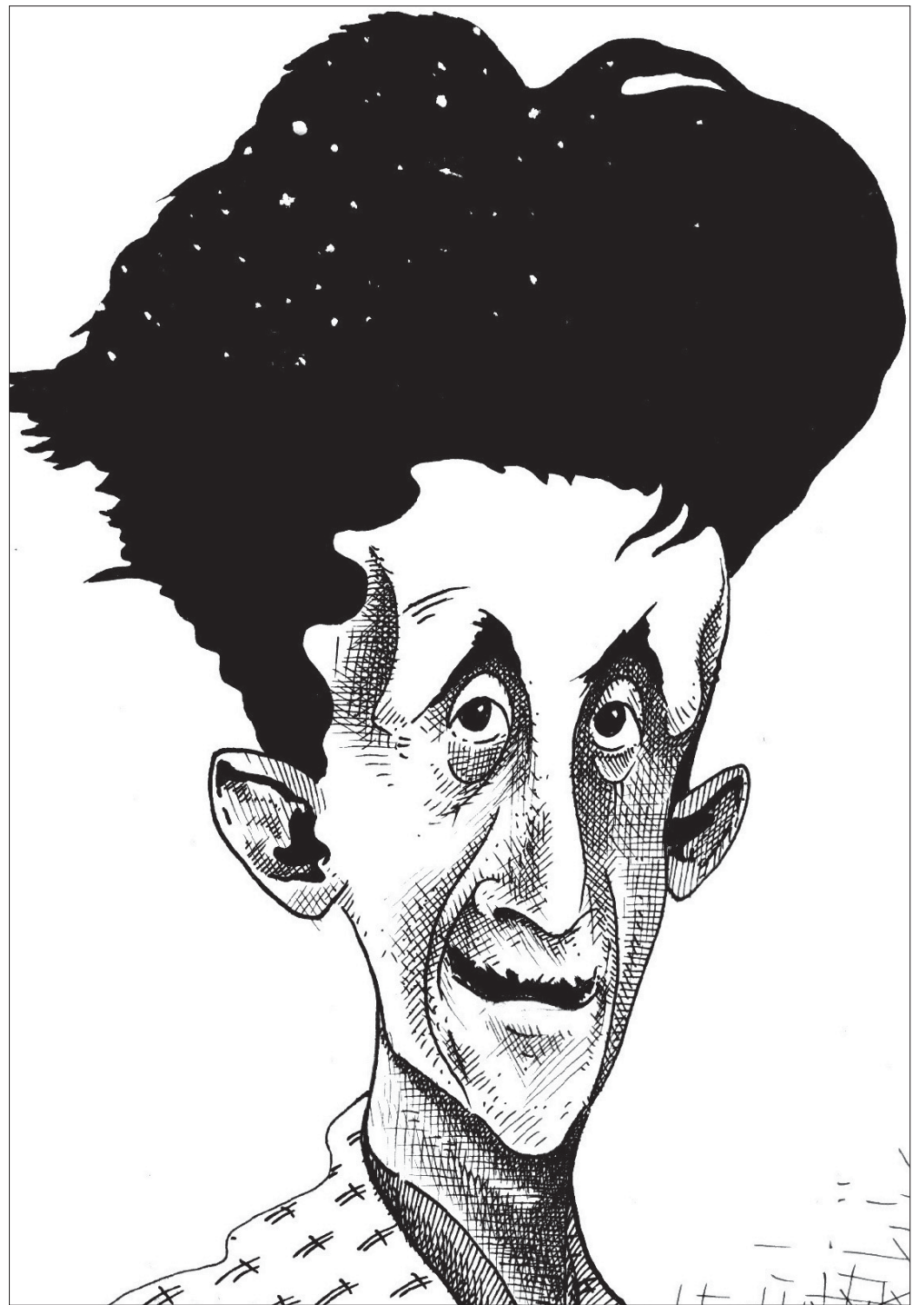
Two widespread puff words, are of course, “system,” as in “weapons system,” and “device,” as in “mobile device.” How many times have you been in an airplane and heard the announcement “Please switch off your mobile devices”? What they mean is “Please turn off your electronic toys.”

I'm sure that the US Army realizes that the word “tool” is now outmoded, and makes its recruits call their little shovels entrenching devices – or possibly entrenching systems. I look forward to the day when bullets will be called lethal projectile devices and guns will be called lethal projectile propulsion systems.

Finally, the noblest puffy of them all, used in a verdict by a US judge: He has extreme personal deficits in the areas of honesty and integrity – translation – He's a lying bastard.

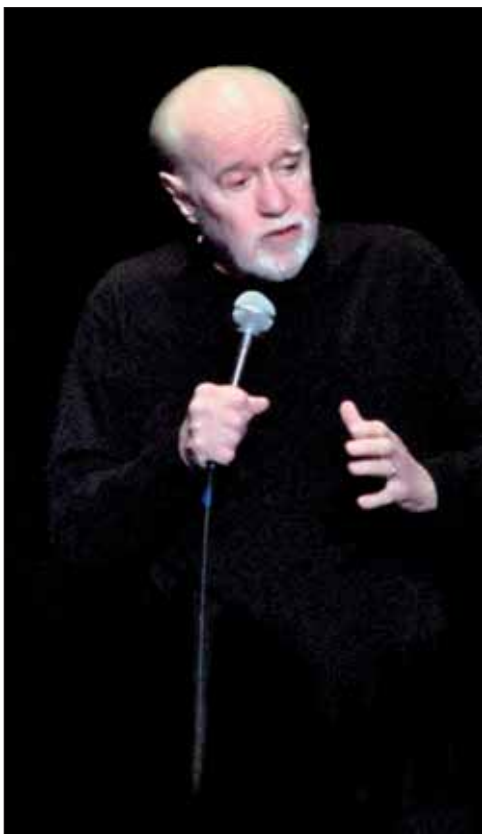
It really is enough to make poor George Orwell weep.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsov@gmail.com, except when he's trying to depuffify the language.



WEeping: A tireless campaigner against euphemistic language, George Orwell would surely be disheartened at the ubiquitous use of puffy language in modern English. Photo: Bernd Pohlenz

Modern words maketh the man



A WAY WITH WORDS: Legendary US comedian George Carlin. Photo Bonnie Murphy

LEGENDARY US comedian George Carlin, who died in 2008, was famous for his love of words and hatred of euphemisms and politically correct language. In his classic 2006 HBO special *Life is Worth Losing* he opened the show with this piece entitled *Ode to the Modern Man*:

“I'm a modern man, a man for the millennium. Digital and smoke free. A diversified multi-cultural, post-modern deconstructionist that is anatomically and ecologically incorrect. I've been uplinked and downloaded, I've been inputted and outsourced, I know the upside of downsizing, I know the downside of upgrading. I'm a high-tech low-life. A cutting edge, state-of-the-art, bi-coastal multi-tasker and I can give you a gigabyte in a nanosecond!

