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■ **'NOW I HAVE TO BE MORE POLITE ON THE ROAD'**

Taxis go green

■ **New deal jumps major hurdle for Phuket taxi legalization process**

By **Chutharat Plerin**

A BREAKTHROUGH arrangement with banks and insurance companies announced on February 6 will ease the financial burden on taxi drivers seeking to become legally registered "green plate" taxis by the deadline at the end of the month.

The deal, brokered through the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), has already made some taxi drivers more aware that they are accountable for their actions on the road, explained Tawan Kongphirun, a taxi driver stationed at Central Festival who just received his green plate.

"The green plate also helped me realize I now have to be more polite on the road," Mr Tawan said.

"I have talked to my taxi driver friends, and everyone wants to have a green plate. Everyone wants to be legal," he said.

Nevertheless, Mr Tawan expects that some drivers will not manage to register by the deadline. "It is still about the money," he added.

PPTO chief Teerayut Prasertpol explained that one of the biggest obstacles for many illegal drivers was the cost of changing the registration of their vehicles from "private" to "public".

When banks issue car loans, they keep car registration books as collateral. Drivers need...



Continued on page 4

Allegedly one of the biggest obstacles for many illegal drivers was the cost of changing their registration.



Dokset was arrested at the luxury villa the body being was kept at.

Dokset murder trial on

NORWEGIAN Stein Dokset was in court on Tuesday while two witnesses presented their evidence in the murder trial.

If convicted, Dokset could face the death penalty for the murder of his ex-girlfriend Rungnapa Suktong, whose body he allegedly kept in a trash bin in his bathroom for months.

Full story on Page 2

Koh Racha on the road to recovery

PHUKET Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa visited Koh Racha Yai and has followed up on promises she made last May to look into environmental problems on the island.

Full story on Page 5

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This Week



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Cabinet issues another extension for migrant labor deadline. **Page 11**



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Bill Barnett warns investors not to get burned. **Page 15**



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Being well and staying fit with advice from Hayden Rhodes. **Page 36**



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Phuket's-own Kilgora release their debut album. **Page 39**



Food

Eat and drink 'Up' at Phuket's latest beach club. **Page 42**



Sport

PSS host international tournament for youth footballers. **Page 50**

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Runaway wheel kills Russian motorcyclist

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A RUSSIAN biker was taken off life-support and died in Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) 7 days after being knocked from his motorbike by a rogue wheel that flew off a truck on Thepakasatri Road on February 6.

"He was taken off life support on February 12 because he was not responding to stimuli," a hospital representative said.

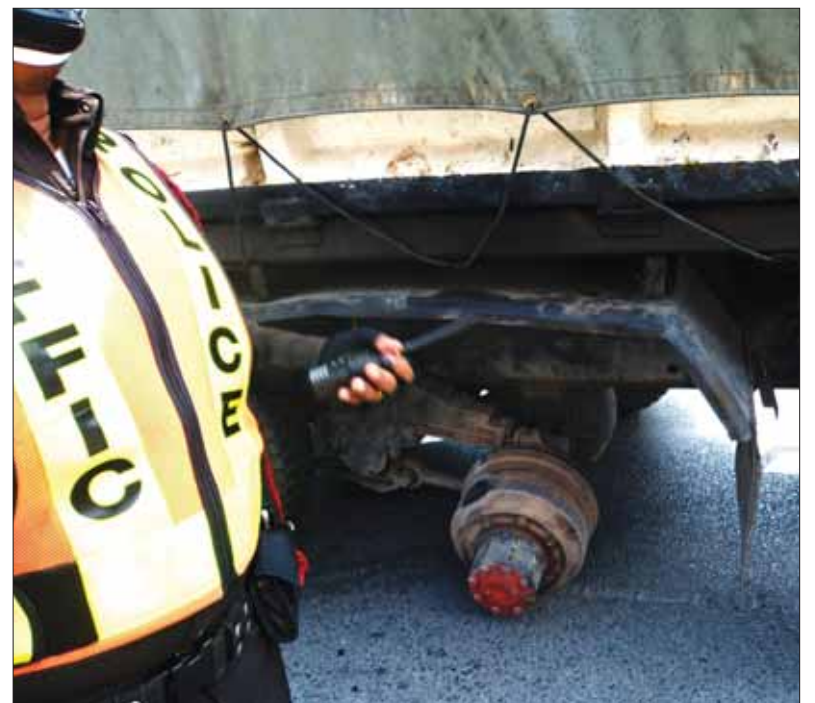
The Russian, named by police as Alexey Balabko, 26, was riding a "big bike" when he was struck by one of two wheels that came loose off the southbound truck transporting asphalt to Phuket Town, at about 2:25pm.

"Mr Balabko was knocked unconscious and his arms and one of his legs were broken," Thalang Police Duty Officer Chatree Chuwichian said.

He was taken immediately to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but was transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket's ICU at about 9am the next day.

"His heart is still beating, but he isn't responding to stimuli," Lt Chatree explained on February 7.

"The second runaway wheel



Two wheels came flying off this 10-wheeled truck. One of the wheels struck Mr Balabko on his motorbike at high speed. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

struck a pickup truck and continued at high speed until it hit the cashier counter of a roadside grocery shop set up in front of Sen Sgt Maj Mongkol Dechkoontot's house," Lt Chatree said.

The driver of the truck, Surachai Kladkaew, 36, was charged with reckless driving, as

well as for causing an accident and damage, he added.

Police noted that the truck's wheels came off just 200 meters from the spot where a tour bus recently lost a wheel which rolled at high speed down the busy road and narrowly missed a traffic policeman.

Tourist from Australia dies in motorbike crash

SIMON Ashley, a tourist carrying an Australian driver's license, died after his motorbike swerved out of control on one of the sharp curves between Patong and Karon early Monday morning.

"A tuk-tuk driver who witnessed the accident said that he saw Mr Ashley leave Soi Bangla in Patong and head towards Karon with a bunch of roses in his left hand. He was driving behind Mr Ashley when the accident occurred," Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Chana Suttimard told the *Gazette* today.

Police were notified of the



Roses found at the scene.

accident at about 2:30am. When they arrived at the scene, they found the body of Mr Ashley, 33, on the side of the road.

Not far from Mr Ashley's body, police found his motorbike, helmet and a bouquet of roses.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Dokset could face death penalty

STEIN Havard Dokset, the retired car dealer from Norway who confessed to accidentally killing his girlfriend and keeping her decomposing body in a trash bin in his house, was in court on Tuesday as his murder trial began.

Mr Dokset, 51, could face the death penalty under section 288 of Thai law, which stipulates 15 to 20 years or death. He also faces charges of concealing a body and illegally possessing a firearm.

His housekeeper and the victim's brother testified in court on Tuesday. A reporter from the *Gazette* was present, but was asked by the prosecutor not to publish the testimony, which could possibly sway the verdict.

Runnana Suktong, a 33-year-old mother of three who had been

Mr Dokset's girlfriend from 2003 to 2009 before splitting from him and marrying a Patong policeman, was reported missing by her family in 2010.

According to Mr Dokset, the two had argued and he accidentally pushed her down some stairs, causing her death. When he realized he had killed her, he allegedly panicked and put her body in the trash bin.

When he appeared in court on July 31 last year, Mr Dokset denied that he had concealed evidence of the crime. He also denied being illegally in possession of a firearm,



Dokset shortly after his arrest. Photo: Gazette file

saying that the gun police found belonged to his new girlfriend.

Mr Dokset declined to comment to reporters on Tuesday. He will be back in court on February 22 when an additional six witnesses will testify.

— Chutharat Plerin



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Phuket's top cop, Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

Precautionary measures taken after terrorist threats to US Consulate

PHUKET'S top cop has increased security measures across the island in the wake of Deputy Prime Minister Chalermsak Yooamrun's warning of possible Al-Qaeda and Salafist terrorists attacks on the United States consulate in Chiang Mai this month.

"Although the information gathered pointed to terrorist plans to target the United States consulate in Chiang Mai, we will not ignore the possibility of Phuket being targeted, as many tourists from around the world visit Phuket and their safety is of utmost concern to us," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said yesterday evening.

Orders have been sent out to all police stations on Phuket to keep a careful watch for any suspicious activity and report back to Gen Choti.

"We have increased the number of officers at the Tah Chat Chai police checkpoint, which is the main land gateway to Phuket. Customs at Phuket International Airport have also been asked to carefully search suspicious objects and passengers," he said.

Officers have been spread out across tourist-dense areas in Phuket, including Patong, Kata and Karon, Gen Choti explained.

— **Orawin Narabal**

American found dead in room after 'night out on the town'

AMERICAN tourist Joseph Harmon, 23, was found dead in his Cherng Talay hotel room after he failed to check out by noon last Friday.

"Mr Harmon checked in on February 5. His brother was staying in the room with him, but left on Thursday," Teweesak Sae-Kor, the night manager at the Resident Resort and Spa Retreat told police. "He was supposed to only stay one more night and then check out by noon on Friday."

"After his brother checked out Thursday night, Mr Harmon left the resort and didn't come back until 6:30am," Mr Teweesak explained.

By about 10pm Friday, concerned resort staff, unable to contact Mr Harmon by phone,

Attorney denies Norwegian willed millions to elderly, children

POLICE have been unable to find a will to substantiate rumors that a Norwegian man left a portion of his 100-million-baht estate to Phuket foundations for the elderly and for children.

Frank Robert, 52, died last Saturday from pre-existing medical conditions, a Patong Hospital staffer told Patong Police.

"I have talked to the attorney who will execute Mr Robert's estate. The attorney confirmed to me that he wasn't aware of any will," Patong Police officer Thawatchai Srimai, the case investigator, told the *Gazette* on Monday.

"I have no idea how the rumor that Mr Robert had willed money to charitable foundations in Phuket was started," Lt Thawatchai said.

Lt Thawatchai explained that the news was having an effect on his team's investigation, but he did not elaborate on how.

"We received the report of Mr Robert's death from his housekeeper on Saturday," he said.

"She had prepared lunch for Mr Robert in his Patong home and then had left to clean another house in the area. When she returned, Mr

Robert was dead," Lt Thawatchai explained.

Police found prescription drugs used for heart conditions and asthma in the house. There was no sign of a struggle.

A long-term expat, Mr Roberts travelled frequently between Phuket and Norway, and had run businesses in Phuket for over ten years, Lt Thawatchai said.

"He did not have a Thai wife or relatives here. Police have contacted the Norwegian Embassy in order to contact Mr Robert's family in Norway," he added.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

Billion-baht blaze engulfs hotel under investigation

By Thawit Bilabdullar

POLICE suspect the fire on February 11 that engulfed an abandoned luxury hotel under investigation for encroaching on national park land was started by thieves trying to remove copper wire on.

"The hotel, on the border of the Sirinath Marine National Park, was completely abandoned. Thieves most likely went onto the premises to salvage copper. We suspect they were attempting to burn the copper free from the insulated wiring, and the fire got out of control," Lt Col Prakob Boonkwan of Tah Chat Chai police said.

It took 10 fire trucks from Sakoo and Phuket City Municipalities three hours to douse the early morning flames, Col Prakob explained.

The cost of the damage has yet to be determined, but the six-storey building and land were probably worth about one billion baht, said Col Prakob.

Construction at the site was ordered to stop when an investigation revealed that it might be encroaching on Sirinath Marine National Park.

The investigation was carried out by the then-Director-General of the Department of National



Construction was put on hold after it was targeted in a land encroachment investigation. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Parks, Wildlife and Conservation, Damrong Phidet.

Police found three sidecars in front of the hotel. "We asked around, and nobody claimed them, so we collected them as evi-

dence," Col Prakob said.

"We suspect the fire was accidentally caused by thieves, rather than arson, as thieves had already been caught trying to steal toilets from the facilities," Col Prakob said.

"However, we will continue our investigation into the cause of the fire," he added.

See Phuket Gazette property guru's related article on page 15



Police have yet to determine a cause of death. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

entered the room and found his body, Mr Teweesak explained.

Police found several open beer cans and a variety of prescription drugs in the room.

"Police have yet to determine the cause of death," Cherng Talay Police investigator Rassada Kluengwong said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



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Black plate taxis' last chance to go green

from page 1

...to retrieve those books and submit them to PPTO officials to change the registration status.

"Drivers claimed they had to pay deposits of up to 10,000 baht to the bank in order to get hold of the registration books," Mr Teerayut said.

Mr Teerayut raised this issue with Land Transport Department Director-General Somchai Siriwanachoke in December.

The result was a meeting with representatives from Thanachart Bank headquarters in Bangkok, which provides financing for about half of the 2,882 illegal taxis operating in Phuket.

"Thanachart Bank will waive the deposit if it can transfer the registration book directly to PPTO. This arrangement means the drivers don't have to come up with the deposit, and the bank knows the books are safe in the hands of PPTO," Mr Teerayut explained.

"Other financial services companies are taking care of their customers in the same way. This is a big help to the taxi drivers," he added.

INSURANCE

Another obstacle drivers face is an increase in insurance premiums when their private vehicles become registered as public.

To this, Thanachart Bank Phuket branch



By the end of the month 'taxi stickers' will not be enough – all taxi must have green plates.

Deputy Sales Director Thawatchai Bamrunghuer explained that Thanachart Bank had also launched a campaign offering discounted insurance packages.

Mr Thawatchai stressed the importance of comprehensive insurance, noting that drivers using personal cars as taxis would be insured for the people in the car, but not for damage to the car itself.

The bank, as the insurance provider, would not assume any responsibility for the

car in that case, he said.

"If you buy insurance for a public service vehicle, both the people and the car are covered. And it is better for Phuket's tourism image. Taxi drivers and passengers will have more confidence on the road," he added.

NO LENIENCY

Chief Teerayut also believes that not all illegal taxi drivers will complete the

registration process in time, but he offered no leniency.

Even if the owners display the mandatory stickers on both sides of their cars – bearing the taxi number, the name of the owner in Thai and English, and the complaint hotline number 1158 – any drivers found operating a vehicle as a taxi without the green plates after February 28 will be at the mercy of the Phuket Police.

"From March 1, illegal taxi drivers will no longer have the protection of the PPTO, even if they have the proper stickers.

"Traffic police will fine them 2,000 baht each time they are caught, and this is out of our hands," he said.

He added that the PPTO has a list of "every black taxi driver service on the island".

THE ROAD AHEAD

All is not bleak for drivers who may be struggling. They can still apply for green plate registration. That deadline has been extended until April 30, Mr Teerayut said.

However, he noted, "If they cannot get a green plate by the end of April, then even if they have registered with us, they will no longer be considered."

He reminded the drivers that having a green plate benefited them above all.

"It is your permanent career, and it is legal," he said.

Prisoners get out their big sticks for scout training

A GROUP of 60 prisoners at Phuket Provincial Prison donned their green berets and picked up their red sticks (*mai ngam*) for the opening ceremony of a scout training course on Monday.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut chaired the opening ceremony of the first scout guide course running from February 11 to February 14.

"It is part of the Department of Corrections' policy to encourage prisoners to participate in society in a healthy way and do good," Provincial Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon said. "So we are taking two groups of prisoners and training them to be scout guides."

The program is designed to help prisoners relax, socialize and network with people within the prison



Prisoners hold up their mai ngam.

and outside of it, Mr Rapin said.

"We want them to realize that they are not abandoned," he added.

The second group of 60 prisoners will take the course from February 18 to February 21

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Intersection CCTV gets gold

POLICE used CCTV images to track down and arrest a thief who snatched two gold necklaces from a woman driving her motorbike in Rassada.

N a t h a w u t Wannakoon, 22, was arrested at his home in Soi Imchit on Chao Fa Road by Phuket City Police on February 9 for the theft of the necklaces valued at 25,000 baht from the woman, Sine Phothaworn.

"After she reported the theft, police checked CCTV images of the area and found that a camera

at the junction at Pracha Uthit-Songkhla Road had a clear image of the thief and his motorbike plate



A CCTV image of the gold necklace snatch.

number, so we tracked him down," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

"After Mr Nathawut saw the CCTV images of himself, he confessed to snatching the gold necklaces," Gen Choti explained.

Mr Nathawut was charged with stealing and for using a motorbike in the crime.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Koh Racha sees action

Vice Governor Sommai tackles environmental issues

PHUKET Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa visited Koh Racha Yai on February 7, finally following up on promises she made last May to look into environmental problems on the island.

The visit was in response to a meeting held on February 4 at which islanders' representative Santi Chandi asked Vice Governor Sommai once again for help.

The Vice Governor and officials from the Office of Natural Resources and Environment (ONRE), Rawai Municipality, the Marine Office and the Marine and Coastal Resources for Conservation Center toured Racha island, investigating complaints related to wastewater, trash disposal and encroachment of buildings into the sea.

V/G Sommai tasked ONRE with ensuring existing wastewater treatment systems are properly used, and asked them to help the many hotels and resorts on the island that lack wastewater treatment systems to find a way to deal with their wastewater.

She assigned the Marine Office to "examine the buildings of the hotels and the resorts and order them to demolish any buildings found to encroach into the water."

Although local hotels and resorts wanted to deal with trash disposal themselves, V/G Sommai assigned Rawai Municipality to handle the problem out of concern that the local businesses would solve it "by using landfills which might cause problems with groundwater later."

V/G Sommai would like to see landfills not used on the island at all for trash disposal.

Another issue brought up in the February 4 meeting by Mr Santi was 'helmet diving' for inexperienced divers.

Chinese and Korean companies, he said, were depriving local dive shops and longtail boat owners of business.

The Vice Governor expressed concern that this diving method could damage coral reefs and called for a stop to the practice,



Local residents are fighting to get hotel and resort owners to take better care of the environment on Racha Yai. Photo: Jeff Gunn

saying the Phuket Provincial Office would issue an official announcement of the type of diving activities allowed at Racha

Yai, following the regulations of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Ombudsman Prapan Kanprasang (in uniform) and Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol (in batik shirt) at the pharmacy.

Pharmacy fined for selling drugs

A PHARMACY in Chalong allegedly selling prescription drugs without a pharmacist on duty was inspected by officials on February 11.

"A local resident complained that pharmacy staff were selling drugs that are on the Ministry of Public Health's 'Dangerous Drugs' list," said Phuket Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak.

"Only a pharmacist is allowed to sell these drugs," Ombudsman Prapan Kanprasang explained.

"But at this drug store, the registered pharmacist is only on duty from 5pm to 8pm, and the drugs were being sold throughout the day," Mr Prapan added.

The pharmacy was fined.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police nab kratom grower in Thalang



Police carted off kratom trees from Nathee Tianthong's fruit orchard in Thalang. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

POLICE in Thalang raided and shut down a tropical fruit orchard that was also being used to grow kratom, a mild narcotic, on February 8.

The orchard owner, named by police as Nathee Tianthong, 50, had five kratom trees growing on his property, and in his house police found 400 grams of harvested leaves.

All five trees were cut down and taken away in the back of a pickup truck.

Police also found an illegally owned shotgun and six shotgun shells in the house.

"Mr Nathee, who lives in Thalang, harvests kratom leaves and sells them," said Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri.

Kratom leaves are used in the popular party cocktail "4x100", which is created by mixing an extract from the leaves with cough



Five trees were cut down on the property. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

syrup, cola and ice.

The leaves have been a controlled substance in the same category as cannabis since promulgation of the Kratom Act in 1943. The law made planting the tree illegal and ordered all existing trees be cut down.

Mr Nathee was charged with the possession, sale and distribution of a class 5 narcotic, as well as illegal possession of a firearm and matching ammunition.

– Thawit Bilabdullar



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Jellyfish warning signs posted on Phuket beaches

A COLLABORATIVE effort between the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office has seen educational signs about jellyfish springing up on beaches across Phuket.

"The signs are set up on popular beaches, not because there are many dangerous jellyfish in those areas, but because they have so many visitors," PMBC Director Ukkrit Satapoomin told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"The signs have been put up to educate people about how to avoid being stung by jellyfish, and what to do if you are.

"People shouldn't panic just because we put signs up – jellyfish are not common in Phuket," Mr Ukkrit said.

"We have attached a bottle of vinegar to the signs as well, which can be used to reduce the pain of a sting before going to see a doctor," he added.

The signs are on the beaches of Sirinath National Park, Patong, Nai Yang, Nai Thon, Bang Tao, Surin, Kamala, Kata, Karon and Nai Harn.

– **Orawin Narabal**

Krabi villagers protest proposed coal plant over health concerns

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

KRABI villagers staged a protest on Monday against a proposed coal-fired power plant they say would damage their health as they allege a previous one had.

Protest leaders Somyos Khanthong and Chalit Sukhotu, as well as about 500 Pakasai residents descended on Krabi Provincial Hall to protest the 800 Megawatt power plant.

The protesters wore green t-shirts and carried placards saying "Coal is killing us" and "Our ancestors built up this land, but coal is ruining it."

Mr Chalit explained that the villagers traced health problems to a previous coal power plant in their area.

"From 1964 to 1995, there was a coal power plant that made villagers sick – some people had respiratory conditions and some developed cancer," he said.

"Eventually the plant was changed to a 300 Megawatt fuel oil power plant," he added.



Krabi Vice Governor Saman Sangsaard receives the protesters' letter of complaint. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"Now the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand is conducting an environmental impact study for another coal plant with 800 Megawatt capacity in Klong Kanan, in Nue Klong District.

"We cannot accept it. We should consider alternative types of power plants," Mr Chalit said.

Krabi Vice Governor Saman Sangsaard received the protesters' official letter of complaint and told

them that the power plant "is yet to be built and still in the public hearing process".

He promised to forward their complaint to Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon.

Police bag druggie by using GPS tracker app from stolen iPhone

POLICE quickly nabbed a Phuket druggie by using the GPS tracking feature of the iPhone he had stolen from a German tourist on February 7.

The tourist, David Trebs, was standing in front of the 99 Oldtown Boutique Guesthouse in Phuket Town at about 2am when a man on a motorbike drove by and snatched his iPhone, explained Lt Col Prawit Engchuan of Phuket City Police.

Acting quickly, the Phuket police arrived at the crime scene and used the "Find my iPhone" function of another iPhone operating system to track the GPS signal of the stolen telephone.

"The GPS showed that the phone was around Wat Kosit near Phuket Technology College on



Police tracked David Trebs' phone to this mobile phone shop. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Thepkrasattri Road," Col Prawit explained.

Police and Mr Trebs went immediately to the area; on arrival,

Mr Trebs spotted the thief.

The man, Montree Mulhead, 20, attempted to flee but was apprehended by officers.

"We searched Mr Montree and found two plastic bags in the cuffs of his jeans – one was empty, the other contained .38 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine)," Col Prawit said. "He confessed that he stole Mr Trebs' phone and sold it for two bags of *ya ice*," Col Prawit said.

Mr Montree was charged with "using a motorbike to steal" and for the possession of a class 1 narcotic.

