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Phuket Gazette

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Airport tackles tourist overrun

By Pimwara Choksakulpan and Janpen Upatising

PHUKET Airport Director Duangchai Condee has announced that a slew of temporary measures are underway at the airport to cater to the record number of passengers using the facility.

Phuket Airport has a stated total capacity of 6.5 million passengers a year, including all arrivals and departures from international and domestic flights.

Airports of Thailand (AoT), the public company that operates the facility, anticipate 7.95 million passengers this year – 22 per cent more passengers than the facility is currently designed to accommodate.

“We now have many temporary projects underway to support the increasing number of tourists.

For example, we are removing the escalator from the second to



Passengers queue at the check-in counters. Photo: Nicholas Altstadt

the third floor so we can to add more check-in counters on the second floor.

“We are also installing more seats in the departure lounge and more toilets.

“All these projects will be finished by this October, before the

high season begins,” she said.

More airport officers will be stationed at the x-ray machines at the entrances to the terminal, she added.

“We have two x-ray machines, but sometimes we use only one because there are not enough officers on staff to ensure both can be operating at peak times.

“We are also currently in the process hiring more security guards and system engineers. The extra engineers are to ensure any equipment problems can be fixed quickly,” she said.

Phuket Airport Immigration Superintendent Col Theerayuth Budnampeth told the *Phuket Gazette* on Wednesday that Immigration Bureau Commissioner Lt Gen Wiboon Bangthamai was in Phuket this week for consultation on the problem of long immigration queues.

Continued on page 2



HM Queen Sirikit

Happy Birthday to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit

THE *Phuket Gazette* joins the nation in wishing HM Queen Sirikit a happy 79th birthday for Friday, August 12.

The auspicious occasion is celebrated around the Kingdom with thousands of celebrants taking part in ceremonies.

The most notable will be at 7:19pm when lights are switched off and candles are lit around the nation.

The special day is also celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand and the *Gazette* wishes all mothers a happy day.

See pages 22 and 23 for a photo special on the wide range of events held around Phuket over the past days to mark the national holiday.

For a cross-section of Phuket women's views on Mother's Day, see our special on page 16.

Swedish duo may not do 'hard time'

By Nicholas Altstadt

THE Swedish duo charged with the murder of Maksim Schantz last week would likely serve out their sentences in Sweden, a consular official told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Johan Sebastian Ljung, 25, and Tommy Viktor Sderlund, 26, confessed last week to attacking and stabbing to death the Russian-born Swedish national Mr Schantz, police said.

The pair allegedly were angered that Mr Schantz informed police of a scam operation they had been running out of Pattaya.

Pr Kageby, Senior Consular Officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, told the *Gazette* that based on a prisoner-transfer agreement between Sweden and Thailand, the suspects would have the opportunity to

serve out their sentences in Sweden if convicted in a Thai court.

If they are convicted of the murder charges, they would have one month to appeal before sentencing, Mr Kageby said.

According to the agreement, the pair would be required to serve one-third, or no more than eight years, of their sentence before having the opportunity to apply to the Swedish government for a transfer.

If the Swedish government accepts the transfer request, it would then be forwarded to the Thai government for approval, Mr Kageby said.

“The nature of the crime, the convict's behavior in prison and various other things are considered. If they are positive, [the Thai government] will say ‘Yes’ to the transfer,” he said.

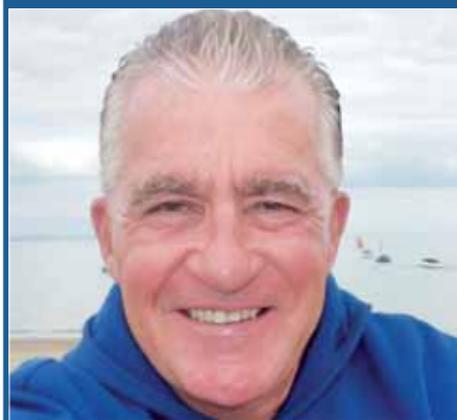
“According to the agreement, it is the Thai sentence that will be served, but so far as I know with other cases, the sentences have been looked upon in ‘Swedish ways’,” Mr Kageby said.

In one high-profile case, Swedish national Karolina Johnsson, popularly known as “the Diplomat's Daughter” due to her parents' professions, was arrested in Bangkok in possession of five kilograms of heroin, Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet* reported.

Ms Karolina, who wrote a book about her ordeal, was sentenced to serve 45 years in a Thai prison in 1994 before being transferred to Sweden after serving four years in Thailand “under an agreement she would serve the full sentence,” the report said.

Continued on page 2

Les 'La Manche'



Phuket's Ironman Les Bird has successfully swam the English Channel. Read all about his adventurous crossing and his next plans for testing the limits of human ability on page 18.

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This Week

News



Pattaya cracking down on jet-skis, but not Phuket. **Page 5**

Live Wire



Fiber optics will take internet speeds to new heights. **Page 12**

Life&style



Dean Noble explains the art of insect photography. **Page 15**

Food



Top of the Reef proves to be a real blast from the past. **Page 19**

Sport



The full report on FC Phuket's away match vs BBCU. **Page 41**

Sport



Get a full breakdown on what lies ahead in the Toyota League Cup. **Page 44**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Patong residents to pay for wastewater

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin announced this week that Patong Municipality will start charging residents and business owners for wastewater treatment.

The news was delivered at a meeting with visiting members of the Senate Standing Committee for Natural Resources and the Environment on a two-day fact-finding visit to Phuket.

Mayor Pian explained that the Patong Council will approve the motion on Monday, before passing it on to the Governor's Office for approval.

Once Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha follows through on the motion, Patong Municipality will launch a three-month public awareness campaign before levying the fees, targeting households and commercial buildings, he said.

Wiriya Tevanukul, an engineer at Patong Municipality's Sanitation Division, explained that Patong



Patong Mayor Pian Keesin

Municipality has charged wastewater treatment fees since 1999.

"But we have been charging only hotels and restaurants. Hotels are charged 600 baht per room per year, while restaurants – including bars – are charged 40 baht per square meter," she said.

However, over the years Patong Municipality has borrowed 200 million baht from the National Environment Foundation to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant, said Ms Wiriya.

A condition of the loan was that Patong Municipality must start charging the public for wastewater treatment from 2011, and must pay back to the foundation 3.5 per cent of all revenue received for wastewater treatment until 2028.

The National Environment Foundation set the fees on June 2 last year, to be brought into effect this year.

"Patong Municipality has now applied for a 95 million baht loan to further upgrade the plant to boost its treatment capacity from 23,250 to 32,250 cubic meters of wastewater a day. We are waiting for that loan to be approved, too," Ms Wiriya added.

The new fees will be levied according to water supplied to the premises: 2.5 baht per cubic meter for households; 3.75 baht per cubic meter for government offices, state enterprises, foundations and small businesses; and 5 baht per cubic meter for industrial operations and large businesses.

Corruption is our top priority: Poll

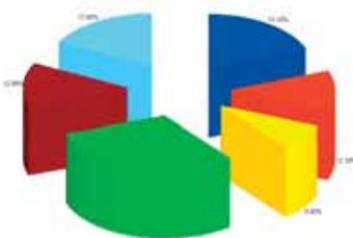
NEARLY one-third of *Phuket Gazette* readers responding to an online poll voted corruption as Phuket's top priority for authorities to address.

In the poll, readers were asked, 'Which of the following issues affecting Phuket do you feel needs the most urgent attention by the new Government?'

The choices in responding were: Traffic congestion, Crime, Drug abuse, Corruption, Public transport, Environmental protection.

Behind corruption, 19% of readers felt that environmental protection should be at the top of the new government's agenda.

More than 17% said that public transport was most important, while 13% said crime, almost 12% said traffic congestion and 8.1% said drug abuse should be addressed first.



The most common response from Thai nationals was traffic congestion (25%), followed by crime (20%), and environmental protection (7%).

The most common response from local foreign residents was corruption (40%) followed by public transport (18%), with 7% choosing drug abuse.

"Tourists" or "visitors" said environmental protection was the most urgent (30%), then corruption and public transport (18%)

Airport tackles surge in tourist arrivals

From page 1

"He [Lt Gen Wiboon] was very concerned and that he will send more of Immigration officers as soon as they become available.

"Eight officers from Suvarnabhumi Airport have already been transferred to help us, but we must keep in mind that other airports around the country are also suffering shortages of Immigration officers," he said.

"I have held discussions with officers from AoT and Aerothai to help us by managing when flights arrive at and depart from Phuket.

"This should help to reduce the number of tourists departing or arriving Phuket at the same time," Col Theerayuth added.

Swedes charged with murder may serve short jail sentences

From page 1

She was released from Swedish prison in 2006 after serving a total of 12 years behind bars as the maximum Swedish sentence for heroin smuggling is 14 years, which is usually reduced, the newspaper reported.

Ljung and Soderlund are likely to remain in Phuket Prison at least until a verdict is reached, Mr Kageby said.

They are currently remanded on police request, which is up for review every 12 days. The next review will be on August 16.

The police must file the case with the prosecutor within 84 days

of charging the suspects, Mr Kageby said.

If they are convicted and sentenced, they will have the opportunity to apply to transfer to other prisons in Thailand, he added.

"We sent a consular officer to visit them on Monday and we normally try to go as soon as possible after someone has been arrested. We made sure they had a lawyer, which they had already arranged, and that everything goes as it should," he said.

"We're always happy with the cooperation with police," Mr Kageby said.



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH



Boys help collect fish from the poisoned canal.

Residents cry foul over poison in local canal

PARENTS and local residents are calling for action against repeated poisoning of a canal along a major Phuket Town school, killing hundreds of fish.

About 5pm last Wednesday, residents entered a section of Klong Bang Yai that runs next to Satee Phuket School on Damrong Road and removed hundreds of dead fish.

The water in the canal was black, thick and mixed with an oily substance.

One local resident said this was not the first time that the canal had suffered a mass poisoning. "Every time this happens the water has a strong bad smell and lots of fish die. The smell gets even worse when the water level drops, and it even makes it difficult for some residents to breathe," he said.

He and other residents in the area suspect that factories or businesses further upstream are illegally releasing untreated water into the canal.

"This has been going on for a year but no government authority has come down to investigate it," he told the *Gazette*.

However, Anutta Srakaew of the Public Works department said this was the first time she had heard of the problem.

She said her department had never received a complaint about the water being polluted before.

"I will report this to the Director of Public Works. We will be looking into the problem," she said.

- Yodsak Jarana

Missing hill sparks row

By Janpen Upatising

LANDOWNERS digging up and selling the earth on their plots in central Phuket has sparked a row from neighbors, who say the extensive excavation work is causing dangerous landslips, for which they are seeking 300,000 baht in compensation.

An investigation headed by Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak deemed much of the excavation work on the plot in Srisoonthorn, Thalang, as illegal.

"Our land used to be at the same level, until they began digging," said Khanitta Mulikabutr, niece of the owner of the adjoining plot, Teunjai Adsin.

"Landslips from adjacent plots have been occurring since November last year, including from our land. Some of our trees have fallen down because of it, so we want them to take responsibility for this," she added.

Ms Khanitta explained that negotiations had been attempted several times, but they failed to reach agreement.

Ms Teunjai, who filed the complaint that sparked the investigation, was seeking 300,000 baht in compensation and de-



Panya Kirikhet talks to the excavator Boonkua Sakulchan on the phone during the 'negotiations'. Below: The investigation team walks around site to gain a perspective of the volume of illegal digging that was done.



manded that a retaining wall be built to separate the two plots.

V/ Gov Somkiet and his team of investigators inspected the site with the aim of mediating a solu-

tion between the parties involved, who include Saowanee Keereekhet and Prapai Mulikabutr, named as owners of the land in question, and Boonkua Sakulchan, the man who organized for the excavation work to be done.

Representing Mr Boonkua, who was in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was Panya Kirikhet.

However, Mr Boonkua said he did not have the money to pay Ms Teunjai what she demanded.

"Mr Boonkua would like to offer Ms Teunjai 30,000 baht and

the piece of land instead," Mr Panya said while he was on the phone with Mr Boonkua.

Ms Teunjai declined the offer. "The land is owned by Ms Saowanee and Ms Prapai. How can he give the land to me? I think they need to discuss this among themselves first," she said.

V/ Gov Somkiet added that much of the excavation work had been done illegally.

"Srisoonthorn Deputy Mayor Nikom said that the OrBorTor [Tambon Administration Organization] gave permission to dig in 2008, but that permit was only for six months," he said.

"Over the past three years, illegal digging has taken place on this plot on three occasions. Ms Teunjai has reported this to Thalang Police and they will take further action regarding the laws that have been broken," he added.

"I think negotiations can be completed in two days. Once both parties have agreed on the terms, the two men overseeing the talks will take both parties to sign an agreement at the Damrongtham Center," he said.

However, Ms Tengjai warned of legal action if the negotiations failed.

Officials under fire for overpass plans

HIGHWAYS Department officials on Tuesday received heavy criticism for presenting three designs for an overpass at Bang Khu Intersection, one of the main traffic crunch points during peak hours on Phuket's Thepkrasattri Road.

The Bang Khu Intersection is where Thepkrasattri Rd meets the bypass road.

A slew of prominent local figures questioned the fundamental reasons for building a flyover at the junction at all.

"I think the three designs will not help solve the problems of traffic jams at the intersection. The real problem is the traffic lights at Koh Kaew," said Kuakiat Jitkua,

president of the Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor).

Bhurit Maswongsa of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), agreed. "The whole [traffic] system needs to be revised. There are traffic jams on Thepkrasattri Road because it is the only route from the airport to town...Why don't we use the money for building another route instead?" he asked.

Khasame Srivaranan, the Engineer for Survey and Design at the Department of Highways, replied, "Right now we are focusing on solving the traffic problem at Bang Khu Intersection only, and this is just the survey and design stage."



One of the base designs presented at the public hearing on Tuesday.

Asked why no underpass was presented, project manager Kaweerat Deeprasertwong explained, "If we built an underpass it would obstruct the water flow and there would be problems with

flooding." Mr Kaweerat said that all suggestions would be considered in the revised plans to be presented at the next public hearing in September.

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Cockfights, pot plants on government land

THE Prime Minister's Office has ordered a provincial investigation after allegations that an "influential person" is behind illegal activity encroaching on Treasury Department land near Phuket Town.

"We inspected the site, about half a rai - 800 square meters - near Nam Yoi restaurant. It is on government land, but we will have to wait for the police to conclude their investigation before we know whether or not this involves an influential person," said Prapan Kanprasang, head of the Phuket Provincial Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's Office).

Also on Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha's team of investigators were Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak, Lt Col Charan Bunsopard of the Provincial Police, officers from Phuket Provincial Public Health Office, Phuket Treasury Office, Muang District Office and Rassada Municipality.

Among the allegations were that *krathom* (a medicinal plant illegal in Thailand) and marijuana were being grown at the site on Toh Sae Hill, the taller of the two main hills



Cops photograph bird cages.

in northern Phuket Town.

"The complaint said that gambling on cockfights and fish fights was conducted at the site, and that people cheering during such events was disturbing the neighbors," said Mr Prapan.

Trash, rudimentary latrines, noise from cocks crowing and fears of avian flu were all listed as concerns in the complaint, he added.

V/ Gov Somkiet assigned the officers to work on each of their areas of responsibility in the investigation and report to him within 15 days.

"Gov Tri will be informed of all developments," said Mr Prapan.

Prison probe exposes ladyboy 'anal ring'

GUARDS at Uttaradit Prison recently became suspicious of a ladyboy inmate who seemed highly agitated and was unable to sit down during a random cell inspection.

When they asked the prisoner to show them what she was hiding, the inmate obliged by pulling a Nokia mobile phone out of her anus. And that wasn't all that was up there.

The prisoner was unable to remove a second mobile phone from inside her because a piece of metal coil attached to the bag the device was wrapped in had gotten stuck to the wall of her large intestine. She was sent to the hospital for surgery.

The bizarre tale was revealed on August 4 by Thanis Siyaphan, deputy chief of the Department of Corrections.

Mr Thanis said the same prisoner was caught trying to pull off the same trick again soon after being discharged from the hospital,



As a result, the guards make inmates jump backwards and forwards so that the phones fall out of their bottoms, he said.

Sometimes phones have had to be removed through surgery to the stomach area after being hidden too deeply.

Some prisoners have been known to use the method to try and smuggle up to three mobile phones into prison at one time, he said.

Some have even been discovered after the prisoners forgot to turn the phones off before inserting them.

Guards were alerted to the presence of the devices when someone called and the ringtones were heard, Mr Sorasit said.

Mr Thanis said the Department of Corrections was ramping up security, with prisoners being closely watched by officials and facing random contraband searches five times a week.

- Daily News

indicating that she was being paid to perform the "courier" service.

Sorasit Chongcharoen, director of the department's Central Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts, said a lot of phones were smuggled into Thai prisons because they were used by prisoners to arrange drug deals.

Mr Sorasit said the latest method was to have a ladyboy smuggle the phone in by hiding it up her anal cavity.

The phone mules are paid 500-1000 baht for every device they bring in, he said.

The method is popular because metal scanners can't detect phones when they're carried inside the body this way.

Auto-thief gang nabbed in Patong

POLICE have arrested six suspects accused of running a car and motorcycle theft racket in Patong.

The Thai and Burmese suspects were presented at Kathu Police Station on August 5 along with eight stolen motorcycles, bike parts, mechanic's tools, spray painting equipment, one stolen pickup truck and six other cars that are suspected as stolen.

Earlier that day, police stopped So Ong, a 36-year-old laborer, as he rode by on a motorcycle. After failing to produce a registration, Mr So confessed that he did not have it and that he had bought the motorbike from a friend.

After following a trail and arresting two other Burmese workers and one Thai, police were led to the house of Mr Sutat Sopanhari, the alleged gang leader.

They found Sutat, 22, painting



The gang and their loot.

a stolen pickup truck while Saichon Phanomyai, 29, was sitting on the truck taking *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine). Other stolen motorcycles and parts were found at the scene

Sutat confessed that his gang was involved in vehicular theft as well as house burglaries. Some motorcycles were sold to Burmese laborers for 2,000 to 4,000 baht while others were parted out.

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Jet-ski license law 'overlooked'

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

A TOURISM Authority of Thailand (TAT) news release last month noted failure by local authorities in connection with jet-ski rental issues plaguing Thailand's beach destinations.

The release aimed at educating tourists of the dangers of renting the water craft and stated that laws governing such practices were not enforced for the sake of tourism. The most commonly attributed cause of jet-ski accidents, inexperienced drivers, was simply accepted by authorities, it said.

The notice, titled "Jet Ski Safety Tips", was posted on TAT's Online News Room.

"Jet skis are very powerful watercraft. In the hands of an inexperienced operator or through lack of attention, a pleasure trip can easily result in serious, even fatal, accidents. In addition to medical expenses, having to pay for damage to rental equipment can be very costly," said the report.

Among the potential outcomes of jet-ski accidents listed in the report, aside from death, were head injuries, drowning, broken bones and similar injuries "related to improper handling of the vehicle".

TAT singled out training and experience as the most basic ways of preventing jet-ski accidents.

Oddly, considering the news release was aimed at tourists, the report pointed out that only individuals who hold a valid "Second Class Helmsmen of Power Driven Seagoing Vessels" license issued by Thailand's Marine Department were permitted to operate jet-skis in the Kingdom.

It also warned that a crackdown on people driving jet-skis without this license was already underway. "Provincial authorities and the



FRESH ON THE BOAT: Most accidents are caused by inexperienced drivers.

Thai Tourist Police have recently embarked on a rigorous campaign to ensure the strict enforcement of existing rules and regulations. Additional legislation has also been drafted and is pending approval for implementation," the report said.

"In the unfortunate case of an accident occurring, the individual operating the jet ski will be required to present this documentation [the jet-ski license] .

' Tourists come here on holiday and they ride jet-skis. It's not like they are piloting passenger ships and this is not as serious as drugs,'

- Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat

In Pattaya, the penalty for riding a jet-ski without proper documentation is a fine of up to 10,000 baht or imprisonment," it added.