I'm new wave, but I'm old school and my inner child is outward bound. I'm a hot-wired, heat seeking, warm-hearted cool customer, voice activated and biodegradable. I interface with my database, my database is in cyberspace, so I'm interactive, I'm hyperactive and from time to time I'm radioactive.

Behind the eight ball, ahead of the curve, ridin' the wave, dodgin' the bullet and pushin' the envelope. I'm on-point, on-task, on-message and off drugs. I've got no need for coke

and speed. I've got no urge to binge and purge. I'm in-the-moment, on-the-edge, over-the-top and under-the-radar. A high-concept, low-profile, medium-range ballistic missionary. A street-wise smart bomb. A top-gun bottom feeder. I wear power ties, I tell power lies, I take power naps and run victory laps. I'm a totally ongoing big-foot, slam-dunk, rain-maker with a pro-active outreach. A raging workaholic. A working rageaholic. Out of rehab and in denial!

I've got a personal trainer, a personal shopper, a personal assistant and a personal agenda. You can't shut me up, you can't dumb me down, because I'm tireless and I'm wireless, I'm an alpha male on beta-blockers.

I'm a non-believer and an over-achiever, laid-back but fashion-forward. Up-front, down-home, low-rent, high-maintenance. Super-sized, long-lasting, high-definition, fast-acting, oven-ready and built-to-last! I'm a hands-on, foot-loose, knee-jerk head-case prematurely post-traumatic and I've got a love-child that sends me hate mail.

But, I'm feeling, I'm caring, I'm healing, I'm sharing a supportive, bonding, nurturing primary care-giver. My output is down, but my income is up. I took a short position on the long bond and my revenue stream has its

own cash-flow. I read junk mail, I eat junk food, I buy junk bonds and I watch trash sports! I'm gender specific, capital intensive, user-friendly and lactose intolerant.

I like rough sex. I like tough love. I use the “F” word in my emails and the software on my hard-drive is hardcore no soft porn.

I bought a microwave at a mini-mall; I bought a mini-van at a mega-store. I eat fast-food in the slow lane. I'm toll-free, bite-sized, ready-to-wear and I come in all sizes. A fully-equipped, factory-authorized, hospital-tested, clinically-proven, scientifically-formulated medical miracle. I've been pre-washed, pre-cooked, pre-heated, pre-screened, pre-approved, pre-packaged, post-dated, freeze-dried, double-wrapped, vacuum-packed and, I have an unlimited broadband capacity.

I'm a rude dude, but I'm the real deal. Lean and mean. Cocked, locked and ready-to-rock. Rough, tough and hard to bluff. I take it slow, I go with the flow, I ride with the tide. I've got glide in my stride. Drivin' and movin', sailin' and spinin', jivin' and groovin', wailin' and winnin'. I don't snooze, so I don't lose. I keep the pedal to the metal and the rubber on the road. I party hearty and lunch time is crunch time. I'm hangin in, there ain't no doubt and I'm hangin tough, over and out!”

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REST BREAK: The author catches his breath before entering Chateauneuf du Pape.



ANCIENT: The picturesque Roman aqueduct is a marvel of ancient architectural skill.

Pedaling through Provence

Baz ponders the parallels between Southern France and Southern Thailand



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

THE delights of Soi Bangla are of course a source of continual distraction, yet even the most hardened acolyte must occasionally take a break from the pleasures of the amber nectar and recharge his batteries in quieter, more bucolic locales.

So it was that I recently found myself on a cycling trip down the riverside paths and country lanes of Provence, from Avignon to Aigues Mortes in the Camargue.

On the first day, as I resolutely pedaled (my beret set at a rakish angle, a string of onions bouncing about my neck and an unlit Gauloise plastered to my lower lip) I fell into a reverie comparing cycling in Phuket and Provence.

On first inspection the comparison seems to have as much affinity as Paris Hilton and Albert Einstein, but after a lunchtime stop beside the ancient fountain in *Chateauneuf-du-Pape* and imbibing some of that famous town's fine libations, certain parallels began to announce themselves.

Wind for example, is a constant bedfellow of the gadabout pedal-file, whether the monsoonal variety lashing off Nai Harn Beach, or this day's ardent mistral blusters whistling untrammelled across the vineyards of Southern France and threatening to throw me unceremoniously beneath the wheels of passing trucks laden with ripe grapes en route to meet their crushing destiny, the same I would have met, if indeed that had eventuated.

I pedaled resolutely onwards, as the long distance cyclist must, and as evening fell, I reached my

home for the night, a converted barge by the name of *Estello*, moored just south of *Avignon*, along side the banks of the *Rhone*. Here a second parallel asserted itself.

At ride's end in Phuket, slaking one's rampant thirst in outdoor roadside restaurants is a ritualistic reward for the endeavors of the ride. Often a game of Takraw will be starting among the locals as the first beer hisses into the iced glass.

In Provence, I found myself in a Cypress-shaded village square, seated at a local café and guzzling *biere presse* as villagers dusted off their *boules* for the evening's game of *Bocce*.

Day two of my "French Revolutions" saw me gliding through the meadows alongside



INSPIRING SPIRES: The church spires that dot the French landscape are reminiscent of Thai spirit houses.

such as *Heliconia*, *Fangipani* and *Bougainvillea*, which form the characteristic cycling backdrops in certain parts of the island.

I then cycled to the valley of the *Gardon* River where the Romans built a glorious three-tiered

aqueduct known as the *Pont du Gard* in the first century AD. This World Heritage site is a stupendous feat of engineering which carries water over 50 kilometers to the city of *Nimes* and falls only 80 vertical centimeters in all that distance. It might be a stretch of the imagination to suggest that our own stupendous feat of engineering being

constructed underneath Central Festival crossroads could turn into a (sub) aqueduct during the rainy season. But picnicking underneath the *Pont du Gard* I couldn't help think that Ital-Thai could learn a great deal about engineering from the Romans.

Day three of my trip was through

one of the most pristine landscapes of *Provence*, as I rode along rustic roads to the medieval village of *Boulbon*, nestled within the folds of the *La Montagnette*. Here I happened upon another similarity to Phuket as I came upon the boisterous weekly market.

Markets in Phuket and Provence are a part of the fabric of daily life, not only to buy fresh produce at the best prices, but as a social meeting points for the exchange of gossip; eating and drinking and for a large dose of *sanuk*.