The telephone, which Mr Montree had sold to a friend in the Wat Kosit area, was subsequently tracked to a mobile phone shop, where Mr Trebs recovered it.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Helicopter makes emergency landing on Phuket

A RAPID loss in oil pressure forced the pilots of a Royal Thai Army helicopter to make an emergency landing in a field in central Phuket on February 6.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Thalang Police were alerted to the emergency landing by villagers in Baan Pru Champa.

"The helicopter belongs to the 2nd Air Mobile Company in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. There were two pilots and two mechanics on board," Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwutthianun told the *Gazette*.

"One of the pilots noticed smoke coming from the engine and alerted the other pilot. They maintained control of the helicopter and finally landed safely," he explained. "The smoke came from an oil leak."

Sgt Maj Pratheep Wongsawan and his team of engineers were dispatched from the Royal Thai Army base in Krabi to repair the helicopter.



The Thai Army helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in Thalang. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

"We are checking it and fixing it now. After the repairs are complete, the helicopter will be flown back to Nakhon Sri Thammarat," Sgt Pratheep told the *Gazette* the following morning.

– **Thawit Bilabdullar**

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Nong Dylan, 3, recites the Thai alphabet. Photo: YouTube

Half-Thai toddler becomes viral internet star

A HALF-THAI toddler living in the UK has become an internet sensation after a video of him reciting the Thai alphabet surfaced on YouTube.

The parents of "Nong Dylan", whose video received more than 2.4 million views in two weeks, say they will do their best to protect him from the attentions of advertisers, *The Nation* reported.

"We won't let him appear in a commercial unless he wants to and is old enough to understand," said the boy's dad, Peter Hall, in an e-mail to the paper.

"Several TV programs have approached us but we have said no. We see a difference in him getting publicity for being himself and in getting publicity for being forced to do something."

The video, which was made for family and friends, shows the chubby-cheeked toddler reciting the Thai alphabet in the way all Thai children are taught to.

Nong Dylan's parents said they were pleasantly surprised by the success of the video, which is entitled "Hard Core Kor Kai".

Reporters have hounded the family seeking interviews, and their story was featured on the BBC news.

"We have concerns. There are lots of people we have said no to," Hall said.

Curfew considered as violence broadens in restive Deep South

AROUND THE nation

THE GOVERNMENT is considering imposing curfews in the Deep South, in response to militants broadening the focus of their attacks to "soft targets" such as traders from other parts of Thailand.

The controversial plan was floated by Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung, though critics have pointed out that the South has been under curfew before – and the move failed to end the violence.

On February 6, gunmen parked their vehicle in the soi of Krong Pinang police station in Yala before walking to a house being rented by four fruit traders from Rayong Province, *The Nation* reported.

They burst into the building as the four Buddhists, a couple and two men, were having dinner. They



Past efforts to enforce curfews in the South have failed. Photo: The Nation

tied the victims up before shooting them one by one in the head.

The dead were identified as Thavorn Suvannachote, 35; his wife Tassana Toomporn, 25; Sutat Somroob, 37; and Somchai

Ruenrom, 30.

"The attack was outrageous and has affected people inside and outside the area, as the victims had come to Yala to buy fruit," said Pol Maj-General Pira Boonlieng, a

Yala police chief.

The killings took place less than a week after two rice-farming teachers from the central provinces were killed in Pattani.

Then on February 10, insurgents in Yala detonated a massive car bomb hidden in a pickup truck, killing five Thai soldiers and critically injuring one.

The day after the killing of the fruit vendors, Deputy PM Chalerm vowed to push for the most troubled parts of the Deep South to be put under curfew.

"Police have told me that attacks take place quite often at night in some areas," he said.

Among those who disagreed with the plan was Defence Minister Sukampol Suwannathat, who made a public statement voicing dissatisfaction that Deputy PM Chalerm had not raised the issue with him first.

"I am the director of the new operations center dealing with insurgent violence in the Deep South, and what do I do if I am given the post but not allowed to propose ideas to do the job," Mr Chalerm said.

Red shirts and yellow shirts discuss amnesty

THE TWO opposing protest movements that have played pivotal roles in the Thai political crisis – the red shirts and yellow shirts – last week held a rare meeting to discuss the possibility of an amnesty for those involved in the conflict.

In a closed-door meeting chaired by Deputy House Speaker Charoen Jankomol, leaders of both sides discussed two proposed amnesty bills directed at those involved in the country's ongoing political conflict – one for protesters, the other for protest leaders.

In attendance were Pheu Thai Party MP

Worachai Hema, a representative from the Nitirat group; Pheu Thai MP Korkaew Pikulthong, a representative of the United front for Democracy against Dictatorship; and Panthep Puapongpan, a People's Alliance for Democracy representative.

The two sides came out of the meeting saying they agreed "in principle" to the two proposals as a way of reducing political conflicts. The first amnesty bill would pardon those who violated the emergency decree, while the second would pardon protesters.



Red shirt supporters hand speak with Deputy House Speaker Charoen. Photo: The Nation



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In brief...

Sudan, Darfur rebels sign new ceasefire in Qatar

THE Sudanese government signed a Qatar-sponsored ceasefire with a splinter Darfur rebel group, Sudanese and Qatari state media said, in an attempt to revive a stalled peace process to end a decade-long conflict.

The Darfur group which signed the deal calls itself the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) but is a tiny off-shoot of the main rebel group of that name.

South Africans arrest Congo rebel 'mastermind'

SOUTH African police said last Sunday they had arrested a Congolese man suspected of being the mastermind behind a rebel group's plot to overthrow the Kinshasa government.

Nineteen other suspected Congolese rebels have been arrested and were charged in a South African court on Thursday.

India stampede kills 36 pilgrims at world's largest religious festival

A STAMPEDE at a railway station in northern India killed at least 36 Hindu pilgrims last Sunday, the busiest day of the world's largest religious festival at which some 30 million had gathered to wash away their sins in the sacred Ganges River.

International community outraged over nuclear test

By David Chance and Jack Kim

NORTH Korea conducted its third nuclear test on Tuesday in defiance of existing UN resolutions, drawing condemnation from around the world, including from its only major ally, China, which summoned the North Korean ambassador to protest.

The reclusive North said the test was an act of self-defense against "US hostility" and threatened further, stronger steps if necessary.

It said the test had "greater explosive force" than the 2006 and 2009 tests. Its KCNA news agency said it had used a "miniaturized" and lighter nuclear device, indicating that it had again used plutonium which is more suitable for use as a missile warhead.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the third of his line to rule the country, has presided over two long-range rocket launches and a nuclear test during his first year in power, pursuing policies that have propelled his impoverished and malnourished country closer to becoming a nuclear weapons power.

China, which has shown signs of increasing exasperation with the recent bellicose tone of its neighbor, summoned the North Korean ambassador in Beijing and protested sternly, the Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said China was "strongly dissatisfied and resolutely opposed" to the test and urged North Korea to "stop any rhetoric or acts that could worsen situations and return to the right course of dialogue and consultation as soon as possible".



Protesters burn a portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during a rally in Seoul against North Korea's nuclear tests. Photo: Reuters

US President Barack Obama labelled the test a "highly provocative act" that hurt regional stability, and pressed for new sanctions.

"The danger posed by North Korea's threatening activities warrants further swift and credible action by the international community. The United States will also continue to take steps necessary to defend ourselves and our allies," Mr Obama said in a statement.

The Security Council will meet on Tuesday to discuss its reaction to the test, although North Korea is already one of the most heavily sanctioned states in the world and has few external economic links that can be targeted.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear arms program and return to talks.

NATO condemned the test as an "irresponsible act" that posed a grave threat to world peace.

The test "was only the first response we took with maximum restraint", an unnamed spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry, which acts as Pyongyang's official voice to the outside world, said in a statement carried by the KCNA news agency.

"If the United States continues to come out with hostility and complicates the situation, we will be forced to take stronger, sec-

ond and third responses in consecutive steps."

North Korea told the UN disarmament forum in Geneva that it would never bow to resolutions on its nuclear program and that prospects were "gloomy" for the denuclearization of the divided Korean peninsula because of a "hostile" US policy.

The magnitude of Tuesday's test was roughly twice as large as that of 2009, Lassina Zerbo, director of the international data center division of the Vienna-based Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, said.

"It was confirmed that the nuclear test that was carried out at a high level in a safe and perfect manner using a miniaturized and lighter nuclear device with greater explosive force than previously did not pose any negative impact on the surrounding ecological environment," KCNA said.

Despite China's strong response, the test is likely to be a major embarrassment for Beijing, the North's sole major economic and diplomatic ally.

"The test is hugely insulting to China, which now can be expected to follow through with threats to impose sanctions," said Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank.

The North's ultimate aim, Washington believes, is to design an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead that could hit the United States. North Korea says the program is aimed merely at putting satellites in space.

— Reuters

Catholics shocked as pope resigns

CATHOLICS reacted with shock on Monday to the sudden abdication of Pope Benedict, although the mood among many was one of respect, in contrast to the outpouring of emotion which greeted the death of his beloved predecessor John Paul II.

In Benedict's home country, where eight years ago the election of the first German pontiff in more than 1,000 years was greeted with the headline "We are Pope!", there was surprise tempered with sympathy.

"I didn't really think it was possible to resign. But if he feels he's not in a position to continue, then it's an honorable thing to do," said Michael Lauber, a 58-year-old civil servant entering St Hedwig's Roman Catholic Cathedral in central Berlin.

"This is really extraordinary because not since Celestine V has this happened," said Rome resident Emma Nardi, referring to the last pope to leave office



Pope Benedict XVI waves during a mass conducted by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Photo: Reuters

voluntarily, in 1294.

"It's an incredible thing. We need to see why he did it. I hope the church doesn't end up like Italian politics," she said.

Elsewhere in the Catholic world, Pope Benedict appeared to have earned more respect as a theologian than adoration as a

leader — suffering as always in comparison to his charismatic predecessor, the Polish-born John Paul II.

"We are dismayed because he is a saint and a first-rate intellectual," said Nani Leon, a history professor leaving San Pascual church in central Madrid.

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Alien labor window extended

A million migrant workers and their children still undocumented as registration deadline nears

EMPLOYERS of 'low-skill migrant workers' in Phuket and across the Kingdom have until March 16 to have their respective employees registered under the National Verification (NV) process, the Phuket Labor Office has confirmed.

Applying specifically to temporary laborers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, the latest NV deadline is an extension of another extension.

The *Gazette* reported last week online that Cabinet recently passed a resolution to extend the NV process registration deadline by three months.

The extension was from an earlier December 14, 2012 deadline, which itself was a six month extension from the initial deadline of June 15, last year.

Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) chief Yawapa Pibulpol told the *Gazette*: "According to Cabinet's resolution, migrant workers' deportation deadline has been extended until about mid April."

"What action we will take against those who have not started the process by mid April will depend on Cabinet's decision on the matter," she added.

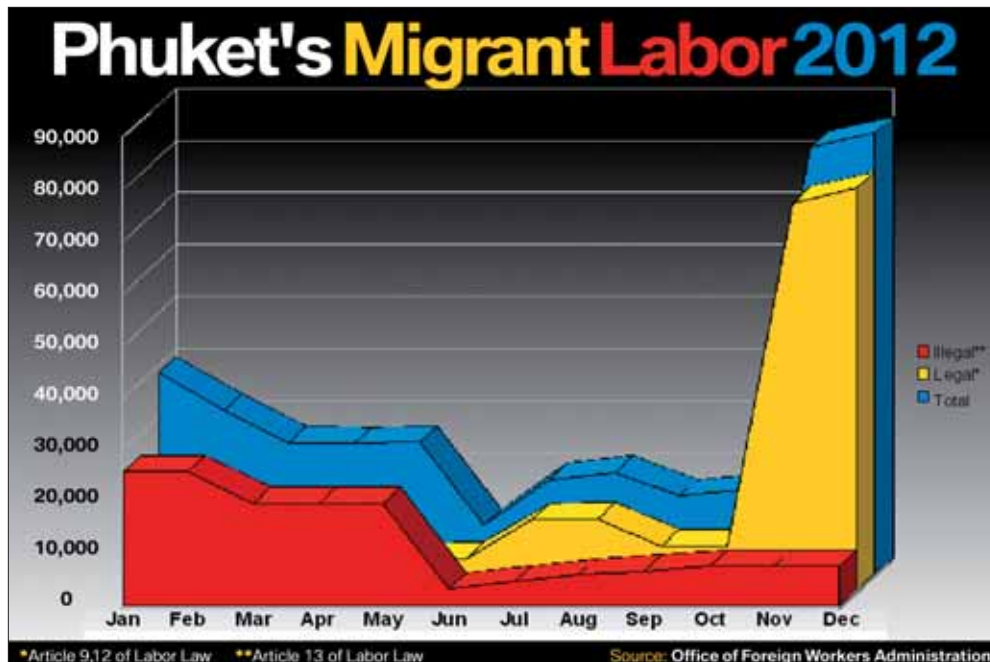
She later clarified that the "mid April" deadline actually refers to the deadline when the entire verification process should be completed – in other words, the date when "all documentation should already be submitted, and required health checks completed."

According to the Labor Ministry website, the mid-April deadline is actually April 13, not April 15 as initially reported.

"The extension was for 120 days after the old [December 14] deadline," Ms Yawapa confirmed.

Ms Yawapa added that the PPEO is still accepting work permit applications and would not conduct any raids or deport any migrant workers until further instructions came from Bangkok.

Meanwhile, Myanmar has urged Thailand to speed up registration of its nationals working in the Kingdom, with nearly one million workers and hundreds of thou-



This graph shows migrant labor trends in Phuket last year. The National Verification scheme has documented over a million migrant workers nationwide so far. Image: Gazette Graphics

sands of their children still undocumented as the deadline draws near.

Myint Thein, Myanmar's deputy labor minister, was in Thailand last week to monitor progress of the government's scheme to register millions of alien migrant workers under the NV process.

Thailand set up one-stop service centers in major cities throughout the country to facilitate the process. Myanmar has dispatched officials to 11 of the centers, Myint Thein told a press conference.

Myint estimated that some 1.2 million migrant workers from Myanmar have been registered so far, while another 1 million or more remain undocumented.

The NV centers have the capacity to provide service to 500 - 1,000 migrant workers per day.

Myanmar wants Thai authorities to issue special entry visas for children who accompany or depend on parents working in Thailand.

"We would like children who are

dependent on parents working in Thailand to have documentation so that authorities can provide protection and social welfare for them," Myint Thein said.

It is estimated that migrant workers in Thailand are accompanied by 200,000 children, he said, noting that half of them are of school age.

"We want them to be able to continue their education. If they have documents, they will have a chance to be educated," he said.

The Myanmar minister said the expense of obtaining documentation in Thailand was too high for Myanmar migrant workers. Many of them have to pay as much as 15,000 baht, according to Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand, Tin Win.

Migrant workers have to pay 1,800 or 3,600 baht for a one-year or two-year work permit, respectively, according to the Department of Employment.

Thailand opened one-stop service centers for registering migrant workers, collecting documents and contacting Myanmar



PPEO chief Yawapa Pibulpol (right) and a few of her colleagues. Photo: Chutharat Plerin



RAIN OR SHINE: Phuket's construction sector is dependent on migrant labor. Photo: S Layne

authorities to verify nationality and obtain necessary documents, he said.

"This process is not expensive for the workers and many of them have to pay private brokers," he said. "We don't know how private brokers intervene in the process and take such a large amount of money from the workers," Tin Win said.

The ambassador urged the Thai authorities to monitor the process and find a solution to reduce workers' expenses.

— *Phuket Gazette & The Nation*

Thailand prepares to lure even bigger MICE

THE Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) projects that by 2015, the international exhibition market in the country will grow by 30%, attracting some 300,000 visitors and generating income of 30 billion baht annually.

In 2012, the TCEB successfully convinced 15 new trade shows to be organized in the Kingdom, and upgraded over 37 shows.

At the same time, the total number of shows officially designated by the TCEB as "Certified Trade Exhibition" increased to 40 events.

Moreover, the four major trade shows established under TCEB's "Better the Best campaigns, the champion show of Thailand", including VIV Asia, Propak Asia, Metalex and Renewable Asia, saw an average increase in international visitor participation

by 36%, reflecting the high confidence among the international arena.

As for 2013, TCEB has successfully attracted a number of "mega international events" to be held in the Kingdom.

Among them are the ITU Telecom World 2013, to be held in Bangkok in November, and expected to attract up to 30,000 participants; the World Stamp Thailand 2013, also planned for Bangkok, is expected to attract 10,000 participants from all over the world.

The TCEB's aim for such events is to ensure more confidence among international exhibition professionals, and thus return a higher number of exhibitors and visitors that help expand the growth of Thailand's exhibitions industry.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Makro opens new branch in Patong

MEMBERSHIP-BASE, wholesale food retailer, Siam Makro Pcl has expanded its Phuket operations with the opening of its Makro Food Service branch in Patong.

Located in the area of the Mae Ubun Derm fresh market on Nanai Road in Patong, the new branch is the second Makro store on the island.

Its retail area spans a total 1,000 square meters, with parking space on the premises available for 50 cars.

Like the original Phuket Makro located on Wichit Songkhram Road in Phuket Town, the Patong Makro will stock fresh food, frozen foods, condiments and other food related appliances and necessities for both Thai and international customers.

Ms Alisa Wongsawat, GM of Makro Food Service, Patong branch, talked about the new branch's opening.

She explained that the opening of the new branch offers increased convenience to food operators in Patong, helping them cut back on commute costs and times, and thus enabling them to better handle growing demand in the tourism industry.

Patong Beach is an important tourism destination of Phuket, popular among both Thai and foreign tourists, she added.

She anticipated that the expansion of the Phuket airport as well as Phuket's plans and continued support for tourism growth, will yield an increased number of tourists to the island.

"There has been an increase in restaurants and related services catering to tourists. And so, Makro opened the Makro Food Service, Patong branch, in order to offer more convenience to food operators in the Patong area, who can now purchase their food related necessities with increased ease and speed."

Ms Alisa added that with the opening



TRADITIONAL MEETS MODERN: Nang-ubon Wandee, owner of the Mae Ubun Derm fresh market, tours the new Patong Makro with the branch's GM, Alisa Wongsawat. Photos: CorePeak

of the new branch, Makro is moving forward to reinforce its image and motto as a "Partner for Your Business".

The GM revealed that the new store is a model branch with an exclusive design, the interior's layout designed specifically with restaurant and eatery operators in mind.

The store is stocked with over 3,000 types of food items including frozen foods, dried foods, condiments, meats, eggs, vegetables, salads, cheese, bakery items and even food containers.

Makro is a subsidiary of the privately owned Dutch trading company, SHV (Steenkolen Handels-Vereeniging) Holdings.

Thailand's first Makro opened in 1989 in Bangkok. Today, the chain's Thai subsidiary, Siam Makro Pcl, operates more than 50 Makro branches across the Kingdom.

In addition to Thai Makro stores, SHV Holdings still owns stores in Argentina,



EXECUTIVE INSPECTION: Makro executives have a walk-and-talk around the new store.

Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Makro is often affiliated with Metro, a German-owned wholesale retail chain that acquired Makro's European stores in 1998.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Makro Food Service, Patong, is open daily, from 7am to 9pm. For more information, call 076-512-388.

In brief...

Khao Lak near capacity on V-day

NEARLY 1,000 rooms at hotels and resorts across the popular Phang Nga resort destination of Khao Lak, or about 90% of the total number of rooms available there, were booked for Valentine's Day.

Advisor to the Phang-Nga Tourism Association Praput Khorpetch said that the tourism industry in Phang-Nga stated that more and more couples have decided to spend their time in the resort town of Khao Lak to enjoy the festival of love.

He added that Phang-Nga has become particularly popular among traveling couples on Valentine's Day because of the various outdoor activities on offer, the city's beautiful beaches and water.

— *NNT*

Thailand opens ASEAN's largest wind farm

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra last week chaired the official opening of the West Huay Bong 2 and West Huay Bong 3 projects in Nakhon Ratchasima Province.

The first of its kind in Thailand, the project offers a combined capacity of 207 megawatts. In addition, the West Huay Bong 2 and the West Huay Bong 3 can each generate around 350 million units of electricity for sale to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand each year.

The government has aimed to use the newly-opened wind farm to generate as many as 1,200 megawatts of power within eight years.

Energy Minister Pongsak Ruktapongpisal stated that the wind farm effectively reduces the country's carbon-dioxide emissions by 270,000 tons and cuts fuel and oil imports by 90 million liters, worth around 1.9 billion baht, per year.

— *NNT*

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Tourism to boom through to April

MAINTAINING the momentum of a busy and successful Chinese New Year (CNY), Phuket's tourism industry is expected to sustain its high for at least the next two months.

Chanchai Duangjit, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office is bullish, and revealed some of his office's plans and strategies.

Chanchai said that hotel rooms across the island were mostly booked out on February 9 and 10.

He estimated that hotel occupancy in Phuket, particularly for accommodations located near the beach, will average about 90% through to the end of this month.

This high occupancy rate is not only credited to the CNY festivities, but also to Valentine's Day.

"Among foreigners, Phuket is a particularly popular destination to celebrate the 'day of love', due to the "beautiful beaches, the [high] standard of accommodations at the 5-star level, and for weddings and

honeymoons," he said.

He added that another reason for the ongoing tourism boom is due to the cold winter weather in the northern hemisphere, many European "snow birds" are flocking to warmer destinations, including Phuket.

Elaborating more on the CNY boost, he praised Phuket's "Old Town Festival" for helping to 'max out' hotel occupancy and extending the momentum of the tourism Peak season, from December and January, adding that he was confident that the momentum would sustain on through to Thai New Years, the Songkran festival, in mid April.

Aside from the praise, the director also expressed some reservations. "If Phuket allows tourism to grow continuously at 15 to 20% [per annum], then there will be [more] problems with infrastructure; public utilities and roads; water resources and airport insufficiency...

"Therefore, the direction of our tourism promotion [efforts] will focus on increasing the influx of quality groups, meaning the sectors with higher spending power, including golfers, honeymooners, wedding groups, the yachting and marina sector and general business travelers.

"These groups will not pose problems in terms of spending," he said.

Chanchai noted that the TAT Phuket office will apply its tourism promotion efforts abroad, namely at the ITB, grand tourism trade fair, set to be held in Berlin from March 3-10, of which a number of Phuket tourism businesses will attend.

After that, he said his office will also take promotional trips to Manchester and London, in England, as well as a number of other countries, with details to be announced at a later date.

— *Phuket Gazette*

PROPERTY Gazette

Finding the balance between culture and a modern lifestyle

HIGHLIGHTING Sansiri PCL's confidence in the island's condominium market, the Bangkok-headquartered firm has launched sales for 'THE BASE Height-Phuket' in the Sam Kong area of Phuket Town.

As the third 'THE BASE' branded project on the island, following successful launches of the 'Downtown' and 'Uptown' projects also in Phuket Town, the 'Height-Phuket' is ideal for the young working generation, who are looking for a condominium that responds to their needs and character.

The development will feature a 14-storey uniquely designed structure on Hongyok-Uthit Road in Sam Kong, a quiet yet happening area on the north end of Phuket Town, within easy access of Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Tesco Lotus Phuket.