Reports in the media this past week indicated that the local authorities in Pattaya were indeed cracking down on jet-ski operators there, but the *Phuket Gazette* has been told this will not happen in Phuket.

Phuket Tourist Police Superintendent Lt Col Ekachai Pramanakul told the *Gazette* that his officers had no authority to arrest people for breaking this law.

"This law is in the hands of the

Marine Police and Marine Department. All we can do is mediate between tourists and operators when there is a problem," he said.

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, chief of the Marine Office in Phuket, said his officers will not enforce the law.

"Tourists come here on holiday and they ride jet-skis. It's not like they are piloting passenger ships and this is not as serious as drugs.

"That's why we ask jet-ski operators to carry insurance. It is the best compromise in making sure they can make a living and help protect tourists in case of an accident.

"If the TAT asks me to enforce this law, I will urge them to focus on jet-ski insurance, like we do in Phuket," he said.

The problem is that insurance payouts are limited to a maximum of 50,000 baht and the introduction of so-called "mandatory" insurance has had little effect on stopping some jet-ski operators from intimidating tourists. As recently as April this year a British tourist was cajoled into paying 180,000 baht for damages to a jet-ski he rented in Patong.

Then there's the staggering number of insurance claims being made by operators - so many that Ayudhya Insurance, which provides policies for jet-skis under the

would cover accidents involving unlicensed jet-ski drivers, when they wouldn't for unlicensed drivers of any other vehicles.

Titiporn Manenate, Director of the TAT's International Public Relations Division, pointed out that insurance is a reactive measure whereas the news release focused on preventing accidents.

"The article was posted as a suggestion for tourists to avoid problems by riding jet-skis as passengers. We didn't intend to enforce this law against them," she said.

"The article was the result of many complaints about jet-ski operators threatening tourists who hired jet-skis and were involved in accidents, especially complaints from Indian tourists riding jet-skis in Pattaya.

"The TAT office in Delhi told us that tour agents in India were warning their customers not to ride jet-skis in Thailand and if we don't take action, they might eventually cancel their trips," she said.

Although the notice was removed from the TAT website on July 20, Ms Titiporn said she will soon discuss a permanent solution with various TAT offices.



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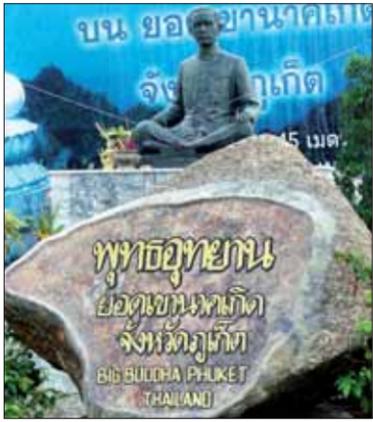
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The rock no longer bears the royal insignia of Rama V.

Big Buddha donations to continue

THE foundation constructing Phuket's Big Buddha image will continue to collect donations for the project.

The news follows a provincial committee ruling that the Mingmongkol Faith 45 Foundation was no longer allowed to advertise or publicly solicit donations for the project, and had to hand over responsibility for physically receiving donations to monks from Wat Kata, the temple that commissioned the giant image.

However, Kwanchai Sema-thong, manager of the Big Buddha project, told the *Phuket Gazette* that the foundation will continue handling donations made through their collection boxes throughout Phuket.

"We will also keep our collection boxes at the major shopping centers, too," he said.

Mr Kwanchai confirmed that the royal insignia of Rama V had been removed from the rock beside the statue of Thailand's historical monarch, both of which were ordered removed as per the committee's ruling.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

Plans for offshore diesel station put on hold

A COMMUNITY project to convert a water-refilling platform in Chalong Bay into an offshore petrol station are on hold indefinitely following a public hearing last week.

"I heard the project was going ahead without any public hearings, so I filed a letter of protest and the project was stopped by the Marine Transportation Office in Phuket," explained Sommai Naoprai, the president of a group called the Rawai Environment and Natural Resource Protection Volunteers.

"I am looking at this only in terms of the environment and the safety of the community,

not whether it is a necessary project for the community," he added.

Among his chief concerns were plans to install a 20,000-liter diesel storage tank beside the mosque and pipes running from the storage tank to the platform 850 meters offshore.

He also questioned the money raised to complete the project.

Village headman Prasert Khoomban denied the project was being done quietly.

"We raised the issue with the mosque and filed a request with the District Community Development Office for approval.

"They accepted the request and coordinated with related offices – and the project was approved. We would be using technology from the UK for the entire project," he added.

As for raising funds, Mr Prasert said that more than 400 villagers invested in the project. "We raised about 2 million of the estimated 3 million baht required," he said.

Of the profits made from selling the diesel, 10 per cent was to go to the mosque.

Now that the project has stalled, all the money has been returned to the villagers, he added.

— Chutharat Plerin

Sea gypsies washed out

By Atchaa Khamlo

LARGE waves brought on by the wet-season monsoon are damaging homes at a small sea gypsy community on Phuket's east coast, forcing villagers to seek refuge with family members or even sleep outdoors.

At least eight houses – home to 53 people – have suffered damage.

John Pramongkij, 57, is scared to sleep in his house, with the walls cracking from the incessant pounding of the waves.

"I don't dare to stay in the house during high tide, so we all sleep outside near the community hall," he said.

Pa Pramongkij, 35, no relation to Mr John, has moved her family of four to sleep in her mother's small home.

"The sandbags do very little when the waves are big. We are afraid to sleep in the house when the waves are strong because there are now cracks along the walls," she told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"So now, we have to sleep in my mother's house. If I lose my house, I'm not sure where I will live," she said.

Wilaiwan "Namwan" Rakdee, a



Wilaiwan 'Namwan' Rakdee shows where the waves are slowly breaking the villagers' homes apart. Inset: A close-up of one of the battered walls.

21-year-old mother of a two-year-old boy, lives in a damaged house with five others.

Like the rest of the villagers, she is calling for Rassada Municipality to fix a sea wall to protect the village from the sea.

"We urgently need a strong new sea wall to protect our

homes. This is the second time our houses have been seriously damaged by strong waves.

"The first time was around October last year. Rassada Municipality gave us sand, lime and rock to build temporary barriers, but they were no match against the waves," she said.

Mrs Wilaiwan explained that the sea wall was built about five years ago.

"It took about three months to build, but it started breaking apart in its first year.

"If the wall had been built to a good standard, our houses wouldn't be damaged. They just laid down big pieces of concrete, altogether about one kilometer long. They didn't secure it properly by driving it down firmly," she said.

"Many government officials have come to inspect the state of the collapsed wall, but they have done nothing about it," Mrs Wilaiwan added.

Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom told the *Gazette* today, "To rebuild the wall would cost more than 10 million baht, which we don't have.

"This year's budget is already tied up in other projects. Therefore, we will request a budget [to build a new wall] from the provincial office in the next fiscal year [which starts on October 1].

"However, we are not sure when we can [confirm this] because the new government has yet to settle in," Mayor Suratin added.

Phuket faithful honor Father Richard, 82

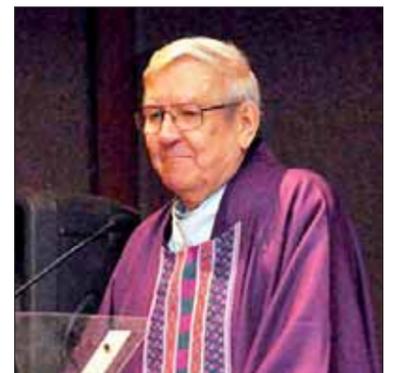
FRIENDS and followers of Father Richard Woodarek, who served Phuket's Catholic community for more than 40 years, gathered in numbers to attend his funeral at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Phuket Town on Wednesday.

Father Richard passed away last Friday. He was 82 years old and had spent more than half of his life in Thailand, most of that time in Phuket.

After fulfilling his military duty in the US Army, Fr Richard entered the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers in 1948 in Waltham, Massachusetts. He was ordained in Rome on May 5, 1957, and assigned to Thailand in 1959.

Father Richard arrived in Bangkok in April 1959. Soon after, he was assigned to develop a language-studies curriculum at Dowroong Wittaya School in Phuket.

His death was sudden and un-



Father Richard Woodarek
Photo: Damian Barrett

expected. He had returned from visiting relatives in the US last Wednesday and arrived in Phuket the next day.

As he wished, he was buried at the Catholic cemetery at Darasamuth.

Read Mary Doerflein's account remembering Father Richard online at PhuketGazette.net



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Yingluck's in, the show begins

YINGLUCK Shinawatra has officially become Thailand's 28th prime minister, the first woman to take the job and, at just 44 years old, the world's youngest-ever female head of state.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej endorsed Mrs Yingluck as premier on Monday following a parliamentary vote three days earlier that saw 296 of the house's 500 MPs vote for her to take the post.

In a speech at the Bangkok headquarters of her Pheu Thai Party, Mrs Yingluck thanked HM The King for his kindness and trust in appointing her as prime minister.

"This occasion is indeed the highest honor and greatest blessing for my life. My family and I are overwhelmingly grateful for His Majesty's kindness and trust in appointing me to serve under Royal Command, as well as, to administer the government, to serve His Majesty, the country,

AROUND THE nation

and the people," she said.

Mrs Yingluck said she was "ready and determined to work with all civil servants, state enterprise officials, private sectors and the people in all areas, including all members of the press."

Mrs Yingluck told reporters that almost 80 per cent of 35 Cabinet positions had been allocated, saying that four of the positions would be taken by people who are not members of any of the six coalition parties.

Many commentators have accused Mrs Yingluck's older brother Thaksin Shinawatra, his former wife, Potjaman na Pombejra, and

sister, Yaowapha Wongsawat, of having a heavy hand in selecting ministers.

Some key positions are expected to be filled by figures perceived as non-partisan in a bid to ensure the stability of a government that rose to power on the back of years of often violent unrest.

For example, former national police chief Kowit Wattana is expected to take charge of security affairs. The appointment of Mr Kowit, known as a staunch loyalist to the monarchy, is likely aimed at pacifying Pheu Thai opponents.

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, Thai academic Pavin Chachavalpongpun said other experienced outsiders likely to take positions in the government included the executive chairman of Siam Commercial Bank, the former president of the stock exchange and a former ambassador to the United Kingdom.



PM Yingluck in front of a picture of HM The King after receiving the Royal endorsement as prime minister on August 8. Photo: AFP

Abhisit resumes Dem leadership

JUST over a month after resigning to take responsibility for the Democrat Party's crushing election defeat, Abhisit Vejjajiva has been re-elected as leader of the party.

Mr Abhisit received the nomination at a party general assembly at the Miracle Grand Hotel in Bangkok on August 6.

The Eton and Oxford-educated former premier received 96.3 per cent of the votes of 300 party members to lead the party. He was the only candidate nominated for the position.

Mr Abhisit now faces the tough challenge of reinventing a party that has not won a general election since 1992.

A party insider told the *Straits Times* that Mr Abhisit was "seen as the only choice as leader if the party was to survive."

"If Abhisit had not stood for the post, the party could have been

destroyed through infighting for the leadership," he said.

Mr Abhisit became prime minister in December 2008 aged 44, following a parliamentary vote that the opposition alleged was heavily influenced by pressure from the military.

Chalermchai Sri-on was meanwhile elected the new Democrat Party secretary-general, replacing the outspoken former holder of the post, Suthep Thaugsuban.

Mr Suthep, a Surat Thani MP, was among the first to shake hands and congratulate Chalermchai.

Mr Abhisit said the new secretary-general would focus on driving the party's popularity in the central region, which was electorally crucial.

Many Democrat constituency MP candidates in the central region lost the election by small margins, he said.

Counterfeiter nabbed

A GERMAN tourist was arrested in Thailand's northern capital of Chiang Mai last week for allegedly printing and using fake banknotes.

Simon Fusch, 30, was caught after allegedly paying for a tuk-tuk journey with a fake 500-baht note, according to DPA.

When the driver tried to exchange the note at a nearby grocery store, the owner refused to take the bill, saying it was a fake.

The driver alerted police, leading to Mr Fusch's arrest on Monday.

The German tourist allegedly had 15 fake 500-baht notes and three fake 100-baht notes in his possession at the time of his arrest.

Mr Fusch's alleged counterfeit operation was primitive. At his rented room, police found an inkjet printer, a hair dryer and a few pieces of A4 paper, *Daily News* reported.

Chiang Mai Police Major Kraisi Chulaporn said many other drivers had complained of being given fake notes in recent weeks, DPA reported.

the sixth phuket

The First Lifestyle Shophouse
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"The Sixth Phuket" is the first lifestyle shophouse in Patong, the most vibrant retail location in Phuket. It is designed in a Chino-Portuguese style which is part of Phuket's unique architectural heritage.

MAP

It is located on the best corner of Bangla Road, Patong, in a 3-storey of L-shaped building with 42 units rental space and 90 car parking lots. The Sixth Phuket is a highly promising commercial property ideal for café, restaurant, spa, salon, service office, bank and etc.

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Of readership, robots, crawlers and credibility

A STORY on a local blog last weekend continued to celebrate a “War” which it had declared several months ago, not *against* but rather *between*, two of the island’s newspapers. We understood the writer’s interests at the time and have marveled at his diligence in following up on the conflagration with regular weekly reports.

After all, divide-and-conquer has been a classic strategy in wars between tribes and nations for centuries.

But the blog’s ‘report’ last Saturday turned ugly when the blogger himself entered the fray, hurling wild charges and innuendo at both newspapers – this one for false Web traffic statistics.

That the story was self-serving is clear, for the concluding paragraphs are devoted solely to extolling the blog’s many virtues.

That it was inappropriate (some say defamatory), is also beyond doubt, its publisher having removed it within 48 hours of launching it onto the Web.

The *Phuket Gazette* does not falsify its Web traffic statistics.

When we three weeks ago implemented publication of what are effectively audited statistics, a first in Phuket, we did so of our own volition, in the belief that readers, advertisers and marketing professionals would appreciate it.

But this was not simply a substitution of statistics for traditional traffic adjectives like “huge” and “massive”. We had already been reporting our Web numbers daily for close to a decade.

Those statistics included the visits of robots, also known as ‘crawlers’, sent to our site by search engines (Google, et al), news aggregators (like Google News and Topix), and subscribers to the *Gazette Online*’s various content feeds (mainly news and events).

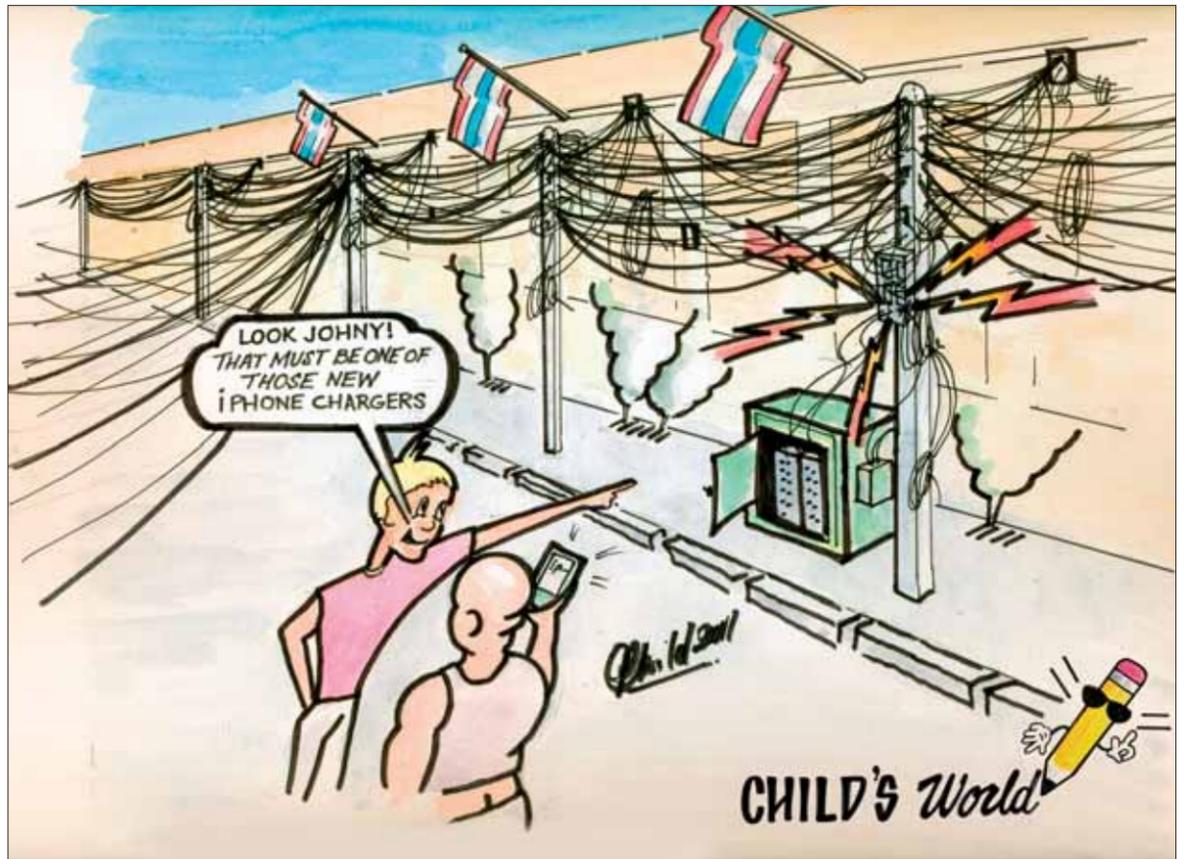
In our daily presentation of the statistics, we highlighted the fact that they included the crawlers. But as the growth and update frequency of our site accelerated rapidly over the past three years, the crawler component soared, fueled particularly by the demand from our newsfeed subscribers and news aggregators.

So we decided to turn to Google Analytics (GA) who have the ability to distinguish between human and robotic visitors, and who report only the former. We made the switch to GA even though the lower numbers recorded by that source would not necessarily be in our own best interests. Indeed, many professionals have told us that we’ve hived off our most compelling data for advertisers.

It’s the robots who put us where we are in the search results. It’s Google – not us – who rate us Number One for Web page importance (an honor we’re happy to share with *Phuket.Com*). And it’s also the robots who carry our events and classifieds all over the world.

We call upon the blogger so critical of Phuket’s licensed newspapers to publish his own Web statistics, and to perhaps review the authenticity of the word “war” when he applies it to others.

We’d have thought ‘competition’ a more honest word, albeit less exciting and effective in a blog’s bid to attract readers.



Tired of toeing the line

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Disgrace: Airport needs to double its Immigration officers, August 5*

I just got back to Phuket the other day and there was a long queue at the airport. It was a 45-minute wait. Disgraceful.

They need updated equipment like they have in other airports. Scanning vs typing passport data by hand will cut processing time by more than half. No need to hire more staff and build extra kiosks.

Simple.

GiantFan
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

that they are required to patrol the streets. Put them on a rotation or something. I imagine it would be hard to enforce but not impossible.

The fix for the island’s lack of transportation is right there, it just has to be managed.

Prices of course, are another concern.

Hitchhiker
Rawai

doesn’t carry sightseeing passengers needing to go to Patong.

She benefits each of the communities on her itinerary with community outreach in addition to providing books.

Next year...

Mark Jochim
Gazette forum

The winds of change

Re: *Gazette online, Things about Yingluck include a Phuket connection, August 7*

Interesting. I would not have voted for her and her “charisma” does not dampen any issues for me, but, yes, she should be given a chance and we’ll soon see which way the wind is blowing.

Hope it’s not blowing out of Dubai. If it is, she is going to face extreme resistance no matter how open-minded we might try to be.

Richard D.
Gazette forum

On the night shift

Re: *Gazette online, Long trail leads police to Phuket auto theft gang, August 6*

Under Thai criminal law, most unarmed light vehicular and property thefts that occur during the day are deemed as opportunistic and not planned, whereas most similar crimes committed at night are planned, hence the stronger statute that can be applied [of the ‘ theft at night’ charge] .

They could have also been charged with several other vehicular-related offenses which carry greater penalties.

Maybe there is a family friend involved somewhere.