The *Boulbon* market boasted a wonderful selection of local produce as well as handicrafts and artwork. On a little traffic island in the middle of the town, an

the landscape. In Provence the underpinnings of these artifacts are Judeo-Christian rather than Animist, Brahman and Buddhist as in Phuket, but the parallels are striking.

On day four I cycled through the magnificent Abbey of *Saint-Michel-de-Frigolet* then down to the 17th century castle of *Barbentane* at the confluence of the *Rhone* and *Durance* rivers from whence many crusades into North Africa were launched. In Phuket you might ride past *Wat Chalong*, or under the implacable gaze of the Big Buddha, where roadside spirit houses line the roadside, as do crucifixes in Provence. Clearly belief in the mystical realms remains a deeply ingrained part of both cultures.

My week ended cycling alongside the low-lying marshes and canals of the *Camargue* to the ancient walled city of *Aigues Mortes* and the Mediterranean. This region is famous for both its wild bulls and

fabulous pink *Flamingos* which reminded me of the ubiquitous hump-backed buffaloes and cheeky mynahs that are a common backdrop to my Phuket rides.

However, the most striking parallel between the experience of cycling through Provence and Phuket, is the glorious feeling of traveling freely through the natural world – a part of the gloriously passing landscape, rather than being sealed off from it in a hurtling, polluting vehicle. As American writer William Saroyan said: "I love the bicycle, I always have. I can think of no sincere, decent human being, male or female, young or old, saintly or sinful, who can resist the bicycle."

I'll drink to that.



RELAXING: There's nothing like a catching up on news from home with a hot cup of coffee.



PRODUCE: The author browsing through a fresh fruit and vegetable market in Provence.

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1		7	5		6	8		9
3			7		1			5
5		2		1		7		4
			2	9	7			
8		9		5		1		2
9			1		4			8
2		4	8		5	9		7

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

			2		9			
	6			4				3
		4	8	6	3	1		
5		2	1		6	7		3
	8	1				9	5	
7		3	5		2	6		8
		6	9	2	4	3		
	3			7			9	
			3		8			

Your weekly pith: "I think I've discovered the secret to life...
You just hang around until you get used to it."

- *Peanuts*

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book
'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

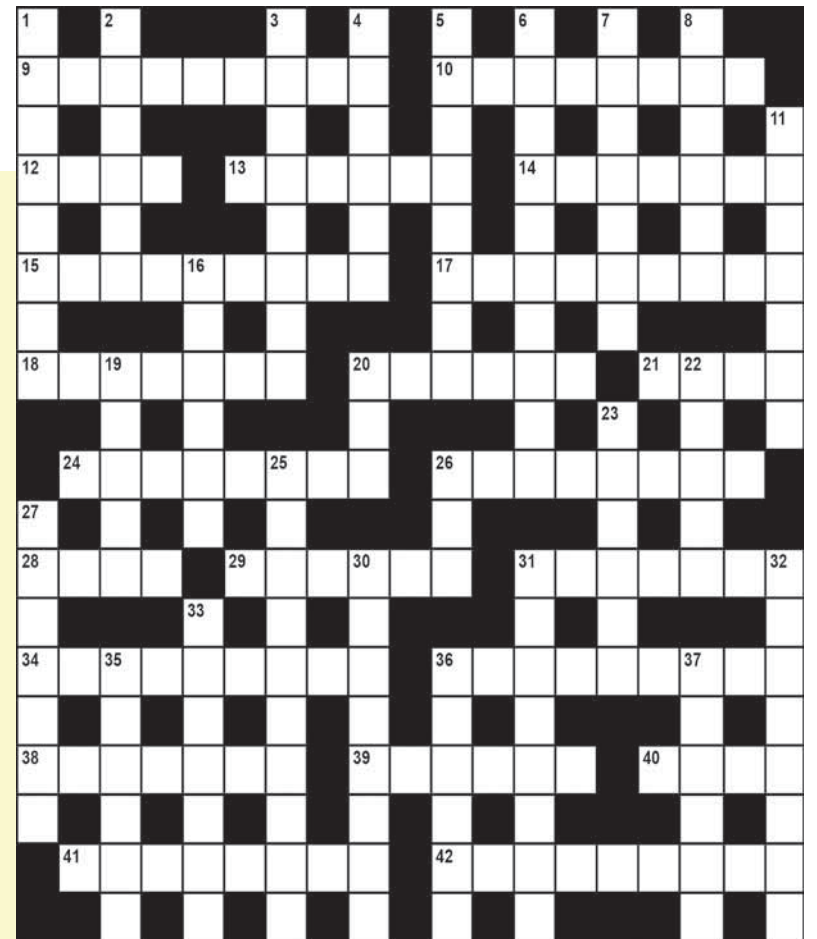
COFFEE break

Across:

9. Claim necessary to stop out, turn delayed (9)
10. A printer reproduces a freshwater reptile (8)
12. Go back, the French leer (4)
13. Quiet upset prim small creature (6)
14. Entire set could be most complete (7)
15. Company name arranged time in heaven (9)
17. Turned off by a dateline, confused (9)
18. Troubled, pressed, make miserable (7)
20. To note as back East in Phuket' s monkey hill (3,3)
21. Method of working on a satellite (4)
24. Be suspended, finished, as a result of too much alcohol (8)
26. Eager head for acuity (8)
28. Said it could be a serious disease (4)
29. Park, no sir, back to jail (6)
31. Met, does move and downgrades (7)
34. Cured it possibly on down-sizing (9)
36. Parasitic plant, i.e., let most out (9)
38. Dare let move foot lever (7)
39. Or near offer in hours for accolades (6)
40. Unchanged, be at the defeat (4)
41. Cuffs maybe led to having been in a confused struggle (8)
42. Great, I' m moving round river the one who goes to a new country (9)

Down:

1. End spoof becoming artificially encouraged (5,3)



2. Stableman stole outright (6)
3. In recklessness spots cape (8)
4. Pack in French from South first (6)
5. Obstruction to finish sheet (8)
6. Wasteful professor left one opening (10)
7. Collapsing, from all gin perhaps (7)
8. The very best feints trickily (6)
11. Good man tuned out pupil (7)
16. Eastern Nationalist maybe gave out to get even (6)
19. A Scottish shawl, pal, I' d pull to pieces (5)
20. Sailor up at river (3)
22. Start one' s new time (5)
23. Badly ail, man, as a brute (6)
25. Cooking, I' m clever, left one Italian dish (10)
26. Relatives eat in Thailand (3)
27. What one would expect goes bad for birds (7)
30. She, Dan and us mixed up together in the awning (8)
31. Absent minded I start, I' d get confused (8)
32. Let her move in the steamship havens (8)
33. Become sour to account if DIY reassembled (7)
35. Thoroughly wet nerd turns up at church (6)
36. Remind about bodyguard (6)
37. Deal with unknown agreement (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