Uthai Uthaisangsuk, Sansiri's Senior Executive Vice President Business Development and Project Development division, revealed that "Sansiri continues its commitment to developing quality residential condominiums for Phuket's customers.

"In line with the highly successful two earlier projects under THE BASE brand, the development concept and location responds to the needs of customers who love to live in the City."

The 900 million baht valued project will be built on a plot that spans about two and half rai, or just over 4,000 square meters. With 14 floors, it will feature a total of 358



There will be 358 units in 14 storeys.

units comprising three different room types.

These include one-bedroom units ranging from 29 to 34sqm; one bedroom duplex units from 52.5 to 53.5 sqm; and two bedroom units spanning from 56 to 57 sqm.

The project's design and development concept is outlined in the slogan: "THE BASE Height-Phuket: This is your life", reflecting life in the city, and combining the blend of a unique and charming part of Phuket culture with a simple and modern design in an ideal location.

The developer describes the project's design as "Modern Chino", which combines the unique patterns of Sino-Portuguese, a Phuket architectural highlight, together with other modern design aspects. For example, its Chinese-style pattern of decoration on the



INFINITY AND BEYOND: The development will have both ground level and rooftop pools.

balcony is contrasted with a Sala near the pool, to create a calming atmosphere.

THE BASE Height-Phuket offers a diverse range of facilities including a ground floor pool and a rooftop pool with Sala, fitness room with the latest fitness equipment, a multi-purpose area, lobby, and wifi at the pool areas and in the lobby.

"THE BASE Height-Phuket is the first medium-height condominium [to be] developed by Sansiri in Phuket, and our first to offer a Duplex room type on the island.

"We are focused on delivering a design to ensure clients a comfortable living space, such as 6.5m high ceilings in the lobby, and comfortable and convenient living experience with facilities on the ground floor and rooftop. The devel-

opment has a modern design that is influenced by Phuket's character, and which also reflects the young generation who have their own lifestyle and needs, and who adjust themselves to changing trends all the time," Mr Uthai added.

The official pre-sales period is scheduled from February 15-17, at the Sansiri Lounge, Central Festival Phuket.

There is a special promotion for those who reserve and sign a contract on those days, which includes a free Mini iPad (16GB 3G-wifi) and 32" LED TV. Unit prices start at 1.9mn baht.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.

A short history of bad hotel ideas

I COME from another planet. One which is absolutely pedantic, startlingly interior and shamelessly derivative. Welcome to the Willy's Wonky World of Hoteldom.

In a world of fractured ideas, the hotel business certainly sits front and center as a proponent of silly works. These range from service, design and of course the arcane sector known as 'brandspeak'. Tom Cruise and those mixed nuts from Scientology have nothing on our own circle of confusion.

First off, is the front desk, (more politely known as the reception). This is the magnetic gravitating point of first contact for aliens from the outside world wishing to enter.

Early in my hotel career, we'd often try to equate hospitality to that of taking visitors into your own home. I've yet to encounter any house on any scale that has one of these monstrosities.

Over the years, those innovative types have come up with "out of the box" concepts such as automated check in machines, executive club lounges (most of these have reception desks but they are smaller) and lobbies with no desk. The latter boutique concept ends up having prospective guests wandering around like a lost Chinese tour group who have lost their flag carrying comrade.



Worse yet are resorts that make you sit down like a doomed prisoner of war in a noxious lobby, with any type of ding dong cultural music clatter to drink a toxic tropical drink. Once you have completed this *Amazing Race* challenge, you are then, and only then, allowed access to your room.

For me this is the equivalent of a Taliban kidnapping, and all I really want to do is just go to my room ASAP.

This brings us to the hotel

room itself. Finally.

In the old days they had those control panels, which somehow gave a Captain Kirk feel on the Starship Enterprise. Everything was laid out and labeled. Of course in many cases certain switches never worked and life's great mystery of lowering the air con temperature or turning down the muzak remained elusive.

These days we have intuitive design, which makes the most mundane task, such as turning off the lights and going to bed, as complicated as a great ocean crossing. Despite being an 'Indie', I have no shame in recounting the times I've unscrewed light bulbs, shouted abuses at operators or just given up and gone to dreamland with one light holding out. The virtual last man standing.

Business acumen remains key in the industry and often hoteliers cannot see the forest for the trees, trying to milk every last dollar from guests. Perhaps the greatest change over the past decade has been being ripped off by enormous surcharges when using hotel phones. Who the hell wants to pay five dollars for one local call? But the reality is those with burned out mobile batteries, last minute urgent business or the naïve do. From my perspective it's not unlike selling water and food to disaster victims.



AQUA LOUNGERS: But where can you put the welcome drink?

Let's not even talk about paid internet. My blood pressure will rise and people will die.

Goofy evolutionary changes have brought about premium services. Remember a massage? Now we call it 'aromatherapy', or a 'spa treatment' and charge double or triple for exactly the same thing.

Sure, we now have homemade cookies, designer chocolates, iPads and rainbow-colored edible condoms in mini-bars, but for the price of one item you can buy out the entire 7-Eleven down the street.

While two iconic amenities seem to be on the decline – turn down chocolate and fruit baskets – one thing that remains is the welcome letter from the general manager. These anonymous mass marketed letters are worse than the internet Nigerian lottery scheme. You know the ones that start with: "My Dear Friend, last Thursday our housekeeper found twenty billion dollars in our backyard buried under our BBQ..."

Perhaps hotels need to scrap the letters and save the environment, just as they claim with the don't waste towels, and help us save the Earth. Another ploy, as this simply saves the hotel money in laundry expenses.

I don't need to know who the general manager is. If there is a complaint I will see you in the virtual alley out back known as Trip Advisor.

Oh Lord, this column is growing a mile a minute and yet I've yet to scratch the surface. But for now, trust me, hotels (for the most part) need to don the dunce cap and go down to Patong to buy our favorite t-shirt – "same same, but different".

Though, after all is said and done, there are far worse offenders out there – say the government, military, education and the automobile industry. Indeed stupid things are all around, wherever we look.

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



A Hello Kitty sex toy vending machine in a Tokyo hotel. Photo: tts

Mövenpick eyes local market

MÖVENPICK Resort Bangtao Beach, a luxury boutique hotel in Phuket, aims to raise its profile in the local arena by increasing the proportion of Thai guests to about 5 per cent this year, up from only a tiny slice at present.

The hotel opened officially in mid-2011.

The new strategy is part of the operator's plan not to rely too heavily on foreign guests.

At present, Russians are its main clients at 36 per cent, followed by Chinese at 16 per cent and Australians at 12 per cent.

Michael Wenk, the hotel's executive assistant manager, said the Thai group had a lot of potential because of their growing purchasing power, especially wealthy families.

Half of the hotel's 40 units offer three bedrooms and penthouse service, a competitive advantage over rivals in Phuket. Many of its guests are family groups and honeymooners.

It hopes its occupancy rate this year will increase to 70 per cent from 65 per cent last year.

Wenk said the outlook for the hospitality industry in Phuket was still optimistic, as it is a



I DO: Weddings are a good way to attract locals. Photo: Narongsak Khongkaew

major destination for foreigners.

Clearly, the number of foreign tourists to the island has kept rising, especially from the Middle East, boosted by the introduction of new direct flights offered by Emirates airline.

However, the competition is also high. Currently, there are many three and four-star hotels opening to serve rising demand. Some have cut prices to attract guests. Wenk

said his hotel would not jump into that game, but would offer additional benefits to guests instead.

He has recognized that if the company joins a price war, it will find it hard to raise its prices in the future.

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts is an international upscale hotel management company.

It operates 76 properties in 23 nations. – *The Nation*

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Investors' money up in flames

By Bill Barnett

THIS week's fire, which substantially damaged the Nai Yang Peninsular Resort development is a sad reminder of the potential downside risk of investing into overheated property markets.

Launched in the mid-2000s as the Nai Yang Peninsular Phuket, the project consisted of condos, a hotel and villas.

In 2006, a management agreement was announced with the global Hyatt chain, under their Regency brand.

The Thai-based developer of the project, Phuket Peninsula Co Ltd, at the time had another hospitality-led property in Koh Samui, the Samui Peninsula (now operating as the Q Signature Samui) under a different company structure. It was also engaged in timeshare sales in Samui through a well-known international affiliation.

At that time, Phuket unit buyers were offered leasehold units with a cumulative term of 90 years and 12 per cent guaranteed return for five years (60 per cent of the purchase price). Reportedly, a number of sales were made on this basis.

Over the next few years, despite being near completion and the fact that Hyatt appointed a general manager and started pre-opening work, the develop-

ment encountered financial difficulties. Eventually Hyatt exited from the project.

Enter the Thai-listed leasing company Mida Assets PLC, which according to documents filed with the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), had a secured interest in the project. A dispute between a director of Phuket Peninsular Co Ltd and Mida triggered an extended legal case.

A similar case took place in Koh Samui and an impending bank default created more complications. Years passed as various court actions between the parties came and went.

A few weeks ago we contacted the company office of Mida who said that court action between the parties had been settled and plans were set to be announced shortly about the future of the Phuket and Samui projects.

Another setback was encountered last year when the high-profile investigation by Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation into Sirinath National Park included the property in media reports as possibly encroaching on public land. There remains no final outcome to this investigation.

At this juncture it's unclear if, after what has been classified as an accidental fire, the main resort building will be able to be rebuilt

and restored. Based on information obtained from Mida, the future of the project looks to be with them going forward.

For many of the unit investors who have paid for units since 2006, the seven year itch of uncertainty looks not to be resolved any time soon.

While I can thankfully count on all my fingers and toes the number of estate and project defaults on the island over the past 12 years, but this is little satisfaction for purchasers who have lost or tied up their investments.

While Phuket, like Bali and other resort markets, is continuing to see an up-cycle in the real estate sector, it's a good time for a reality check: that when a buying trend heats up, investment schemes that seem to good to be true, typically are exactly that.

Double digit guaranteed returns over a sustained period in a hotel-led residential project should be a warning sign to potential purchasers.

Likewise, there is a vast difference between experienced hotel asset owners and property developers who neither have the financial backing nor experience to execute this type of project.

Increasingly global hotel brands are shying away from projects which are overly dependent on residential sales.



OVERHEATED: A hot property can mean many things. Photo:Gazette file

That given, there are quality mixed use projects here like Amanpuri, Trisara and Banyan Tree, which have demonstrated sustained returns and capital appreciation.

Over the years I have received a continued chain of mail from buyers in these types of investment schemes, which have gone

off the rails. My best advice remains to carefully engage in learning the market, obtain sound legal advice, mitigate risk by buying from experienced developers with strong financial backing and understand that these types of investments are not premised on quick over-market returns but a long term outlook.

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Phuket Old Town Festival to showcase Chinese heritage

Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE annual Phuket Old Town Festival began on February 15, ushering in the three-day celebration of the town's historical origins and unique ethnic mix of cultures.

To announce this year's festival, leading Phuket dignitaries gathered at Queen Sirikit Park on February 7.

Joining Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana in announcing the event were representatives from Phuket City Municipality, Phuket Provincial Police, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, Peranakan Association, Phuket Old Town Association and Jui Tui Shrine.

The festival is held along four main roads in the heart of the Phuket Old Town: Thalang Road, Soi Rommanee, Krabi Road and Phang Nga Road.

"The Old Chartered Bank on the corner of Dibuk Road [and Thepkasattri Road] showcases an exhibition highlighting HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej visiting Phuket in 1959, as well as traditional costumes and food from Phuket Town's yesteryear," Mayor Somjai said.

Traffic will be blocked from using the streets hosting the event's activities from 3pm to midnight so people will be able to walk around the Old Town area and enjoy the activities, she added.

"The festival is one of the most

important events for local residents, government offices and private businesses to all join together. The festival has been held for 13 years – this is our fourteenth," Mayor Somjai said.

"The main purpose of this festival is to preserve our beautiful culture, our art and traditions by urging Old Town residents, youths and other local people to take part. Our goal is also to promote cultural tourism in the Phuket Old Town area for tourists to see how beautiful our cultures are," Mayor Somjai explained.

Scheduled to provide some of the entertainment will be Mr "Leng", known for his award-winning antics on Thailand's Got Talent 2012 and "Looksorn At Ten", who is renowned for his singing on the popular television show *At Ten*.

Also performing will be artists from mainland China, providing a magic show.

"There will also be many stalls selling traditional Chinese dishes and desserts," Mayor Somjai said.

The festival kicked off with an opening ceremony and parade on February 15.

The parade route went from Jatujak market on Phang Nga Road, turned left onto Montri Road, headed towards Surin Circle to Phuket Road, turned left onto Rassada Road, then right onto Yaowarat Road and ended at Queen Sirikit Park.

From 11pm to midnight on the



OLD FASHIONED: The white lion dances at a parade during the opening ceremony. Photos: Christian Mouchet

final night of the festival, February 17, Phuket City Municipality will hold a candlelight ceremony to pray for good fortune in front of the "dragon" called the *Hai Leng Ong* Sea Dragon, featured as a statue in Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town.

"Visitors should be assured that police and other relevant officers will take the best care of you, so you can enjoy the festival," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

"The Royal Thai Police rates the safety of tourists in Phuket very highly as Phuket is second only to Bangkok in terms of the income generated from tourism. Although more than 300,000 tourists will be attending the festival, we will look after everyone's safety," Gen Choti added.



Lion dancers rest after performing in front of the dragon statue at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town.



Leading Phuket dignitaries gathered at Queen Sirikit Park last Thursday night.



Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana bangs a drum to announce the start of the Phuket Old Town Festival.

How expats can simplify their finances

MOVING to another country to work or retire can be a daunting undertaking that will inevitably make managing your finances more complicated and time consuming. With that in mind, here are a few tips to help you simplify your finances so you can quickly start enjoying your new life as an expat:

Island Investor

Don Freeman

access to online financial accounts or to use ATM cards.

Give power of attorney to someone you trust:

In the event that you are incapacitated, your spouse should have power of attorney over you. Likewise and in the event that you and your spouse are both incapacitated, it might be a good idea to have someone in your home country who you trust (such a close relative) with a limited power of attorney as well.

Get VOIP:

Even if you don't call your home country regularly, you will want to have some kind of VOIP service like Skype or Vonage as spending an hour on hold to deal with a banking headache can be costly.

American or Canadian expats might want to consider a magicJack – a VOIP device that plugs into a computer's USB port and offers unlimited calling to US or Canadian phone numbers. Just as importantly, the device comes with a US or Canadian phone number and your choice of area codes where you can be reached should someone at a financial institution you deal with need to call you directly.

Use multicurrency personal finance software:

The latest versions of personal finance software like Quicken will have a multicurrency function that allows you to keep track of accounts and living expenses in multiple currencies – an absolute necessity if you are an expat who needs to maintain a strict budget.

Scan and safely store your important documents:

Make sure you have electronic copies of all of your important documents – including important receipts, medical records, tax returns and any legal and financial documents.



TAX TIME: Be sure to seek advice from professionals where you reside. Photo: Images of Money

Commodities	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y
PowerShares DB Commodity Tracking Fund	2.1%	3.3%	4.5%	2.0%	2.0%	25.6%
SPDR Gold Trust	-1.2%	-3.4%	3.0%	-4.9%	-4.9%	54.5%
iShares Silver Trust	1.7%	-2.7%	12.2%	-7.1%	-7.1%	102.4%
iPath S&P GSCI Oil TR Index	4.6%	11.5%	8.4%	-6.2%	-6.2%	-1.9%
US Natural Gas Fund	2.9%	-13.7%	-14.9%	-7.1%	-7.1%	-76.1%
Currencies	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y
Euro/US Dollar	1.4%	2.9%	4.2%	1.9%	1.9%	-7.9%
US Dollar/Japanese Yen	5.3%	11.2%	8.6%	12.7%	12.7%	-6.8%
Pound Sterling/US Dollar	1.3%	0.6%	3.6%	4.5%	4.5%	0.4%
US Dollar/Canadian Dollar	-0.1%	1.0%	-2.6%	-2.6%	-2.6%	-5.4%
Euro/Japanese Yen	6.7%	14.3%	13.1%	14.9%	14.9%	-14.2%
Australian Dollar/US Dollar	-0.4%	0.4%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	15.6%

Market roundup of commodities and currencies. Source: Bloomberg

If you don't own a scanner, then a digital camera can be used with the files stored on a cloud computing service or on an external hard drive or memory stick that is in turn stored some place secure. Make sure you backup all your data on a daily basis to prevent data loss. Recently one of my clients in Phuket lost all his data on two notebooks due to a theft. Yes, he had the data backed up to an external drive but that was stolen too. I personally use Mozy.com to back up data and store in the cloud. Data is backed up automatically and can be retrieved any time.

Find local experts:

Even if you plan to continue using your existing investment and tax advisors from

back home, it would be a good idea to augment them with experts based in the country you will be residing in. After all, local experts may be able to provide advice on matters important to expats, plus it's always easier doing business face to face with any type of investment or tax advisor.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

Online statements and bill pay:

Most financial institutions, including banks in Thailand, will offer online statements

and online bill pay – often at no extra cost. Just be sure to clarify how long your financial statements will be stored online as you may need to download older ones to avoid being charged a fee should you suddenly need them (for a tax audit).

Have joint accounts:

At the very least, the names of both you and your spouse should be on any cash accounts – especially any account containing emergency funds. In addition, both you and your spouse should know the user names, passwords and answers to any security questions in order to

Finances abroad can be difficult. Photo: Images of Money



Recalling the cycle of market emotions

MY FIRST investment was in a stock fund in 1990 when I was an engineering student at university. I was told to just buy and hold and put money in blindly and it will grow.

They were somewhat right but I wanted to know more and began a quest to find a way to pinpoint what is known as the cycle of market emotions curve.

The point of maximum financial opportunity is at the bottom of the curve (despondency and depression). This is the ideal time to buy, but your emotional state (and mine) will be feeling overwhelmed. The market does bottom and turn into a bull market. It is not different this time. It is important to understand this cycle of market emotions.

One of the greatest investors of all time, Sir John Templeton, said: "Bull-markets are born on pessimism, grow on skepticism, mature on optimism and die on euphoria."

So the news is turning more positive because we are in the



Investors are on an emotional roller coaster.

maturing optimism stage. This is determined by looking at many components of investor psychology, global monetary policy and technical analysis. A bear market (20+ points or more decline) is highly unlikely until we reach the 'thrill' and 'euphoria' stages. This time will come but is likely 12-30 months out depending on how fast investors warm up to buying stocks and what the Federal Reserve does. Right now, growth stocks are the place to be investing in. This optimistic stage rewards investors who take risk

and buy stocks with strong earnings and sales.

One point I want to make is the news in the early stages of a bull market (say in 2009) is often horrible doom and gloom. But bad news is actually good news and the stock market rallies. Now we are entering a period of optimistic news. So when economic numbers come out and show strong job growth or home sales are up, we will see the market move higher. In this stage I would expect to see stocks release a strong quarter of earnings or sales.

Recently we're seeing the global markets firing on all cylinders and economic news will continue to turn positive, while jobs and the housing market improve. Enjoy this period of growth. This is such an important stage. If you have laggards that aren't participating, they need to be sold to focus your assets in stocks and funds hitting new highs and leading the market.

– Don Freeman

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Drug store to the world

THE recent arrest of a pharmacy owner in Chalong Police District for the illegal sale of prescription drugs is just the tip of an iceberg that needs to be urgently addressed by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and law enforcement agencies in Phuket.

The year 2012 was the first ever that death by overdose of prescription drugs surpassed the death toll by illegal narcotics in the United States, addiction specialist Dr Drew Pinsky said in a recent episode of the acclaimed Adam Carolla podcast.

Sadly, the situation in Thailand – and Phuket in particular – is probably worse, even if few MoPH officials would be willing to admit it. Along with its reputation for sea, sun, sand and nightlife, our island has also developed a reputation internationally as a free and easy source of a mind-bending array of pharmaceutical products, many of which would be difficult or impossible to obtain in most western countries without a doctor's prescription.

Let there be no mistake: we are all blessed to live in an age in which advances in medical science allow us to live longer, happier and more healthy lives than our ancestors could ever have imagined. The downside to this is the needlessly dangerous overprescription and undisciplined distribution of pharmaceutical drugs by doctors and pharmacy staff for financial reasons. In addition to a body, prescription drugs are now often found in hotel room crimes scenes.

While the exact causes of many of these individuals' deaths are not publicly confirmed, the surrounding circumstances are trending: lifeless remains found in a room along with empty alcohol bottles and an unspecified quantity of what is usually described only as "prescription medication".

What those drugs are usually remains a topic of conjecture, but there are plenty of possible candidates: from strong synthetic opioid painkillers like Tramadol to psychoactive drugs like Alprazolam, which when taken with alcohol can become a lethal cocktail. Another prescription drug which is commonly found at such scenes is Viagra, which despite being a prescription drug is readily available over the counter in many parts of the island.

The illegal, over-the-counter sale of these and other potentially dangerous medications by many unscrupulous pharmacy owners on the island should be the primary enforcement focus of local MoPH officials – but it isn't.

The *Phuket Gazette* recognizes the outstanding work and dedication of MoPH staff in Phuket, but they need to do more to combat the island's growing reputation as a pharmaceutical candy store to the world.



Satisfaction with status quo revealed

Re: Gazette online, Public sector Anti-Corruption Commission packs in Phuket land title investigations, February 10

I understand now why [it seems] Thai people do not try to change the status quo.

Many times I discuss such issues with my wife and she has no interest. I understand this is not due to lethargy, but rather to the fact that the organized corruption which runs through the government and police here 'cannot be changed' and that all Thais know that.

It is a powerful money-driven machine which works, but which sadly deprives honest Thais of an opportunity to make much headway in the world.

*Feeling sad
Gazette forum*

Competition makes sense economically

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Deputy Honorary Consul: Russian tourists cause most problems, not expats, February 10

I agree with the Consul. I'm not Russian and not a local taxi driver, but I think the situation is ridiculous.

Competition is good for the tourists and the economy. No one is helped with the cartel style of business used by [some] locals.

I do understand that it is hard to see your business losing from strong foreign competition, but in order to keep their businesses going, locals need to improve and be competitive.

*Tinkerbelle
Gazette forum*

Don't blame the Russians for Pattaya

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Deputy Honorary Consul: Russian tourists cause most problems, not

Letters to the Editor

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

expats, February 10

Very amusing to hear from others that Pattaya was ruined when the Russians came... no, that damage was done when the US started doing rest and recovery there many, many years ago.

Phuket is, like many other destinations, on a path of self-destruction because it is betting on mass tourism instead of quality tourists. You can't have both and it is too late to change that path now.

We may even see the increased pollution bring the island to its knees.

*Sailor
Gazette forum*

Online appointments make immigration visits super easy

I had to renew my yearly visa last Friday. I used the 'Queue Online' appointment service that is on the Phuket Immigration website. I made my appointment for 8:45 am and was out of the immigration office by 9:30 am.

As long as all of your paperwork is okay, it is a fast and effective way to avoid the hassle of renewing your visa.