Ting Tong Farang
Gazette forum

Tanks for the advice

Re: *Gazette online, Plans to build Phuket offshore diesel station on hold, August 6*

The worry about leaks in the water is a valid one. That rickety shack in the photo doesn’t even have a floating skirt to hold in floating oil!

However, fire breaking out in diesel fuel? Not gonna happen. You could throw lit matches onto the surface of diesel fuel all day, and it wouldn’t ignite. That’s not how it works, except in Hollywood movies.

Fred
Gazette forum

Hope gone, not lost

Re: *Gazette online, Power problem forces Hope to bypass Phuket, August 7*

This is indeed disappointing. I toured the old Doulos library ship when she last visited Phuket in 2006.

But the cynics making comments are almost as disappointing – the ship *Logos Hope* is NOT avoiding Phuket due to tuk-tuk drivers; indeed, she

Mobile markets mock median safety

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket’s “Road to Rawai” to be divided, August 7*

Hawkers are a problem on a lot of Phuket’s roads.

Instead of encouraging them to take up space on the roads, which leads to double parking of vehicles in traffic lanes, they should be banned. Even sidewalks are taken up by them, forcing people to walk on the road.

Other countries prosecute for blocking footpaths – here it is encouraged.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

All I need is a little tuk-tuk pick me up

When I am anywhere outside of Patong I struggle to get a tuk-tuk, especially at night.

I say that we shouldn’t rid the island of them but make it law

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Policing without using 'the force'

FIRST PERSON

THE Tourist Police Volunteers came into existence after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and over the years has grown in both size and scope.

These past six months have seen a vast improvement to the way we are organized and we have taken some very good people on board. I think we are going in the right direction.

Keeping quality personnel without offering a salary is a challenge. People are coming and going frequently and it takes time to train them. Now we have a good core of people with 40 to 42 foreigners and a couple of hundred Thais based around the island.

At any one time, about half of the core volunteers will be active. We have some who go overseas for a while and come back, so it's like a rotation. We have expolicemen, people with military experience and other very useful backgrounds.

As for myself, I am a partner in a diving company in Chalong, but dedicate my time during the day to this volunteer group. My proficiency in Thai and English and my understanding of local culture is put to good use as a mediator.

A common misconception of the Tourist Police Volunteer unit



Garry Halpin, 49, originally from Auckland, New Zealand, has lived in Thailand for 27 years. Fluent in both English and Thai, he became an official Tourist Police Volunteer in 2009 but has been involved with local authorities in several projects for many years. Garry and the other volunteers give up their free time to help people and police around the

island. Here he talks about the core of the unit and gives some lesser-known information about their operation.

is that we only help tourists. That is not the case. We provide help anywhere it is needed, to foreigners and Thais alike. Thai people come on holiday to Phuket as well.

For example, I assisted at the site of a fire in Chalong not long ago. I also frequently provide help at accident scenes no matter who is involved and even if I am the first to arrive at the scene. We can assist in a wide range of situations.

That is our main priority, to provide help, but not every case requires it. Sometimes there may be an individual or group who is getting out of hand. If things escalate to a point where it would be safer for us to detain someone until police arrive, we will do that.

A common situation involves tourists who become stranded here after being robbed, spend all their money or otherwise lose their funds.

Most of the time, all they need is a few days for someone to send them funds from overseas, but during that time they are essentially homeless.

There was much debate about what to do with cases like this and eventually the Phuket Tourist Police stepped forward and constructed rooms at their main station in Phuket Town.

The project received a lot of outside criticism and people did not think it was necessary to, but since they were built, these rooms have helped many tourists who have fallen on hard times. It happens more often than you think.

Tourists who are not hurt, sick or have not broken the law cannot be accommodated by other authorities so these rooms give them a chance to get back on their feet.

If you need assistance from us, please call 1155.

Is our new PM just a puppet?

Island View

By Astrid Svensson

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



Thaksin Shinawatra

It is an outright disgrace that people living in "democratic" countries cast votes on a qualified-by-association basis.

Also, the endless references to Yingluck's appearance clearly demonstrate a superficiality in society that has no place in politics.

In short, she contradicts the feminist movement. Not only has her success and career been totally dependent on the men in her family, but she is now being used as a pawn in a male-dominated political agenda. She is now literally just a pretty face in a very prominent position.

The fact that this is happening on the global stage is what makes it a particularly sad day for Thailand and women around the world.

THAILAND'S first female prime minister has been voted in by Thai lawmakers and, regardless of political alignments, this should be a very proud day for women all over the world. And it would be, if her last name weren't Shinawatra.

Technically speaking, Yingluck has joined the ranks of Margaret Thatcher, Christine Lagarde and Condoleezza Rice – women who have worked their way up through a testosterone-heavy industry to positions of power and respect.

However, in reality, her success embodies dynastic tendencies that are the antithesis to equality of any sort and have no place in politics.

Her career until mid-May (a month and a half before the election) had been in the businesses run by her powerful family. She has little to no hands-on political experience and expressed a strong reluctance to enter politics when the possibility of her candidacy was first proposed.

Now, suddenly, she is the leader of a country, and it's not necessarily because of her personal merits – it's because of her big brother, Thaksin. The fugitive-former prime minister remains an important figurehead in Yingluck's Pheu Thai Party and lending his name to the "novelty factor" of his sister's photogenic face allowed her success in a realm dominated by wrinkly old men.

DNA does not qualify you to run a country. Has the world learnt nothing from the likes of George W Bush, or any of the numerous examples of "dynastic" failures?

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

Why no traffic lights on Patong Hill?

I live in Patong and each evening have to pick my kids up from school in Phuket Town.

This involves trying to drive out of the junction at Phra Barami Road and Phisit Gorani Road by Wat Suwankeereewong Temple (also known as Wat Patong).

Quite often there is a traffic policeman standing there, but he just stands and watches while people struggle to exit the junction to go up Patong Hill.

At busy times of the day, can a traffic police officer direct traffic, or can traffic lights be installed in this location?

*Jonathan Britchford
Patong*

Wattana Dorn-ubol, head of maintenance at the Phuket Provincial Highways Office, replies:

It would not be appropriate to have a traffic light at that location as it would be too dangerous because vehicles coming down the



A traffic policeman stands amid an accident in front of Patong Temple.

hill would have to stop at a red light.

We have considered a traffic light as an option, but concluded that it would not be possible due to safety concerns.

Maj Sarawut Chuprasit, Chief of Kathu Traffic Police, replies:

We do not have any plans to install a traffic light at that location. If we did so, it would cause even more problems – there would be traffic jams all day long.

Normally there is a traffic police officer at the intersection during rush hours to facilitate traffic flow.

Traffic officers work the intersection from 7:30am to 9am and 4:30pm to 7pm.

However, I'm not saying there will be an officer on duty there at all times during rush hour because sometimes other accidents or incidents happen and the officer on duty there will need to take leave to address them.

Moving median a traffic hazard

Along Chao Fa West Road, between Kajonkiet School and the Shell gas station, there are a few U-turn areas. The problem is that the concrete medians at these U-turns are broken and the large concrete chunks sometimes find their way into the right traffic lane, blocking the road.

This is quite dangerous for road users who drive along this road, especially at night because it is very hard to see.

I saw someone put the broken sections back on top of the median, but in the next few days they were back out on the road.

I also saw some of the concrete sections very poorly bolted back onto the surface – they were soon broken again and back in the right lane.

Who can repair these medians properly?

I don't want to see any cars overturned because of this.

*Suneo Ratchada
Chalong*

Worrapoj Supakan of the Phuket Provincial Highways Office replies:

Thank you for letting us know. The area mentioned is under my division's responsibility.

I think officers at Wichit Municipality helped us temporarily fix the medians and our department will begin permanent repairs next week.

We don't know how the median was broken. The concrete blocks are not permanently attached to the road – they are only placed on the surface.

If anyone notices broken medians in the future, please let us know by calling the Phuket Provincial Highways Office at 076 212179.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Winpro plan Bt500mn SET listing

WINPRO Property, one of Phuket's largest real-estate firms, is planning to go public and list on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) in a move expected to raise 500 million baht for future investments.

The company plans to use the capital raised to fund several new housing projects in Bangkok and Phuket.

Company president Kasem Srirat, whose firm's brands include The Mark, Chao Fa Garden Home and Phumundra, said the SET listing would allow the company to expand and open up new business opportunities.

Mr Kasem said that nowadays many public companies were moving into the Phuket property market, adding pressure on local firms to improve their competitiveness.

Winpro has hired an advisory firm to prepare the company's internal management ahead of the listing.

The company expects a good reaction from investors due to the transparency of its administration system. Its financial advisor believes the listing should raise more than 500mn baht.

"By raising investment through listing on the stock exchange, the company is planning to develop three or four real-estate projects in Phuket and Bangkok," said Mr Kasem.



ALL SET: Winpro Property intend to go public on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Photo: AFP

Mr Kasem said the company had already bought 38 rai in Koh Kaew and was planning to invest in two more housing estates on the island.

The company is also planning to build two condominium projects in the Makkasan area of Bangkok, he said.

Mr Kasem said the company would likely

be ready to list by the third quarter of next year and that Winpro has plans for new investments in key tourism destinations such as Pattaya.

The company was set up by Mr Kasem in 2001 with an initial investment of 1mn baht.

The company now has registered capi-

tal of 300mn baht, having constructed several of the island's largest housing estates and condominium projects.

The company is behind the island's four Chao Fa Garden Home estates. Chao Fa Garden Home 1 and 2, in the Nabon area off Chao Fa East Road, were built in 2001 with a combined total of 700 units.

Construction work on Chao Fa Garden Home 3 and 5, in Koh Kaew and Wang Thalang respectively, is currently underway. The latest project was numbered "5" because in Thai "4" has a similar pronunciation to the Chinese word for death. The two projects have entailed combined investments of more than 3 billion baht.

Construction is also in progress on the Phumundra The Condo project in Koh Kaew, located behind the Premium Outlet on the bypass road.

The 434mn-baht development, expected to be completed in January, is set on 138 rai of lush gardens.

The project features 15 three-story buildings, each with nine condominiums. Units are available with one or two bedrooms, with prices starting at 2.29mn baht. Other Winpro projects include "The Mark" in Bangkok.

- Kom Chad Luek

International security firms network in Phuket

A NUMBER of 62 securities companies from Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam joined the Asean Broker Networking in Phuket.

The networking event took place from July 28 to 29, and provided a stage where brokers from the countries could make partnerships ahead of the implementation of the Asean Link next year.

Seven exchanges will join the Asean Exchange with a combined market capital of US\$ 1.8 trillion and 3,600 listed companies.

- The Nation

Phuket experiences a huge surge in tourism

PHUKET Airport is expecting a record four million passenger arrivals this year, thanks to the 20 per cent year-on-year increase witnessed in the first half, said a consulting firm.

C9 Hotelworks' market update report showed that the resort island's top five tourism source markets to date for 2011 are China, Russia, Australia, South Korea and Sweden.

Airports of Thailand expects a total of 7.95 million passengers at the airport this year, including domestic passengers. As the number exceeds the capacity by 22 per cent, the authorities are investing US\$ 164 million to expand the handling capacity to 12.5 million passengers by 2014 with the construction works scheduled for next year.

The Patong area which ac-

counts for 35 per cent of the 43,571 accommodation rooms on the island, produced an occupancy rate of 82 per cent in the first half, with China and Russia now taking a quarter share of the market.

"First half trading by volume markets saw a surge in Phuket's average occupancy across all hotel tiers to 73 per cent. Key market metric RevPAR (revenue per available room) moved up to its highest level since the global financial crises in 2008," C9 Hotelworks' Managing Director Bill Barnett said.

Investment into Phuket's hospitality sector has a positive business sentiment with a supply pipeline for the island of 6,968 rooms. This will see an increase of 16 per cent by the end of 2014.

- The Nation

Gold continues to rise in value

GOLD prices have climbed in line with international markets. As gold prices reached a new historic high at US\$ 1,714 per ounce earlier this week, domestic gold prices, which were subjected to 10 adjustments on Monday, are on the rise.

According to the Gold Traders Association, as the spot value hit a new high of US\$ 1,769 per ounce, gold bar price was raised to 25,100 baht and gold ornament at 25,500 baht.

On Tuesday by 1pm, the association raised gold prices 10 times; seven for the combined increase of 1,000 baht and three for the combined cut of 250 baht.

Gold bar prices fell to 24,900 baht, and gold ornament prices to 25,300 baht.

Global investors were nervous as Standard & Poor's Ratings Services cut the US credit rating from top "AAA" for the first time in 70 years. They also feared that



GOLD ON HIGH. Photo: G. Montefiore

public debt problems in the Eurozone would spread further.

Earlier in the week, US President Barack Obama assured investors that his country would do anything to restore the "AAA" rating.

Meanwhile, the European Central Bank on Sunday also announced the bond-buying program for Spain and Italy. These moves clearly failed to restore investor confidence.

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Novus facility to create over 1000 new jobs

WORK is nearly complete on a new surgical mesh manufacturing facility in Sakoo that owner Novus Scientific Group says will generate more than 1,000 jobs in Phuket.

The 500-million-baht facility, which will manufacture hi-tech resorbable surgical fiber, is expected to start production in September.

CEO and president Thomas Engström, a Swedish businessman who won the Ernst and Young "World Entrepreneur of the Year" award in 2005, founded Novus Scientific Group in Sweden and Singapore in December 2008.

The company develops and markets TIGR Matrix surgical mesh, a type of surgical fiber that can strengthen soft tissue and dissolves inside the body after a certain period. The fiber can be used in treating conditions such as hernias.

Novus Scientific is based in Singapore, with offices in the United States, the United Kingdom and Belgium as well as a research and development center in Uppsala, Sweden, where the company has its origins.

The upcoming Phuket facility, to be overseen by local president Surin Bamrunghol, will comprise a large clean-room with state-of-the-art equipment. Hiring for the facility, which stands on 17 rai in Baan Prusomparn in Sakoo subdistrict, is well underway.

The new venture is receiving strong backing from the Thai government, including the Board of Investment (BOI), Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Health and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The project has already received permission to manufacture medical equipment from the FDA, and the BOI will grant tax



Novus Scientific's 500-million-baht manufacturing facility is located in Sakoo, Phuket.

privileges for eight years. It is expected to receive ISO 13485 and GMP certification in the near future.

Mr Surin said the company was working with the Thailand Medical Technology Council in conducting research and development (R&D), in line with Public Health Ministry policy.

The company has held preliminary talks with the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Mahidol University regarding collaboration in developing polymer technology, and is planning to set up a research and development center staffed by Thai re-

searchers on Phuket.

Mr Engström decided to invest in the island because of his confidence in the skill of Thai workers, Mr Surin said.

The facility is not the Swedish entrepreneur's first investment in Phuket. In 2005, his previous company, Radi Medical Systems, set up a factory in Pa Khlok to make medical nano-probes.

When Radi Medical Systems was taken over by St Jude Medical, Mr Engström and other senior staff – including Mr Surin – jumped ship and founded Novus Scientific. *– Manager*

Markets rough since US debt ceiling flounders

A SPECIAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT REPORT by Graham Macdonald.

THE aftermath of the US debt-ceiling deal has resulted in the 14th worst ever fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Average earlier this month, surprising economists worldwide.

The Eurozone's latest dent fix failed miserably as attention turned from bankrupt Greece to struggling Italy and Spain – much bigger economies with far higher absolute debt burdens

than Greece.

The act of removing the small ugly stain on the Euro landscape revealed something far bigger and uglier underneath.

The EU economy – the world's largest – is creaking so badly that Germany's CommerzBank has lost half of its value and the markets are now starting to question the quality of Germany's debt and its ability to repay it.

In the US, the economy has been slowing down since April when second round of quantitative

easing (QE2) stopped working (even though the program did not finish until the end of June).

As a result, second quarter (Q2) earnings have been okay, but corporate guidance and economic leading indicators both confirm that the economy has weakened significantly. The markets have picked up on this, especially as corporate insiders have been dumping their stock and most investors have also been sellers.

Because of the failure of the debt-ceiling deal, announcements of

more stimulus are expected. This should generate relief in markets which will buy equities and gold, and sell the US Dollar on the announcement rather than the substance. This will create a honeymoon period which could last for months.

The final capitulation will become manifest once it proves apparent that this stimulus is having no positive effects.

It's difficult to estimate when the stimulus package will be announced, but August in Jackson

Hole is when and where the Fed announced QE2 – and that is where they are meeting again right now.

A stimulus package should be expected within the next few days. As a result, the following events are likely to transpire:

- An equity rally.
- Markets will be at least 30 per cent lower than current levels, this time next year.
- Portfolios will profit from this.

However you decide to invest, remain liquid.

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More players in the island's new internet game

TWO weeks ago Live Wire covered the current state of the Internet in Phuket. At the time, evaluating TOT Fiber 2U and AIS GSPA services was not touched upon because there was not enough data on the Phuket Internet Speed Reporting site.

The numbers are pouring in now thanks to those of you who take a minute to report your Internet speeds, which

helps when discussing the new services. Here's the scoop. Remember that a typical ADSL line in Phuket runs around 1 to 2 Mbps with international downloads, which is enough to handle Skype with video or play standard YouTube clips, but nowhere near fast enough to reliably play regular TV shows (say, 3 to 4 Mbps), much less high definition TV (6 to 8 Mbps).

TOT Fiber 2U, once billed as "Up to 100 MHz" isn't anywhere close to that speed, of course, but we're seeing consistent reports of 8 to 9 MHz international download speed, or more. That's excellent, by far the fastest regularly available internet connection Phuket has ever seen.

The service has been available for more than a year, and it looks like TOT finally has most, but not all, of the wrinkles ironed out. There have been reports of speeds falling way down, but only occasionally; rare outages that don't last very long; and a weird

"stuttering" where some sites take 15 to 60 seconds to load for no discernible reason. On the technical side, we're having trouble measuring speeds with the Fiber 2U service because the reporting site we use tends to fall over when confronted with speeds above 9 Mbps!

I haven't seen any difference at all between the TOT Fiber 2U 10 Mbps line and the TOT Fiber

2U 20 Mbps line, so don't pay for the nominally faster line. The service is widely available in the more densely populated parts of the island.

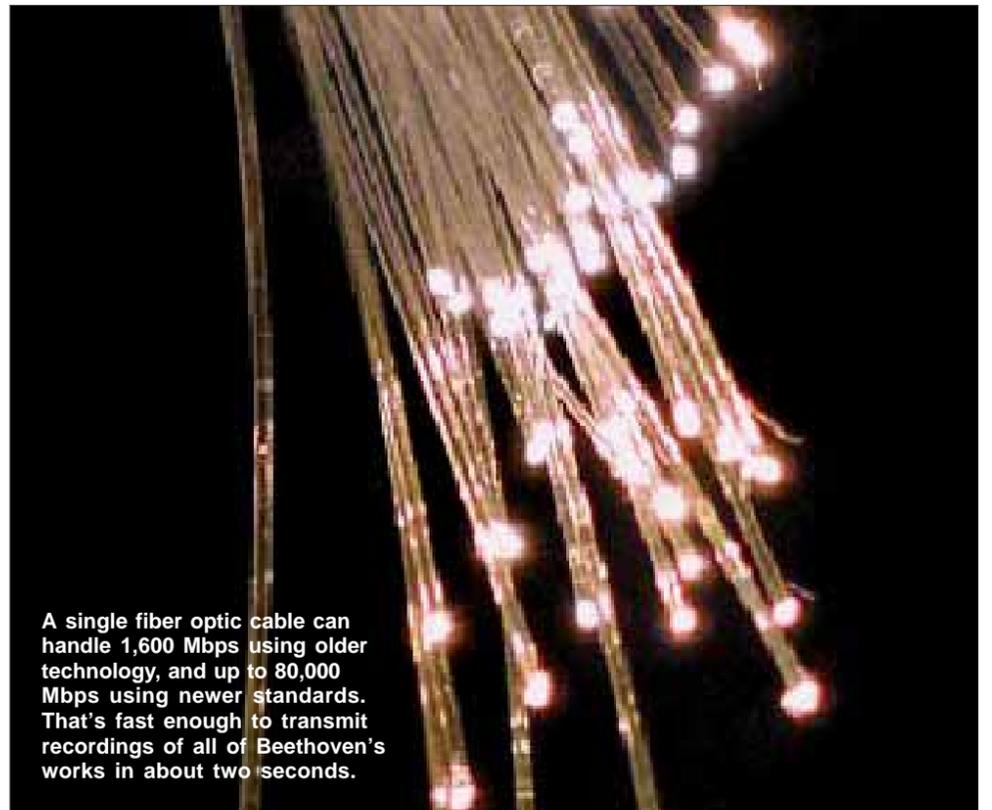
True's Ultra service, which uses DOCSIS Cable TV technology, has stabilized in the past few weeks. We were seeing speeds of 10 Mbps or more with the service, but it's now down to 1.3 to 1.9 Mbps. There's no explanation why it's dropped. The one tester we had running True's 50 Mbps service finally gave up because it wouldn't work. The numbers indicate that True Ultra 20 Mbps is slightly faster than True Ultra 10 Mbps.