The stars encourage inspiration this week. Encounters with people you lost touch with can bring chances to learn and expand horizons for Leos. By the end of July it will become clear whether you should stay in your current position or move on. Those with a birthday during the week ahead are forecast to feel less confined by commitments in the coming year. Your lucky color this week is coral pink.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

August is forecast to be a pivotal month for those born under the sign of Virgo and this week you should receive hints of what will happen. Seeds you sowed earlier in July will start to flourish and put you ahead of the competition where business is concerned. Friendships fall under the spotlight, with one-sided communication becoming an issue with a water sign. Romance is hot on Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

This is an auspicious week to get ahead in the world of work. Business and money are well starred until the end of the month; Librans are forecast to see investments increase in value and it will be

feasible to branch out. On a personal level, your charisma draws strangers towards you this week-end. Another air sign should prove to be on the same wavelength and a meaningful friendship can begin.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Scorpios will be motivated to make home improvements as the end of July approaches. Seeing the results of a friend's hard work on a house could encourage you to follow their example, but an air sign partner is forecast to have different ideas. Where finances are concerned, this is an auspicious time to save money by shopping around – tips from a fire sign are helpful. Your lucky color is emerald green.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

A diplomatic approach to family problems will be required of Sagittarians. There are hints that another fire sign's wrong move can spark off disagreements this weekend. Patience is also put to the test at work when it becomes clear that something has been going on behind the scenes. Thursday is the most auspicious day for uncovering mysteries. Those who are single have opportunity to get closer to someone they've been admiring from afar.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Stress caused by some challenging days can make it hard for Capricorns to relax this weekend. The stars advise finding a quiet place surrounded by nature to help put things in perspective. Where work is concerned, there are signs that paying more attention to your time management will be beneficial. In the personal zone, it appears that you have been expecting too much too soon from a budding romantic relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Regarding business, Aquarians are advised to remember that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This is not an auspicious time to invest in promises without concrete proof of what the rewards should be. An earth sign's easy way with words is probably too good to be true and a fire sign's vision of the future is misguided. Your lucky color is charcoal gray.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Those Pisceans who have been waiting for important information are predicted to be satisfied by the end of July. Where finances are concerned, another water sign's pressure for a loan can be hard to deny this weekend – meeting them midway will be the best solution. An earth sign romantic partner can put pressure on to find out how you really feel. Love with an air sign is more laid back.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Attention to detail is predicted to pay off where business is concerned. Another fire sign colleague's tendency to skim over agreements could be costly and an air sign's short term memory loss may mean Arians are kept in the dark. On a personal level, interest in the arts is highlighted to improve the quality of your life this week. Finances are auspicious on Wednesday. Your lucky color is ruby red.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

The world of work remains a quiet place so making waves can be tempting. The stars advise those born under the sign of Taurus not to rock too many boats. Another earth sign will react best to a tactful

approach midweek, while a fire sign has more on their mind than you realize. Where personal relationships are concerned, friends appreciate your thoughtfulness this weekend. Wearing the color silver encourages calm and constructive thinking.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis who have been out of sync since the middle of the month are forecast to get their groove back this week. The stars forecast stronger energy will attract others in your direction, with focus on a fire sign being very keen to tempt you away from your current working situation. In the realm of romance, letting your heart rule your head where a water sign is concerned may not be a bad thing.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Your home environment can be disrupted this week. The stars suggest that this may involve disagreements with neighbors – Tuesday is the most auspicious day for bringing problems out into the open and finding solutions to suit everyone. An air sign romantic partner comes up with a controversial idea for making money, but clever Cancerians can see a way to make it work. Your lucky color is sunshine yellow.

International Sport

Oz coach fumes

By Ian Ransom

AUSTRALIAN soccer coach Holger Osieck has slammed Asian clubs for failing to release a number of his players for the East Asian Cup, which starts on Saturday in Seoul.

"The foreign clubs created a lot of problems," Osieck said in a statement on Tuesday ahead of the four-nation tournament.

"I understand the games are not FIFA-protected but there is a gentleman's agreement between the competing countries that players from the respective leagues should be released to play.

"If you host a tournament like

this, for me it's a no-brainer that players are released."

Osieck said Japanese club Nagoya Grampus had denied him the use of beanpole striker Josh Kennedy, who scored a late goal against Iraq last month to seal Australia's qualification for next year's World Cup finals in Brazil.

"I had a chat with (Dragan) Stojkovic (Nagoya Grampus's manager) and he agreed to let him play but right away we got a letter from the club denying the release," Osieck added.

"It's not a good situation and I don't accept it."

Osieck named Kennedy in a provisional 24-man squad

released on Tuesday for the tournament. It was unclear which other players were yet to be cleared.

A team spokesman declined to name them all, but said most had been "verbally" cleared by their clubs, including seven-cap defender Robbie Cornthwaite, who plays for South Korea's Chunnam Dragons.

None of Australia's top European players are in the squad and Osieck has called up 19 players from the domestic A-League and five from Asian clubs.

Australia play South Korea in their first match in Seoul on July 20.

Squad: Mark Birighitti, Joshua Brillante, Nathan Coe, Robert



DAMNING: Australian coach Holger Osieck. Photo: Reuters

Cornthwaite, Mitchell Duke, Ivan Franjic, Eugene Galekovic, Craig Goodwin, Tomi Juric, Josh Kennedy, Matt McKay, Ryan McGowan, Mark Milligan, Aaron Mooy, Mitch Nichols,

Jade North, Connor Pain, Erik Paartalu, Trent Sainsbury, Adam Taggart, Archie Thompson, Michael Thwaite, Dario Vidosic and Ruben Zadkovich.

— Reuters

Europa league win disappointment

CHELSEA were knocked out of the Champions League at the group stage last season, causing them to drop into the continent's second tier competition which they won by beating Benfica in May.

"I don't want to win the Europa League," Mourinho told the BBC on Tuesday.

"If I win the Europa League, it will be a big disappointment for me because I don't want to play in it.

"I don't want my players to feel the Europa League is our competition."

Mourinho, who won the Europa League's predecessor, the UEFA Cup, when he was in charge of Porto in 2003, said the Champions League was a priority.

"That's the only European competition we have to play and that's the European competition we have to give our best," he added.

The comments could be interpreted as a veiled dig at former manager Benitez, who was in interim charge from November and won the Europa League as well as leading the club to third place in the Premier League.



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho instructs his players during a training session in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters

Former Liverpool manager Benitez was never a popular figure in his short time at Stamford Bridge, partly because of his rivalry with Mourinho during the

Portuguese's first spell at Chelsea.