Thank you Phuket Immigration.

*David
Kathu*

Flood gates are open

Re: Gazette online, Public sector Anti-Corruption Commission packs in Phuket land title investigations, February 10

Forget the past land title enquiries – they were never going anywhere anyway after Col Dusadee was transferred.

The real issue now is that this decision opens the flood gates to yet more encroachment and destruction of what little is left of Phuket's natural environment.

*Agogohome
Gazette forum*

Coal not so bad anymore

Re: Gazette online, Krabi villagers protest proposed coal plant over health concerns, February 12

The Krabi villagers aren't taking into account that times have changed.

Coal-fired power stations today are nothing like those of the 60s – there's far less pollution from the modern plants.

Still, I agree with them that alternate energy sources should be explored.

*Realist
Gazette forum*

Not only Koh Racha

Re: Gazette online, Rawai Municipality takes charge of one of many environmental issues plaguing Racha, February 9

I'm thinking that education is key – teaching what happens when wastewater goes out to sea, and environmentally friendly ways to deal with trash.

The government also needs to help with resources in the case of smaller businesses and organization, so that treatment facilities can be shared when appropriate.

Racha Island is a beautiful place and I hope it can remain so. But every place on our earth, no matter how homely, deserves to be well taken care of.

*Nature Lover
Thalang*

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Significance rests in meaning, not action

THE way we celebrate Chinese New Year has changed a lot in Phuket, for safety reasons and because older generations have passed away and the new ones don't see the importance of traditions.

Change is understandable – society changes with time and people adapt their beliefs and culture to the times. We don't need to worry that the changes will ruin the old culture. What would ruin it is people not understanding the real meaning of celebrations and adapting them in the wrong way.

One practice that has changed in Phuket is leaving house doors open during the Chinese New Year. People used to do this because they thought it allowed the spirits of their ancestors to come into the house to take offerings.

Nowadays, people cannot leave their doors open a long time for safety reasons. So they adapted by setting up tables in front of their houses and opening the doors only when they are praying.

This is an understandable and reasonable change.

Another disappearing tradition connected to open doors is the "respect angel" tradition. It is held at midnight on the 8th night of the Chinese New Year. People set up tables with food, sweets and fruit in front of their houses and leave the house door open for a few hours to welcome the spirits of the gods. Again, safety concerns mean fewer and fewer people are doing this.

Phuket City Municipality is trying to promote the "respect angel" tradition by providing a place – Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town – where people can celebrate together. They solve the safety



Teeravut Sritularak, 65, was born and raised in Phuket. He is the president of Jui Tui Shrine and on the management team of Pud Jor and Kiew Tian Shrines.

Here he talks about changes in the way Chinese New Year is celebrated in Phuket. Change is natural, he says, the important thing is understanding the traditions' true meanings and celebrating them in a smart way.

problem this way and help preserve the tradition.

Actually, I would be happy to see each house doing it again like in the past, it looks beautiful and amazing, but I understand that it is difficult. Times have changed.

I am just happy that the old festivals such as Chinese New Year and the Vegetarian Festival still exist. Celebrating them differently is better than completely losing them.

One thing that hasn't changed is the use of firecrackers.

From the tourism, safety and health point of view, not allowing firecrackers would be better. I have heard that a lot of tourists have been injured by firecrackers. Others were scared and did not want to join in ceremonies. Also the smoke from the firecrackers is not good for health.

On the other hand, firecrack-

ers are an important part of Chinese celebrations. If there were no firecrackers, people might feel like the celebration wasn't complete. For example, they believe the lighting of firecrackers during the Chinese New Year brings their lives prosperity and good luck.

In my opinion, meeting halfway is best – preserve the old ways, but keep in mind the new realities.

Now Phuket is a famous tourist destination. Let's recognize that by not using too many firecrackers; using only the legal kind; and lighting them only at appropriate times and places.

When the Chinese celebrations are coming up, the governor calls me in for a meeting and I always ask him to warn people about the use of firecrackers during the celebration. I do not want to see a beautiful tradition ruined by a few careless people.



Firecrackers, a tradition that should last. Photo: Ed-meisesr



It takes less than 365 days to get to a New Year in Thailand. Photo: Gazette file

A good thing can't be bad for tourism

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

I HAD just gotten my 2013 New Year's resolutions sorted when suddenly I was caught off guard by yet another New Year, the rush of red on February 10 welcoming in the Year of the Water Snake.

What is so striking about the number of new years Thais celebrate in a 365-day period is that they are just a subset of the celebrations splashed across the calendar, providing locals and tourists alike almost monthly reasons to gather for fireworks, festivities and fun.

This abundance of celebrations is one of the many attractions pushed by Thai tourism businesses, making the theme of a recent tourism conference – "Is Thai culture good or bad for the development of Thailand's tourism industry?" – a moot point.

Certainly there are aspects of Thai culture that have negative effects on the tourism industry, most notably corruption. However, the vast majority of unpleasant experiences visitors take away from Phuket are simply random interactions with

"bad apples".

And though corruption has been institutionalized for ages and bad apples are impossible to completely shake from the tree, to doubt the value of the kaleidoscope of celebrations for visitors would be a mistake. They are often the highlight of their visit.

Phuket doesn't have a monopoly on beautiful beaches, and reasonably priced happy hours can be found everywhere. What makes Thailand special – its culture – is what drives foreigners' imaginations and eventually helps lighten their wallets.

Though I've yet to lose a single pound in this new year, I've been happy to continue my support of the deep fried food stall vendors that gather at all of Thailand's wonderful cultural festivals – and I'd have it no other way.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

Do Russians have special privileges in Thailand?

I just heard that Russian citizens don't need visas to come to Thailand anymore. And that they can buy land and houses in their names as well, without any restrictions.

Are these things true?

Phuket Immigration chief Col Napat Nusen replies:

Yes, Russians can enter Thailand without a visa. We have a reciprocal arrangement, so Thais can visit Russia without a visa too.

However, the length of stay is 30 days. If Russians want to stay longer, they need to apply for a visa.

This is not a new law, it has been in effect for more than five years.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Phuket Land Office chief Somyot Laoshue replies:

No, Russians cannot buy land in their own names. Foreigners have never been allowed to own land in Thailand.

Foreigners can own houses, but not property. The land the foreigner's house is built on must be owned by a Thai.

The rules for condos are slightly different – foreigners can own up to 49 per cent of the condos in a building.

The elusive ping pong tables of Phuket

Could you tell me where I can buy a ping pong table in Phuket?

Villa Amanzi
Kamala

Pattiyut Sripanjan, Sales representative at the Supersports shop, Robinson Department Store, Phuket Town

You can buy a ping pong table at Supersports. They cost 4,250 baht and come with two paddles.

You can find Supersports in Robinson in Phuket Town, Central Festival, Jungceylon and HomeWorks Phuket. All four Supersports branches carry these tables.

A Sales representative at Sports World at Homepro on Chao Fa West Road

Yes, we have ping pong tables. They cost 4,250 baht and come



Sometimes you just have to know where to look. Photo: JMR_Photography

with paddles, a net and a ball.

If you have any further questions, feel free to call us on 076 604-491.

Siam Tantaves, an owner of Phuket Grand Sport, 4/6 Satun Rd, Phuket Town

We can order a ping pong table for you. They come in a variety

of prices ranging from 6,300 baht to 37,000 baht. We also have a child-sized table with shorter legs for 4,000 baht.

We order our ping pong tables from Bangkok. If they are in stock, they can be sent to Phuket in 2 to 3 days.

Feel free to call us on 088 765-2495

YOUR Phuket

BOATHOUSE ON KATA BEACH HAS 24th YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Boathouse GM Marie-Laure Fleury (above) and Anchayaporn 'Mandy' Thongsom, Boathouse director of sales with Peter Smith, IMAGE asia's director of sales and marketing (below) were at the event. Photos: Marc Mulloy



CHINESE IN LOVE @ CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET

On 9th-10th February 2013, Central Festival Phuket held an event entitled 'Chinese in Love', a joint celebration of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.



SANSIRI LAUNCHES "THE BASE HEIGHT- PHUKET" IN PHUKET MARKET IN Q1 2013

Sansiri, confident in Phuket's condominium market is launching a new THE BASE-branded condominium 'THE BASE Height-Phuket' and invited media to the launch at Siam Indigo in Phuket town.



Photos: Marc Mulloy

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

February 16 - 22, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

PROPERTY of the week



Villa for rent

See page 23

JOB of the week



See page 27

BOAT of the week

SPEED BOAT FOR SALE



See page 31

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week



See page 25

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

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Properties For Sale

BALI STYLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



Rawai, one-storey house, 2 bedrooms en-suite bathroom, nice, private swimming pool with jacuzzi. Sale: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 080-327 4592. Email: fliesen-sv@arcor.de

3.5 MB LAND & HOUSE

For sale. 3 bedrooms, garden space for pool garden, Chalong area, 240sqm land size. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

KAMALA FOR SALE

Zen space 49sqm. Brand-new. Freehold. Please call 080-692 6114 or send email to orsorealestate@hotmail.com

HOUSE PATONG HILLSIDE

3-bedroom and 3-bathroom house, 3 terraces, on the hill, nice look over Patong and sea, plus 3 small separated apartments. Good for rental. 9.6 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



Beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

LUXURY PANORAMA SEA & ISLAND VIEW



For sale. 3-storey villa, 1 rai, Yamu Hills, 560sqm, living area, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, infinity pool. Sale: 34.7 million baht. Tel: 089-582 8401. Email: pbbbronz@gmail.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENJOY?



Only 9.8 million baht from German private vendor. Tel: 089-868 6842. Picture choices and further information please see www.flickr.com/photos/thai stylevilla

KATA BEACH HOUSE

Walk to beach, 4 bedrooms, must sell fast and cheap. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

FOR SALE PATONG TOWER

Freehold condos, good rate, sea and mountain views. Tel: 080-692 6114. Email: orsoreal estate@hotmail.com

HOTEL FOR SALE PATONG BEACH

1km from the beach, sea view, 24 rooms and apartment. Chanote. 49 million baht. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

1/2 RAI IN RAWAI

Soi Saliga, dead end of the road, 100m to the beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880. Email: rawai.steen@gmail.com

PATONG SHOPHOUSE BANGLA

Huge shophouse 300sqm with 6m retail frontage in Soi Bangla Square. Sale: 28 million baht or rent. Entertainment Zoning. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

BEST UNIT FOR ONLY 8.9 MB

200sqm, waterfront, jacuzzi, 2 beds, 2.5 baths, nice western kitchen. Tel: 081-968 9046 (English & Thai), 082-798 3625 (English & Thai). Email: pen@mindproperties.net

3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

For sale or long lease. 2 lots on island beachfront (bungalow/housing-estate) and 1 big mainland mountain-property all in very quiet, secure, well maintained locations, near Krabi. Must see. For further details, please see our website at sackenheim.net

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. For more information please call: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

KRABI, AO NANG

3 plots of land, each 420sqm, each 850,000 baht. House plan with building permit. 2 bedrooms, pool. Email: mr.axelmay@gmail.com

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near BIS 1,020sqm, ready to build. 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

For sale: two freehold Apartments 85sqm. Unit, 151sqm. Unit Swiss Quality in Tropical Surroundings The Phuket Golf Residences Kathu



- Quiet area, 24-hour security guard, pool, covered car park.
- Long-term rental possible.

Mobile: Alain 091-040-8869 (English, German, Thai).
Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th
www.phuket-golfresidences.ch

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

LOCH PALM LUXURY POOL VILLA

Near BIS, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ready to move in. 8.8 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

STUDIO APARTMENT FOR SALE

Very nice studio apartment for sale in Na Nai Road, Patong, 50sqm, nice view, 3.6 million baht. For more info, please call 081-415 7774, 086-940 5187.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

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- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor Insurance

Contact: Paew, Piya or Tux
Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.

-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

Live in Cherg Talay?

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or (081-3977307)

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....because they're real.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. Land size is 53sqw. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

Quick sale, negotiable price. 2 rai of land on Mai Khao Beach, Chanote title. Exquisite location with breathtaking sunset right on the beach. Tel: 086-682 0288. Email: atijttanonta@yahoo.com

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

**See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net**

Properties For Rent

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG



For rent. Long or short-term rent. Balcony with seaview, kitchen, bathroom, pool, gym, security, underground parking. Tel: 085-788 7352.

APARTMENT PATONG

Nicely furnished and available for long-term rent. Located at Phuket Palace & Patong Tower. Tel: 081-892 1621.

LONG-TERM BEACH CONDO

Nai Ham, 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden. 50,000 baht per month. Email: phbouvier14@yahoo.fr

CONDO, 3 MINS WALK TO BEACH

Great value apartments, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace, kitchen, free WiFi, pool. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

RENTAL HOUSE AT KOH KAEW



Rent or sale. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 4 aircons, fully furnished, garden, 5 minutes to British International School. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-693 5424.

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

GREAT APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Bright and modern 3 bedrooms, 100sqm, fully furnished with on site facilities, quiet, convenient and short walk to beach. 32,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-780 4568 (English & Thai). Email: taareel@gmail.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 15,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu, big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

2 & 3 BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Big pool, gym, parking, maid, wifi, security. From 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phv condo@aol.com

PATONG STUDIO 50SQM

For rent. 14th floor, seaview, pool, garden, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, parking, security, fully renovated. Tel: 081-086 3586.

HOUSE TO LET

Chaun Chuen Lagoon, near British International School. 3-4 bedrooms, 4 lounges, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, parking, park area. Tel: 076-239435.

4-BED POOL VILLA CHALONG



4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, private pool villa in Chalong for rent. All bedrooms ensuite, fully furnished with TV and entertainment systems in every room. Inclusive of weekly maid service. Private enclosed area with automatic front entrance. Available March 1 - long term rentals offered. Tel: 076-384722, 081-397 6921 (English), 081-956 1433 (Thai). Email: terryleetuck@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE, NAI HARN



Common pool, 2 bedrooms with furniture, modern kitchen. For rent from 15 February - 15 December 2013. Price for long term, please ask owner. Tel: 086-277 8166, 083-388 8036. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket qualityhouse.com

CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT

30sqm, 5th floor, kitchenette, parking, fitness room, 8,500 baht a month. Tel: 086-332 2638. Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Pool, gym, 5 minutes from Bangla Road, 6-8 months on lease: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-026 3254.

CHEAP KAMALA RENT

1 bedroom, 1 kitchen, fully furnished, free internet and cable. 7,000 baht per month. Long-term rent: 6 months - 1 year. Tel: 081-826 7287.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sqm, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com



VILLA FOR RENT

Amazing 4 bedroom fully furnished private contemporary Thai villa

Set around a sparkling inground pool and entertainment area it comprises 4 double bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and a maid's room. 3 of the bedrooms come with their own bathroom.

Master bedroom sits in its own wing and has a large walk-in wardrobe and bathroom with spa bath.

Situated in a quiet area of Chalong Beach but still only 15 minutes from Central Festival, Phuket Town and 15 minutes to the Head Start school.

Surrounded by a 2-metre clad concrete wall with remote control timber gate to the front double carport makes this a fully private, secure and ideal family home.

Fully equipped separate Western and Thai kitchens. Split system air conditioning throughout. The pool area has its own outdoor shower. Landscaped front courtyard garden with fish pond.

Large living and dining areas with striking raked timber ceilings opening out onto the central pool and outdoor living area making it a great home for entertaining friends or just relaxing with the family.

Available for long term rental at only 65,000 THB per month this represents amazing value.

To find out more please contact 089-729 6244



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, in phuket town, fully furnished, quiet area. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: phuket2510@hotmail.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms at Kalim Beach, Patong. Also 1 bedroom at Central Phuket Town, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

GOLF VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo for rent, Chalong, long term: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800.

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Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- Ability to communicate clearly in English
- Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- Photography skills
- Able to manage own time effectively
- Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Um@PhuketGazette.net

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A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext.303 Fax: 076-615240

COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS

Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live-in and live-out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

Swedish/Finnish speaking tour guide wanted for cruise boat. Tel: 087-897 1761. Email: lotta@lamoet.com

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedge concepts.com

NEGOTIATOR

We are looking for well-qualified and motivated individuals to join our dynamic Residential Sales team in Phuket.

The ideal candidate will be:

- Thai Female Thai nationality.
- A Bachelor's degree holder.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

- Service oriented, with good communication skills and able to work with demanding international clients.

- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office Access, email and the Internet).
- Fast-learning, enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated.

Candidates must have their own transportation and be willing to work in the Patong area.

We offer great opportunities for candidates, including new graduates, who are looking to grow with the Company and develop their skills in sales.

Qualified applicants please send your resume to phuket_hr@cbre.co.th

ARTICLE WRITER

Bayshore Projects is looking for article writer on freelance basis. Experience and well-formulating writing skills in perfect English required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshore projects.com

ESTATE / RENTAL MANAGER

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residence in Krabi. The manager is responsible for managing all teams for maintenance, housekeeping, office, rental and security. Operate all property in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel and/or property management experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence, and to be able to work both in Krabi and Phuket. Tel: 081-968 3140 (English), 081-797 3401 (English & Thai). Please send CVs to: manager@engchuan.com, www.engchuan.com, www.krabisunset.com and www.krabihideaway.com

HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have an English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person, for our call center in Phuket, to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Tel: 089-873 9123.

ASSISTANT NEEDED

Rus Thai Business Group Company Limited requires Thai female, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills. Tel: 085-690 6052. Email: office@rt-pro.ru

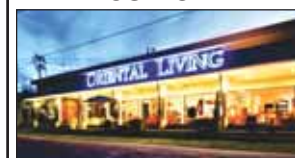
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Or civil engineer with experience. Any nationality. Established company. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa.rtn@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING AND PR

2 years experience in sales and marketing in hospitality or real estate. Tel: 076-318400. Email: ratthanon@bangtao tropicalresidence.com

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR



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

ARCHITECT

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C) (number sign).NET Requirements:

1. Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS with past working experience.
2. Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, etc.
3. Ability to code in Java or C(numbersign).NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(numbersign).NET
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken english is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience level.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusiness phuket@gmail.com

Live in Town?

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: **076-325586**

RAWAI

- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: **076-388144**

KARON

- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: **076-396911**

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

MARKETING / RESERVATION STAFF

Good written and spoken English, customer service, teamwork, organization, e-mail and Microsoft Office program. Tel: 076-381703. Email: oil@elephant-hills.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER

New restaurant, Surin Beach, needs front of house manager. Must be fluent in English, have experience in managing large restaurant, will be responsible for management of bar and wait staff, including high-level training, recruitment. Good salary plus generous incentives. Tel: 076-325 755.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Experience as account manager for over 5 years - native Thai, and with excellent command of English - experience dealing with foreigners would be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

MUSICIANS WANTED

Singer, guitarist would like to meet musicians who are interested in playing at Irish Bars. Contact Andy. Tel: 084-840 9258.

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Company looking for a sales & marketing manager (food & snacks). Thai female 25-35 years old. Sales and marketing experience. Good English. We offer good salary and benefits. Tel: 080-362 6678.



POSITION: WEDDING AND EVENTS COORDINATOR
LOCATION: KOH KAEW, PHUKET
SALARY: FROM 20,000 THB - 30,000 THB PLUS COMMISSIONS, BASED ON EXPERIENCE.
CONTACT: ANDREA CHAPPELL - ANDREA@MARRYMETHAILAND.COM

RESPONSIBILITIES

- MANAGE CLIENT CONTACT FOR NEW ENQUIRIES, AMENDMENTS AND FINAL DETAILS
- GENERAL ADMIN DUTIES AND KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH CLIENT SPREADSHEETS
- DEVELOP FUTURE AND REPEAT BUSINESS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROFITABILITY OF THE COMPANY.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A THAI NATIONAL WITH GREAT ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS AND PERSONALITY TO SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR THE WEDDING AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE. THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL BE ORGANISED, AN EXCELLENT COMMUNICATOR, HAVE EXCEPTIONAL ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND THE PASSION TO GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS. PROFICIENCY IN MICROSOFT OFFICE, WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT AND ADOBE ACROBAT AND PHOTOSHOP ARE A MUST.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE ROLE OF WEDDING & EVENTS COORDINATOR APPLY NOW BY FORWARDING YOUR CURRENT CV TO ANDREA@MARRYMETHAILAND.COM TOGETHER WITH A COVERING LETTER EXPLAINING WHY YOU ARE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB.

WAITRESS OR WAITER

Waitress or waiter wanted for a holiday villa. Must speak English and have experience. Staff can live in or live out. Tel: 081-693 1621 (Thai), 084-689 4658 (Thai). Email: malinlson@hotmail.com

SPA THERAPIST REQUIRED

5th Element Day SPA in Bangalore, India, requires SPA Therapist. Good salary, accommodation. Tel: +91-080-412-68111, +91-994-530 1267 (English), +91-974-019 7691 (Thai). Email: mailpkj@yahoo.com

SMILEY KIDZ KINDERGARTEN

We have the following positions available:

- 1) Teacher's assistant
- 2) Cleaning lady/cook
- 3) Driver/handy man

Basic English skills will be a plus. Thai nationals only. Tel: 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoiphuket@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED - TIGER MUAY THAI

- Office Admin, Receptionist, Gear Attendant:

Good written and spoken English Excel, Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary range is depending on experience.

- Receptionist 12,000-20,000 baht. Office admin 15,000-22,000 baht. Gear attendant 12,000-16,000 baht. Please send your resume to will@tigermuaythai.com
- Restaurant shift supervisor 14,000-18,000 baht+benefit. Send your resume to: cheffy@tigermuaythai.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- Fluent in English
- Able to work to strict deadlines
- A team player
- Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

URGENTLY NEED SHOP MANAGER

Boutique shop in Surin Beach urgently needs Shop Manager: female, fluently speak English. Please send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

LOOKING FOR STAFF MASSAGE SALON

We are looking for staff to work in new massage salon in Patong. Tel: 076-290320, 076-290321.

CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST

Female for Villa Resort in Rawai. Part time, full time. Computer skills are essential. Tel: 089-289 1502. Email: jittraming@gmail.com

COFFEE SHOP MANAGER

Brand new Italian coffee shop at Banana Walk Patong requires a Thai female manager. Must have coffee shop management experience and be a highly skilled barista in preparing quality coffees and cocktails. Good salary and benefits. Tel: 089-646 8563 (Thai). Email: dylan.sarle@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST / SALES

LED Light company based in Chalong, looking for Thai girl to attend to our Thai and foreign customers. English, Office and basic PC use is important. Salary based on skills + good commissions on sales. Tel: 081-139 4774. Email: boost@aboranet.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Aroi-Corner Restaurant in Rawai is looking for staff. Waitress and bartender with experience. Working hours: 3pm-11:30pm, one day off, good salary. Contact 084-442 8330. Khun Peter. Email: hp.schranz56@gmx.ch

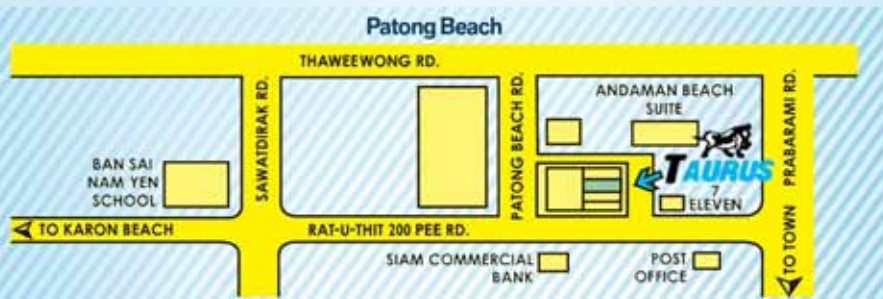
Employment Wanted

EXECUTIVE AR / SECRETARY



Secure Comm Limited is looking for a Phuket based, preferably Thai native with an excellent command of spoken and written English. (Foreigners on long-term visas may also apply) Background in AR/Accounting and Book-keeping is a must. Experienced in data entry, computer literate, Blackberry savvy, proficient with Excel. Experienced as a secretary or executive assistant with strong organizational/detail oriented/administrative skills. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Tel: 090-916 3460. Email: securecomm@yahoo.com

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/

Audio / Video Equipment

SPEAKERS JBL PROFESSIONAL

New, USA, 500w, stand and bag. For more information please call 086-815 9103.

HANDYCAM SONY HDR PJ760VE

6 months old. Carl Zeiss lens + tripod with remote control. VCT-50AV + wide-band circular filter (polarized 52mm) + Sony bag. 30,000 baht. For more information please call Rainier. Tel: 084-851 1961.

VCR PLAYER / TAPE WANTED

Looking to purchase VCR player and tape in new or old as long as it is working. Please contact Anthony Granata. Tel: 081-719 7143.

Education

PRIVATE TUITION AVAILABLE

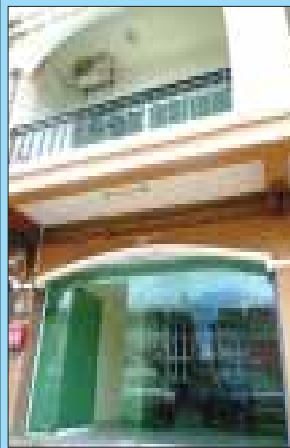
By qualified female teacher. All levels and ages. B.Ed. BA. TEFL. Tel: 087-890 8313. Email: karen_ignatowicz@hotmail.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

HOME OFFICE FOR SALE / RENT

Perfect location in commercial area at The Royal Place, Tesco Lotus, bypass road. 3 floors for living home and business office, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Ground floor install with glass frontage, granite floor and kitchen area. Sale or long-term rental 35,000 baht per month. Call now. Tel: 084-293 7923 (English & Thai), 081-854 0061 (English). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Patong, Mae Ubon Market, 50m from new opening Makro. Sale: only 850,000 baht (350,000 baht furniture and 300,000 baht key money included). Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Contract for 2 years. Contact Gabriel. Tel: 082-059 5143.

Business Opportunities

RESTAURANT AND BAR

Seating 20 people with 2 flat screens (sat & cable), a new sound system, new karaoke box, new fridge and freezer, an upright cooler and tank, new double gas hob, fat catchment tank, new fire extinguishers, parking, bar, area for beer storage, etc. Good location. 40,000 baht monthly, no key money. 40,000 baht returnable on completion of lease. Moving to Philippines, hence low price of just 450,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 083-592 6247 (English), 083-690 7014 (English). Email: micknppr@hotmail.com

BUILDING + BUSINESS

Land commercial building business for sale. 4 storeys, just 60m from the shore. Guesthouse: 6 luxury rooms + restaurant with large steady client that is ever increasing. The cheapest price due to owner who is leaving to USA. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250. Email: alex.kolinz@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.guesthousepatong.net

GOOD COMMERCIAL

Space for sale at Bang-Tao Beach. On main road. 156sqm, currently set up as a restaurant and bar. All equipment and furniture included. Sale: 1,800,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month for 10 years contract. Tel: 081-733 9498, 080-700 3775.

KRABI DIVE SHOP

3 work permits, registered limited company, 25 school sets, retail stock & fixtures, 600,000 baht. Email: krabi.dive4sale@gmail.com

RUNNING RESTAURANT

For sale. Kata, Tai Na Road. For more information please call 090-176 7364.

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

At Sapam, Phuket. Sizes: 130 - 210sqm, 7,000 - 18,000 baht per month, for storing yachts or goods. Tel: 086-689 3289.

VIP LOUNGE BAR PARTNERSHIP

Patong Beach, Bangla area. Working partner / investor for Ultra VIP Lounge Bar. Must be experienced business person with strong ethics willing to manage cashflow and female staff. Small investment for big returns. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodi.orster@gmail.com

PARTNER WANTED

For a new discotheque in Patong, Phuket, Soi Bangla. Best location. Great profit. Opening very soon. Tel: 081-895 7597, 081-892 8526.

HOT DEAL IN PATONG

In the heart of Patong Beach. 28 rooms, big restaurant+big bar+3 shops for sale or lease, and up to 2018. 8 million baht. Tel: 084-306 2440 (English), 086-943 4447 (English). Email: hollywoodbeach@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.hollywoodplace.com

MANAGER / CO-OWNER

Looking for a buy-in manager to Elvis Rock & Roll Bar in Kamala. A unique concept bar with high potential. 33% or 100% is available. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped European restaurant for sale, in central Patong. Only 30m off the beach road. 90 seats, 3 rooms. Tel: 084-626 4528 (English), 084-842 3400 (English). Email: drazen.johanson@gmail.com

HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished. Price: 38 million baht negotiable. Contact Stefano: 086-279 8175 (English or Italian). Contact Ning: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: patrick.lambert@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE NEW TIGER

High Roller Bar. Third row from the front. Two-year contract. Books available. 4 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 085-654 8510. Email: typhoon_stjames@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE SOI BEL AIR

Busy Mushroom Bar for sale. Soi Bel Air, with all stock, TV, sound system and fridges included. Rent: 10,000 baht per month with contract paid up until July 2013. Only 650,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-725 0771 (English). Email: warrenmeca4@gmail.com

PLANT INVESTOR REQUIRED

Beverage manufacturing plant investor required for Bangkok production plant. Export and domestic. Glass, plastic and carton beverages. 5,000 units per hour capacity. Unique international network. USD200,000 required for equity position. Security over machine assets. Minimum bite USD20,000. Email: marc@humanba.com www.humanba.com Other beverage investments available. Contact Mike. Tel: 086-057 7714 (English).

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763

081-958 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA PHUKET

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

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Business Products & Services

BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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

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9,500 baht for 7 days. Tel: 084-100 6274. www.clearerclanse.com

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Experienced artist, available for quality portraits, murals, faux finishing. Contact Richard. Email: rschro_2000@yahoo.com

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We can arrange and submit all forms of tax return to the Revenue Office. Please contact Pondsee for more information. Tel: 086-595 2594 Email: mem_pondsee@yahoo.com



Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities

CALL NOW:
082-539 8252 (Thai).
081-868 7676 (English).

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Predesign through to full implementation of development by well-qualified British team. Tel: 089-866 6030. Email: landalliance8@gmail.com

NEW SUGAR WAXING

Location at Chalong. Both men & women. No pain! Tel: 082-456 6791.

INDIAN/THAI COOKING CLASS

Learn how to cook authentic tasting Indian/Thai dishes with us at Kata. Group of 2-6 people per class. Free pick-up Kata, Karon and Patong. Special offer, call us for details. Tel: 081-710 5250, 081-869 8293 (English & Thai), 081-403 3832 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-333303. Email: thaicookingkata@hotmail.com

OC&A FISHING CHARTER

Extreme sport fishing service. Tel: 084-320 2252. Email: thanikulnut@hotmail.com Please see our website at http://oceansandanglers.com

DATING NICE PEOPLE



The easy way of dating. New online dating. For further details, please see our website at www.yourhappydate.com

PHUKET LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAMS

Beginners to adults and water safe classes for nannies. Tel: 088-443 2030.

ENGLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSLATION

High-quality translation. All kinds of text. Reasonable price. Contact Julia. Tel: 084-840 7624.

Club Memberships Available

BLUE CANYON GOLF MEMBERSHIP

For sale. 900,000 baht. Transfer included. Tel: 081-271 7701.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Golf membership. 700,000 baht. Transfer included. Tel: 081-788 5480.

LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Expires on January 2024 (11 years). Price: 385,000 baht. Contact Sumalee. Tel: 087-468 5125.

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

Available at 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-277 2691. Email: davidina.sia@hotmail.com

COUNTRY CLUB GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club Golf Membership (Family). Price: 600,000 baht (excluding transfer fee of 60,000 baht) - 2013 annual maintenance fee (25,000 baht) to be proportionally split based on timing of purchase. Tel: 087-895 8160. Email: faserio@gogoltd.hk

Dive Gear

MARES BCD, FINS AND BOOTS

Hybrid represents the apex of Mares BCD product development. Thanks to features such as complete uncoupling of harness and aircell, seamless shoulder straps and special padding around the wings of the back pack. Also selling Scuba Pro boots, Mares Quatro Fins - all in excellent condition: 18,000 baht. Tel: 085-260 2576. Email: chrisgraham2@mac.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

FRIENDS

Male. 49 years old. Looking for fun friends (couple). Call for more information. Tel: 081-787 2008.

FRIENDSHIP

Thai female, aged 50, looking for a friend with whom I can share some good times. Must love dogs, aged over 55. Email: 2711pb@gmail.com

SNUFFLERS

Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glinkle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with clester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Television Sets

SATELLITE TV THAILAND

Satellite TV Thailand - We provide all sorts of Satellite TV, including HD Satellite Service. You can order online. We ship Cash on Delivery anywhere in Thailand. We also accept Paypal for International orders. Tel: 080-694 0663 (English & Thai), 089-821 3772 (English). Email: sales@thailandproperty.com, for further details, please see our website at www.satellitetelevisionthailand.com

Pets



ARE YOU THINKING OF GETTING A NEW DOG?

Maybe you would consider adopting a homeless dog? Many beautiful healthy dogs all looking for new homes. gone2thedoggies@gmail.com



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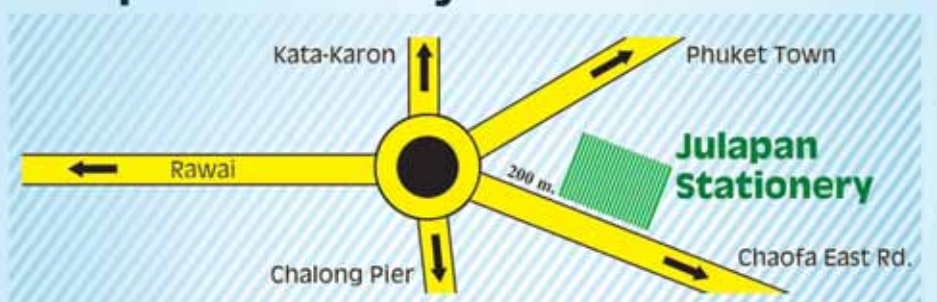
Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong:** (076-342275)

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!**

Live in Chalong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



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

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!**

Boatshedphuket.com

INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS

A screenshot of the Boatshedphuket.com website. The header features the company name and navigation links. The main content area displays a grid of boat listings, each with a thumbnail image, a title, and a brief description. The boats shown include various models like the 'Al Dhaen 380' and 'Twin 300 Mercs'.

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non-exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

Boat of the moment

A photograph of a red and white speedboat, identified as the Al Dhaen 380, resting on a black trailer. The boat has a sleek design with a white hull and red accents. It is positioned outdoors on a paved surface.

**Al Dhaen 380 (2011)
Twin 300 Mercs**

US\$179,995

www.boatshedphuket.com

**T: +66 76 239 745
M: +66 84 8426146**
boats@boatshedphuket.com

www.boatshedphuket.com

Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

YACHT FOR SALE



Beautifully maintained Wauquiez cruising yacht. 41ft. Price: US\$199,000. Can be seen in Phuket. Contact Robert. Tel: 087-632 8259 (English). Email: caminata40@hotmail.com Specs and photos at www.wauquiezforsale.blogspot.com

43 FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

2 double cabins, saloon with 4 berth, 2011 in composite. 650,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089 (English). Email: thongcat5@yahoo.de

Looking for a boat?
See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

[illegible]

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAf 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

TECNAM P-92

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

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



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

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

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

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIb Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com



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Photo: Christian Mouchet

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

A Chinese New Year celebration organized by the *OrBorJor* was held at the Sanam Chai football field.

MAKRO OPENS A NEW BRANCH AT PATONG



WELCOME THE YEAR OF SNAKE AT CENTRA ASHLEE

Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong held Chinese New Year celebrations to welcome the Year of the Snake.



At the opening are (left to right) Mr Jean Michel De Geyer, chief commercial officer; Mr Louis Lin, CEO - food service business; Mr Saksit Panurach, associate director, sales and operations - food services; Mr Apisarn Sa-Nga Sri, district chief officer of Kathu; Ms Ubol Wandee; Ms Suchada Itijarakul, CEO; Ms Alisa Wongsawat, store general manager - Patong branch, Mr Tom Hammer, chief operations officer.

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สนับสนุนโครงการโดย ธนาคาร ไทยพาณิชย์ จำกัด(มหาชน) เริ่มก่อสร้าง สิงหาคม 2555 คาดว่าแล้วเสร็จปี 2557 กำลังอยู่ในระหว่างการขอใบอนุญาตจัดสรร พร้อมโอนภายใน 7 วัน นับตั้งแต่ชำระเงินครบกำหนดตามสัญญา

*เงื่อนไขเป็นไปตามที่บริษัทฯกำหนด

We don't just make videos We produce TELEVISION



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

It takes a diverse bunch to produce a **NATIONALLY BROADCAST TV SHOW** about a place as weird as Phuket. Arctic explorers and jungle gourmets, yoga masters and rap stars, Olympians and mermaids, world-renowned chefs, daredevils, Birdman and the All-Asia Women's Surf Champion!

All on one island. All on one TV show.

Broadcast 8 times a week* on TrueVisions channels HD99 and 58, to 1.9 million subscribers. Phuket Today is also aired on local and regional television networks – even as far away as Rangoon.

So, who's behind the show? Clockwise from top left:

Nattamon Mee – Trained to be Thailand's first woman astronaut, Khun Mon gave it all up to produce Phuket Today.

Action Girl Presenter Kiranee – Used to wrestle wild crocodiles for fun, but now gets her kicks in front of the Phuket Today cameras.

Tech Heads Pu and Chai – When not attempting to crack the DaVinci Code, these two keep our super-computers from leaking oil.

The PGTV Car – Recently signed a multi-million dollar deal with Michael Bay to appear in three more Transformers movies.

Tara – The official Phuket Today dancing coach.

Isaac – The world's first TV presenter to insure his smile for \$10 million.

Kristi Matzenberger – Advertising and promotions manager. Joined Phuket Today in search of the perfect recipe for bratwurst.

Mr Kai – Mild-mannered video editor by day. Super hero by night.

Khun Aoi – PGTV's chief pilot and network development executive. Loves travel. Flies herself to work every day in a helicopter gunship.

Mr Lee – The only cameraman to successfully determine the purpose of the squiggly buttons on the side of our cameras.

The Man in the Hat – No one has ever discovered exactly what he actually does. So he must be quite good at it....

Got talent? Call Kristi: 080-690 2564

*See show times on page 35

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

February 17, 11am to 4pm: Family Day at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC)

The Ao Chalong Yacht Club is hosting a Family Day and also celebrating the opening of a new youth sail training program. Activities will include dinghy sailing, canoeing, jumping castle and sand-pit for the young ones. There will be silent auctions, raffles and of course all the great food and refreshments the ACYC is famous for. You can contact Scott Duncanson by email at: sduncanson@quantumsails.com, call: 081-958-6879 or visit acyc-phuket.com

February 21, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Tung Ka Cafe, Rang Hill

This month's lunch is at the fascinating Tung Ka Cafe at the top of Rang Hill in Phuket Town. Come along and enjoy the view. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com.

February 22; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken, mouth-watering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations contact Jaspal Singh on: 66-76-286464.

February 25: Makha Bucha Day (Public Holiday)

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date

Global Battle of the Bands

BAND REGISTRATION

TO ENTER: Each band must submit two original songs or videos of songs being performed, along with proof of citizenship from at least one Thai member of the band to Khun Siripoom via email: siripoomb@gmail.com.

DEADLINE: THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PHUKET IS FEBRUARY 28.

GBOB THAILAND SCHEDULE 2013

Press Conference at Central World - March 12, 2013

REGIONAL FINALS 4 REGIONS			COUNTRY FINAL	
Phuket	H2O Phuket Town	March 15, 2013	Bangkok	Central World June 15, 2013
Pattaya	Central Festival	March 30, 2013		
Bangkok	Central World	April 27, 2013		
Chiang Mai	Central Plaza Airport	May 11, 2013		

GBOB THAILAND PRIZES:

The GBOB Thailand national champion wins

- GBOB Bronze statuette
- 100,000 baht in cash and prizes
- 100,000 baht worth of free recording time at Karma Sound Studios over 2 days/1 night.
- National tour in Thailand
- Free transportation & accommodation to the World Final in December 2013
- The World Champion wins a band development package worth US\$100,000

the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

March 10, 8:30am to 8:30pm: Phuket Invitational Car Rally at Chalong Pier Beer Garden, Kan Eang

Finding places in Phuket that you never knew existed, navigate through some of the most beautiful parts of this paradise island – all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind! Organized by Car Rally professionals with years of experience, the course is set to take you over unusual roads and into uncharted country, whilst always ensuring that it is within the capabilities of any driver and vehicle so as to make it fun for all the family. Special lunchtime fun stop. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', (see below right for showtimes). For more information contact Mr John Devenport on: 66-87-265 8845 or visit phuketinvitational.com

March 14, 10am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club

AGM and lunch at Le Meridien Phuket Resort & Spa

The annual general meeting will take place at 10am, to be followed by lunch. All are welcome but non-members cannot vote. Come to both or join us for the lunch at 11:30am. Members: 500 baht, non-members: 650 baht. For more information email: info@piwc.com

March 15, 5:30 to 10pm: Global Battle of Bands

The Global Battle Of Bands (GBOB) is coming to Thailand! In its 9th year with 40 countries participating, it is the largest such competition in the world. Bands must perform original songs. Thailand will have regionals in Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Bangkok. National finals will be in Bangkok in June, and world finals will also be held in Bangkok in December. Valuable prizes are given to national winners and the world winner receives a package worth US\$100,000 and a world tour contract. It's an amazing opportunity for young bands.

Entrance to the show is free, so don't miss it – March 15th. Please check back for updates. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV (see below right for showtimes).

March 21-24, 11am to 7pm: Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2013

PIMEX is Asia's premier annual boating and luxury lifestyle event. The 2013 show will be the biggest and best yet, with up to 60 yachts in the water, from 10-meters to 35m, and as many as 120 plus exhibiting companies representing over 250 brands worldwide. Products on display will range from boats to marine equipment and accessories, charter, diving and sailing holidays, and a wide range of luxury properties, super cars and investment opportunities, together with other iconic branded goods. This annual event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show (see below right for showtimes).

April 13 to 15: Songkran Festival
Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival also known as the 'Water Festival'. Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated throughout the country pouring water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

May 5, Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 6, Substitution in place of Coronation Day (Public Holiday)

May 24, Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 24, Arsarnha Bucha Day

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

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V.

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Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road.

Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.

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

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

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

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

Catch the show at these times

TrueVisions HD Channel 99 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.
True Freetview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm. Channel 43 - 8 shows a week Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Being strong and balanced

THE last article I wrote was about how to achieve goals and persist with New Year's resolutions.



Health with Hayden
By Hayden Rhodes

strength and health so we can generate the energy required to live in today's hectic world?

Start small

You gotta crawl before you can walk. The transition from crawling to walking is difficult. You once stumbled, fell, sat, rolled over, crawled some more and eventually made it to walking. You didn't stop putting one foot in front of the other, even though that learning foundation was the hardest part. The hardest part took time and effort, yet was required to create a solid foundation to proceed.

Start with small steps and build your foundation slowly, step by step.

Act consistently

You can't just sit and crawl all your life – you would get left behind. You must consistently perform the actions to go from a crawl to a walk.

Only with consistent action can your health and lifestyle improve. You have to save and invest consistently to become debt free right? Invest in consistent health actions to become healthier and happier.

Get support

You don't just crawl and then walk – you grab things for support, to help you along the way. Pro athletes have support don't

Every year, without fail, the resolution at the very top of most people's list has to do with improving personal wellbeing, energy and health. This means being strong and healthy is inherently valuable to most of us. For the record, being happier and more mentally positive comes a close second on the wish list.

So with this in mind, it is highly likely that you want to be strong, healthy and happy. I mean who wouldn't?

You probably also agree that having more energy and improved vitality would be a good thing. Right?

Yet why (if it is so valuable to us) do we struggle with improving our very own bodies and minds? I've got news for you. How you live today, the daily choices you make today and the choices you will make every day, all add up. More news: being healthy encompasses being happy. A lot of people overlook this point and misunderstand that healthy people are not necessarily 'fit' people. Fitness alone is not synonymous with being truly strong and healthy. Crazy world. I know.

So, how do we go about creating more



Yoga on the beach. Photo: Grand Villas Riviera Maya



CLEAN AND JERK: A man works out during the USO fitness games. Photo: USAG-Humphrey's

they? They don't just turn up on game day after training on their own. Top executives have support too right?

Most of them wouldn't just rock up to an annual AGM and wing it. A friend, a coach, a trainer, an investment advisor, councillor etc, they will all support you and help build momentum.

Create momentum

Once you have taken one step it is easier to take the next right? It is easier to walk a little bit more once you start moving forwards. Science tells us that a body in motion remains in motion and a body at rest will remain at rest.

Humans (that means you) are made to move, and used to enjoy moving as a baby! Get moving, get back into motion and create some momentum so it is easier to keep

going. Look around at strong and happy people and ask yourself, 'what do they do?' Guess what? They move. Movement is good. You know that. Start moving, keep moving and create momentum.

Get to your spot

You know, the spot where you feel good and know you will move once you get there. Could be the health club, might be a beach, perhaps it's your bike.

Whatever, just get to your spot. That is the hardest part. Getting there. Sometimes we end up at the pub! Often the hardest part about moving more is actually getting to 'your spot'. Once there it becomes easier.

Hayden Rhodes is the Functional Diagnostic Nutritionist at RPM Health Club. Follow Hayden on Facebook/RhodesToHealth.

Helpful tips for getting over your jet lag

JET lag refers to disturbed sleep patterns, weakness and disorientation caused by travelling. It happens when your normal body clock is disrupted by traveling through several time zones.

Jet lag is worse when you move from west to east because the body finds it harder to adapt to a shorter day than a longer one.

GP Dr Dawn Harper explains: "Our body clock is primed to respond to a regular rhythm of daylight and darkness.