AIS's HSPA "3G" service came in with a bang, and it's still running strong, with speeds commonly between 1.2 and 2.6 Mbps, and occasional bursts up to 6 Mbps. Yes, you read that right: the 800 baht per month wireless connection is running as fast as most wired ADSL connections, and



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard



A single fiber optic cable can handle 1,600 Mbps using older technology, and up to 80,000 Mbps using newer standards. That's fast enough to transmit recordings of all of Beethoven's works in about two seconds.

on the beach in Patong it's consistently running faster.

At the same time, True's HSPA 3G service has taken a nosedive, with international download speeds rarely logged above 0.4 Mbps. It appears as if True is still limited to the extreme west coast of the island, plus one tower in Samkong. AIS works on most of Phuket.

Those are the new kids on the block, and they're impressive. There's yet another new service coming soon: TOT's "WiFi" that isn't really WiFi. I have no idea what technology they're using, but two people I know have signed up, and they should be posting their speeds in the next week or two. I'll get you full details if and when TOT actually gets the service working.

Next week, with Khun Roger's help, I'll be publishing a new "Bang for the Baht"

chart, which compares real Internet speeds with prices. Expect some eye-openers.

If you aren't yet reporting your speeds on PhuketInternetSpeed.com, please drop by and sign up! It's free, only takes a few seconds, and the results help everybody figure out what's working and what's not worth the effort. Remember that all of the data – more than 21,000 reported sightings at this point – is immediately available to anybody who wants to download, look at or fiddle with the results. Also remember that the Internet Service Providers are watching the reports. We need your help.

To keep up on the latest Phuket internet news, drop by one of the Sunday morning Computer Clinics, follow Woody on Google+ (send mail to Woody@KhunWoody.com if you need an invitation), or on Twitter: @PhuketPC.

Compass points for investing offshore

EXPATS have the opportunity to invest in the various offshore financial centers around the world. Obviously the preferential tax treatment and higher interest rates on deposit accounts are the main reasons people move their money offshore, but what are the real differences in terms of safety, confidentiality and benefits when choosing which jurisdiction to use?

Most people don't know, and simply go with the first one recommended to them.

There is no clear answer as to which one is best. It depends on what you are trying to achieve

with your money and matching that with certain niches that specific offshore jurisdictions specialize in.

The British Virgin Islands is one of the best places to open an offshore company, although it is also becoming more attractive for opening investment funds, which is mainly the domain of the Cayman Islands.

For private banking, Switzerland has a long history of banking secrecy and neutrality in wartime that has only recently begun to become tarnished, with one of the country's largest banks likely to

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

hand over the names of American account holders to the IRS. As much as I love the country, currently my main recommendation for Switzerland is skiing.

I usually suggest Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. These enjoy the political stability of the UK and the tax-free status of an offshore jurisdiction. The private banking industry in each of these jurisdictions is extremely

well developed and very highly regulated.

Also, the investor-protection schemes in place are extremely strong and provide investors with peace of mind.

I often recommend one jurisdiction for one purpose, and another offshore locale for another – even for the same client.

For example, when conducting a UK pension transfer, I usually set up the trustee in Guernsey, but the funds will end up being invested via a platform in the Isle of Man.

The combination provides the

cheapest way of getting the money out of the tax loop, but also the safety of the leading QROPS jurisdiction (Guernsey) to help avoid any unwanted penalties, while investing through the largest custodian and administrator of portfolio bonds (Isle of Man).

The differences between the top jurisdictions are quite small, taking into account the specialties certain ones have developed. The jurisdictions I stay away from are where political stability presents a risk that no matter how small it may seem at the time, can pop up very quickly and in a way that there will not be time to safely do anything about it.

I will not place my clients' funds at risk to gain a few extra points interest or to save a miniscule per cent a year in charges.

Countries such as Panama, for example, simply do not have the same political stability as places such as Jersey or Guernsey. It might not make a difference, but I always try to err on the side of caution. I advise others to do the same.

David Mayes MBA is a resident of Phuket, Thailand, and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout the region of Southeast Asia. He can be reached via email at david.m@faramond.com

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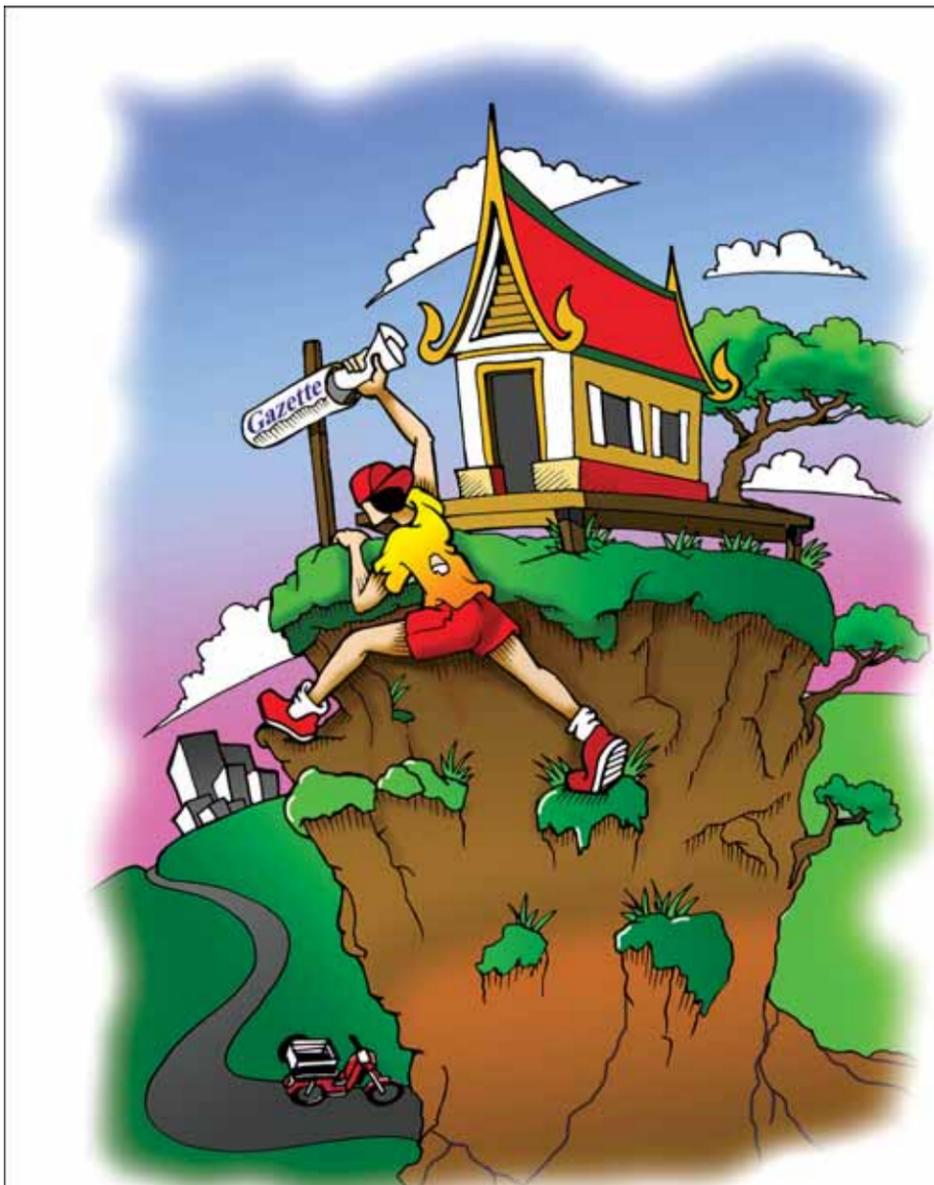
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Murder in the Everglades

ARCHITECTS have the Pritzker Award; mathematicians have the Fields Medal and novelists have the William Dean Howells Medal, which is awarded every five years. Writers who have received this award include the likes of William Faulkner, John Updike and Dom DeLillo. Last year, Peter Matthiessen's *Shadow Country* (Maclehose Press, London, 2010, 892pp) won the prize.

It is an epic novel based in the Ten Thousand Islands of southwestern Florida during the lifetime of sugar cane planter and prolific murderer Edgar J. Watson, over half a century from 1855 to 1910.

The novel begins as it ends, on the shore of the ruined hamlet of Chokoloskee, where a score of friends and neighbors pump 33 bullets into Mr Watson.

Why? Because Mr Watson has a bloody history, which is the meat of this 900-page tale.

Book one is told in the voices of Watson's family, friends and enemies. From a dozen angles, they provide a choral commentary on the Watson legend. The bare bones are these: born into a South Carolina planter family gone to seed, Watson flees a drunken and violent father and finds refuge with rela-

tives in northern Florida.

After being accused of murder, he flees with his wife and two young children to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. Here, the story goes, he shot the outlaw queen Belle Starr.

He escapes prison, returns to Florida and earns a legal grubstake by killing a very nasty character named Quinn Bass. He sets himself up as a sugar cane planter in the lawless Ten Thousand Islands, sailing his schooner to Key West to sell hogs, fruit and his Island Pride cane syrup.

Here he finds that his reputation has preceded him and his new neighbors are nervous. One observes: "Word got out on the southwest coast that E. J. Watson was a wanted man, which explained why he come to the islands in the first place. And even though plenty of other men was known to have come to the Everglades frontier for the same reason, folks began to worry. We felt more at home with common ol' backcountry killers than with some well-dressed desperado out of the Wild West."

Watson prospers and builds the first real house on the coast and raises seven children from his three wives, plus a couple more from temporary common law wives.

He is hard-working, hard-drinking, affable, funny and generous to his neighbors, who are scattered in shacks along the coast, eking out a living by hunting, fishing and selling alligator hides and egret quills in Key West.

But again Watson is accused of a series of murders, mostly of his workers, but also of a fugitive couple from Key West, Wally and Bet Tucker. They were squatting on Lost Man's Key, an island claimed by Watson. Bet Tucker was eight-months pregnant.

Book Two sags at times. The story is now told from the obsessive perspective of Watson's son Lucius who grew up idolizing his father. A historian of the people of the coast, Lucius sets out to exonerate his father of at least some of the murders attributed to him. But the effect is not dissimilar to raking over well-trodden ground. There

are brilliant set-pieces in this section but the overall effect is of treading water.

Book Three is told by E. J. Watson himself and the narrative picks up to a blistering pace. His voice is rollicking, sly, tender, sardonic, de-ranked, angry, lyrical, remorseful and bleakly humorous, a voice as authentic as Huckleberry Finn's.

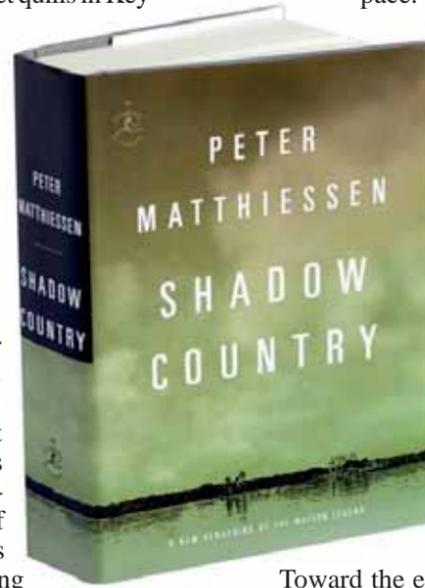
He is prone to black moods and drunken binges: "Morning after morning, I woke up sick to death on some sawdust floor or in some shed or ditch, and finally in a stinking Suwannee jail, bruised, bilious, broke, and mean down to the bone."

In the end he is no heartless killer, but a man tormented by his crimes.

Toward the end he reflects: "For taking a human life, one pays with one's own. To extinguish the light in another's eyes was the death of self: those eyes, reflected forever in your own, would never close."

Books

By James Eckardt



Photographing creepy crawlies



WELL HELLO THERE: Praying mantises are inquisitive photo subjects.



MACRO SHOT: Get up close.

By Dean Noble

HUMANS have an inherent dislike of insects, and some even have phobias relating to creepy crawlies. Despite this, our multi-legged, multi-winged, multi-eyed and multicolored co-inhabitants of this planet are a favorite subject for photographers.

To snap these minute creatures, a digital single-lens reflex camera with macro lens and flash gun will get the best results. However, an increasing number of compact cameras now include a macro function which will achieve the desired results.

Equipment aside, professional photographers advise three simple steps to take a great bug shot.

1. Breathe while moving slowly and steadily to get closer. Insects are small and usually remain motionless if they are not threatened.



ANGLES: Check the background before you shoot. Photos: Dean Noble

For practice, try photographing a praying mantis. They seem genuinely inquisitive as to what is happening and watch intently.

2. Use a flash, even on bright days. It has two major advantages. You can shoot faster for a potentially sharper shot. Additionally, the act of 'fill flash' may draw out un-

expected colors from the subject.

3. Consider the background. Adjusting the angle of capture between the lens and the subject slightly could bring a different background into view. This may provide better framing, or give a natural contrast in light and color for the subject, enhancing the overall results.

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Mama, I love you

The *Gazette* finds out what Mother's Day means to sons and daughters in Phuket

On Friday evening, at the auspicious time of 7.19 pm, Thailand's lights will be cut while tens of millions of loyal subjects light candles in unison to honor Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 79th birthday. The revered Mother of Thailand was born as Princess Sirikit Kitiyakara on August 12, 1932, a great grand daughter of HM King Chulalongkorn, Rama V. Following a minor yet fateful automobile accident in 1948 in Switzerland which hospitalized the then-Prince, HM Bhumibol Adulyadej, the loving princess looked after the future King in the hospital. The rest is history and on April 28, 1950, exactly one week before the King's coronation, the two were married, and have since then devoted their reign and lives to the Thai people.



Name: Sriwan Muankid, 60.
Hometown: Phuket
Occupation: Thai Life Co Ltd Senior Manager

Mother's Day is the day to think of your mother, the woman who brought you into the world and raised you. You are living today because you were raised by the woman you call mother.

We will have our relatives join a family ceremony at home to pay respect to my mother and for my children to me also.

We hold this event like a family day so everyone will have a good time together, to talk about what is going on and to share anything with the family.



Name: Athithan Thansukont, 30.
Hometown: Phuket
Occupation: Owner of Siam Auto Service Thepkrasattri garage

I love my mother every day, but Mother's Day allows time for family and activities together.

I'm going to take my mother and my children to stay in a resort in Khao Lak on Mother's Day.



Name: Vittaya Intaruk, 48.
Hometown: Phang nga
Occupation: K Bank employee

I think Mother's Day means to pay more attention to your mother.

I love my mother very much. She is my priority.

Even now I am 48 years old, I call her every day and share everything with her. She will always be there for me.

On Mother's Day, I will take her out for dinner.

As a father, I would like to show my children that to take care of your parents is a very good thing.

One day when I am old, I hope they will take good care of me in the same way I do for my parents.



Name: Panuwat Somrit, 27.
Hometown: Pa yao
Occupation: Lawyer at Modify Law Co Ltd

August 12 marks Mother's Day to remind us not to forget the most important woman in our lives and to do our best to repay her.

Mum will always be by our side and sometimes we forget how important she is.

I will not be able to be with her on Mother's Day, but I will call her and send her a present.



Name: Kokiart Pranam, 46.
Hometown: Phuket
Occupation: Car park attendant for Phuket City Municipality.

I love my mother the most. I will take my mother to town for the day. It is a holiday so I will have a day to spend with my mother to make her happy.

Name: Premjira Boonyoung, 24.
Hometown: Trang
Occupation: Crystal Inn employee

Mother's Day reminds me that mom is the most important woman in my life.

One good thing about Mother's Day is I will tell my mother that I love her because normally I do not say that a lot.

Even though I will not be able to go home on Mother's Day, I will think of her all day. I will call and tell her that I love her.



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NEW BRANCH 'SAMUI'

Andrew de Bruin

ANDREW de Bruin has been a senior sales broker with Lee Marine since 2003. Like many sailors who have made a successful career in Phuket's luxury yachting industry, he brought a 65-foot steel schooner, *Stargazer*, to the island in 2000.

"My wife, Donna, and I left Australia in 1997 aboard our 36 foot sloop *Awatea* with the idea of sailing around Southeast Asia until our money ran out. We landed in Singapore in 2000 and I was hired to take the helm of *Stargazer*. We lived on *Awatea* and I spent the next three years sailing between Singapore and Langkawi on *Stargazer*. By 2003, we were ready to live on land and we chose Phuket to set up home."

Andrew started sailing as a child. He was born in Sydney, Australia and grew up in Adelaide. He attended the South Australia Institute of Technology and graduated with a degree in Electronics in 1978 which allowed him to build, install and repair sound and video systems. He set up DBA Engineering and spent the 1980s building sound reinforcement for nightclubs and rehearsal studios for bands. He created sound mixes for performance spaces and discos and was the sound technician for the Adelaide Festival Theatre.

"By 1989, I was ready for a change. I took the Yachtmaster Ocean Instructor course where I learned to read navigation charts and

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

to use a sextant to guide my boat rather than a GPS. I sailed as frequently as possible with the local yacht and sailing club. I then sold my business and went to Greece."

In the Mediterranean, Andrew chartered a 40-foot Beneteau and sailed around Greece and Turkey for several years before returning to work in Australia. He became base manager for Hamilton Island Charters in the Whitsunday Islands for two years. This was when he met his future wife and sailing partner, Donna. By 1996, they had moved to Sydney where Andrew worked in the technical department for Vicsail Yacht Brokerage, a major representative for Beneteau yachts in Australia.

During his years back in Australia, he continued sailing and racing, completing the Darwin to Ambon Race onboard *Awatea*.

"When I joined Lee Marine in 2003, there were only two yacht brokerages in Phuket. In the early years, we sold a lot of local boats that had sailed to the island. Now the business has matured and we are able to sell larger, higher-end power boats."

"We've never had significant problems importing yachts to sell as we are careful to ensure that all the paperwork is completed and the regulations are followed. Our market has also expanded. We now have more Thais buying yachts and there's great interest among the Russians."