Benitez's Liverpool won the Champions League in 2005 and reached the final in 2007, beating Mourinho's Chelsea in the semi-

final on both occasions.

Mourinho, who did win the Champions League with Porto in 2004 and again with Inter Milan in 2010, said he is targeting more

Premier League success after winning two league titles in his first spell at Chelsea.

"The most important thing in football is to be the best team in the season and try to win your domestic league," he said.

"In our case, it's the most important league in Europe, so we have to try and be the best team and win the Premier League."

Mourinho, who left Real Madrid at the end of last season, said he will do what he can to get the best out of Fernando Torres, who has struggled to find his form since joining for 50 million pounds (\$75.52 million) in 2011.

"Good players in big clubs, they are always under this pressure," said Mourinho.

"The only thing I can promise is that I give everything to my players and I try my best to perform the best I can. He [Torres] will get from me that support that a striker needs to feel more confident."

"But, at the end of the day, it's up to them and is their responsibility. Fernando has to cope with that," he added.

— Reuters

Martina Hingis ends her retirement to play doubles

MARTINA Hingis, fresh off her induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, will end a nearly six-year retirement to play doubles at next week's Southern California Open, the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) said on Tuesday.

Hingis, a winner of five grand slam singles titles, will partner with Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova at the July 27 to August 4 tournament in Carlsbad, California.

"I am very much looking forward to making a return to competitive play at the Southern California Open," the Swiss former world number one said in a statement on the WTA website.

"My competitive spirit is still very much alive and I love being out on court."

Hingis, who won the Australian Open and Wimbledon at the age of 16, quit tennis for

the first time in 2003 at the age of 22, suffering from ankle injuries. She returned in late 2006 and finished the following year ranked seventh.

However, she quit for a second time in 2007 under a cloud after she tested positive for cocaine at that year's Wimbledon. Hingis served a two-year ban but maintained her innocence.

She also won nine Grand Slam women's doubles titles and one Grand Slam mixed doubles title.

The 32-year-old Swiss, who has not played a WTA event since September 2007, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday becoming the fourth youngest player to be enshrined, following Tracy Austin (30), Bjorn Borg (31) and Hana Mandlikova — Reuters



Martina Hingis listens to one of her fellow inductees during a news conference at the Tennis Hall of Fame shortly before being inducted. Photo: Reuters

Sport

Dolphins get tune-up at TSLC

THANYAPURA is providing high performance tune-ups this week and next for some of Australia's best medal hopes at the 15th FINA World Championships beginning July 19, 2013 in Barcelona.

Some of the top names in Australian swimming have convened at Thanyapura's world class sports facilities, including London Olympic gold medalist Brittany Elmslie, Beijing Olympic gold medalist Bronte Barratt, Australia's "first couple" of backstroke, Meagan Nay and Mitch Larkin, Grant "Grunzo" Irvine, who clocked the fastest 200m butterfly time in the world this year at Australia's national world championship trials in Adelaide in April, and Ned McKendry, a member of the fifth-placed men's 200m relay team in London.

The Australian National Women's coach Micheal Bohl will be presiding over the specially targeted sessions gauged to wring the last ounce of performance from athletes during the crucial tapering period ahead of the world titles. The visiting swimmers are key members of a legendary national team, which is nursing wounded pride following a sub-par performance by its own world-beating standards at the London Olympics last year.

Ms Elmslie, 19, hailing from Nambour in Queensland, held a nation transfixed when she swam the key leg of the women's 200m freestyle relay at the London Olympics to win Australia its only gold medal in the pool. Last week she blew away her competition in the women's 200m freestyle at the TYR Fran Crippen Memorial Swim Meet of Champions in Mission Viejo, a milestone meet ahead of the World Championships, and also took the women's 50m and 100m freestyle crowns comfortably. Ms Elmslie will contest the 50m and 100m butterfly and up to three relays at the World Championships.

Ms Nay is another swimmer who has captured press headlines and imaginations: her father, Robbie Nay, was a freestyle relay finalist at the 1972 Munich Olympics and tragically died in a car crash when Ms Nay was just four. Mr Irvine, meanwhile, missed a place on the 2012 Olympic team



THE PERFECT PIT STOP: Thanyapura recently welcomed the Australian National Swim Team for an intensive training session (from left): Bronte Barratt, Grant Irvine, Meagan Nay, Edward McKendry, Brittany Elmslie and Mitch Larkin. Photo: Thanyapura

by just 0.27 of a second, and is out to atone for last year's disappointment.

Bronte Barratt was part of the Australian gold medal-winning 200m freestyle relay team at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. A year before that, Ms Barratt burst onto the scene by breaking one of the oldest records in swimming set in the women's 400m freestyle by Tracey Wickham 30 years ago. Her career has also been set apart by her ongoing duel with childhood best friend and fellow Albany Creek, Queensland native Kylie Palmer.

The visiting swimmers all train with legendary Australian coach Michael Bohl in Brisbane, and all took part in a high performance tune-up clinic at Thanyapura which finished on July 14, 2013.

The Australian swimming team, known as the "Dolphins", join a who's who of world swimming to grace Thanyapura's Olympic pool in recent months. Stars from the Danish, Italian, Chinese and British national squads have sparkled at Thanyapura in the past six months, utilizing Thanyapura's three-dimensional coaching approach for the

body, mind and soul to coax new levels of performance from world class athletes.

Besides Thanyapura's Olympic-standard 50m and 25m pools with state of the art timekeeping and technical support, Thanyapura is hosting the Australian swimmers at Thanyapura Sports Hotel, Asia's first dedicated hotel for athletes.

The 23 hectare campus also offers the best available resistance training equipment and one of Asia's most advanced fitness centers, Thanyapura Integrative Health Center (TIHC) and its sophisticated range of physiotherapy, diet and innovative health programs, the mental edge conferred by Thanyapura Mind Center (TMC) through mind training and visualisation sessions, and Thanyapura's famed organic cuisine at DiVine.

Mr Bohl said: "This is about giving the swimmers a bit of a change of scene in a world class island resort, while conducting the sort of high performance tune up clinics that Thanyapura is becoming renowned for," he said.

"It's time to focus on the future, the

immediate future being Barcelona of course, and beyond that the lead up to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. "To achieve this, we wanted to train in a center that supports the same ideals as us in terms of sporting excellence. Thanyapura is just that and the Aquatics Academy is without doubt the most comprehensive and well-equipped swimming training facility in the region," he added.

Thanyapura President Mr Robert Hauck said he was delighted to add Australia to the list of prominent swimming nations to begin what he hoped would be ongoing partnerships with Thanyapura.