"It is thrown out of sync when it experiences daylight at what it considers the wrong time, and it can take several days to readjust."

Travellers who take medication according to a strict timetable (such as insulin or oral contraceptives) should seek medical advice from a health professional before their journey.

Before you travel

Top up your sleep

Make sure you're fully rested before you travel.

If you're flying overnight and you can get a bit of sleep on the flight, it will help you to stay up until night time once you



LAGGING BEHIND: Jet lag affects 70 per cent of travellers. Photo: Scott Garner

arrive at your chosen destination.

Change your sleep routine

A few days before you travel, start getting up and going to bed earlier (if you're travelling east) or later (if you're travelling west).

During the flight, try to eat

and sleep according to your destination's local time.

Have a stopover on the way

Including a stopover in your flight will make it easier to adjust to the time change, and you'll be less tired when you arrive.

Take advantage of any short airport transits to have a refreshing shower or swim in the terminal, if possible.

During your journey

Keep hydrated

Dehydration can intensify the effects of jet lag, especially after sitting in a dry airplane cabin for many hours.

Avoid alcoholic and caffeine drinks (such as coffee, tea and cola), which can disturb sleep.

Preparing for sleep

During your flight, try to create the right conditions when preparing for sleep.

Eyeshades and earplugs may help you sleep. Regular exercise during the day may also help you sleep, but avoid strenuous exercise immediately before bedtime.

Use remedies with caution

Often times airline staff will take melatonin, a hormone formed by the body at night or in darkness, to try to fight jet lag.

Sleeping medication is not recommended as it doesn't help your body to adjust naturally to

a new sleeping pattern.

At your destination

Anchor sleep

Try to get as much sleep in every 24 hours as you normally would. A minimum block of four hours' sleep during the local night – known as "anchor sleep" – is thought to be necessary to help you adapt to a new time zone. If possible, make up the total sleep time by taking naps during the day.

Natural light

The cycle of light and dark is one of the most important factors in setting the body's internal clock. Exposure to daylight at the destination will usually help you adapt to the new time zone faster.

Short trips

For stays of less than three or four days, it may be better for the traveller to remain on "home time" (that is, timing activities such as sleeping and eating to occur at the times they would have occurred at home) to minimize disruption to the normal sleep-wake cycle although this is not always practical. – nhs.uk

Mongkol Hongyok

HE IS known for establishing Baan Sea Nam, the first watercolor gallery in town, back in 2004. Now Mongkol Hongyok is expanding his original creative enterprise to include a piano lounge, a garden cafe, a cocktail bar and a fashion boutique.

The new additions have allowed Baan Sea Nam, on Thepkasattri Road, to extend backwards along its depth. A baby grand piano graces the central room where local, well-known bands perform nightly, and a polished wooden bar runs the length of the adjacent space providing popular beverages and tapas-style canapes.

Quasi-European furniture fills every nook and cranny of the intimate space. A collection of watercolor and oil paintings, all depicting Phuket land and seascapes, decorate the walls adding to its charms – a testament to the establishment's conception as an art gallery.

"I like the idea of a homey space where people can meet up after work, relax and enjoy some lovely tunes while having intimate conversations," says Mongkol. "I love to entertain people."

Indeed, during the interview it becomes apparent that entertainment has been Mongkol's lifelong passion. During his high school years he dabbled in performing arts and studied acting at Ashwin Pictures which, at the time, was the one and only Thai motion-

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

picture company. "I love anything to do with movies, TV and radio. I went for a few castings, wrote a few scripts and at one time I wanted to be a producer."

It was a dream he fulfilled for a while when, right after high school, Mongkol produced a few drama series for Phuket's first TV station, channel 11.

To add to his repertoire and further his career path, Mongkol moved to New York to study speech and theater arts at Wagner College. But after almost three years, he became disenchanted with "classical and highbrow" theater work.

"I was struggling with the English language, especially the Shakespearean parlance. I realized then that the theater was not for me."

He switched to majoring in fine arts instead and found another creative outlet in painting and photography. However, as he entered the sophomore year, Mongkol was plagued by ill health, the very reason that brought him back to Thailand for convalescence.

In 1986, having regained his health, he worked for a Bangkok-based production company producing TV and print ads.

During his eight years as an assistant director there, he helped produce, and sometimes directed, no less than 200 TV commercials. His client list included the likes of Ammarit Beer and Mitsubishi Cars, among others.

Mongkol settled down in Phuket in 2004 and founded Baan Sea Nam art gallery. Eight years later, with the recent development, Mongkol hopes to add to the Phuket night scene something a little unusual, a place that exudes "sophistication and class."

But he observes that: "Phuketians are famous among Thais as being loaded but hardly spending on themselves or on entertainment (laughing). Many new undertakings have floundered because they didn't tune into the mentality of the local people. I am working so hard to entice them to come. Judging from the feedback I received since our opening in December, there's great potential for success. A lot of people like the ambiance of Baan Sea Nam. What's more is I have all the support of my family."

Known among friends as a lover of fine things (fine wines, sports cars, paintings) Mongkol continues: "I am an incurable romantic. For me, nothing beats unwinding with soft piano music at the end of the day, a glass of wine in hand. I hope people will enjoy the new lifestyle I have to offer," says the 55-year-old art and music aficionado.



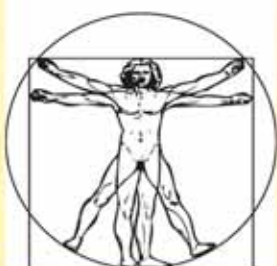
About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an international community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience, help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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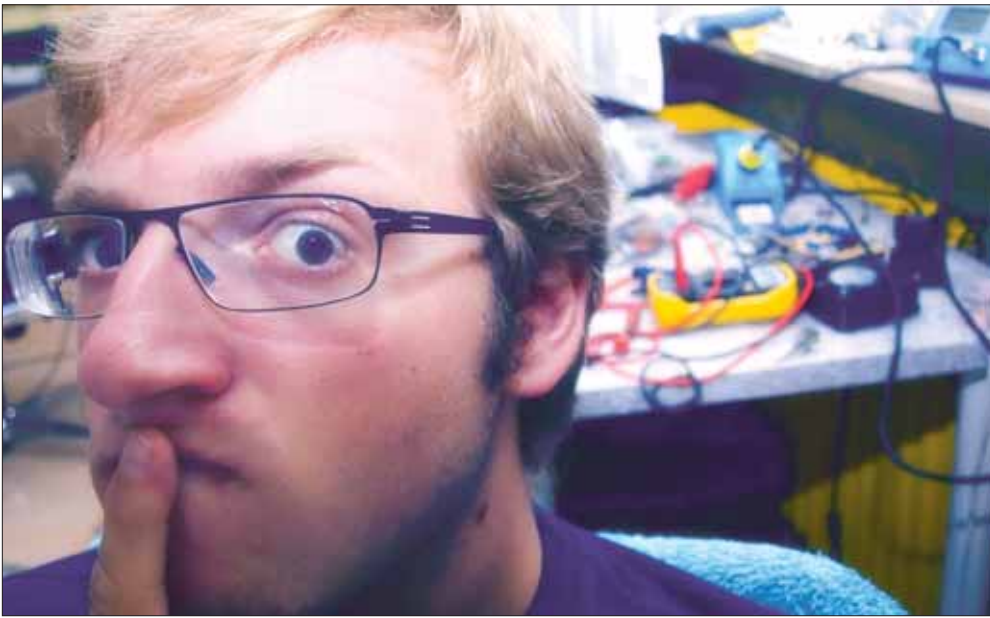
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HOOKING UP: Choosing the right landline shouldn't be a casual decision. Photo: Bastian



Having a second land line is not technically cheating, it's playing it safe. Photo: gravitat-off

Landing that special connection



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IN THE past five editions of *Live Wire*, I've been talking about the things you need to consider if you want to get a good internet connection in Phuket. Believe me, it ain't easy. I'm moving to Kathu shortly, and the kinds of problems I'm having are no doubt indicative of the kinds you'll have, the next time you need a new internet connection – or you get fed up with your current package.

Two weeks ago, I talked about getting a wireless “3G” service for phones, tablets, and even for your computer. I also talked about setting up most phones so that they hook into the 3G network, then let computers connect to the internet over the phone, using a standard WiFi connection. The process is called “tethering” and it's very simple if your phone or tablet supports it. The main problem? 3G connections have data caps – some allow you to download 4 or 5 GB of data in a month before they cut the speed way back. Some 3G packages cap out at 1 GB (roughly 1 GB = 1 hour of high definition TV or movies). While the packages are “unlimited” in the sense that you'll always be able to get data, going over the limit will have you thinking you're back in the 1990s.

Last week, I pontificated with six Laws of Land Lines: Use 3G instead of a land line if your data needs aren't very great; never get one land line, get two; it's impossible to predict if your land line is going to be fast and reliable; the price you pay for a land line may have no bearing whatsoever on the speed (or reliability) that you see; the technician won't show up when you expect; and, quite demonstrably, times are changing.

Just this past week I discovered that 3BB is starting to build out its fiber network in Phuket.

4G is coming to Bangkok (but, no, that “4G” phone you have doesn't run 4G, no matter what the salesman told you). A great line now may be tomorrow's old news – both because existing lines get slower with age, and because newer technology is always just around the corner.

This week I talk about getting – or trying to get – a land line. If you rely on the internet to work, stay in touch with family and friends, look up TV or movie schedules, do schoolwork, just keep peace with the kids, or download movies (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Lincoln*, *Silver Linings*) or TV shows (*House of Cards*, *Community*, *Breaking Bad*)

that aren't playing in Thailand, you should always get two landlines, from two completely different companies.

I tend to think of landline internet service in Thailand as falling into three major categories.

First, the ultra-premium internet services have the potential to work faster than the other services – with a price tag to match. TOT Fiber 2U is the original fiber optic service on the island. CAT also has

ultra-premium lines: the companies selling the services all tend to run lines to the same locations.

If you live in their catchment area, you have many choices. If you live in an older neighborhood, like mine, there's very little chance, unless you can convince the powers that be of the economic viability of stringing a line.

True's Fiber 2U at a listed 10 Mbps (which currently runs about 1 to 1.5 Mbps or less; see phuketinternetspeed.com) costs 1,000 baht per month (all prices are plus VAT). CAT's 20 Mbps runs 1,500 baht per month. 3BB's nominal 30 Mbps is 1,200 baht per month. True's DOCSIS 15 Mbps (I wouldn't get the slower lines) is 899 baht per month.

Of the group, my first choice would be True DOCSIS 15 Mbps. I've used DOCSIS before – two of the Sandwich Shoppes run DOCSIS lines – and they've been reasonably fast and cheap. People I know who use True Fiber 2U are vocal in their complaints. CAT and 3BB are new to me, although CAT's old Fiber line, years ago, wasn't very impressive.

Second is a group that I would call Premium ADSL. All of the major ADSL providers – TOT, True, CAT, 3BB – offer packages that are deemed to be faster than the typical garden-variety ADSL. True's nominal 16 Mbps line costs 1,399 baht per month. CAT's HiNet 16 Mbps is 1,490 baht per month. TOT's 8-10 Mbps line is 650 baht per month, and if you want a faster line, they point you to the 15 Mbps Fiber 2U package, at 1,290 baht per month. 3BB's 16 Mbps runs at 1,490 baht per month. Premium ADSL packages are available just about everywhere on the island.

These packages are in a strange middle ground: the companies are trying to squeeze more baht out of the older ADSL technology, but it isn't at all clear if they're delivering speeds that are significantly

faster than the cheap lines.

Which brings me to... the cheap ADSL lines. TOT's 6-7 Mbps line, 3BB's 10 Mbps line, CAT's 10 Mbps line, and True's 10 Mbps line all run at just under 600 baht per month. For the life of me, I haven't found one to be particularly faster or more reliable than all the others – and none of them come close to 10 Mbps for international download speeds. Typically they all run one-tenth to one-twentieth of the rated speed.

There's one little ‘gotcha’ that's worth keeping in mind when you talk with friends about their internet lines, or look at the numbers at phuketinternetspeed.com: all of the internet service providers in Phuket will automatically, and with no notification, put customers in higher, faster packages, without raising the price.

For example, I have a True 10 Mbps line – which I started three years ago – which is now comparable to the True 16 Mbps line. I have a feeling they switched that package without telling me.

Unfortunately, as far as I can tell, there's no reliable way to tell which package you're really using, without visiting the service provider and asking. Even then, I wouldn't bet that the answer you get is correct.

Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (in English) and 11am at Sandwich Shoppe Patong (in German). If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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



The love of a good cable. Photo: Ben Lucier

a fiber service, that isn't as widely known, called ON Net.

I was very surprised to discover last week that 3BB has also entered the fiber fray with a new FTTH service. (“FTTH” is geekspeak for “Fiber To The Home”), operated in conjunction with Jasmine's JAS. The flyer for 3BB FTTH says it can run at 1,000 Mbps – about 200 times faster than the fastest fiber line I've ever tested in Phuket – although it's comparable to the new fiber network built by Google in Kansas City. I suggest you take that 3BB speed claim with several truckloads of salt. The 30 Mbps rated 3BB FTTH service is currently only available in some condos in Phuket Town, but I put my name on a waiting list, to see when they expand the service to Kathu. I haven't yet seen any speed reports for FTTH.

I would also place True's DOCSIS system in the ultra-premium category. Since it's based on coax cable – just like Cable TV – it has the potential to run very quickly, but it isn't available all over the island. And that's precisely the problem with the

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Kilgora's mango metal invasion



FACE MELTING: Kilgora performs their debut album recently at the Hard Rock Cafe in Patong. Photos: Christian Mouchet



METAL MAFIA: Bassist Stephan Audiger has an intense moment.

Local expats describe what it's like to 'chase the dream' while living on the Pearl of the Andaman

By Chris Hudson

KILGORA is a local metal band that joins together the forces of three European expats: Norwegian Jon Ramslie (guitar/vocals), Frenchman Stephan Audiger (bass), and Englishman Huwy Williams (drums).

Based in Phuket, the band says their music reflects a variety of influences from "Stoner to Thrash Metal and Oriental music, all in a brutal and melodic melting pot lovingly termed 'Mango Metal'."

Scott Adams, writing on metalas***.net about the band's debut record *Welcome to the Black Void*, says: "[It] is a supremely well-played and well produced album, weaving together all the best bits that hard rock and metal has had to offer over the last quarter of a century into a coherent whole that hangs together nicely – driven by the powerful vocals of Jon-Egil Ramslie, who also provides meaty guitar work."

"Ramslie is ably supported by the lithe rhythm section that is Huwy Williams (drums) and Stephan Audiger (bass), as the three combine spectacularly on tracks like *Black Void* to provide driving, compelling shards of heaviness, shot through with enough melody to keep you coming back time and again."

The *Phuket Gazette* had the chance to catch up with the band following their recent concert at the Hard Rock Cafe in Patong. Here's what they had to say:

Phuket Gazette: What are Kilgora's major influences?

Kilgora: The best of everything metal in the last 30 years. The three of us have slightly different tastes and we're open to a wide range of musical styles. We use all sort of influences to compose *Kilgora's* material and we want to be really original: you may recognize some of our influences in our songs but not in too obvious a way.

How has the band's music changed since you first started? Our music hasn't changed. We've become a tighter band and better musicians and now have an album to show for it.

Is it tough to be a metal band in Phuket?

It's not that easy to be a metal band in Phuket. Even though our music isn't too extreme, there aren't many venues on the island where we could perform. Metal music is not as scary as it used to be some thirty years ago. Still, there's not a lot of Phuket visitors/residents attracted to this kind of music.

Does Phuket have a vibrant local music scene in your opinion?

The Phuket music scene mostly caters to tourists. There's a large amount of talented musicians with diverse origins on the island, but the majority of them try to make a living playing cover songs in venues offering live music. Therefore, the Phuket music scene shows a lack of creativity. *Kilgora* is one of the few bands here composing, recording and producing original music.

What is the craziest thing to happen at one of your shows?

As *Kilgora* has only just started gigging, we'll give you a few personal "crazies" from our drummer Huwy's past: breaking his ankle on the second show of a US tour with the band *Core* and carrying on – playing for two months untreated was pretty crazy; playing to a packed house at Brixton academy in London was crazy for sure. Some other "craziness" cannot be printed in a family newspaper (laughs). Huwy has had a pretty crazy rock n' roll lifestyle to say the least.

What are your goals for this project?

Like any band, we'd like to become big. We've been working together for two years now and were able to write and produce a debut album during this time. The music industry is not what it used to be, so we go at our pace, and hope that our steady way of working will produce some result in the near future. We have already started composing for our second album and hope to find as many gigs as possible in Thailand, Asia and the rest of the world.

Kilgora's next show will be on Sunday, February 17 at Rock City. The show starts at 9:30pm.

The band's debut album *Welcome to the Black Void* is currently available for purchase via download at reverbnation.com/kilgora. For more information, visit facebook.com/kilgora or stop by the band's newly-launched official website kilgora.com.

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Shaving your hairy dog



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

I'VE written about this before, but it's a hot topic (no pun intended) among dog owners. The key question is, "Can I shave my dogs' fur coat?". It seems logical – we look at our panting dogs and think that we couldn't cope with a fur coat all day, so clearly they can't. But we're applying human logic to a canine problem. I'll spare you the science of Newton's Law of Cooling and its relation to dog fur, but the truth is, dogs need their coats.

To start with, and this is quite important to consider on a number of levels, dogs are not humans.

You're certainly right to be concerned about your pet, particularly in those scorching hot days here in Phuket, and there are lots of things we can do to keep them cool and comfortable. However, as a general rule, shaving their fur doesn't make the list. Indeed in a good number of cases, shaving, as you'll see, can be far more damaging than you realize.

Fur: A natural sunblock

When we get hot, we sweat, it's our cooling mechanism. But dogs can't sweat to cool themselves. They do have sweat glands in their paws, but these play a tiny role in their overall thermoregulation. Panting is their main source of keeping cool, so having exposed skin doesn't bring any practical benefit, but it can bring harmful side effects.

A dog's coat acts as insulation from the sun's hot and spicy UV rays and prevents them from getting down to the skin – we use factor 50, they use fur. It also acts to prevent the skin from warming as well as possible sunburn, heatstroke, or worse, skin cancer.

If properly maintained, your dogs coat will also allow for good circulation of air. Regular grooming will keep the hair mat-free and remove the dead hair that can build up in the coat. This will create a breathable barrier that allows your dog to regulate his body temperature naturally. However, an exceptionally thick, packed or matted coat, will prevent healthy air circulation needed for cooling and will make it difficult for your pet to stay comfortable in the heat. If the coat is in good condition but you want to remove weight, you can shorten the coat using a guard comb that will leave the hair longer, retaining that protective barrier from the sun.

Double up

Certain breeds, such as German Shepherds, Labs, Golden Retrievers and numerous others, have double coats (a top coat and an undercoat) which should never be shaved. Alongside Huskies, (curiously on the rise in Phuket), they also have coats which grow to a certain length, stop and then shed out – hence the constant hovering!

While it is more pronounced at certain times of the year, it's a year round thing. This is an important function of a healthy coat and does not stop just because you shave the coat short. However, when the coat is shaved short, the hair may lack the weight to fall out naturally, making it even more important to brush and bathe regularly to encourage dead hair removal.

If this is not done, the hair follicles may become clogged and problems such as poor or no hair regrowth, color change, blocked follicles and skin irritations can result. Weekly brushing with a shedding blade or hound glove and a monthly bathing can help prevent this. You should also be aware that even with good post-



SUN WORSHIPPERS: Counter to what many believe, dogs are well protected from the sun. Photo: Tony Alter

shave care, some dogs' coats do not grow back in the same way they did prior to shaving.

Some dogs can also develop bald patches and their coat condition can decline with constant clipping, not to mention that dogs may also continue to scratch as if they still have a coat, which can irritate and even damage freshly clipped skin creating hot spots.

So rather than reaching for the clippers, reach for a brush.

Keep cool

Of course keeping our dogs cool on those hot sticky days is vitally important, but rather than adding fuel to the fire by shaving their fur, here's some other things to try: Always ensure your dog has access to plenty of fresh, clean water and lots of shade. You could also provide a shallow paddling pool for them to lie in – you'll cool your dog much quicker applying cool water to their tummies rather than their back – but make sure



LIQUID GOLD: A labrador laps up water on a hot day. Photo: Nicola Locatelli

you refresh the water frequently and don't leave it under direct sunlight. Purchase trampoline style raised beds, which allow air to flow underneath them. And of course, make sure they are brushed and groomed often to

keep their coats in tip top shape.

For more information, or to enquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on 089 588 4050, email canineworld@me.com or check the website www.tk9a.com

Hot dogs and responsibility

EVERY year, dogs suffer and die when their guardians make the mistake of leaving them in a parked car while they run an errand. Parked cars are deathtraps for dogs: On a 78-degree day, the temperature inside a parked car can soar to between 100 and 120 degrees in just minutes.

Animals can die from heatstroke in just 15 minutes. Beating the heat is extra tough for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their



Never leave dogs in hot vehicles. Photo: lindy

paw pads.

If you see a dog left alone in a hot car, have the owner paged, or call local humane authorities

or police. Have someone keep an eye on the dog. Don't leave the scene until the situation has been resolved.

Provide water to drink, or spray the dog with a garden hose or immerse him or her in a tub of cool water for up to two minutes in order to lower the body temperature gradually. You can also place the dog in front of an electric fan.

Applying cool, wet towels to the groin area, stomach or chest, can also help.

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Meet Marie G formerly known as HSL 1198

By Tom Howard

IN THE first quarter of the last century a brilliant engineer from England called Hubert Scott-Paine founded a company named Supermarine, which designed and built high performance aircraft, culminating in the legendary Spitfire of WW2 fame.

By the end of the 1920s Scott-Paine wanted a change, so he sold his shares and invested in a new venture – the British Powerboat Company – to develop his passion for high speed watercraft.

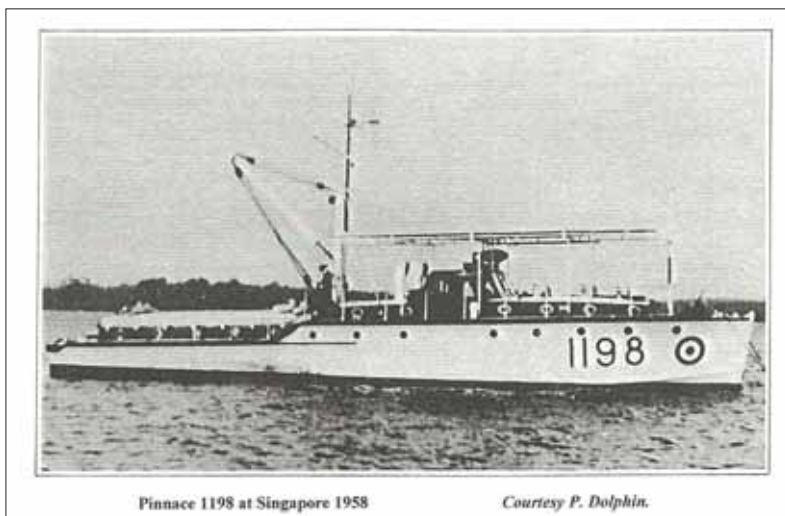
He and his company designed a number of 'milestone' craft; notably the first boat to exceed 100 miles per hour and the Bluebird series of world water speed record holders.