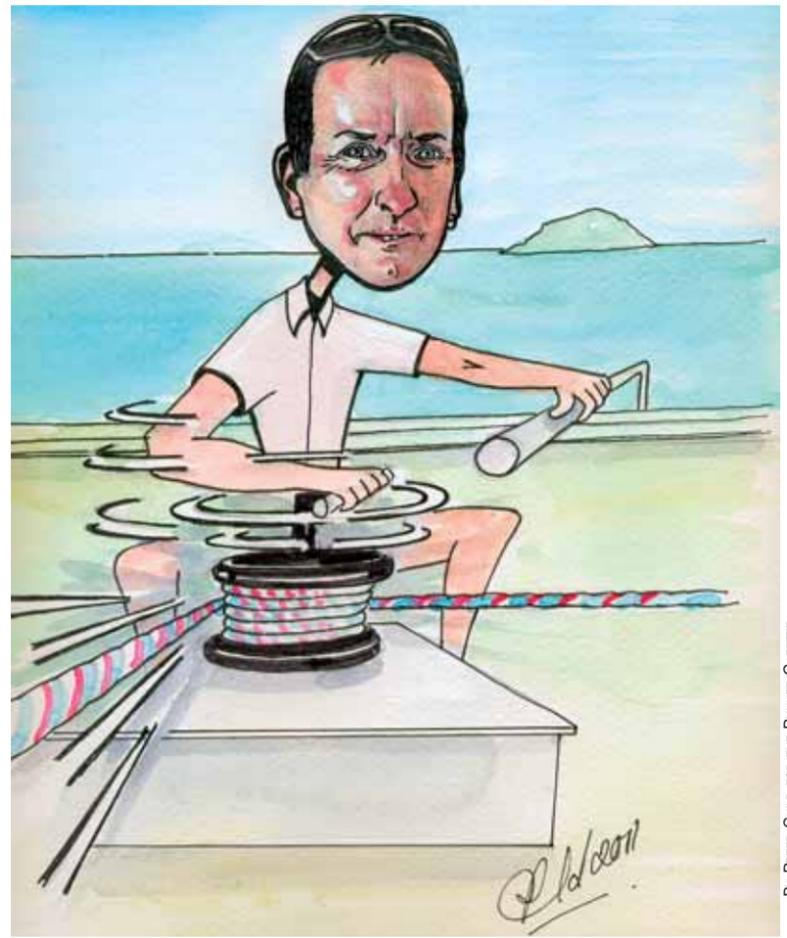
While Andrew has been busy at Lee Marine, Donna is one of the longest serving teachers at the British International School. They have a 9-year-old son, Finn, and have spent four and a half years in the process of adopting a Thai child.

"We now have Ikky who is two years old. We were very persistent at completing all the documents for adoption. That process alone took two years before we were interviewed by the child adoption board and then placed on a waiting list. Finally, after more than another two years, we were notified by the orphanage in Nakorn Sri Thammarat that we could come and pick up our child."

Andrew still enjoys sailing. He joins the racing events at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club and the Phuket Yacht Club at Ao Yon Beach.

He returns to Australia with his family every year.

"I especially love camping in the outback. A couple of years ago we drove and tented from Darwin to Ayers Rock. On Phuket, you can't get the sense of wide open spaces, so I especially enjoy these caravan holidays."



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions through successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but they all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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TROPICAL SERENITY



Bird swims Channel

By Nicholas Altstadt
and Michael DesPortes

PHUKET resident Les Bird, 59, is a philanthropist, Ironman triathlete, kayaker and mountaineer – he's no stranger to physical challenges. On July 20 this year, Les set out on the greatest endurance test of his life – to swim the English Channel.

Just over a year ago, Les climbed 4,810 meters to the summit of Mount Blanc, where he hoisted a Thai flag atop Europe's highest mountain.

Add to this his 21 years as a Royal Hong Kong Police commander, a plethora of long-distance events and a circumnavigation of Phuket in a kayak with his daughter Victoria, it would seem Les has gone above and beyond testing his own limits.

His performances in Ironman events led to a request from the British Olympic body (Team GB) for Les to represent them in Hawaii at the World Ironman Finals of 2009. Upon hearing about his plans to swim the Channel, they formed Team GB English Channel 2011, and arranged to make the crossing together.

PREPARATION

The difficulties of swimming the English Channel begin long before the actual attempt. Weather conditions are the biggest concern and crossings can only be attempted between June and early September.

Swimmers require a registered Channel Swimming Association (CSA) boat pilot to guide them across the 34-kilometer Strait of Dover and while these professionals are vital to a successful crossing – there are only 12 available.

Two years after Les applied, the CSA gave him the green light. It also took 18 months to confirm the services of Peter Reid, a pilot who has 40 years experience in guiding swimmers across the Channel.

Team GB used this valuable



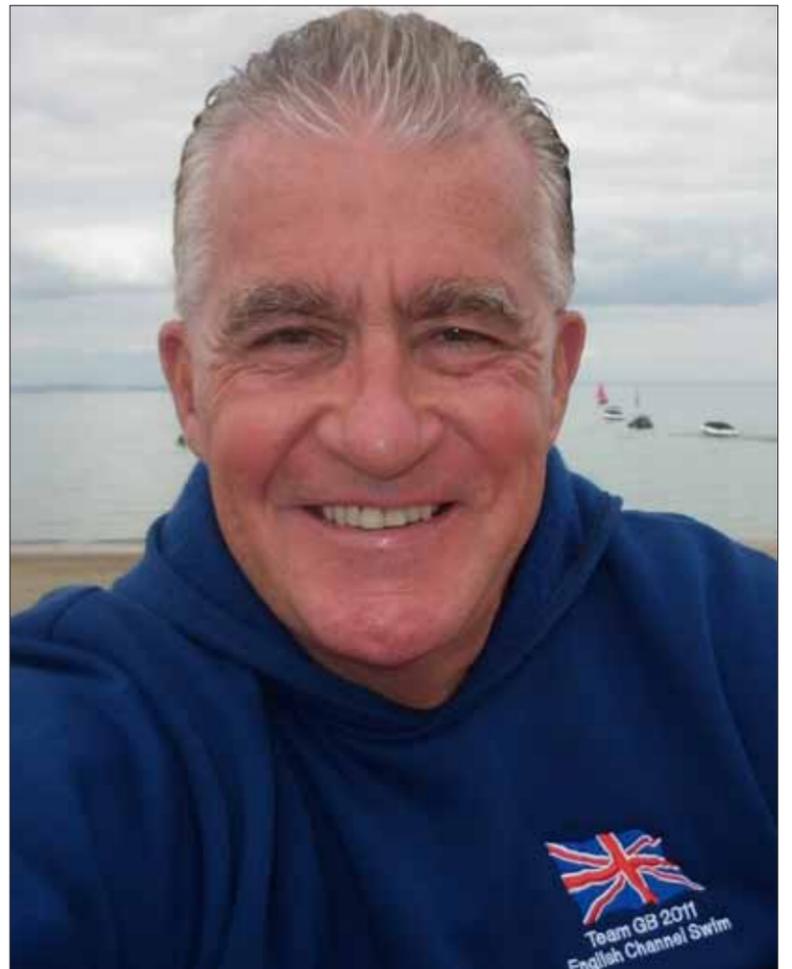
NO BEELINE FOR BIRD: Point to point the Channel is 34 kilometers wide.



BOTTOMS UP: Bird gets in.



The swim took over 13 hours.



PROUD PHUKETER: Les Bird after he conquered the English Channel.

two-year period to train and as the big day approached, they began swimming in the Channel itself.

Les recalls the experience of acclimatizing to the 15-degree Celsius seawater.

"On July 18, my team members and I did a training swim in Dover Harbor, which is protected from the ocean by high seawalls.

"During the training I could see waves crashing over the sea walls from the open seas. Not an encouraging sight," Les said.

Conditions improved the next day, so Team GB contacted Reid to discuss making the attempt on the following day. His advice was to wait until July 23, which had a

more favorable forecast, but ultimately left the decision to the team.

"Go tomorrow in choppy conditions, or wait a few more days? With the conditions so difficult to predict, we decided to go the following day. I called Peter again, and told him. He agreed," said Les.

THE SWIM

At 2:03am in total darkness, the swimmers set out. The team shook hands and departed from Samphire Beach, entering the pitch black water where 11 escort vessels waited.

Searchlights arced over the water and surrounding cliffs as pilots tracked their swimmers. Reid's nine-meter fishing boat, *Rowena*,

was Team GB's guiding light through the frigid 12-degree water.

The English side of the Channel experiences a strong current that runs west to east, pushing swimmers sideways at a rate that is faster than their forward speed.

Reid had planned for this, knowing the current would reverse direction as they approached the French side.

When dawn broke, the light made swimming much easier but the going was still difficult.

"The wave height is always too great to see anything other than the wave immediately in front of your face," Les said.

Nonetheless, daylight lifted the team's spirits. Then, Les stopped to ask Reid how far they had gone.

"Peter shouted back that we had covered 16km. Immediately I thought that was good going, until Peter added, 'But we're only eight km from Dover'.

"Of course the current had been responsible for carrying us down channel at quite a fast pace, but we were still 24km from France!" Les told the *Gazette*.

After seven arduous hours in the water, the swimmers faced their next obstacle – the dreaded shipping lanes.

At one point Team GB found a large container vessel passing about 100 meters in front of them.

The ship itself wasn't the danger, but the waves it created took them for an aquatic joy-ride, or as Les put it: "Some pretty cool body surfing was in evidence."

After 10 hours, Les entered French waters and the current

shifted dramatically, ripping from east to west. This was where Reid's navigation skills would be tested and the swimmers would have to push through the pain.

"The final one or two kilometers were very tough indeed. Not only were we swimming for the coast, we were trying to prevent ourselves from being swept west of the cape and out into the Atlantic Ocean. If that were to happen it would all be over," Les said.

But the team was right on the money. After 13 hours, 42 minutes and a total of 42km covered they broke out of the rip with 300 meters to spare, they made land on Wissant Beach.

"It was a great moment for the whole team. Resplendent in our union jack Speedos we cut fine figures on French soil – sand actually. We were allowed a grand total of five minutes in France by the local authorities," Les said.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR LES?

"Everest has fascinated me for years," Les revealed.

Next year, Les will climb the 8,201-meter Cho Oyu in the Himalayas to test his body in the "death zone" over 8,000 meters before deciding on Everest.

"If I do make an attempt it will need to be under my own conditions, I do not want to be guided, and literally carried, to the top by some expensive mountaineering outfit," he added.

Whether he tackles Everest or not, no one can call Les Bird an underachiever.



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FIRST CLASS: With an elegant atmosphere and fine French food, Top of the Reef restaurant in Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa transports visitors back to a Bogie and Bacall era.

Play it once, Sam, for old times' sake



Gratin d'asperges vertes et coquilles St Jacques with Hollandaise sauce

TOP of the Reef restaurant in Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa has managed to maintain some of its old-world charm while undergoing its recent makeover.

The restaurant now has a brighter feel to it, with light-lilac sofas and chairs, tiled and wooden floors and discreet lighting arrangements that welcome both couples and families.

The atmosphere is equally welcoming, with the tinkling of live piano and a lilting, accented female voice singing Cole Porter songs lingering in the background, complemented by a tuxedoed, dickie-bowed maitre d' serving delicious cocktails.

It transports visitors right back to a grainy black-and-white Bogie and Bacall long-gone era. Smart dress does not go out of place in this restaurant.

Maitre' d, Mr Asaree, is a star. He'd fit perfectly into a middle-aged Thai version of *The Love*

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

Boat with his elegant presence, effortless jokes and impressive command of English.

The fact that the French menu at Top of the Reef hasn't changed in donkeys' years feels more endearing than hopelessly out of time in a world where terms like fusion cooking cast a pretentious web over perfectly fine dishes.

Fusion cooking is a fad and when done well, a delicious one. French cuisine, on the other hand, is a wicked delight, but – like a true Parisian lover – treads lightly at first, calmly seduces and has a knockout body, albeit one that encourages overindulgence and inevitable weight gain.

If you have a stout appetite, a good choice for *entrées froides* is the *rillettes de canard aux aïnelles*

(260 baht) – a homemade duck terrine with a delicious cranberry sauce. It is a meaty and solid start to the evening, especially when accompanied by the restaurant's fresh bread. The bread is always a dead giveaway of an eatery's standards. This is washed down by a hearty but discreet red wine from an encyclopedic wine list.

The *gratin d'asperges vertes et coquilles St Jacques* with Hollandaise sauce (320 baht) is a definite shoo-in as a classic *entrée*

chaude dish and comes highly recommended with *al dente* asparagus. The sharp strains of the sauce counterpointed are by the neutral scallops.

On the other hand, for mains, a filet of sole served with a clever pastry head and tail, covered with a mussel and shrimp cream sauce (450 baht) is delicious, but loses out texture-wise as the fish is served fried rather than steamed. This dish calls out for tenderness rather than the brittle, fried feel

that the otherwise excellent sauce fails to soften.

But this is a quibble: Top of the Reef is there for a good reason – a French blast-from-the-past style that you wouldn't want to exchange for all the tea in China, or for that matter, all the fusion in the Pacific Rim.

Top of the Reef is located in Cape Panwa Hotel, Moo 8, Cape Panwa.

For reservations contact the restaurant on T:076-391123-5. Open 6:30pm to 11pm.

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- ◆ Essays must be written by the student and should not be edited by others
- ◆ The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until **August 31, 2011**
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 15 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry

PRIZES

- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

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The Phuket Gazette

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For more information, please contact Khun Jane at 076-273555
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 11 to August 19. Learn to Swim at TSLC

From 9am to 6pm. This comprehensive program helps develop a wide range of skills to ensure that children are competent in all strokes, water safety and survival. Qualified instructors will teach classes in all six levels of our program. We recommend group lessons for most children learning to swim. However, for those requiring individual attention, private classes can be arranged. Dates and pricing: 45 minutes sessions between 9am and 12pm, or 4pm and 6pm are 200 baht per class per person. Contact Kevin Lai at T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanya.pura.co.th or visit W:thanya.pura.com.

August 1 to 31. Mothers' month Sunday Lunch

From 12pm to 3pm, enjoy an expansive Seafood buffet including Sushi, live cooking stations, BBQ, Western and Thai hot dishes, and all you can eat homemade desserts. From noon until 3pm. Price: 590 baht nett per person. Half price for children from 4 to 12 years old, and free for children under 4 years old. The V Spa-Mother's day package for August features a 50 per cent discount Jasmine Package: Buy 1 get 1 free open daily from 10am to 8pm. Discount can not be applied to promotion. Contact The Savoury Restaurant at T:076-363600 E:info@vijittresort.com or visit W:vijittresort.com.

August 8 to 13. Still smokin' From 11am to 11.30pm, Jim

August 15. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata



From 6pm to 2am every Monday night there's a big buffet with inspiration from the old west on offer for only 495 baht. Francis & Ollie will perform live music to complement your evening. Don't miss it. Reservation at T:076-284156 E:kata@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com

Newport's film production design will be on display at Brush restaurant, Kalim. Newport will sign his new novel The Siamese Connection and host a Jimmy Fame CD launch party for Wanted Man on Saturday, August 13 at 9pm. Jim Newport is an Emmy-nominated production designer of both film and television productions, including Bangkok Dangerous and Lost. His alter-ego, Jimmy Fame, is a blues singer that regularly performs at the Phuket International Blues Festival. Contact Jim at T:086-5189597 or E:jwnewport@aol.com.

August 13. FREE Phuket iClinic - Mac, iPhone, iPad

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Can't get your iPhone to phone home? Confused about iPad 3G? Have a problem with your MacBook, and can't find answers? Join Sitthichai "Mr X" Laoveerakul, director of Phuket School.com, and unabashed iPad fanboy Woody Leonhard for a free iClinic, covering all things Apple. Bring your Mac, your phone, your pad. Bring your problems. Bring your questions. Here, you can figure out some answers. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, PhuketSchool.com, and the Phuket Gazette. Contact Woody Leonhard at T:076-282403 E:Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com.

for children, 2,000 baht for adults; and performance artist Greta Caponnetto's children's Circus Skills Mon-Fri from 5pm. Kidz Zone adventure activities every day from 2pm to 5pm, 200 baht per kid; evening entertainment with Happy Hour bar from 5pm to 7pm, BBQ food, live big screen sports, Kidzole Flying Trapeze, Kidz Lounge with movies and games, bouncy castle and trampoline. Quiz Nights on Wednesdays. Contact Robin Wilson at T:076-362300 E:robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit W:lagunaphuket.com/familyfestival.

August 18. PIWC Monthly Lunch

The August lunch of the Phuket

International Women's Club (PIWC) will be held on August 18, from 11.30am to 2pm at the Ceramic Kitchen, Cherng Talay. All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Price: 500 baht for PIWC members and 650 baht for non-members. Contact Carole Dux at T:076-200730 E:info@phuketiw.com or visit W:phuketiw.com.

August 19. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm, Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa present Curry Fridays twice per month. Here is your chance to enjoy an Authentic and Lavish Indian Curry Buffet. Selections include all-time favorite Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, juicy Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry, Chickpea curry and more served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservation at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

August 20. Dusit Charity Cup Bowling Tournament

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket will hold its first charitable bowling tournament, the Dusit Charity Cup 2011, on August 20 from 10am to 8pm at CS bowl, Big C Phuket. The winning team will be awarded the Governor's Cup trophy inscribed by Phuket Governor Tri Augaradacha. Proceeds from this fundraising event will go toward the ongoing Dusit Smiles - Operation Smile Thailand program. See W:operationsmile.org for more information. The registration fee of 1,500 baht per team covers the rental of bowling shoes and refreshments. Contact the Corporate Social Responsibility team at T:076-362999 E: dtlphrcsrco@dusit.com or visit W:dusit.com/dusit-thani/dusit-thani-lagunaphuket.html

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August 13 - Laguna
August 21 and 28 - Chalong
September - Patong
Starts 10am

For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

August 13. Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Festival

Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Festival stages a spectacular Phuket Magic show in the Festival Marquee at Canal Village August 13 at 6pm. The Festival runs until August 27 at Canal Village with Christopher Hogan's art classes from Monday to Saturday, from 2pm to 4.30pm: 1,000 baht

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUR MAJESTY: Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday is celebrated on August 12, which this year falls on a Friday, and is also Thailand's official Mother's Day. This will mark the public holiday with prayer and merit-making to wish the Queen good health and happiness. The entire country is adorned with portraits of Queen Sirikit, flags and lights. Major celebrations also take place in the Grand Palace and Ratchadamnoen Avenue in Bangkok.

YOUR Phuket

MONARCHY AND MANGROVES: Volunteers from Bangkok Hospital Phuket planted trees in Pa Khlok's mangroves to commemorate the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and raise awareness of coastal and marine resource conservation.



WE SALUTE YOU: Miss Thailand 2011 contestants visited the region recently. Photos: Apinun Saithong



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Queen's birthday



MOM'S NO 1: Top vocalist Kutthathat Maneepun gives his mom a jasmine garland.



DANCE PARTY: Children perform at a Mother's Day event at Central Festival.



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ATTENTION: Vice-Admiral Chumnum Ajwong with Senior Navy Militaries honor the 79th birthday of HM Queen Sirikit's and Mother's Day.



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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

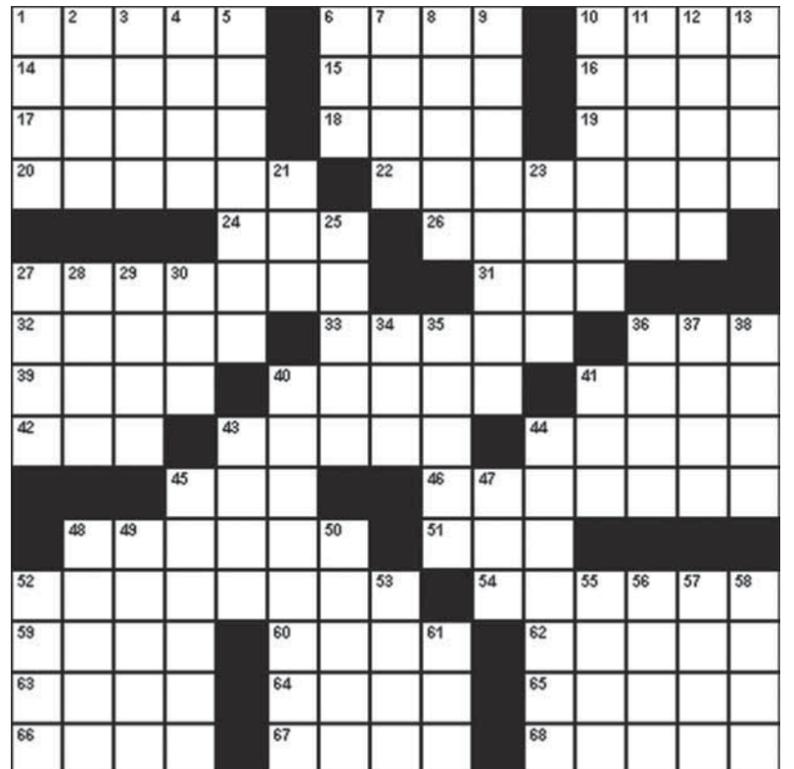
General Knowledge

1. What was founded in the UK 1694 because of war with France?
2. Which American state drinks the most alcohol per person?
3. Horseradish sauce originated in which country?
4. In the USA a police 10-31 is the code for what?
5. In animal terms what is a dude?
6. Who owned and lived in the castle Joyous Guard?
7. In Greek mythology who was the son of Hypnos the God of sleep?
8. In Georgia it's illegal to do what with a fork?
9. Thames water removes a ton of what bodily matter a month from sewage?
10. Mageiricophobia is the fear of what?
11. What was patented in 1954 as 'the best thing'?
12. In Poland if you asked for a piwo what would you get?
13. What kind of bird is a bourbon?
14. Which chemical element is named from the Greek for violet or purple?
15. Merrylegs was a performing circus dog in which Dickens novel?