"Australia has been a standard bearer for swimming and will continue to be a great force in the sport. It's a proud moment for Thanyapura to welcome them to Phuket, and I'm confident our facilities, support and three-dimensional approach will help Mr Bohl and his team in their quest for performance improvement."

— *Delivering Asia/Phuket Gazette*

For an exclusive interview with Australian National Women's Coach Michael Bohl, see p50.

Local T20 cricket action

THE Outrigger T20 league saw another action-packed double header at the ACG on July 14. In the first match, the Village took on Patong while the second match saw ICC take on the Phuket Youth Development team.

After a promising start to the season, the Village were looking to continue with their good form. Patong put the Village into bat where they achieved early success, removing captain, Paul Stamp (7) in the 6th over with the score on 20. A great attacking performance by Mark Whetton (32 not out off just 16 balls) in the final overs enabled the Village to reach a solid total of 145-6.

After the break, Patong set about their chase but lost opener Mike Khan early. However, Seemant Raju (50) and U Kanaja (14) steadied the course with a 67 run partnership. Paddy Morton (32) combined with Raju and captain, Anthony Van Blerk for a

succession of handy partnerships to take the score along to 126-5 before he fell. A great spell of bowling by Tom Gordon (4 for 22) saw him clean up the Patong tail-end to deny them victory as their innings fizzled out to 136-9, just short of the target. The victory by the Village sees them now sit atop the table, undefeated after round 2.

In the afternoon session, the Phuket Youth Development team took on ICC. The Youth Development team, were put into bat first and got off to a great start with a 51-run partnership between the experienced Bill Stahmer (29) and young Thai lad, Best (17). A great spell of bowling by Ravi Naik (5 for 33) saw him claim a few more victims before Andrew McMillan (26 not out) and Yo (12 not out) combined to put their team in contention with a 51 run partnership, to take their innings total to

137-6 after their 20 overs.

ICC also got off to a quick start with openers Surender Kumar (6) and Balesh Dessai (15) putting on 32 for the 1st wicket, before young Thai bowler, Jay, claimed the wicket of Kumar. The very next ball, he also claimed the scalp of Dessai and was on track for a hat-trick. The ICC batsmen held their nerve to deny him. A swashbuckling innings from Malik (45 runs from just 22 balls) eventually saw ICC claim victory by reaching 140-6 with 14 balls to spare.

Next Sunday, July 14, sees the Village taking on Patong and ICC taking on the Phuket youth team. Play commences at 10:30am and all are welcome to come along and watch Phuket's growing cricket scene.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information please contact chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com or visit phuketcricketgroup.com

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Sport

Bodybuilders pumping up

By Anthika Muangrod

THE Phuket Bodybuilding Club have announced that the second annual Phuket Classic bodybuilding competition will be on September 8; the event aims to encourage more newcomers to the sport.

President of Phuket Bodybuilding Club Ms Wilaiporn Wannaklang said the success of last year's

inaugural event prompted the club to continue the event, which helps promote healthy living and the benefits of fitness.

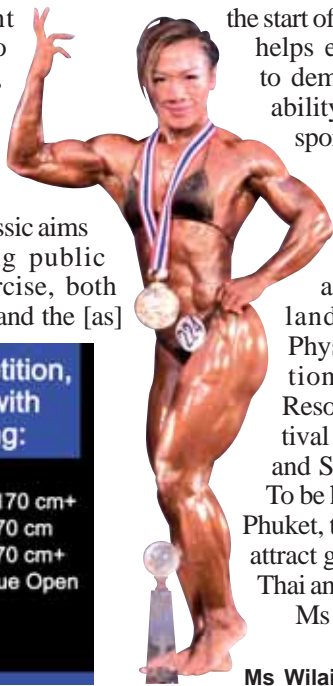
"The Phuket Classic aims to promote strong public awareness of exercise, both for health benefits and the [as]

the start of being an athlete. It also helps encourage newcomers to demonstrate their athletic ability as well as motivate sportsmen to develop their potential," she said.

This year's competition will be organized with the assistance of the Thailand Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Association (TBPA), the Vajitt Resort Phuket, Central Festival Phuket, Naiham Gym and Smart Gym.

To be held at Central Festival Phuket, the event is expected to attract great interest from both Thai and foreign bodybuilders.

Ms Wannaklang or "Joom"



Ms Wilaiporn Wannaklang

Phuket Classic 2013

For this year's competition, there will be 3 types with 11 categories including:

1. Men Junior Bodybuilding Open	7. Men Athletic Physique 170 cm+
2. Men Bodybuilding 65 kg	8. Men Model Physique 170 cm
3. Men Bodybuilding 70 kg	9. Men Model Physique 170 cm+
4. Men Bodybuilding 80 kg	10. Women Model Physique Open
5. Men Bodybuilding 80 kg+	11. Men Foreigner Open
6. Men Athletic Physique 170 cm	12. Popular Vote



Local bodybuilders and the sponsors on the announcement day.

is the Phuket Classic leader, who recently won first place in Women's Bodybuilding Open category of Mr Thailand 2013 – hosted by the TBPA. In 2012, she also won first place in the Mister Thailand 2012, World Women's Bodybuilding up to 50 kg from World and Physique Federation (WBPF), Siam Classic competition and has won scores of other awards during her career.

"We're expecting about a hundred candidates and now we have about 60 people in our hands," Ms. Wilaiporn told the *Gazette*.

The competition's qualifying and final rounds will start on Sunday September 8, 2013 at 10.30am at Central Festival Phuket. After a competitive qualifying round, only five candidates will be selected from each category to

compete again in the final round.

"In the final round the competitors will have to post for one minute long with some music they bring. Anyway, we have music provided for those who don't have," she added.

The first place winner in each category will receive 5000 baht cash along with a trophy and certificate. While the second and third place will receive 4000 baht and 3000 baht respectively with a trophy and certificate. The fourth and fifth will receive 2000 and 1000 baht cash respectively.

Interested candidates can contact Joom on 0853665275 as well as 0896461640 or email phuketbodybuildingclub@hotmail.com before August 20, 2013.

Buerki Judo Club conquers the competition



AT LAST week's Thai Royal Air Force Command Judo and Ju-Jitsu Championships, local Phuket competitors from the Buerki Judo Club managed to win an outstanding amount of med-

als in all age groups. Gold medal winners for Judo were: Ta, Shogun and Bitong. Silver medal winners were: Newle, Ket and Mek. Bronze medal winners were: BB, Falus, Kumfah and

Kenny. Ta and Shogun won the gold and silver Jiu-Jitsu medals respectively. Sensei Chone also picked up the award for Best Trainer. The Phuket Martial Arts and Buerki Judo Club is located

in the center of Phuket Town near rung hill dentist clinic and the club is sponsored by Ms Annelies and Mr Konrad Buerki from Switzerland.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For additional information about how to get involved in the club, either as a competitor or a sponsor please call the club's trainer Sensei Chone on 084 244 9886

Thailand edge Australia in Beach Soccer tourney

NARROWLY defeating Australia 4-3, Thailand finished a respectable 3rd place in the Asian Beach Soccer Cup 2013, contested last week in the Eastern Chinese city of Haiyang.