As an aside, he had a 'test pilot' in those early years – another speed junky called TE Lawrence – better known as 'Lawrence of Arabia' – who helped Scott-Paine until his untimely death in a high speed crash on his motorbike in 1935.

Scott-Paine designed and built a range of military vessels that were given the category of High Speed Launches (HSLs). HSLs performed numerous tasks in WW2, the most notable being MTBs (Motor Torpedo Boats), MTGs (Motor Gun Boats) and ASRLs (Air Sea Rescue Launches). This design continued development and construction at a number of shipyards around the UK and the British Empire to satisfy the military.

Information gathered from the British Military Powerboat Trust leads us to believe that the yacht in this story was 1198 – launched in Singapore in 1953 – which served until 1970 when she was decommissioned and renamed *Margaret Lee*.

She was subsequently sold to a Phuket-based offshore tin mining company owned by Mon Tri Devakul where she initially operated as a crew boat for the miners but was later transferred to Le Meridien Hotel – one of Mon Tri's many architectural and property development projects – where she



Pinnace 1198 at Singapore 1958

Courtesy P. Dolphin.

BEFORE AND AFTER: The HSL 1198 in 1958 and the Marie G in 2013 (top right).

performed as the hotel's hospitality yacht until 2011.

Sea-Phuket acquired *Margaret Lee* while she was languishing in a Phuket boat yard in need of considerable repair, fixed the hull sufficiently to float and tow her to a more convenient workplace for a 12 month total rebuild.

The yacht was 'bottomless' at the stern when acquired. Most of the frames needed replacing along with the huge timber engine bearers. In the 1970s the hull had been sheathed in Polyester and chop strand fiberglass mat which was scarcely attached to the timber hull. The engines were old with only one (of the now two – originally three)

almost working and were underpowered for the hull design. Above decks she maintained her basic original lines with the addition of an upper enclosed deck exceeding the wheelhouse roof level.

Additional unwanted guests, in the form of termites, had chosen to live in and eat the superstructure only balking at the double layer of Burmese teak that still formed the majority of the hull.

This was not the 'user friendly' layout we were seeking to achieve which was needed to carry up to

20 guests in comfort with easy access to the amenities needed to make the classic cruising experience wholesome and fun.

"Repair, replace and then improve" became the motto as 90 per cent of the frames and 25 per cent of the hull were replaced and the balance checked and fixed, as necessary. The hull was then re-sheathed in modern West System epoxy and glass fiber.

The coffin-like structure on the aft deck was removed and new decking fitted on the entire boat. A 'day' toilet and urinal and a small deck galley was created in the area.

The raised enclosed deck was removed and replaced with an open flying deck and all new timber was treated with coats of epoxy and anti-termite paint on installation.

An air-conditioned cabin with one double and two single berths was designed and built in the bow section along with a new toilet and shower. Engines, generator and aircon units were removed along with all old wiring and replaced with two new engines doubling the horse power of the originals and an ultra quiet generator.

Air conditioning was installed and the yacht was completely rewired.



The Burmese Teak hull planking.



The Margaret Lee in 2003.

The old 'rod' steering system was replaced with state-of-the-art hydraulics. A lightweight foam awning/roof was designed and installed over the (now large) open aft deck to carry the yacht's tender and a smaller awning was installed above the Fly deck with two solar panels mounted on top. A mast with a crane boom was installed as the mechanism for lifting the tender.

The resulting *Marie G* exceeded all expectations in terms of appearance, comfort and usability. With some fine tuning, she will also exceed initial performance estimates. Finally she has – with no surprises here – vastly exceeded the early budget assumptions but, as she is now a true 'Gentleman's Yacht' of the 1920s and 30s style, there is no doubt in her ability to repay the investment as a unique addition to the charter yacht fleet here in Phuket.

From the bow heading aft, her new configuration is now as follows: The fore deck has a large open area to be utilized by the sun seekers and the coach roof has a full size mattress for lounging.



Marie G launches. Photos: Sea-Phuket

The wheelhouse and engine room stand aft of the fore deck with a covered flying deck above the engine room with seating for up to 4 people.

The fully-covered aft deck has been configured for relaxing, dining and partying with sofa seating for 12 people. It also contains the galley and a toilet for the guests.

The following individuals and organizations took a keen interest in the project and should not go without mention: Terry Holtham from the WSS Small Craft Group; Phil Simons and Richard Hellyer from the British Military Powerboat Trust; Mark Horwood from Latitude 8 Asia; ATL Composites; Peter Wanner; Thawatchai Engineering; Jeroen Deknatel of Waterline Marine Surveyors and the multitude of artisans who worked on the yacht in, often, testing conditions. And finally but most significantly, Captain Bao assisted by Arkom and Sut who worked tirelessly for over a year controlling the whole process whilst, incidentally, running *Marie G's* older sister – the 100 Year Old Schooner *Seraph*.

For more information visit sea-phuket.com.



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'Up' market beach dining

WHAT'S UP? Well, for one thing it's a delightful new beach club at the southern end of Nai Thon beach.

There have been a number of beach clubs popping up around Phuket, some successful, others less so but this recently opened Up Beach Club seems to have the mix just right. For one thing they have kept the concept simple therefore not detracting from the natural beauty of the surroundings. The horseshoe-shaped beach is fringed with boulders at both ends and a steep backdrop of lush vegetation helps create the perfect secluded tropical getaway.

A long stairway leads down to the white powdery sand and 24 beach loungers are well spaced out as are several small white 'cabana' tents. The southern end of the beach is left untouched and is open

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

to the public as is the club itself. Facing west it is a perfect location to watch the sun set into the sea.

As with most beach clubs there's some background thump-music but this is kept at a reasonable decibel level and the three-phase mains electricity, means no background hum of a generator.

Managed by nearby Malaiwana, this oasis is overseen by Phuket F&B veteran Nitichai 'Yuth' Nenraksa who is obviously enjoying his new 'office'.

"I love it here especially at this time of day. Every day from 4pm to sunset we offer very special prices on drinks and the music

attracts people from the main beach over to us. Being under Malaiwana, the quality of what we offer is only the best" he says.

Given the vagaries of monsoon weather the Up Beach Club at Malaiwana is only open from November to May after which Mother Nature takes over and the beach returns to the sea.

On this balmy evening however the white sand scrunched underfoot as I took my place at one of the solid wooden tables covered with white linen. On the horizon a luxury yacht was moored and the well-heeled owners were frolicking along the beach. Paradise.

At lunch time they usually serve light snacks such as salads, sandwiches and pasta, with most guests attired in swim wear. But in the evening a healthy selection of fusion food is on offer and patrons, including residents and guests from nearby resorts, dress up a bit more.

Cooked on the spot using only the freshest ingredients the 'surf and turf' menu includes many Japanese-influenced dishes including Kobe beef and Yuth's signature Tuna tataki (390 baht).

As it is still quite early – I am here for the sunset – I decide to go lightly and order a grilled sea bass (480 baht) and of course the Tuna tataki, made from fresh yellowfin tuna which is marinated in ginger, wasabi, onion, tomato and lime juice. Both are perfect and the sea bass comes with a Thai seafood sauce and garlic butter with fresh vegetables on the side. A chilled, Chilean Sauvignon blanc washes this down nicely. Wine by the bottle starts from 1,200 baht and beer at 120 (cheaper before sunset).

Then it happens, the most glorious sunset I have seen in ages, after which tastefully arranged LED lights set the atmosphere and a spotlight facing the sea is turned on. I did not wait around to see what the evening crowd get 'up' to but I imagine there's a lot of getting down to the music. It is also a popular location for staff parties, weddings and other events.

No wonder then that Up Beach Club is so popular on the weekend. When the 24 sun loungers are all taken, beanbags are offered, as are beach toys and paddle boards. There is no lifeguard present but the 12 attentive staff keep an eye on things. There is even a toilet and rain shower available on site.

Things are definitely looking 'up' for Nai Thon beach goers.

Seats for dinner are limited to 12 for so reservations are important. Call 080-144-6635 or 076-510225 or Email: info@upbeachclub.com. Visit: www.upbeachclub.com



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www.FaceBook.com/SandwichShopee
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STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: Go down and get down at Up. Photos: Marc Mulloy

Why is English so hard to learn?

LET'S face it, English is a ridiculous language.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in a hamburger; neither apple nor pine in a pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England, nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

You cannot buy boots in *Boots*, you cannot buy virgins in *Virgin*, you cannot buy threshers in *Threshers* and the *Superdrug* chain is a great disappointment.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that bakers bake, but grocers don't groce?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth?

One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese?

One index, two indices?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

We ship by truck and send cargo by ship and have noses that run and feet that smell.

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

Here are some more examples of how difficult it is to learn English:

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.

2) The farm was used to produce produce.

3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

4) We must polish the Polish furniture.

5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.

6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

8) I did not object to the object.

9) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

10) They were too close to the door to close it.

11) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

12) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

13) I shed my clothes in the shed.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And finally, how about when you want to shut down your computer you have to hit "START"?

Your weekly pith:

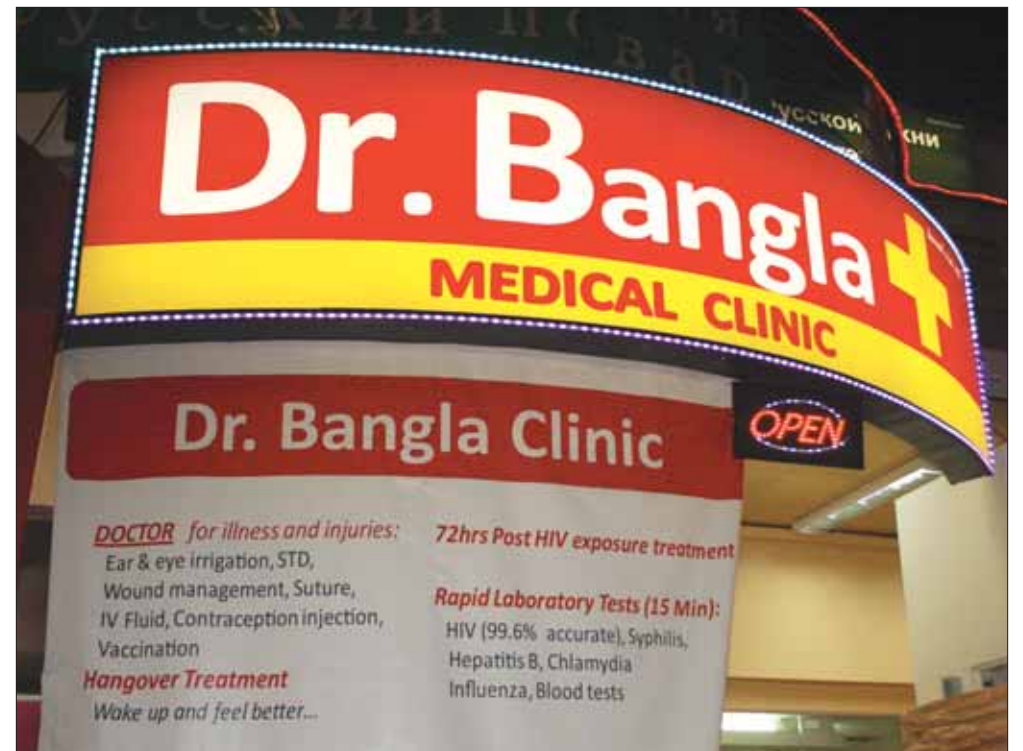
"It's not so much how busy you are, but why you are busy. The bee is praised. The mosquito is swatted." – Mary O'Connor

"Every man's memory is his private literature." – Aldous Huxley

"A good friend stabs you in the front." – Oscar Wilde

These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes' for prosperity.

More signs of the times



Doctor Bangla will see you now. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



Does a 'big funny' cost extra? Photo: The Wandering Angel

Tenders for the new Kata - Karon - Patong bus service



The 'Muncher' (above) comfortably seats 12 as does 'Hellraiser' (below).



This camouflaged 8-wheeled bus blends in with Phuket's natural beauty whereas 'The hog' (below) comes in pink.



PHUKET: A *Gazette* photographer snapped these photos in Karon last week as four companies submitted their tenders for the new Kata-Karon-Patong bus service. The firms were required to demonstrate the vehicles they would use on the popular tourist route. "We are now waiting for two more tenders, but both of those firms have requested air cover" said Phuket Public Transport Czar Gluahmak Kwamblaudpai. The winning tender is expected to be announced no later than mid-2027. (With thanks to David Kirk for his original idea)

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Scoot in Style

The 'who's hue' of ornamental leaves



MULTI-HUED: *Acalypha wilkesiana* will add all-year-round colors to any hedge or border. Photo: Ahmad Fuad Morad



Croton as a backdrop for mixed planting. Photo: Philip Bouchard

FOLIAGE plants, as we noted last week, are cultivated mainly for their ornamental leaves. But such a bald statement requires qualification. After all, many *flowering* plants also have attractive foliage, and this is especially true in the tropics where the tendency is for most leaves to be evergreen and glossy. Nor am I thinking of foliage plants, which originate in the forest understorey, and which feature primarily as tropical container plants – both outdoor or indoor.

Indeed, if these are to be effective in open gardens, they will need not only regular irrigation, but a carefully chosen position in filtered or deep shade.

Such plants – *aglaonemas*, *dieffenbachias*, *anthuriums*, *philodendrons*, the whole family of ferns, are not my concern



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

today. They have been given plenty of space elsewhere.

Rather, I am talking about foliage plants that can and do grow cheek by jowl with flowering shrubs, plants that can provide a backdrop to rioting blossom, and can add a contrasting range of interesting textures and shapes to flower beds. In the case of variegated or multi-hued foliage plants, they will also add year-round color, particularly when other flowering shrubs are on strike.

It was for this reason that I opened the account last time around with *acalypha wilkesiana*, with its splendidly multicolored leaves.

Though it is related to *A hispida* (the chenille plant), with its long tassels of red blooms, *wilkesiana* is grown entirely for its foliage. Combinations include bronzy green mottled with red and purple, yellow and green edged with purple, stippled red and orange.

So colorful are the masses of crinkly leaves that *acalypha* will outdo many flowering shrubs.

Jacob's Coat or copper leaf is, moreover, shrubby and compact, and will certainly survive in full sun. Indeed, when established, it may reach five or six feet and will provide a certain amount of shelter for smaller plants. It is amenable to clipping, and Thais often use it as a hedge or low barrier. A newish variety, with mostly deep crimson and bronze leaves, is proving popular. It is fairly tolerant of dry conditions.

Another Thai favorite, though totally different in appearance

from Jacob's coat, is *cordyline terminalis*. Often referred to as the croton, its large, glossy leaves sprout from a single erect stem. Leathery and deeply veined, they come in a remarkable spectrum of colors. Like most variegated plants, this one probably began life as an all-green form and only gradually developed the huge range of variations we see today.

There are many leaf shapes, varying from long, narrow, lance-shaped ones as in the varieties "Stoplight" and "Yellow Johanna Coppinger" to the larger ovate foliage of the orange and red "Chief", or the widely grown green and yellow "Stewartii". Some have smooth margins, others have lobed edges. It is not hard to see why this plant was a sensation when it first arrived in Western drawing rooms; nowadays, however, it is grown in the tropics mainly as a spectacular

garden plant where it can achieve the dimensions of a small tree.

It looks particularly effective in group plantings, or as a backdrop to a border with smaller plants in front. While the croton approves of well-drained soil and plenty of sun, it will soon show its displeasure by drooping its leaves if it lacks adequate water.

Prolonged drought will cause the lower ones to drop off, giving the plant a rather gaunt appearance. And it will need feeding. It will certainly grace a container outdoors, and with regular watering and feeding will grow to a height of several feet.

Despite its earlier popularity as a house plant, the *codiaeum* does not enjoy air-conditioning and deep shade. Better in the open air.

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

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Tip of the Week

Pesky Pests: Caterpillars

UNLIKE many pests, caterpillars are normally visible. The larvae or grubs of butterflies, moths and some beetles, they feed voraciously on chosen plants. Normally they hide under the foliage and consume the leaves from below, but they will also attack young shoots. Their attacks, rarely terminal, are nonetheless disfiguring, and it may take plants time to recover. Caterpillars are especially common in gardens because adult in-



Caterpillar. Photo: Radargast

sects can find a range of host plants on which to lay their eggs.

The dilemma? Do you kill them,

or put up with their ravages, knowing that attractive butterflies and moths will later populate your patch?

Personally, I try to keep them, especially ones which will turn into hawk moths or varieties of monarch butterflies.

Shrubs of the *apocynaceae* genus are favorite targets. Also Indian milkweed. Do not handle hairy caterpillars. They can produce a nasty skin rash. Instead, cut off the affected shoot.

A life of crime

DENNIS Leane has written ten crime novels and the best of them – *Mystic River*, *Shutter Island*, *Gone*, *Baby, Gone* – have been made into superlative movies. His turf is Boston, specifically its tough Irish neighborhoods.

His new novel, *Live by Night* (Little, Brown, New York, 2012, 403pp), opens brilliantly:

"Some years later, on a tugboat in the Gulf of Mexico, Joe Coughlin's feet were placed in a tub of cement. Twelve gunmen stood waiting until they got far enough out to throw him overboard... And it occurred to him that almost everything of note that had ever happened in his life – good or bad – had been set in motion the morning he first crossed paths with Emma Gould."

This is not so much a crime novel as a love story. In 1926, 20-year-old Joe Coughlin robs a poker game in the back room of a speakeasy and is confronted by the fearless, saucy, sardonic barmaid Emma Gould. She would prove the first great love of his life.

The problem is that she is the girlfriend of the speakeasy's owner, crime boss Albert White, who would soon knock off his own crime boss, Tim Hickey, and take charge of his rackets: bars, distilleries, brothels, gambling dens. Coughlin doesn't care, nor does Emma Gould. They are besotted with each other.

Then things fall apart. Coughlin is betrayed in a botched bank robbery that results in the deaths of three cops. Badly beaten by White and his goons, and again by his own father Police Superintendent Thomas Coughlin and fellow cops for being a cop killer, he is then sent to prison. Emma

Books

By James Eckardt

Gould is abducted and presumed drowned, though Coughlin refuses to believe that she is dead.

In Charlestown Penitentiary, Coughlin is forced to maim two inmates in self-defense and is finally befriended by an elderly con who appears harmless but turns out to be Maso Pescatore, yet another crime boss, with designs on Albert White's empire.

'...on a tugboat in the Gulf of Mexico, Joe Coughlin's feet were placed in a tub of cement. Twelve gunmen stood waiting until they got far enough out to throw him overboard.'

War erupts between the two factions in prison. Coughlin becomes Pescatore's right hand man and when the Mafia don is released from prison, follows him out into the world soon afterward.

Now the novel, surprisingly, shifts to Tampa, Florida, the cigar capital of America, a mosaic of Cubans, Italians, Spaniards and a racist white upper class. For a 25 per cent cut, Coughlin takes over Pescatore's operations. He needs rum from the Cubans. The Cubans need guns for their revolution against dictator Machado Morales. Coughlin can get them the guns, though he'll have to take on the US Navy to do it.

Graciela Corrales, a cigar roller, is the leader of the conspiracy. If they pull off the theft of guns, she

notes, Coughlin will control the flow of rum and "Your arrogance will reach new heights then."

"Well," Joe said, "one can hope."

Later, they argue over their respective causes, revolution for her, rum for him. He thinks the revolutionaries are noble but:

"I've got nothing against noble people, I've just noticed that they rarely live past forty."

"Neither do gangsters."

"True," he said, "but we eat in better restaurants."

They become lovers, against all the prejudices of the day. A Mafia goon asks Coughlin if his wife is a nigger or a spic.

"Both," he replies calmly.

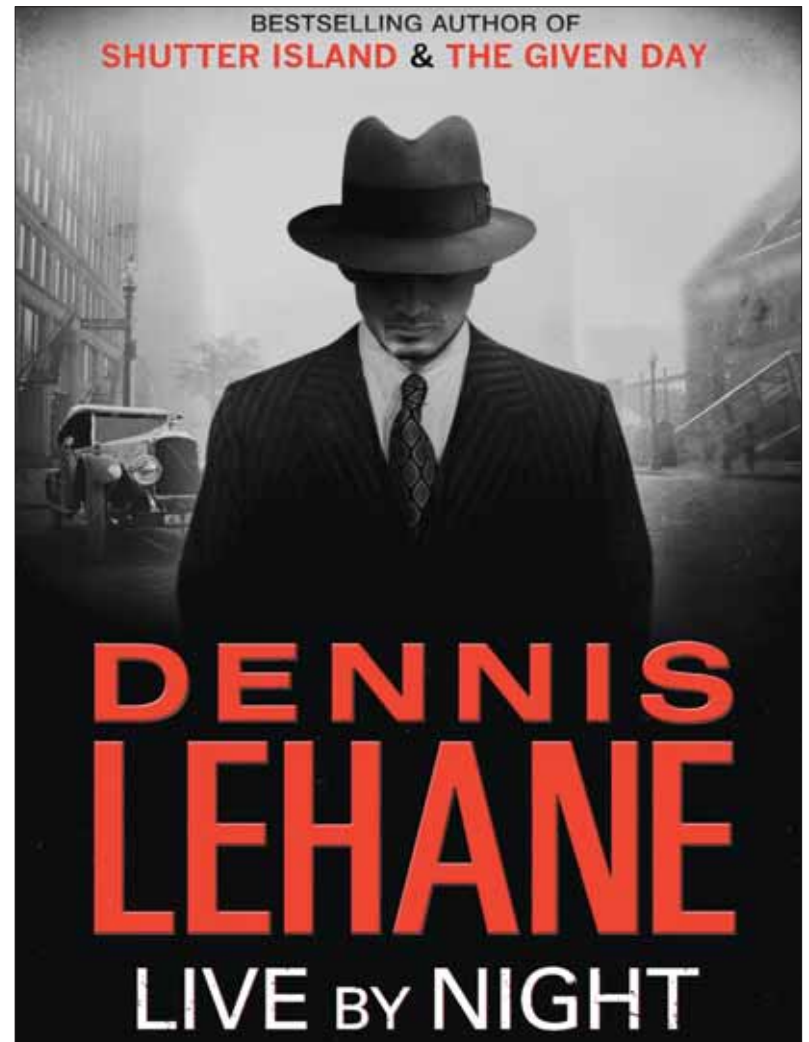
Coughlin likes to think of himself as an outlaw rather than a gangster. He defies Maso Pescatore's order to kill some of his rivals, including a young evangelist who embarks upon a crusade against his rum empire. He's easy with his profits too, passing them onto the Tampa community through Graciela.

There are still wars to be fought, though, first against Albert White and then against Maso Pescatore who wants to pass on the Florida operation to his dim-witted son.