Quiz answers on page 39

- Across**
1. Mineral used as a gem
 6. Approach
 10. Gossip
 14. Astonish
 15. "— quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
 16. Biblical birthright seller
 17. Chocolate substitute
 18. Soviet news service
 19. First Arabic letter
 20. Journey
 22. Concern
 24. Skid row woe
 26. Zoological segment
 27. Come before
 31. Hwy.
 32. Bizarre
 33. Donates
 36. Blue
 39. Bed support
 40. Subdued
 41. Achy
 42. Business card abbr.
 43. Sows
 44. Mud hut
 45. Russian space station
 46. Large sea wave
 48. Spring suddenly
 51. Swiss river
 52. Dolt
 54. Large homopterous insect
 59. Ages
 60. Gather, harvest
 62. Coup —
 63. Actor Auberjonois
 64. As to
 65. One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
 66. Trompe l'—
 67. Dramatic troupe
 68. Managed

- Down**
1. Diplomacy
 2. Actor Epps
 3. Graph prefix
 4. Northern arm of the Black Sea
 5. Father of James and John
 6. After taxes



7. Actor Morales
8. Orgs.
9. Put back
10. Honeybunch
11. Atoll unit
12. Bluffer's ploy
13. Clump of hair
21. Old Ford
23. CPR experts
25. Smooth transition
27. Pillar
28. Dominion
29. Bibliography abbr.
30. PC monitor

34. — be my pleasure!
 35. Roman goddess of the hearth
 36. Caribbean dance music
 37. Composer Khachaturian
 38. Sandwich shop
 40. Containing mercury
 41. Japanese honorific
 43. Gravitite
 44. Legal
 45. Bivalve mollusk
 47. Pouch
 48. Blender setting
 49. Muscat native
 50. Actress Verdugo
 52. Emperor of Rome 54-68
 53. Metallica drummer Ulrich
 55. Atlantic mackerel
 56. Take — from me
 57. Hamlet, eg
 58. Not much
 61. Domestic animal
- Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 39

LEO (July 24-August 22): Play potential business deals or job offers by ear until you have more information. The stars indicate that an earth sign may be protecting their own interests and not have yours at heart. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming days should find viable investment opportunities in the year ahead. Romance with an air sign shows promise, but another fire sign has interest elsewhere. The number eight can bring good fortune this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans are forecast to have a lot on their minds this week. There are hints that your world of work could be affected by disagreements with a fire sign colleague. The stars suggest that this issue will be best resolved by a tactful approach. There is hope for a romance with a water sign, but your preoccupation with personal problems will delay this happening. The number four brings good luck this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans should be prepared for anything this week, but positive developments are forecast to give

you a boost of energy. Your responsibilities at work are likely to increase and this should result in promotion, with imminent financial gain indicated. Where your personal life is concerned, the stars suggest that criticism of an earth sign friend should be sugar-coated. Lucky days for love are Sunday and Monday. Your lucky number this week is one.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpios are advised to check their schedules carefully this week as there are indications a forgotten appointment could cause more stress than you will want to deal with. The stars suggest that you will become involved in community activities, possibly by volunteering to help in some way. Refreshing your routine could also include taking up a new sport during the second half of August.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A breakthrough of some sort is forecast to be welcomed by Sagittarians this week. The stars suggest that this will be connected with an ongoing property dispute. During the second half of August your romantic outlook improves, with the sun shining on

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

a water sign appreciating your thoughtful approach. Those in a committed relationship gain better understanding of a partner's romantic history.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capri corns are forecast to have the wind in their sails during the second half of August. Any problems you have are likely to arise from others being unable to keep up with your pace, or letting you down. A water sign is highlighted to withdraw from a business agreement, but you should soon see this as an advantage. Wear the color lavender to encourage more patience.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Those Aquarians who have weighed up all their options should be ready to take action this week. A stimulating discussion with another air sign on Monday or Tuesday opens your eyes to fresh possibilities in the world of work. New con-

tact with people in other countries is highlighted to lead to lucrative agreements later in the year. Lucky days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are advised to stay out of a slightly stormy atmosphere at work early next week – there are indications that an earth sign is about to reveal whether they can be trusted or not. The stars recommend testing the waters before committing to relocation as a strong desire to leave your current living situation could result in the wrong move being made.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians could be feeling out of sorts around the middle of August. Put yourself and your own needs first this week to ensure that you recover some energy. A difference of opinion with a romantic partner should not be allowed to get out of proportion. The stars advise reflection on why you were drawn to this person in the first place.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans will find it easier to rise above their concerns during the second half of August. The stars

predict that your energy will enable you to control events more easily. The only downside this week could occur on Wednesday or Thursday when a fire sign gets your goat. Allowing this person to have the last word is the best way to keep the peace.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): An earth sign family member or close friend has your best interests at heart when they give advice this weekend. Geminis should resist flying off the handle until they have heard what this person has to say. Where business is concerned, certain risks you took earlier this year are forecast to pay off before the end of August. Hot days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Dis-connected energy could confuse Cancerians this week, particularly in the world of work. Another water sign colleague is likely to say one thing and mean the opposite – Tuesday is the most auspicious day to find out what is really happening. A trip down memory lane is forecast when you encounter an old flame this weekend, but the stars advise that rekindling this relationship would not bring happiness.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Sugar Palm city living on the lake

High rise park life in the center of Phuket

CONSTRUCTION of the Sugar Palm Suan Luang, a 13-storey condominium project located on a prime lot of city real estate with direct access to Phuket Town's largest public park, is set to begin in December.

The project's developer, Songchai Chalerm Co Ltd, have announced an expected completion date for the 286-unit project of May 2013.

Located off Wirat Hongyok Road near the Slaughterhouse in-

tersection in Phuket town, the Sugar Palm Suan Luang is Phuket's first full-facilities park and lakeside city condominium, and has nearly sold out several months before breaking ground.

"The strengthening of the baht, wage increases and stricter zoning and building regulations are all bad news for developers and residents in Phuket," Boonyarit Choopiban, the senior director of marketing said.

"Imagine how much more dif-



LAKESIDE: Sugar Palm Suan Luang will be ready in May 2013.



IN DEMAND: Many of the 286 units have been reserved.

ficult it will be to find the perfect deal in the near future," he added.

To be developed on two plots of two rai, the project's first two stories will be designated for sheltered parking. Combined with outdoor spaces, a total of 200 parking spaces will be available.

Condo units make up the third to 13th stories (floors one through 11).

At the time of going to press,

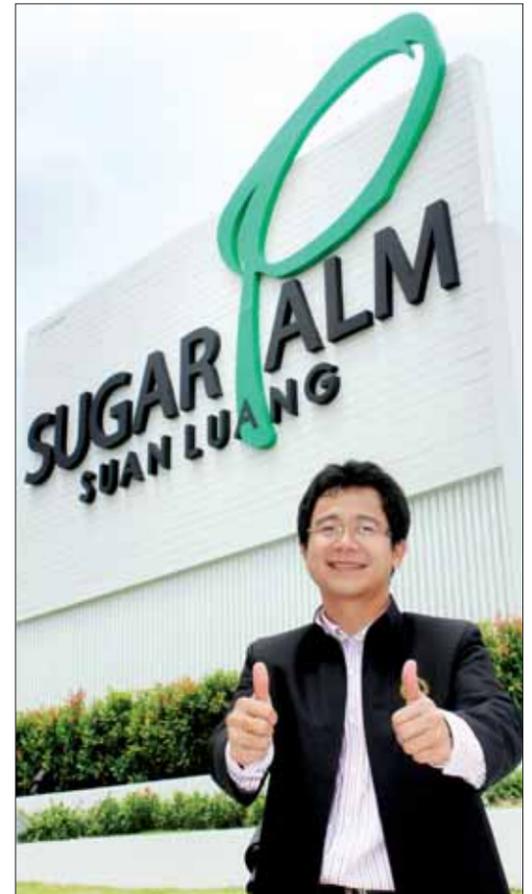
all of the project's units on the fifth to 11th floors, as well as all rooms with sunset views overlooking the lake and park, had already been reserved.

The remaining 30 units, sized 35 and 42.5 square meters, are priced between 1.9 and 2.3 million baht respectively, and offer sun-rise views of Phuket Town's hills and eastern coastline.

Comfortable 24 month install-

ment plans are available to cover the 10 per cent down payment following an initial 10,000 baht reservation and another 50,000 or 100,000 baht payment upon contract signing.

Facilities will include a 2.7 x 30 meter swimming pool, fitness center, library, two gardens, two resident elevators and one service elevator. For more information visit W: sugarpalmcondo.com.



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EXISTENTIAL QUEST: New visitors to Phuket are searching for more cultural and gastronomic experiences. Photo: ubo pakes

Walking on the wild side



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

SUMMER is with us, at least in name, in this land of sporadic rays of sunshine and thunderstorms. It's easy to drift into those lines from Lou Reed's *Walk on the Wild Side* and be mesmerized by the solid groove of a street side symphony.

The sax break awakens me from a wistful dream of days gone by, or was it the cooing of those fabulous backup singers?

Those who know me are aware that I am a coffee shop junkie. It would be unusual to drive past Twinpalms Bake or Woody's Sandwich Shoppe, and not see the silver tones of my muddied SUV parked outside either establishment.

Caffeinating has become somewhat of a religious experience, as occasional breaks in the day find me sipping a strong fragrant brew. Home-style just isn't the same even with a shiny new espresso machine

sitting on my kitchen counter.

Perhaps it's the froth. Grail-like, creating that airy milk topping remains a skill beyond reach for me, similar to playing jazz on the piano or painting landscapes. Deeming it all too elusive a I've been relegated to the role of consumer or perhaps, latt aficionado with an air of continental elitism.

From a corner seat with a near 180 degree view of the entrance road to Laguna Phuket, I notice the uplift of tourists walking in the area. And over the past year these numbers of tourists taking to the streets seem to be growing.

Entering Lotus Express in Cherngtalay, a similar passage has started up this last high season as tourists from Bangtao's hotels line up in roadside processions and venture into the greater world out-

side their package tours.

Perhaps you can say it's a move to accommodate the mass market of visitors, but I think in some ways travelers are turning on to more existential experiences these days. That, and the fact that there are more Asian visitors effecting dramatic change away from the old days of sun-worshipping Europeans basking on the beach for weeks on end.

Tourists from nearby hotels wake up in the morning and want to know what to do and where to go for a day full of activity. Mantras of "shop till you drop" and "just get out and see what's out there" are evident.

Unfortunately the island is not geared up for this. For so many years the climb into a self-imposed exile of "getting away from it all" meant shutting off the local

...we need to consider sidewalks to the hallowed halls of upscale hotels, pedestrian-friendly shopping areas, biking paths and other ways to improve the tourist experience.

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In brief...

Purnavarna CEO Steven Granville released from jail

BRITON Steven James Granville has been released from prison after nearly 18 months, as outstanding criminal charges have been dropped over his involvement in the Purnavarna project in Phuket.

The high-profile case of a luxury multimillion dollar luxury estate and ownership of the Royal Phuket Yacht Club in Rawai has been reported widely in the international press.

As work on the villa development has laid idle for a number of years, industry sources say the hotel asset is on the transaction market but has yet to be sold.

Anantara Vacation Club building new resort

MAI KHAO's Anantara Vacation Club is constructing a 100-unit purpose built complex next to their Mai Khao luxury resort.

Comprised of 70 suites, and 30 one and two bedroom pool villas, work is underway with completion set for the end of 2012.

Minor International's AVC business unit is expanding quickly and North Phuket is proving to be a popular sell for lifestyle investors.

New Holiday Inn Express and Marco Polo Resort for Phuket

ACCORDING to C9 Hotelworks *Phuket Hotel Market Update Mid-Year Edition 2011* which will be released on August 9th, Hong Kong-based Marco Polo Hotels and InterContinental have signed new properties on the island.

For InterContinental the first Holiday Inn Express on the island is set for Patong. With 280 rooms, the property will debut in late 2012.

The 294-room Marco Polo Resort Phuket will open in Q1 2014. The project recently obtained Board of Investment approval by the Thai government for foreign ownership status.

CitizenM unveils virtual offices

ULTRA-HIP tech hotel leader Citizen M is rolling out virtual office space aptly branded SocietyM.

Working on a membership model, the product is being touted as designer led work and meeting areas.

With just two operating hotels, the fledgling company has chain ambitions which are targeting 20 new properties including an Asian debut.

docudrama. Interactions with locals were limited to exchanging greetings with the hotel staff at the breakfast buffet.

Suddenly, a collision of cultures and a shift in tourism make us rethink Phuket infrastructure: we need to consider sidewalks to the hallowed halls of upscale hotels, pedestrian-friendly shopping areas, biking paths and other ways to improve the tourist experience.

It's all too easy for those of us who live here to dismiss the unique culture and attributes of Phuket. Our guests save their money to travel great distances to see more than a coconut tree on the beach, or to look at wandering tribes of families as they dodge water puddles.

A few weeks ago I was in a luxury resort picking up a friend and I saw a Chinese couple approach the front desk carrying a mangosteen and they asked the smiling receptionist where they could buy more of the fruit.

The reaction of course went from the perplexed to the absurd; from calls to the purchasing department, to a discussion about an absent manager, and the final death knell "No have." The guests walked away clearly disappointed.

From the front entrance of the hotel, about 100 meters away, was a local night market and I couldn't help but notice a cart full of mangosteens brightly displayed for all to see.

Perhaps a wakeup call is needed to envisage the new face of Phuket tourism and to inspire us to adopt ways to integrate local experiences into their stays. Take a moment to appreciate what motivates travelers to come to Thailand and understand: it's not just for the beach but for a broader texture of experiences.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

- Bill Barnett

Thailand's largest resort is underway



DESTINATION MARVEL: Set to become Thailand's biggest resort, Club Koh Samui plans include sports academies and indoor ski slope.

By Steven Layne

Club Koh Samui Group Limited announced last week that ground has been broken to begin the first phase of construction for the Club Koh Samui Development (CKS).

Vamped to become the biggest sports-and-leisure destination resort and largest resort project ever built in Thailand, the US\$ 400 Million (12 billion baht) project will be built in the hills above Chaweng Beach.

Master plan architect, the Beaumont Partnership, have their work cut out for

them with a portfolio to include a 250-key 5-star resort, conference and entertainment center, EXPO center, 5-star suite complex, 4-star hotel, apartments and villas, theme park, water park, man-made lake, world-class football and tennis academies, and Ski Samui – though planned for later phases. Should construction of Ski Samui go ahead, it will be one of the largest indoor ski slopes in the world.

Moreover, as part of the first two construction phases, the CKS group is overlooking construction of a modern high-speed cable car to rise from Chaweng Noi beach up to the CKS complex and onwards

to the summit of Samui's second highest hill.

The CKS project also intends to incorporate sustainable development plans including a massive solar power project, a unique waste management project that turns garbage into topsoil, an effective wind-generated electricity system, multiple water management programs, and diverse agriculture platforms designed to revive the island's farms.

CKS Group is also looking forward to other projects in the near future to enhance its portfolio including a luxury marina and 18-hole champion golf course. For more information visit W: clubkohsamui.com

LaSalle reports robust Q2 stats

GLOBAL real estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle has announced overall improvements and a more positive outlook in its new Global Market Perspective.

The quarterly report assesses the impact of economic forces on the world's real estate markets.

Its study of 2nd quarter (Q2) performance has shown gradual reduction in oversupply and steady leasing volumes.

Despite investor caution, Jeremy Kelly of the firm's global research team believes that as long as economies do not falter, markets will remain strong in the latter half of the year.

Investment in commercial markets is also set to continue improving after Q2 saw an increase from US\$ 68.8 billion to US\$ 103.5 bn year-on-year.

Russia has grown the most during the period, but the USA has become the new driver of this momentum as Europe falters due to lack of product and concern over sovereign debt.

The leasing market shows mixed performance as the Asia Pacific, China, India and Brazil have strong markets while the USA and Europe are suffering on the back of economic uncertainty.

New monument to mark HM the King's 1959 visit

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin led a ceremony on Monday to mark the beginning of a 5 million baht project to build a new sala for the *Ratchapatanusorn*, the monument on Phisit Korani Road that marks the visit of HM Bhumibol Adulyadej to Phuket in 1959.

At the ceremony, Mayor Pian, along with Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sakkaban, hand-poured the first cement that will become the foundation pillar of the new sala.

The project is budgeted at 4.99 million baht, which includes demolishing the existing structure and developing the 700-square-meter site.



Ratchapatanusorn design

Under the contract with KT Thaksin Joint Venture, which was especially set up to complete the project, construction is scheduled for completion by February 17 next year.

The road [Phisit Korani] will remain open throughout construction.

The existing sala was built to house a marble tablet inscribed with HM The King's royal insignia marking His Majesty's first visit to Patong on March 11, 1959.

"The building is now very old. We need to build a new one to honor His Majesty The King," said Mayor Pian.

– Pimwara Choksakulpan



Patong Mayor Pian Keesin

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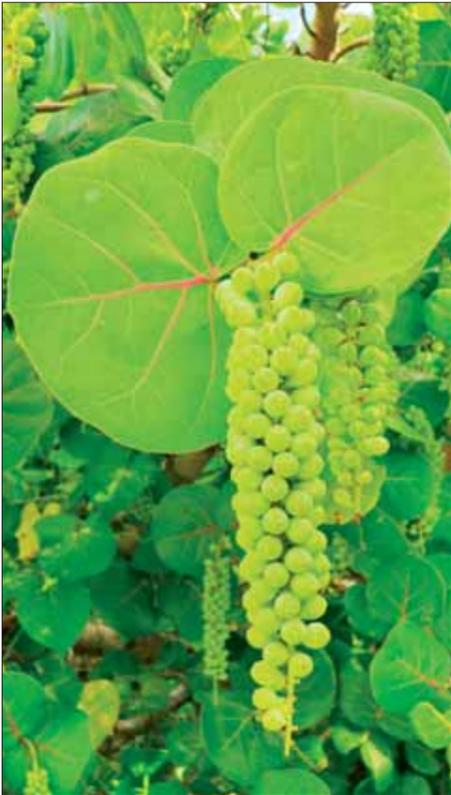
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Salt-resistant coccoloba tree Photo: dno1967



The gorgeous hibiscus tilliacus is sometimes featured as a windbreak. Photo: Tatters



Nerium coleandershrub Photo: Tatters

Surviving the savage sea

PHUKET inhabitants are, in the broadest sense, seaside gardeners. Nowhere in Phuket is much more than a dozen kilometers from the sea. We all experience the strong squalls and constant gusts from the sea.

Additionally, salinity in the island's atmosphere must be considered. Although the high winds trouble some broad-leaved plants such as palms and bananas, they do tolerate it pretty well.

However, once you get to the ocean's edge, things become much more taxing for most plants. A few varieties of palms, notably coconut and date palms, can endure salt-laden air, but young palms, fresh out of containers are not able to withstand constant buffeting from the sea winds. Within six

months, most of them will be dried up, frayed to a frazzle or plain dead.

There are a surprisingly high number of plants that are a safe bet if your garden is near the beach, provided you do not have high levels of sodium in your soil. One friend has a garden literally within meters of the shoreline, yet he successfully cultivates an extensive range of shrubs – bougainvilleas, gardenias, gingers, euphorbias and orchids among others. Note however, they are nearly all in containers.

Of course, some plants handle salt better than others, and a few, known as *natrophobes*, really dislike the stuff. In general these plants – clovers and many legumes for instance – have low levels of sodium in their leaves.