Playing to the same scoreline, hosts China beat the United Arab Emirates in the tournament's Final. Thailand had played the hosts twice, losing both times (4-3; 6-1), while Australia had beat Vietnam (7-2) but lost to UAE (3-0) in round-robin play.

The 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, the seventh edition of the tourney, will take



Australia put up a fight against Thailand. Photo: tourney's Facebook

place from 18 - 28 September 2013 in Tahiti. The championship will be contested by 16 teams, including three Asian reps: Japan, UAE and Iran.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Grant Irvine in the pool. Photo: tslc



Michael Bohl instructs the swimmers before a training session. Photos: Andrew Scott



Australia women's swim coach Michael Bohl.

Coaching the next generation

By Andrew Scott

RESPECTED coach Michael Bohl is the head of Australia's women's swim team and the man from Brisbane has had swimmers on every Australian team since 1991, including nine swimmers on the Olympic team last year and Stephanie Rice, who won three gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Bohl was at Thanyapura last week to prepare his young swimmers: Grant Irvine, Mitch Larkin, Ned McKendry, Bronte Barratt, Meagan Nay and Brittany Elmslie for the upcoming World Championships in Barcelona.

Phuket Gazette: Why choose to come to Phuket?

Michael Bohl: We are just two weeks outside of the World Championships in Barcelona and the weather in Australia is a bit sour. We were looking for a training facility that had good facilities, decent temperature and plenty of land space.

Did you also come here to isolate the

swimmers from the attention back home?

Not really. The Australian team as a group are meeting in Barcelona this week. Some of the swimmers elected to go to the French Open, which was held last week. Some went to North Queensland where the temperature is a bit warmer.

We thought we would break the trip over to Europe up by coming to a venue like this for a week.

How did you get into coaching?

I was a swimmer on the national team myself and studied Physical Education at university and I naturally transitioned across to the coaching.

I have been with the national team for quite a while. I was a swimmer from 1979 and I started coaching from 1991.

Our national head coach resigned and the way the board went was they wanted to have a national men's coach and national women's coach. Rohan Taylor was appointed the men's coach and I was ap-

pointed the women's coach.

It really is an interim measure. Swimming Australia have called for applications for the national head coaching position and I think that will be announced in early September this year.

What are your hopes for the upcoming World Championships in Barcelona?

We are hoping for some good swims. At our trials back in April we had some very good swims and what we are really looking to do at Barcelona is to get improvements from the team. Hopefully they can do better than their trials.

What's your training process in the build up to a big swim meet?

The swimmers need to be relaxed and calm when they are in that high pressure swim situation. With both men and women we try to keep them as relaxed as possible and keep them together as a group. Keeping the coaches and swimmers together as one unit helps to maintain team harmony.

What's your plan after Barcelona?

Some of the kids will stay in Barcelona for a bit of a holiday. I am going straight back to Australia from Barcelona to coach.

When Grant Irvine swam the fastest butterfly of the year in April, he said that you pushed him and that helped him shave more than a second off his personal best time. How does that make you feel as a coach?

What you try and do as a coach is to try and make a difference. When swimmers have disappointments, that is their motivation to push on and achieve good things the following season.

Out of adversity comes success. Grant really encapsulates that. For him to miss out on London and then to step up at trials and swim that fast was really gratifying to me as a coach.

Watch the full interview on the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show on TrueVision channel 99. Also, see related story on page 48.

Laguna Marathon bigger, better next year

NOW in its ninth year, the Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM) is going from strength to strength with numbers of participants expected to break 6,000 next year and runners to come from Asia, Europe and the Americas.

LPIM is the largest destination marathon in Southeast Asia and sees participants push themselves to the limit in order to raise money for charity. Following the tsunami disaster in 2004, organizers Go Adventure Asia set out to create an event that celebrated how the people, businesses, and landscape of Thailand had recovered and were moving forward.

With over 5,300 entrants this year, the number of runners for the 2014 event is expected to break 6,000 and increase further in the years to come, supporting the government's initiative of making Phuket the sports tourism destination of Thailand.

LPIM 2014 continues to build on the charitable success of the past marathons with runners encouraged to raise money for charity. Past events have supported local charities including: Laguna's "Fully Booked!" Mobile Learning Center, which aims to encourage students to read books and improve reading skills, as well as to give them access to learning resources that are currently not available to them; and the "Developing Sustainable Schools" program focusing on Baan Jao Krua School, Klong Kien Sub-District, Phang Nga Province.

Laguna Phuket collaborated with the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) on this project in order to ensure successful development of this school.

For the eighth consecutive year, the sponsorship experts, Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd, will be

representing the LPIM. The company is credited with securing partnerships with a number of high profile sponsors for the event, including title sponsor Laguna Phuket, which sees the race begin and end at its magnificent resort, a holiday complex of deluxe hotels and villas spanning 1,000 acres of tropical parkland along an eight kilometer stretch of pristine beach.

With a number of branding, media, hospitality and experiential marketing opportunities, rights are available for just one presenting sponsor, up to six non-competing co-sponsors, up to ten official partners and up to ten media partners.

There are also "Island Partner" opportunities available for local Phuket businesses. A package of comprehensive commercial sponsorship and partnership programs has been created by Paul Poole (South East Asia) for the Laguna Phuket International Marathon



Charity Ambassador Krittapas "Krit" Sakditanon led a team of volunteers who sought donations during this year's marathon. Photo: Laguna Phuket

2014. The packages suit differing needs and enable international and domestic companies the chance to integrate their marketing initiatives with a sports event that sees participants push themselves to

the limit for a great cause.

— *Phuket Gazette*

The *Phuket Gazette* has been a proud sponsor of the LPIM since its inaugural event close to a decade ago.

Stalemate proves a boon

Islanders back into 5th following goalless draw with PTT Rayong

By Steven Layne

THE Islanders moved back into fifth place of the 18-team Yamaha League One thanks to a goalless draw with second placed team, PTT Rayong on Saturday evening at Surakul Stadium, Phuket Town.

As a result of their 2-2 draw last week with Big Bang Chula United, the Islanders got bumped down to 8th place, but knew that a win or

draw this week would give them a boost back up the table.

However, gaining an edge over the PTT Rayong "Fire Power", arguably the league's strongest team, would prove difficult.

Actual play only lasted 40 minutes, as this was the conclusion to the game abandoned on June 9 due to rainstorms over Phuket that had forced the match officials to abandon the fixture five minutes into the second half.

Both sides had a handful of chances, but neither the hundred or so away fans, nor the thousands of home fans attending were to be sated with a goal.

The resulting single point was enough to edge Phuket into 5th place, now with 27 points, over a handful of teams, including Trat who are level on points though have a slightly inferior goal difference.

Also, in close contention for promotion push are four other teams – Nakhon Ratchasima FC, Nakhon Pathom United and Big Bang Chula United – all who have 26 points – as well as Gulf Saraburi just one point further back.

Undefeated, PTT Rayong remain in second with 38 points, trailing league leaders Air Force United, running away with 43 points.

Phuket FC now hit the road to take on the league's third place team, Bangkok FC (32 points) next Saturday (July 20) in a very crucial match at Chalem Prakit stadium in Bang Mod, Thonburi – off the west bank of the Chao Phraya River.

Although Phuket trail Bangkok by five points, a win for the Islanders would reduce the deficit down to just two points and thus make the prospects look hope-



IMPREGNABLE WALL: Phuket's star Thai striker, Chana Sonwiset was unable to break through PTT Rayong's defense last Saturday. Photo: Steven Layne

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Air Force	18	43
2	PTT Rayong	18	38
3	Bangkok	18	32
4	Port Lions	18	31
5	Phuket	18	27
6	Trat FC	18	27
7	Korat	18	26
8	Nakhon Pathom	18	26
9	BBCU FC	18	26
10	Saraburi	18	25
11	Ayutthaya	18	19
12	Khon Kaen	18	19
13	Krabi	18	18
14	Sriracha	18	16
15	Royal Navy	18	16
16	TTM FC	18	16
17	Rayong FC	18	14
18	Rayong Utd.	18	12

UPCOMING FIXTURES

July 20 – Away vs Bangkok FC
August 3 – Home vs Thai Tobacco Monopoly
August 11 – Home vs Nakhon Pathom
August 14 – Away vs Royal Navy
August 17 – Away vs Khon Kaen
August 21 – Home vs Air Force
August 25 – Away vs Port Lions
August 31 – Home vs Ayutthaya

ful for contending the third and final promotion spot to the country's elite soccer league – the Thai Premier League.

Meanwhile, this Sunday, 13th placed Krabi (18 points) will host league leaders, Air Force United with kickoff set for 6pm.

Air Force United have lost only once in this campaign, surprisingly to lowly Khon Kaen who proved anything is possible.

After this weekend, the league will break for one week-end; however, Phuket's busy schedule in August beholds seven tough games – four at home and three away (see panel to left).

Chonburi represent Thailand in futsal tourney

By Steven Layne

THAILAND'S 5-a-side champions are among the sixteen of the world's finest futsal clubs, who have gathered in the heart of the Middle East since July 10 to contest the Kuwait Mini World Futsal Club Tournament.

Playing in their opening match last Saturday, the winners of the 2012-2013 Thailand Futsal Premier League, Chonburi Blue Wave drew in their first of three scheduled group matches, 2-2 to Croatian champs, MNK Alumnus.

MNK Alumnus' line-up comprises a number of Croatian national team players, Bosnian nationals, as well as ordinary Croatian university students, while Chonburi is dominated with Thai national squad players, likewise.

The two clubs' national squads are also evenly matched: Ranked 15th in the world, Croatia have a slight edge over Thailand by one ranking spot.

It was Alumnus who took charge first in

Saturday's thrilling contest, with Hrvoje Penava scoring both of his side's goals – first on two minutes and again on 38 minutes – putting his side ahead each time.

However, Chonburi's star, Kritsada Wongkaew equalized in the second minute of the 2nd half, while Brazilian sensation Rudimar Venancio scored the match's second equalizer in the final minute of play.

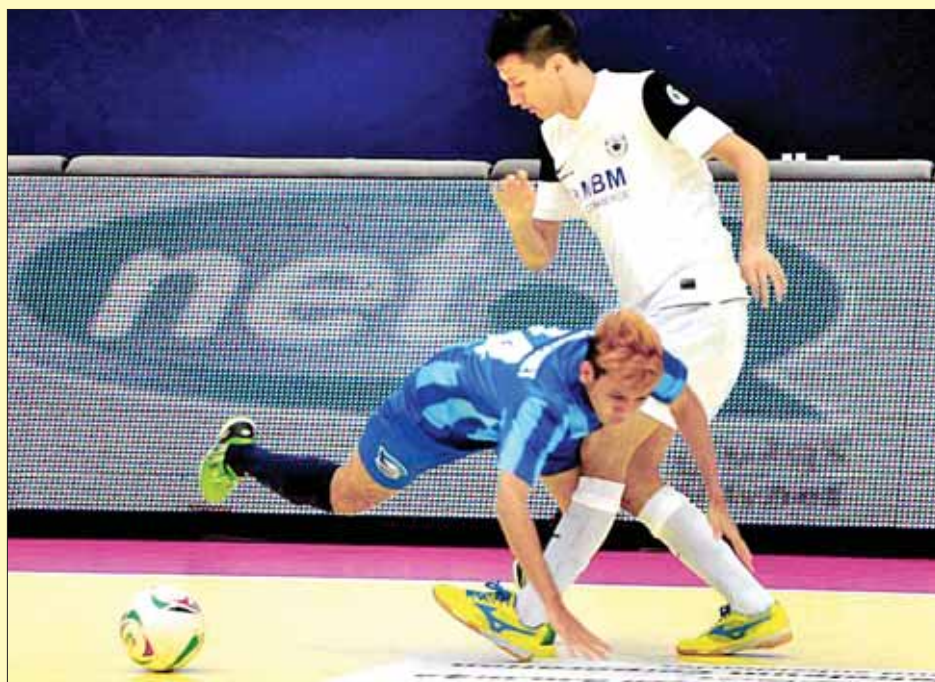
Rudimar Venancio, 29, nicknamed "Xapa", is a Brazilian-born futsal player who tends to play in the winger position.

Chonburi's next opponents in the group stage of the tourney were Spanish premier side, Santiago, with the tough match taking place at the time of going to press.

Santiago beat Kuwaiti representatives, Kazma 1-0 in their first match.

Chonburi's final group match will be against Kazma on Saturday, July 21, with a 5pm kickoff in Kuwait (9pm in Thailand).

Live streaming links via tournament's website: kmwfct.com



Chonburi's Keattiyot Chalaemkhet trips over the leg of an Alumnus player. Photo: KMWFCT



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