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

At the other end of the scale, those plants that are tolerant of salt are sometimes featured as windbreaks near the sea. Especially salt-resistant is the coast cottonwood (*hibiscus tilliacus*), a sizable tree with leathery leaves which produces yellow or white, red-throated flowers with a reddish stamen. There are some growing close to the beach at Chalong Pier, testimony to their capacity to handle saline conditions. Other salt-resistant trees worth a mention include the large-leaved coccoloba tree, *clusia*, *myrica*, *pittosporum* and *sesbania*.

Among shrubs, *scaevola*, *calatropis*, all varieties of *nerium* oleander and *calliandra* (powder puff) are capable of tolerating a higher than usual degree of salinity in the soil and air. Near the

Phuket Yacht Club Resort, a row of Indian milkweed (*calatropis gigantea*) has been planted specifically to provide cover for the less hardy shrubs further inshore.

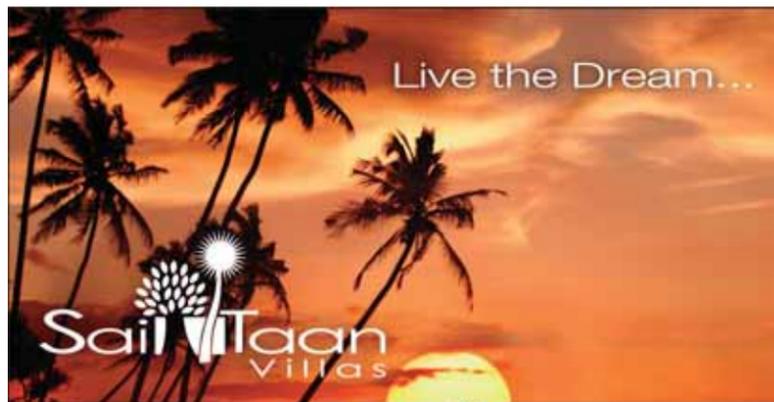
Many readers will sadly recall when the 2004 tsunami destroyed everything in its ferocious path. Huge volumes of sea water were driven inland, and went on to flood many hectares of land next to the west coast beaches of Phuket. Within days, all the vegetation in these inundated areas was showing signs of distress, and within weeks even the mature trees had succumbed.

This happened because plants

of all sizes are dependent on osmosis, a process whereby the weak mineral solution in moist soil, mostly composed of sodium, is passed through the root membranes and into a slightly stronger solution within the plant's cells.

After the tsunami, the salt in the newly saturated soil was too concentrated for osmosis to occur. In essence, the whole process went into reverse, since the cell sap was now weaker than the solution in the soil. The plants could no longer absorb water effectively.

A few, but only a very few plants were able to survive these unnatural conditions.



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Tip of the week



PEST CONTROL: Skinks eat insects, and a paradise tree snake swallows a lizard whole. Photos: Tom BKK and Yoav Rosenberg

Tropical snakes in the grass

AN ABUNDANCE of snakes live in Thailand – literally hundreds of species – and you may find several kinds in your garden.

While they are not especially useful to the gardener since they prey on frogs, skinks, lizards, geckos and other insectivorous creatures that help control pests. So they should be left well alone.

Cobras, kraits and pit vipers are venomous, sometimes deadly. Happily, these are not likely to inhabit your garden.

You will probably encounter the blind or flowerpot snake, which lives in leaf litter and does a good job of feeding on slugs and ant grubs. It is a rapid mover, very small (up to 25 centimeters) and dark brown in color.

Several flying snakes may also reside in your garden, including the relatively rare paradise tree snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*), which has beautiful black and yellow markings.

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SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE



3-bedroom house (53sq wah) near the Heroines' Monument. 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, telephone & internet, curtains, kitchen and full landscaping. Price: 2.95 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakapoms@yahoo.com

The **Phuket Gazette** is the island's **LARGEST** Classifieds marketplace!

Number One in Print – 11 pages, every week!

Number One on the Web – Source: **Google** Search Results

ONLY One on iPads & iPhones – ALL ads, Worldwide

Special Promotion
(August and September only).



Buy one and get the second one @

50% off.

Phuket Gazette Classifieds – the ones that work!

Properties For Rent

RAWAI, 2 BEDROOMS



Pool villa available for one month rental during September 2011 ONLY. Sleeps 4 people. All modern appliances, TV, DVD, WiFi, fully equipped kitchen, private pool and grounds, secure parking. 35,000 baht per month (not including electricity). For viewing or inquiries, contact Ian Anderson. Tel: 081-788 9428. Email: phuketacomm@gmail.com

PATONG 1-3 BEDROOM APTS

Free cable TV, maid, WiFi, pool and gym. 5 mins to town. Call for showing. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo available at Kalim. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Luxury rent 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

CONDOS IN PATONG

1-bedroom apartments for long-term rent in Patong Tower and Phuket Palace. Tel: 081-892 1621.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENT

For long or short term rent. Includes large swimming pool. Email: suaithai61@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-webstarcondo.com

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

BANG TAO VILLA FOR RENT

1,2,3,4 bedrooms. Fully furnished, including large pool. Tel: 085-674 6786. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE FOR RENT

Just 5 minutes walk to Nai Harn beach. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big sala, swimming pool. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. For long-term rent. Tel: 081-397 1835. Website: www.phuket-house.yolasite.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS



Phuket Town and also available close to central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chris palmer56@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

PATONG STUDIO PROMOTION

Includes free WiFi, maid service, gym and pool. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Call Scott for showing. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

RENT OR SALE

New house at Supalai Hill, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Long term rent: 18,000 baht per month. 2 storeys. Tel: 083-649 1218. Email: arly_35@yahoo.com

CONDO-HOLIDAY RENTAL

In Kathu, 30sqm, quiet area, 10 mins to Patong, 10 mins to Central. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 2 aircons, fridge, microwave, balcony. Rent 5,500 baht per week. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

62SQM SHOP FOR RENT

Rawai main street, new paint, lighting, aircon. Tel: 085-471 5043.

HOUSE FOR RENT

In Phuket, Thalang, Paklok. Bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, warm water, 2 aircons. Not furnished. Buying also possible at a cheap price. Tel: 081-606 3525 (Thai/English), 02-741 9745 (German). Email: gpdg stbkgk@hotmail.com

PATONG CONDO

1 bedroom, 66sqm, balcony. ADSL, DVD, microwave oven and more. Big swimming pool at front. Good view. Fully furnished. Available from August 10. Long-term rent at 14,800 baht per month. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

KAMALA MODERN TOWNHOUSE



Good for living in or as office, next to road. 2 bedrooms with aircons, 3 bathrooms. 18,000 baht per month furnished; for sale at 3.5 million baht. Tel: 087-385 4180, 081-397 1303.

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

Bang Tao area. 1,2,4 bedrooms, large pool, fully furnished. Tel: 085-674 6786.

OFFICE IN PATONG

office for rent on Rat U Thit 200 Pk rd. 4x7m room with aircon, bathroom. Price 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-290310, 086-477 2015 (English & Thai). Email: wikran tisa@hotmail.com

BAR POOL HOTEL/ RAWAI BEACH



5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$ 100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

STUDIO APARTMENT IN PATONG

One living room with kitchenette, separate bedroom w/bath, telephone, aircon, UBC ready, WiFi free. Quiet location. Western standard, nicely finished. From 9,500 baht per month. Long term. Tel: 084-185 8536.

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR PSU

Prince of Songkla University, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European built-in kitchen. 4 aircons. Office, BBQ and laundry area. Parking lot. UBC, cable and WiFi. Ask for photo and price. Tel: 081-432 6587.

RAWAI/POOL GUESTHOUSE



5-year lease. 1.4 million baht or 480,000 baht yearly rent. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, with WiFi, cable TV, 5 motos. 300 meters from beach. No key money. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

Live in Cherg Talay?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Chaba Supermarket**

Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with **Khun Na**. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

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!

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

Phuket Gazette Ad Power Card
The discount card for Classifieds at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace
500 baht • Good for 1 year

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

Property Wanted

HOUSE WANTED CASH BUYER

We have many buyers. List your property free at our website, more than 1,000 hits every hour, MLS Agents website. Tel: 082-974 8359 (English). Email: sales@thailandpropertys.com For further details, see our website at www.thailandpropertys.com

CONDO WANTED CASH BUYER

List your property free at our MLS Agents website which gets more than 1,000 hits every hour. We have many buyers. Tel: 082-974 8359. Email: sales@thailandpropertys.com For further details, please see our website at www.thailandpropertys.com

SHOP FOR RESTAURANT

Looking for a good location in Rawai/Nai Harn to open a nice restaurant. Long-term lease, shops, building. Or land to build it my self.OBS.Have to be along a main road. Please contact for info. Tel: 084-350 7876. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

APARTMENT/ HOUSE IN PATONG

Moving to Patong in August. Looking to rent a house or apartment, studio or 1-2 rooms. Internet a must. Furnished, anywhere in Patong so long at it's quiet. Long term rent. Give me name of place, address, pics if you have them. Maximun rental: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-350 7876. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

Accommodation Available

400 B/DAY, 9,000 B/MONTH



Rawai pool guesthouse. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon, WiFi, cable TV. Car and motorbike for cheap rent. 300 meters from beach. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, master bedroom furnished with aircon. Friendly area, must view. Rent 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-592 8905. Email: wbramley2000@yahoo.co.uk

ROOM IN KATA FOR 6,000 BAH

Room with aircon, modern furniture, hot water, Internet and a nice rooftop terrace with sea view. Available now. Tel: 081-968 5904. Email: sujira_sk@yahoo.com

BEDROOM IN LARGE HOUSE

Shared house in a gated secure community. All amenities, long-term, non-smoker. Tel: 087-077 9816. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

NEW APARTMENTS CLOSE TO LAGUNA

New apartments close to Laguna for rent. Start from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-615944, 081-866 2055 (English & Thai). Email: info@sivanaplace.com Website: www.sivanaplace.com

KARON BEACH

Now special offers available. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

LOFT STYLE - KATHU

Fully furnished and located in a quiet, central area with good running spots. 8,000-12,000 baht/month. Long-term rent. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

FREEDOM APARTMENT

Patong, European style, aircon, wireless internet, cable TV, safe area, bathroom with hot water. 7,500 baht/month. Tel: 084-845 0541, 083-380 6744.

BEACH FRONTAGE

1-bedroom self-contained holiday villa in Chalong. Rental rate per day. Tel: 081-677 1641.

PATONG GRAND CONDO

Apartment for sale in Patong. 1 big room, bathroom, balcony. Fully furnished. Communal pool. Low rent. I also have 3 rooms on the beach road. Tel: 087-882 1445. Email: peter_blom77@hotmail.com

APARTMENT IN NAI HARN BEACH



Luxury apartments, ranging from studios to 1-2 and 3-bedroom family apartments. All of the apartments are fully furnished with high quality furniture. For rent and sale. Tel: 087-877 7133. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

NAI HARN BEACH APARTMENT

At The Sands Resort, 2 bedrooms, 126sqm, WiFi, cable TV, fully equipped. 12,000 baht per week 40,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-396639, 083-648 8820 (English). Email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

PATONG LUXURY

At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-894 8446. Or send email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

THE HEIGHTS KATA BEACH

Great rent for great tenant. 5-star luxury living. Panoramic ocean view. Massive deck. Amazing pool and gym. 2 bedrooms, 170sqm. Price: 65,000 baht/ month. Dates negotiable. Contact Lillian. Call 083-833 6863 (English), or send email to: lilliancornell8@hotmail.com

KATA ROOM FOR RENT-PRIVATE

6k WiFi, maid, laundry, cable. Must be quiet & no bringing bar girls/boys home. Tel: 087-888 9089. Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENT



For long-term rent from 20,000 baht per month. Contact Sally at 081-326 2542, or Judy at 083-182 8914. Visit our website: www.oceanic-global.com

Accommodation Wanted

WANTED HOUSE

In Phuket, Thalang, Pakhlok. Bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, warm water, 2 aircons. Not furnished. Buying also possible at a cheap price. Tel: 081-606 3525 (Thai/English), or 02-741 9745 (German) Email: gpdgstbkg@hotmail.com

APARTMENT OR HOUSE

Apartment or house wanted to rent for the whole of January, not with lots of stairs as we will have a newborn baby. Email: colin1122uk@hotmail.com

KAMALA

I'm looking for minimum of 2 bedrooms in Kamala between Nov 30th and January 20th. Maximum rent: 25,000 baht per month. Send email: a.ekvall@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Looking for a room, studio or house in Patong. Must allow a small Pug dog. Anything under 10,000 baht considered. Email: thaiorientalinn@hotmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

SEAVIEW VILLA, PRIVATE POOL

3-bed family villa and private pool, on an exclusive estate with pool, tennis, gym. Rent from now until November: 12,500 baht per night. December to January: 25,000 baht per night. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

RESORT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Based in Kata Beach, individual unit or multiple unit management. Successful management and rental record by experienced hotelier & staff. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Household Items

FOR SALE LEAVING THAILAND

Quality indoor and outdoor furniture. Lounge, dining room, bedrooms, etc. Electronic items. All for quick sale. Everything must go! Tel: 089-290 6925 (English), 084-847 8735 (Thai).

NURSERY EQUIPMENT

Baby carrier, baby walker, baby jumpers, baby bath, baby changing table+bath, and other things for baby. Excellent condition! Used several times only, almost new. Cheap. 087-363 6773. Email: zeninmail@gmail.com

Household Services

GREENHOUSE

Construction, renovation, fitting, electric, metal and wood work. Tel: 085-654 2244.

DWF HOME SERVICE

Built-in bar, counter, pool, kitchen, pond. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: dwf_homeservices@hotmail.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

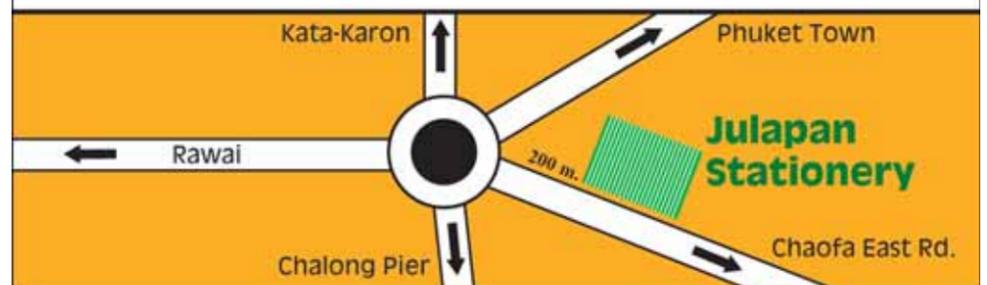
Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Chalong? Place your CLASSIFIED ADS at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Chanok (076-282254)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - Hundreds of new ads every week!

Let us take your ad to the top of Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE
สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ และ เอเชีย

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

OPEN POSITION (Patong Office)

• **Office Assistant**

Requirements:

- Female, 25 years or older, bachelor's degree
- Background in administration an advantage
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluent written and spoken English
- Ability to work well under pressure and adhere to strict deadlines
- Computer skills

Please email resume in English with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to:
bernd@ilo-phuket.com; sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
55 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket
Tel: 66-76-344180 to 1, 340 731
Fax: 66-76-340767

Location Patong Branch, Phuket, Thailand

Sai Taan

Construction Project Engineer

Sai Taan Villas project in Cherngtalay, Phuket seeks Project Engineer to start immediately.

Candidate Background:

- Thai national, 26-35 years
- Bachelor's Degree in engineering discipline
- At least 4-6 years in project engineer role
- Good command of English, PC literacy & some knowledge of CAD
- Pro-active, highly responsible, organised & able to work under pressure

Competitive salary for the right candidate! Immediate start.

Interested Parties are invited to submit resume together with current & expected salary to info@sai-taan-phuket.com

Sai Taan Villas Co., Ltd.
3/14, Moo 5, T. Cherngtalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel 076-271257-8, Fax 076-271256
www.sai-taan-phuket.com

Representatives/Guest relations (German Speaking)
Base in Phuket branch office

- minimum 1 years experience in hotel (Guest Relations) and/or travel business services
- Thai national
- fluent in German language
- knowledge of English is an advantage
- good and outgoing personality
- willingness to work in shift duty
- experience to communicate and to work with foreign nationals driving license

Type of Work: Full Time

Working Place: Phuket Branch Office

Contact Address:
(Bangkok) 849, 7th Floor, Vorawat Building, Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
Tel: (66) 2 267 1202-4 Fax: (66) 2 267 1128
(Phuket) 241/29 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: (66) 76 349 964 - 9 Fax: (66) 76 349 970

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Villa Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in property management and operations

Rental Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in reservations and holiday home rental operations

All positions require

- Good command of English language both speaking and writing
- Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence
- Good general computer skills

Positions available for Thai Nationals only

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

Project Manager (Phuket)

Responsibilities:

- Manage and coordinate ongoing projects, estimate construction costs and prepare budget, quality control management

Required Qualifications:

- Male, not over 45 years old. Southerner is preferred
- 7 years experience in construction management, or project management
- Strong planning and leadership skills, systematic thinking, and interpersonal skills

Property Consultant (Phuket)

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for property, project, property resale, leasing and other work assigned from the supervisor.

Required Qualifications:

- At least 1 year experienced in sales, customer service, or hospitality.
- Age 22 - 30 years old.

All position required:

- Thai Nationality
- Fluent in English
- Own car and driving license will be an advantage.
- Able to work 6 days a week.

Plus Property Company Limited.
Please send resume to nattha@sansiri.com, chuthamas@sansiri.com

Plus property

For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

NIGHT CLUB MANAGER NEEDED

Urgent for 1,500 capacity venue, Thai national, must speak English & Thai. High salary for the right candidate. Tel: 081-930 9796. Send updated CV and current picture to accounts@famousphuket.com

LIGHTING DESIGNER WANTED

Wanted: Lighting designer with CAD modeling experience (VIZ / Dialux or similar) to join small but growing studio with 15-year track record, based in Phuket or Bangkok. Must be English speaking. Please send CV and expected package to Ian Potter. Tel: 081-893 7027 (English). Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

COOK NEEDED

Italian restaurant needs a female cook. Salary 10,000 baht plus service charge. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

DOG LOVERS

Good accommodation with living quarters above garage. Husband to work as driver and handyman. Wife to work as housekeeper in large villa with important duty of caring for 5 dogs. Tel: 088-168 9455.

MAIDS WHO CAN COOK NEEDED

Need maids who can cook for three villas. Laguna needs a live-in maid who can cook and clean. A Patong villa needs a maid who can cook and clean, live in or live out. Kamala villa needs a maid who can cook and live out. All maids must speak English very well and have experience and references. Must have flexible working hours after 5pm. Six days per week. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides. Need to be passionate about biking and speak good English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English). Email: info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

THAI FEMALE SALES STAFF

Needed to run busy jewelry shop in Phuket Town 6 days/week. Good organization skills and English language necessary. Excellent salary and commissions paid. Start in August. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Thai female, age 25 to 30. Interest in the fitness industry. Must be active, self-motivated and driven to take on growing business. Salary with commissions. Send CV and details to cj@searaspports.com

FINANCIAL ADVISOR BKK OR KL

Are you a qualified Financial Advisor, Sales Pro or have working experience in financial services, sales or a related industry? Do you have a proven track record in financial services or sales industry? Native English speakers only or fluent in the English language. Please send your CV via email: careers@faramond.com For further details, please see our website at www.faramond.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: mike@bayshoreprojects.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Working in Rawai. Please contact Khun Wit. Tel: 084-844 0008. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

EXPERIENCED GENERAL MANAGER

For a 22 unit apartment building. Thai national. Must be fluent in English, have experience and charisma. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

MAID WANTED

To take care of house & give quality massage to American. Good salary paid. Email: ltnesneq@aol.com

THAI WAITRESS NEEDED

Full or part time to work in busy cafe. Good personality and spoken English essential as customers are mostly foreign. Excellent salary given. Tel: 089-648 8324, 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

ADMINISTRATOR

Varied role for a self motivated Thai national with strong communication skills. A good command of written and spoken English is a must. Experienced on Word & Excel with the ability to create reports. Will be in charge of administration of staff hours, holidays etc and overseeing of purchasing & housekeeping dept. Drivers license a plus. Tel: 076-206705. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

NEED THAI STAFF IN PATONG HOTEL

Waitress, cook and bartender needed. Good salary and housing included. Contact Manuela. Tel: 081-270 1370, 083-392 8462. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

We are looking for a fulltime accountant to work Monday-Friday. Salary starts at 15,000 baht per month. Good English and office experience required. Tel: 076-527834, 089-871 8835 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-527836. Email: ana-mackay@hotmail.com

SALES MANAGER

Reputable tourist magazine is seeking advertising manager. 28-40 years old. Male or female. Good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English. Send resume to ajapply@yahoo.com

AMERICAN GED TUTOR

Two hours per week. Resume required. Tel: 081-958 1055 (Thai). Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

NANNY WANTED

We are a Swedish family moving to Kamala for 4 months, from November to February. We are looking for someone to take care of our eight month old twins (girls). We look forward to hearing from you. Email: jan.falch@telia.com

THAI NURSERY TEACHER

Thai nursery teacher required to teach children aged 18 months to 2-and-a-half-years-old. Must possess a teaching degree, must have experience and excellent English skills. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.cravensnurseryphuket.com

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/



Two Chefs Restaurant
Looking to fill the following positions:

Executive chefs
Assistant chef

Requirements

- Thai male or female aged 25-45 years
- Knowledge and experience with controlling the cost of production
- Computer experience
- Can speak, read, write and understand English
- Conscientious work ethic.
- Must have at least 5 years experience in food & nutrition

Only Thai national
(Contact) bao@twochefs.com
Tel: 089-6475392



Looking for dynamic and qualified beauty therapists.
Experienced in retail and customer service.
Excellent level of English required.
Attractive salary + work permit provided.

Please send resume to staff@sunspa-esthederm.com

Graphic Designer Wanted

New Luxury Yacht Charter Company in Phuket is looking for an experienced in house Graphic Designer to handle all website, logo, advertising and media work. The applicant must have a good command of English both spoken and written. Office located in Pa Khlok. Please send CV to perryseehoe@hotmail.com or Tel: 08 0562 6731 for interview.

British International School, Phuket

We are looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- **System Maintenance**
- **Housekeeping**
- **Security**
- **Teacher's Assistant**
 - Thai National
 - Bachelor's Degree in a related field
 - Teaching qualifications
 - Experience with childcare/teaching preferable
 - Good command of spoken and written English
 - Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
 - Love to take care of children

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund, etc.



59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road,
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076 238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111
Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
Email: patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th or
sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



Phuket International Hospital provides high quality hospital services to both Thai and Foreign Nationals, and is seeking to employ a German speaking coordinator.

GERMAN COORDINATOR PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

The German Coordinator's primary role is, at a macro level, to act as an interface between the foreign community and the hospital and at a micro level, between the patient and healthcare providers.

Essential Qualifications

- Fluency in German or more European languages
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Thai language proficiency
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines
- Computer skills

Interested candidates should contact James Cawood or Lotte Dietrich for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents by August 29th, 2011 to james@phuketinternationalhospital.com or lotte@phuketinternationalhospital.com



Farang Food Paradise Co., Ltd., Food & Beverage supplier based in Phuket, is currently seeking for the following position:

Sales Representative

- Thai National
- Age 25 - 35
- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing & in wine business is a plus
- Self motivated and able to work independently
- Possess a car driver's licence

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

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ACCOUNTANT
English-speaking accountant experienced in Express program needed. Tel: 076-620193. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

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- Handle special project assignments as requested by the Head of Resort Operations and/or Group Finance Director
- Perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned or required.

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The individual must possess the following knowledge, skills and abilities and be able to explain and demonstrate that he or she can perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

- Good working knowledge of Hospitality accounting systems.
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EDUCATION:

- High School Diploma and 4-year college degree required.
- Recognised Accounting Qualifications

EXPERIENCE:

- Fluent in English is essential
- At least four years of full-service accounting experience, Hospitality experience preferred.
- Thai nationals only

Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related document to: nawit@absoluteworld.net

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Kathu Phuket 83150
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14	A	M	A	Z	E	15	E	S	S	E	16	E	S	A	U
17	C	A	R	O	B	18	T	A	S	S	19	A	L	I	F
20	T	R	A	V	E	L	21	I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T
24	D	T	S	26	S	O	M	I	T	E					
27	P	R	E	C	E	D	E	31	R	T	E				
32	O	U	T	R	E	33	G	I	V	E	S	35	S	A	D
39	S	L	A	T	40	M	U	T	E	D	41	S	O	R	E
42	T	E	L	43	S	E	E	D	S	44	J	A	C	A	L
45	M	I	R	46	T	S	U	N	A	M	I				
48	P	O	U	N	C	E	50	A	A	R					
52	N	U	M	S	K	U	L	L	53	C	I	C	A	D	A
55	E	R	A	S	56	R	E	A	P	57	D	E	T	A	T
63	R	E	N	E	64	I	N	R	E	65	I	R	I	N	A
66	O	E	I	L	67	C	A	S	T	68	C	O	P	E	D

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

- Bank of England
- Nevada
- Japan
- Crime in progress
- A camel's penis
- Lancelot
- Morpheus - God of dreams
- Eat fried chicken
- Pubic hair
- Cooking
- Sliced bread
- A beer
- Turkey
- Iodine
- Hard Times

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S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited. Tel: 081-937 1443. Email: dana_wt@minornet.com

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DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA

Registration: HS-AXL. Year: 1995. Equipment: IFR, Dual Nav/Com, ADF. Engine: Rotax 912 F3 (700 hrs SMOH). Propeller: Hoffman V352F (10hrs SMOH). TTAF: 4,660hrs. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Price: 2.25 million baht (half share also available). Aircraft currently based at Nok Airfield in Chiang Mai. For more info and pics Contact J on Malnick. Tel: 084-222 3945. Email: jonm66@me.com

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Phuket slip up against BBCU

Bragging rights and three points were on offer as BBCU and FC Phuket faced each other for the third time this season.

By Neil Quail
and Michael DesPortes

VICTORY for Big Bang Chulalongkorn United (BBCU) in this Thai Premier League (TPL) Division One match would put them in with a chance of claiming first place, and a win for Phuket would see them jump from 9th to 7th in the league.

However, BBCU taking over the top spot also relied on Buriram losing to Songkhla FC whilst Phuket's progression relied solely on a winning performance.

Both teams would not see their desires come to fruition.

Heavy rain and sodden turf met the players as they entered the stadium for their final encounter of the season.

BBCU took control from the whistle and in the opening minute Phuket defender Suphat Aon-thong failed to clear the ball away from goal which gave Chainarong Tatong a chance to take a shot that was then foiled by Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre.

In the 3rd minute, BBCU's Malick Ebwelle Ndape saw his effort blast wide of the upright.

Phuket eventually broke from their own half in the 13th minute.

Sarach Yooyen slipped his marker and passed to Poramut Krongborisut, whose shot from 18 yards was deflected for a corner.

Yooyen's cross found the head of Tre Sylvestre, but his header found a solid BBCU defense line which cleared it with ease.

A 26th minute BBCU corner gave Kobenan Lion N Guatta time to scramble a header towards goal, but Niran Funtong returned the favor and blocked the goal-bound effort with his head.

The home side came close once again in the 34th minute when Justin Uche Prince passed to Adisak Kanu unmarked in the penalty area, but Kanu scuffed his shot wide.

Kanu and Prince featured again in the closing minutes of the first half. This time it was Kanu who passed the ball to Prince from the right.

With only Phuket goalkeeper

Team	P	Pts
Buriram	19	46
BBCU	19	46
Chainat	19	36
Songkhla	19	35
BUFC	19	34
PTT Rayong	19	31
Rajapracha	19	28
Saraburi	19	26
Phuket	19	25
AFUTD	19	24

Jonathan Matijas to contend with, Prince choked his shot over the crossbar.

After a first half dominated by the home side, Phuket came out for the second half with the proverbial bit between their teeth.

Niran made the hard yards from halfway and slotted a pass to the left edge of BBCU's penalty area.

Poramut picked up the deflected ball and with one touch drilled a left foot drive past BBCU's despairing keeper. Phuket were 1-0 up against the run of play.

Unwisely, Phuket attempted to slow the game's tempo which gave BBCU time to find rhythm again in their attacks.

In the 54th minute, N Guatta almost converted from Adol Muensaman's free kick from the halfway line.

Kone Adama nearly doubled Phuket's lead off a cross from Ronnachai Jinakate in the 60th minute, but was denied by the BBCU keeper.

Moments later BBCU were awarded a free kick, 30 yards out, and just left of center.

Tatong sent his right foot strike over the Phuket defensive wall into the top left corner with Matijas manging to get only his fingertips to the ball. BBCU were level at 1-1.

Phuket were feeling the pressure both on the pitch and from the home support.

In the 72nd minute Wattanasup Charoensri got to the ball first after a half-hearted Phuket clearance.

A flimsy tackle combined with a hopeful shot conspired to get the



CLASSY CLEARANCE: A BBCU defender clears the danger with a spectacular bicycle-kick. Photos: Siam Sports

ball through the Phuket defense and past Matijas at the far post. BBCU were up 2-1 with 15 minutes left to play.

Phuket couldn't find a way back and at the final whistle BBCU had satisfied their supporters with a 2-1 win and three valuable points.

Kitiasak "Zico" Saenamuang, BBCU's coach, who will play for the Thai Legends against the Liverpool Legends in Phuket this October, was gracious with his post-game comments.

"We tried to control Phuket in the first half of the match, but they proved to be a strong opponent and managed to score first.

"This caused a bit of anxiety, but after we scored the equalizer the match came back to us and I am glad we were able to take the win."

Sompong Wattana, Phuket's coach was pragmatic with his own words.

"We played with five players out injured, but everyone performed well, especially given the difficult conditions on the field.

"This match came down to who could gain momentum and we had our chances, but it was the home side that kept their momentum going.

"We still have yet to win an away match, but everyone will keep fighting."

Buriram and Songkhla FC ended in a 1-1 draw, leaving Buriram and BBCU level on points. Buriram's better goal difference of +32 as opposed to BBCU's of +18 means they retain their place at the top of the table.

Phuket have made a home for themselves in 9th place with six wins, seven draws, six losses equalling 25 points.

Phuket's next TPL Division One game will be on Saturday August 13 away to JW Rangsit at Rangsit University Stadium in Pathum Thani. Kickoff will be at 4pm.



STYLISH: Sarach Yooyen shows perfect dead ball kicking technique.

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SWING LOW: To get under the ball.



SWING HIGH: To get max clearance.

Aiming high is the key to skillful tennis



Tennis Tips

By Travis Bertram

WHETHER you are a beginner, intermediate or advanced tennis player, hitting the net is an error to avoid at all costs.

You lose points when you hit the net, so despite the risk of the ball landing outside of court boundaries, aim high.

Additionally, there are elements such as wind, spin or gravity that could bring an out-shot to within court boundaries.

Coaches sometimes employ the term "swing low to high".

When a player "swings low" the racket head or strings are below the ball before contact, as seen in the left photo of Rafael Nadal.

If a player "swings high" the racket head is up above the net at contact with the ball. This creates maximum clearance over the net

as seen in Rafael Nadal's recovery racket position in the right photo. Nadal is the perfect example of someone who rarely makes mistakes into the net.

Practice these techniques by dropping a ball yourself with your racket head starting down. When the ball bounces, practice swinging up to get the ball over the net.

Play a game against the net, each time you get one over it's your point, each time the ball lands in the net, that's five points to the net. First to 10 wins.

Intermediate or advanced players can add direction and spin or drill against an opponent, and add a punishment for hitting the net. *Photos of Rafa by Travis Bertram.*

Travis Bertram of Peter Burwash International (PBI) is Tennis Director for Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. For information on their tennis academy visit W: thanyapura.com

Trim and tactics seminar at ACYC

By Neil Quail

NORTHU's director Bill Gladstone will be in Phuket next month to conduct a seminar entitled Sail Trim & Tactics.

Hosted by Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), the seminar is part of the North U Tactics Tour 2011 which will also visit Singapore and Mumbai, India.

North U is the education division of North Sails, one of the world's best-known sailmaking companies. The seminars cover modern and advanced racing techniques, presented in full multimedia format by their stable of instructors.

The courses can help accelerate the process of becoming a better sailor and improve sailing performance.

Aspects of the course include learning to be faster upwind and downwind, and helping you solve boat speed and sail trim problems.

The racing tactics sessions will improve strategy, tactics and knowledge of the rules for each leg of a competitive race.

Bill Gladstone will lead the semi-



TRIM AND TACTICS: A course for better sailing techniques. Photo: ACYC

nars. For over 30 years he has been teaching tactics and sail trim.

The seminar will be held on Sunday, September 25 from 1pm to 5pm.

Ticket prices are 750 baht if

you have pre-registered, 900 baht at the door, and free for children accompanied by a parent.

For more information contact Mia Gillow on T:08 8825 5415 or E:mia@solidair.asia.

Boxers given Olympic lifeline

THE ban on Thai fighters entering international tournaments has been lifted in time for the first leg of the 2012 Olympic qualifiers next month.

This comes after the International Boxing Association (IBA) approved an ad hoc committee set up to engineer a replacement for the Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand (ABAT).

The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) set up the nine-member panel after the organization annulled the ABAT's membership in the wake of ABAT's expulsion from the sport's world governing body.

According to SAT governor Kanokphand Chulakasem, the As-

sociation Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA) endorsed the appointment of the panel headed by SAT deputy governor Montri Chaipun during its executive committee's two-day meeting in Kazakhstan, which ended on Monday.

It means Thailand's boxers are now eligible to compete in AIBA-sanctioned competitions again, starting with the Olympic qualifying tournament in Azerbaijan between September 28 and October 10.

For this, Thailand has applied to enter eight weight divisions and will submit its list of athletes by August 25.

"It's good news that the AIBA

approved our ad hoc panel. However, they asked us to launch the new boxing body as soon as possible and then re-apply for AIBA membership.

"Initially, the deadline for the panel to establish the new body was the end of September. But after talking with Montri, we want to speed up the whole process.

"We will ask for new members and then hold an election to select the chief for the new body by August 21.

"That will give us a week to apply for AIBA membership by the end of this month," said Kanokphand.

- The Nation

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Thai World Cup hopes now slim

By Steven Layne

Thai football fans rejoiced after their national squad defeated Palestine over two legs on a 3-2 aggregate score last month.

This victory advanced Thailand along with 19 other Asian teams to the third round of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil.

Elation was short-lived, however, when the third round draw on July 30 saw Thailand drawn in group D with Australia, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The matches will commence in September, though if history is an indicator, the odds are against Thailand claiming a first-ever World Cup berth.

In previous encounters with their group opponents, Oman and Thailand have met seven times which resulted in one draw and three victories for each side.

Thailand have met Australia twice, both

ending in a 4-0 defeat for the "War Elephants" at the hands of the opposing "Socceroos".

More worrisome for Thailand is Saudi Arabia, who have beaten Thailand in eleven of twelve international meetings.

Only the top two teams in round three will advance to the fourth and final round to decide the four teams who will represent Asia in Brazil 2014.

However, a fifth team could make it to the finals after a playoff with another conference nation, still to be announced.

In the other Asian groups, China, Jordan, Iraq and Singapore are in group A; South Korea, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Lebanon in B; Japan, Uzbekistan, Syria and N. Korea in C; and Iran, Qatar, Bahrain and Indonesia in group E.

Prior to their opening 3rd round qualifier in Australia on September 2, Thailand will have a chance to warm up when they host Singapore in Bangkok on August 24.



WORLD CUP DREAM: Thailand vs Palestine on July 28 at Al-Ram Stadium. Photo: AFP

Thai boxing champ retains title by KO

PAN Asian Boxing Association (PABA) super bantamweight champion, Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym from Thailand, successfully defended his title against Egypt's Mohammed Metualy with a knockout in the fourth round.

Scheduled for 12 rounds, the afternoon fight in Sanphaya district in Chainat province on August 9 was over in less than a third of the allotted time, to the pleasing of the crowd.

The Thai champ, who fans commonly refer to as the "Tank" ("I-Rot Tung") stepped up the attack on his defensive Egyptian challenger from the start of the opening bell.

The Thai aggression continued into the second round, though Mohammad showed some fierce potential, landing a few counter punches.



CHAMPS: Denkaosan and Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym (right). Thai.gov.go.th

The champ's control of the match became evidently clear midway through the third round when the full impact of his left glove knocked down Metualy for an 8-count.

The Egyptian arose back up but only to suffer an ensuing Thai assault, barely surviving into the fourth round.

Poonsawat's perseverance paid off when another effective left hook knocked Mohammed back down, this time for a ten count.

The victory means that Poonsawat retains the PABA super bantamweight title. After the match, the defending champ expressed that he is hoping to be promoted for a challenge at a shot to regain the World Boxing Association world super bantamweight title, currently held by American Rico Ramos.

Poonsawat was stripped of that title by Ryol Li Lee last October after a 12 round match in Tokyo, which ended with a unanimous decision in favor of the Japan national.

- Phuket Gazette

Historic Bt1mn prize money for 2011 TOA basketball tournament

STAKES are higher than ever for the six mens' and four womens' teams to compete in the TOA Thailand Open 4 Basketball Tournament in Bangkok, to take place in two parts during this month, starting Saturday.

The initial matches will be held from August 13 to 20 at Island Hall in the Fashion Island shopping mall, and the finals can be seen at the Bangkok Youth Center a week later on August 28.

Sponsored by the paint company, TOA Thailand, prize money will be higher than any other previous prizes paid in basketball tournaments in Thailand's history.

First prize is 300,000 baht. Runners up will receive 150,000 baht and 75,000 baht

will be awarded for the team finishing in third place.

Eyes will be looking to see whether three-time mens' champions, team Hi-tech will be able make history and take the prize against teams including Provincial Electric Authority, Teo-Charern Aksorn, the Army, Kru Somsri-Sri Pathum University and CAT Chantaburi.

As for the four ladies' teams - in which only one team will be ending the tournament without a prize - the lineup includes the Allstars, Bangkok Stars, University for Victory Project and Home United from Singapore.

For those who can't make it to see these matches live, the finals will be televised on Siam Sports TV and True Vision channel 69.

- Siam Sport

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FC Phuket's route to the final

By Neil Quail

AFTER Saturday's league match against 10th placed JW Rangsit, FC Phuket will travel to the south, bypassing home for Patalung province to play their southern neighbors in the first leg of the Toyota League Cup quarter finals.

Patalung FC, a Division Two outfit, will come to Phuket to play the second leg a week later on August 24.

Phuket's Toyota Cup run now sees them in a great position to reach the pinnacle of Thai cup football.

Indeed, should results go in Phuket's favor and the other side of the draw runs as expected, Phuket could face Muang Thong United and their new signing, Robbie "God" Fowler, on October 15.

Phuket will then travel back to Bangkok to play RBAC FC on August 21, who sit dead last in Division One standings.

However, the stumbling block for Phuket is their dreadful away form in the league. Despite two wins away from home in cup action, their failure to record a league victory away from Surakul will likely play on the player's minds.

Earlier this week, Phuket coach Sompong Wattana was asked to



QUARTER FINAL DRAW FOR TOYOTA LEAGUE CUP 2011: FC Phuket face Patalung FC over two legs and will hope to progress to the semi-final. Toyota L.C

explain his team's inability to win away from home.

"FC Phuket's have not been able to secure a win in more than nine away games this season is because of players' attitudes and unfavorable game tempo," coach Sompong

Wattana explained to the media.

"In all our away matches, we are always able to get goals, but as soon as we score we are unable to consolidate, and instead allow our opponents to respond," he said.

"Everyone hoping for a score coupled with the mounted pressure of playing away games makes players cling on to the score, but then the other team scores instead, unlike home games, where Phuket don't allow

their opponents to get the advantage. This difference is evident in our six wins.

"Therefore, if we adjust this problem, we'll have the opportunity [to win away games] in the same way," he concluded.