There's an idyll at the end in Cuba, with Coughlin and Graciela presiding over a tobacco plantation that feeds the nearby village while building a baseball diamond for the local kids and taking them to their first movie.

But all their good works only lead to tragedy and a final melancholic epilogue.

Dennis Leane has developed into a masterful writer, approaching the level of the great Elmore Leonard. And he's only 45.



FAME AND SUCCESS: Dennis Leane's novels of the underworld have been turned into many movies. Photo: Garry Knight



Leonardo DiCaprio will star in the screen adaptation of *Live by Night*. Photo: blogs.indiewire.com





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

COFFEE break

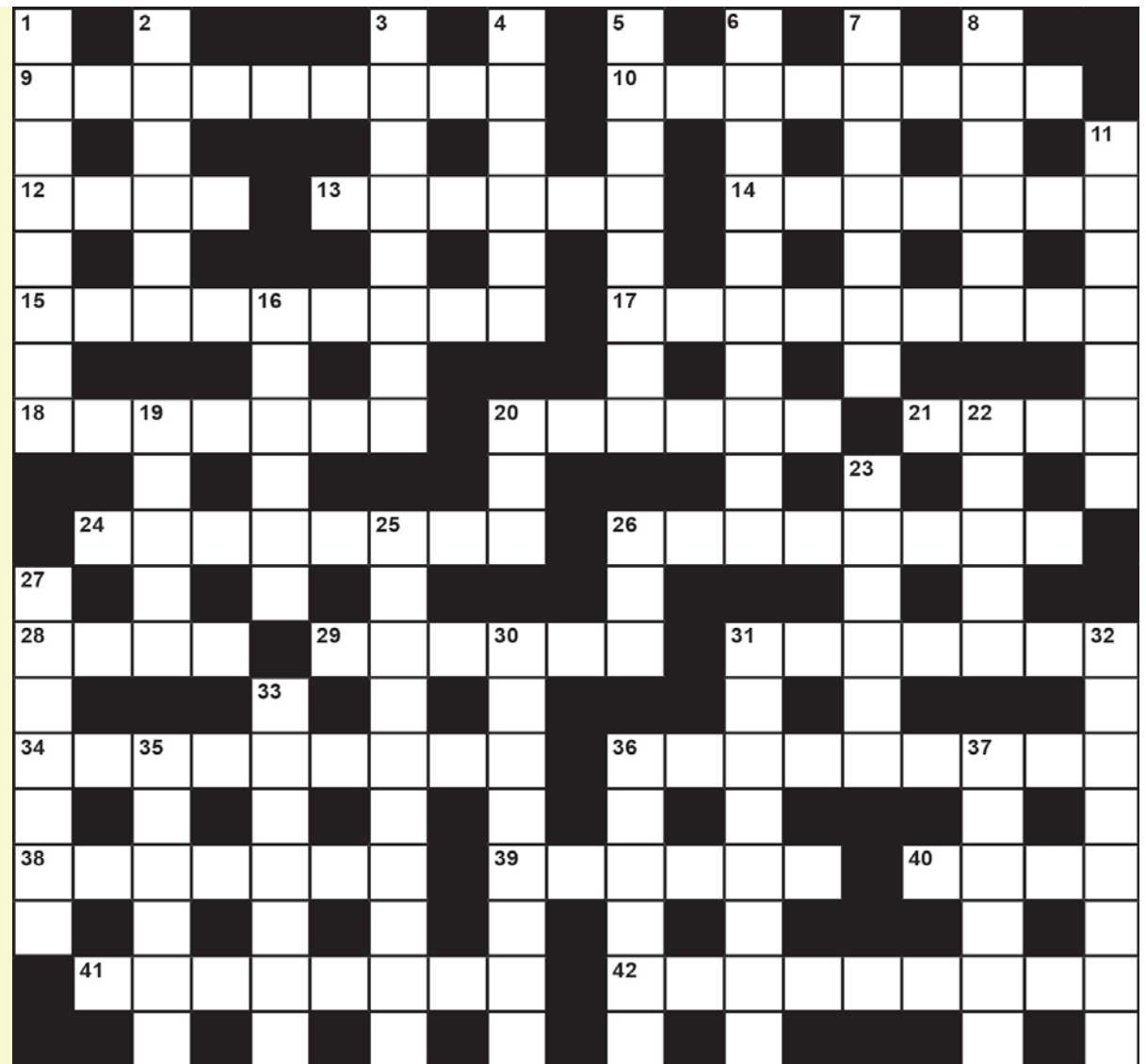
Across:

9. Emotional release from crash is at disposal (9)
10. Declared trees as rotten, died (8)
12. Till turn not arranged (4)
13. Confused me, sure, carry on (6)
14. Note new golf course brings close together (7)
15. Rewarding cult I rave about (9)
17. Disorganized game, nit in charge, puzzling! (9)
18. Daughter, should Yeomanry be valiant? (7)
20. Abuse in turn US Lieutenant (6)

21. French left each parasite (4)
24. S.F. series could be starker, about time! (4,4)
26. Hack, stay out of the fodder storage! (8)
28. Rear Admiral about unusual (4)
29. Morals disturbed by Phuket food vendor's vehicle (6)
31. Begin the French alarm (7)
34. Grant limp result from crushing underfoot (9)
36. Decree weaponry I put in (9)
38. For me a rich result is an illusion (7)
39. Since I work to engrave (6)
40. Nowadays it can be way in to mine (4)
41. Topping for khao pad from fridge, e.g. (5,3)
42. Possibly pretend Egyptian five inside stopped (9)

Down:

1. Doubled quadrupled, maybe



- coupled, about time (8)
2. Fixed, cast it out (6)
3. Ay, priest shows sharpness of temper (8)
4. Possibly state about-turn shrewd (6)
5. Standardization newly names Eastern Saints (8)
6. Particularly, yes, I'll pace out (10)
7. A right device for fixing the bright light (3,4)
8. Papa, each enthusiast gets a snack item (6)

11. Solitary, also maybe get CIA in (7)
16. Thai teacher from a ranch! (6)
19. Pronounce complete (5)
20. Of the same, maybe like out East (3)
22. At heart, all I cited is legitimate (5)
23. Star in unusual variety (6)
25. Neat dream I maybe brought back to life (10)
26. That woman here, out East (3)
27. Defend professional tango, etc., perhaps (7)
30. Lower limb protection for

- single move around gee-gee! (8)
31. Evade teams turning up, pet (8)
32. Level sea movement at the end of the day (8)
33. Globes' orbits (7)
35. Uncertain, I vary a bird cage (6)
36. Hold interest of coypu maybe caught inside (6)
37. Bareness of Urban District in tiny arrangement (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

The stars suggest that Pisceans who have been caught up in an uncomfortable situation at work will be off the hook. An air sign is forecast to come to your rescue, while another water sign should be ready to admit they made a mistake. Those with a birthday during the coming days are forecast to find more like-minded friends in the year ahead. Your lucky color this week is dusky rose.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Image can be everything in the world of work – an earth sign is poised to overtake you on the career ladder, but Arians still have chance to prove they have what it takes to get ahead. Money and love are forecast to clash in a romantic relationship this week. The stars advise setting clear limits, particularly if another fire sign is involved. Wear the color emerald green to encourage common sense.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Taureans should find a more rewarding way to move forward at work during the second half of February. The stars indicate that one door closed will mean another opens, with focus on financial gain being part of the package. On a

personal level, those who want to know why an air sign friend appears to have taken distance should receive answers this weekend. Glowing days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

This is an auspicious week for those born under the sign of Gemini to share their thoughts and dreams. In the world of work, a water sign is waiting to hear what you have to say and the stars suggest that partnership with this person can be rewarding. Romance with another air sign becomes smoother when your partner understands more about your ambitions. Money matters are lucky this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The focus returns to work and business for Cancerians. There are signs that an air sign's game of catch me if you can is beginning to cause stress. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for locating this person. The stars advise that dragging your feet over decision making is better than rushing into something that will be impossible to get out of. Fortunate days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos are advised to keep their expectations realistic during the second half of February. The astral atmosphere will not support fast results and business relationships could be subject to misunderstandings. There are signs that sharing personal information too freely could be a cause for concern. In the realm of romance, drama in a relationship with a water sign becomes difficult to take. Your lucky color this week is turquoise.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

A window of opportunity at work is presented to those born under the sign of Virgo this week. The stars suggest that you should react quickly, which will mean that routine is interrupted for a few days. In the realm of romance, your tendency to stray back down memory lane can be preventing progress in a new relationship. Expect an air sign to make their feelings clear about this.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

This is not an auspicious time to push yourself beyond the limit. Certain Librans could be tempted to take on extra work or responsibilities, but the stars advise that financial rewards will not compensate for what you may achieve. A fire sign is ready to promise the moon, but this person probably isn't as powerful as they pretend to be. Romance with other water signs is well starred.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

The spotlight shines on your personal life this week. Friendships with fire and air signs can be affected by differences of opinion. Backing down gracefully is the only way to avoid unnecessary friction. A romantically related situation calls for attention and the stars advise that you need to do the right thing. Those Scorpios who have been treading water while trying to make up their minds should follow their hearts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Those born under the sign of Sagittarius will benefit from looking beyond the obvious this week. The stars suggest that this may be connected with helping someone less fortunate than you, but all is not what it seems. Those already

committed could find that their partner is anxious to rush a decision. Single Sagittarians are advised that romance with another fire sign should be allowed to develop slowly.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Good luck is in the air for Capricorns during the second half of February. Financial gain is highlighted to help make a dream of traveling to a place from your past come true. Work projects are finally on schedule and you should have time to plan future endeavors. Those who have been hoping for a second chance at romance with another earth sign could get positive news this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Fantasy can clash with reality this week. Those born under the sign of Aquarius who had convinced themselves that a business plan was feasible could be brought down to earth by cold, hard facts. In the realm of romance, the stars advise you to remove the rose colored shades where a fire sign's flirtation is concerned. Love with an earth sign has more chance of success. Lucky days for money are Wednesday and Thursday.

International Sport

England's 'circus' scares Lions

By Mark Meadows

BRITISH and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland believes picking too many English players for this year's Australia tour could cause problems because of the extra media focus and their unpopularity among other nations.

The New Zealander, who won the Six Nations grand slam with Wales last year, takes charge of the combined side for the first time for the three-test tour and has been impressed by England in their last three matches.

"At the moment, England are playing well. They did well in the autumn, particularly the outstanding victory against the All Blacks and, if they do well in the Six Nations, there will be a reasonable contingent of English players," Gatland told London's *Evening Standard* newspaper in an interview published on Tuesday.

"But that brings a certain ele-

ment of – how do I say it – other pressures that come with selecting a lot of English players. It becomes a much greater media focus from the English papers; potentially a negative focus from the Australian papers.

"English players are targeted by other countries. (They are) not always the most popular with other countries because of the history. People like having a pop at them."

England lost to France in the 2011 World Cup quarter-finals after a tournament marred by tabloid stories of drinking, partying and dwarf-throwing, while center Manu Tuilagi jumped off a ferry as a joke.

"It's just being aware of potential issues that may arise," Gatland added. "We all know what happened with England at the World Cup and the circus that was created."

"I've just got to be aware of the possibilities that, if there are a number of English players on the tour, the same sort of things



SOCIABLE: Chris Ashton (c) scores a try against Scotland. Photo: Reuters

could be instigated, through stings through the media or set-ups trying to create controversy."

He added that players like England's Chris Ashton would not



British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland. Photo: Reuters

of pulling on a Lions shirt.

"These are the sort of things that come into consideration when you finally select the squad," Gatland said. – *Reuters*

Iconic Riviera attracts A-list

THE fact that British world number three Luke Donald heads the strongest PGA Tour field of the year at this week's Northern Trust Open should come as no surprise given the popularity of the venue.

The par-71 layout at iconic Riviera Country Club, with its long established links to the movie stars of Hollywood, has long been regarded by the players as one of the top courses on the US circuit.

At 7,349 yards off the back tees, it is not especially long by modern standards but it repeatedly offers a variety of options for shot selection and boasts some of the shrewdest bunkering around.

A glance at the list of former winners proves the fairness of the challenge posed by Riviera, where relatively short hitters such as Mike Weir (twice) and

big boomers like Phil Mickelson (also twice) have triumphed.

"It's a real classic of its type," British Open champion Ernie Els, winner here in 1999, said on Tuesday "The angles they have with the greens, the way the course flows, it's just fantastic."

"Riviera also has some of the best bunkering you'll see anywhere in the world. Even if I hadn't had a victory here, this would still be one of my favorite golf courses on the PGA Tour."

South African Els said he could not wish for a more ideal venue than Riviera to make his first appearance on the US circuit this year.

"I'm excited about being back here," the 43-year-old added. "It's not been the best start to my year, to be honest, so let's see if we can step things up a bit and play some

good golf. Not many better places than Riviera to do that!"

Riviera, which hosted the US Open in 1948 and the PGA Championship in 1983 and 1995, is located just off Sunset Boulevard and has a long association with nearby Hollywood.

From the 1930s through the 1950s, the course hosted the Los Angeles Open, which in those days was considered one of the PGA Tour's premier events.

Actors such as Douglas Fairbanks, Clark Gable, Mary Pickford, Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn flocked to the club to watch the professionals compete.

Twelve of the world's top 20 are competing at Riviera this week, including number three Donald, seventh-ranked Australian Adam



Luke Donald hits out of a bunker at Jumeirah, Dubai. Photo: Reuters.

Scott, eighth-ranked Briton Lee Westwood and Masters champion Bubba Watson (ninth).

Bill Haas will defend the title he won 12 months ago in a sudden-death playoff with fellow Americans Mickelson and Keegan Bradley, sealing victory in stunning fashion when he sank a curling 43-foot birdie putt at the second extra hole.

– *Reuters*

Premier League roundup

MANCHESTER United moved 12 points clear at the top of the Premier League after beating Everton 2-0 at Old Trafford, while Manchester City suffered a shock 3-1 defeat away to Southampton.

Ryan Giggs scored for his 23rd-successive top flight season to give Sir Alex Ferguson's team the lead in the 13th minute. Robin Van Persie continued his scintillating form, netting his 23rd goal of the season and United's second just before halftime.

Manchester City found themselves 2-0 down to Southampton after 22 minutes. Edin Dzeko pulled a goal back just before halftime, but a Gareth Barry own goal after the restart meant Manchester City endured a day to forget at St Mary's Stadium.

Arsenal won their third league match in four games thanks to a Santi Carzola goal against Sunderland. The win moves Arsene Wenger's team up to fifth above Everton.

Gareth Bale guided fourth placed Tottenham to a 2-1 win over Newcastle.

Newcastle's new French signing Yoan Gouffran equalized in the 24th minute after Bale had put Tottenham ahead in the 5th minute, but it was Bale who stole the show scoring his second of the game 12 minutes from time. The Welsh winger is the club's top scorer with 13 goals so far this season.

Chelsea beat Wigan 4-1 to end their four match winless streak. Frank Lampard scored Chelsea's fourth and he is now four goals behind Chelsea's all-time top scorer Bobby Tambling's record of 202 goals.

At the other end of the table, QPR's five match unbeaten run was ended by Swansea and the club remain four points behind Wigan at the bottom of the table. Michu scored twice to help his team to a 4-1 victory. Aston Villa moved out of the bottom three with a 2-1 win over West Ham.

Other results;
Stoke 2-1 Reading
Norwich 0-0 Fulham
Liverpool 0-2 West Brom



Bale celebrates scoring against Newcastle.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	GD	PTs
1	Man Utd	31	65
2	Man City	24	53
3	Chelsea	27	49
4	Tottenham	14	48
5	Arsenal	21	44
6	Everton	8	42
7	Swansea	9	37
8	▲ WBA	1	37
9	▼ Liverpool	10	36
10	Stoke	-5	33
11	West Ham	-9	30
12	Fulham	-6	29
13	Sunderland	-6	29
14	Norwich	-15	29
15	Southampton	-9	27
16	Newcastle	-12	27
17	Aston Villa	-25	24
18	Reading	-15	23
19	Wigan	-21	21
20	QPR	-22	17

– Andrew Scott

International Sport

NRL hit by doping storm

By Ian Ransom

ANTI-doping officials have met with six top-flight Australian rugby league clubs named in a national probe into the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs that has sent shockwaves through the sports-mad country.

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA) briefed National Rugby league (NRL) clubs Manly, Cronulla, Newcastle, Penrith, North Queensland and Canberra on their investigation process on February 12 after the clubs confirmed they were under scrutiny in the wake of an explosive report released last week.

The report, the result of a year-long investigation by Australia's top criminal intelligence unit, had already implicated two Australian Rules football teams, rocking a country long proud of its image as a nation that plays fair.

ASADA met with the affected NRL clubs as a group and individually on February 12, the NRL said, and senior officials at the teams put on a brave face after the briefings.

"We're probably a low-to-medium risk around this," Manly CEO David Perry told reporters.

"It's going to take a bit of time. It's a confidential process.

"Even those that (investigators)



STRUGGLE: Cronulla (blue) are one of the teams under scrutiny by ASADA. Photo: paddynapper

do speak to aren't necessarily guilty of any wrongdoing, it's just a process that we go through.

"If it's bigger than we think, well, you know, then we need to clean the game up, but based on my discussions today I'm fairly confident that we're all OK."

Penrith boss Phil Gould, who last week slammed investigators for releasing the doping report without providing details of affected clubs and players, said he understood it would be a drawn-out process.

"I've been well informed of what they are looking at and how long this process will take and how serious it is and at the end of the day we totally support the process and totally support the work the NRL is doing," he told reporters.

The meeting came after Australia's sports minister warned the country faced a grim fight to

stamp out doping, which Australia's top criminal intelligence unit said was fuelled by organized crime.

"Sports would be foolish to think that they didn't need to take the integrity of their sport seriously," sports minister Kate Lundy told reporters.

"The substance of the issue here is that we do have a fight on our hands. It's a serious one.

"Australians take their sport extremely seriously and as sport minister I will not stand by to allow this kind of thing to go on in Australian sport unchecked."

The revelations have plunged both rival football codes into crisis ahead of the start of their seasons in March.

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) report said it had found "widespread" use of banned performance-enhancing drugs among professional and amateur

athletes, with links to gambling and organized crime.

The report drew fire from elite athletes and some politicians, who demanded investigators name and shame offenders to protect the reputations of clean sportspeople.

Lundy hit back at the criticism, however, and said it was up to others to come forward or come clean.

"I think it's been frustrating for everybody," she said.

"Let's remember it is in the hands of each club who believes it may have a problem, to put their hand up and be part of the solution."

Only one club out of the eight implicated came forward, the rest denying drug problems or claiming they were unaware of any.

The Melbourne-based Essendon Bombers, one of the country's oldest and most popular Australian Rules clubs, called a media conference last week to announce they

had thrown themselves at the mercy of anti-doping authorities after becoming concerned about the legality of supplements administered to their players.

Governing body, the Australian Football League, has declined to name the second Australian Rules club in the probe but has confirmed one of its players is under suspicion.

Newcastle coach Wayne Bennett said auditors had spent a number of days going through his club's records dating back to 2005.

Penrith captain Kevin Kingston said he was confident his club was clean.

"We trust our sports scientists. We don't take anything out of the ordinary. I barely take protein myself," he told reporters at Sydney airport.

"I don't think there is a drug problem at our club."

NRL chief executive David Smith, however, said his administration had been working with ASADA for a "number of weeks".

"I can't comment on the outcome on the information we have so far. What I can say is that they're serious matters," he told reporters.

"I have said right from the outset that it involved multiple clubs and multiple players and as a sport we have taken this very seriously.

— Reuters

Wrestling ousted from Olympics

WRESTLING was left in a state of shock after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made a surprise recommendation on February 12 to drop the sport from the 2020 Games.

Contested in the first modern Olympics in 1896 and part of the ancient Games in Olympia, wrestling will now join seven other candidate sports battling for one spot in a revamped programme.

It is unlikely, however, that it will get a reprieve when the IOC session in Buenos Aires votes on the recommendation in September as this would defeat the purpose of Tuesday's vote.

"This is not the end of the process, this is purely a recommendation," IOC spokesman Mark Adams told reporters following an Executive Board meeting. "It is the session which is sovereign."

"It was a decision to look at the core sports, what works best for the Olympic games. This was the best programme for the 2020 Olympics. This is not about what's wrong with wrestling but what is good for the Games."

The vote came as a major shock after other sports, including modern pentathlon and taekwondo, were seen as more at risk of losing out due to their low global appeal.

"FILA was greatly astonished by today's recommendation of the IOC Executive Board not to main-

tain wrestling among the 25 core sports for the 2020 Olympic Games," the International Wrestling Federation said in a statement.

It said the federation was represented in 180 countries, "with wrestling being the national sport in a fair amount of them and the only possibility for athletes to represent their country at the Olympic Games, thus contributing to their universality."

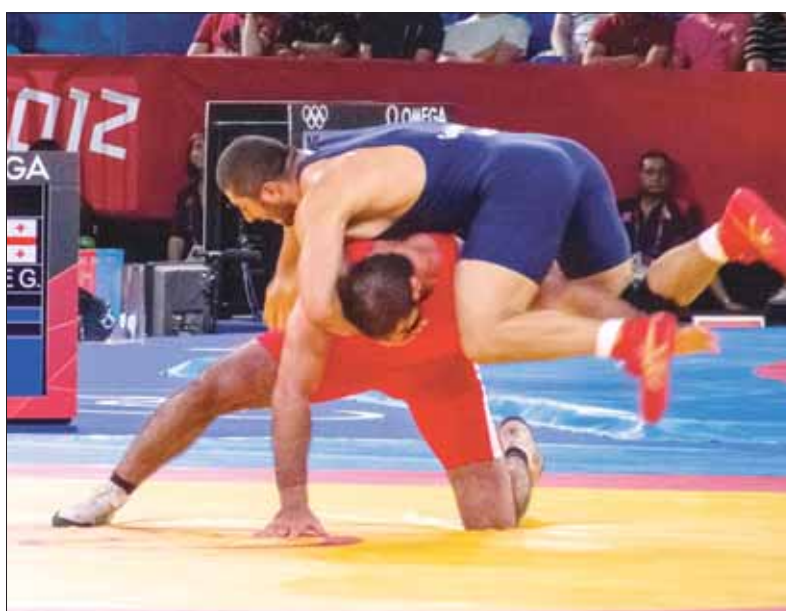
IOC Board members were given a report on each of the Olympic sports which provided details on 39 criteria such as popularity, finances, tickets sold, anti-doping and governance, before a secret vote.

"There were different rounds of voting necessary to come to this conclusion," said IOC vice president Thomas Bach. "It is an extremely difficult decision to take."

"I cannot look into the heads of my colleagues. Such a decision is never based on one single reason. It is always a series of reasons. Of course, different members take a different approach."

"The common understanding is the purpose of this was to modernize, to look into the future of the Olympics," added Bach, a potential IOC presidential candidate later this year.

The 15-member executive board needed four rounds of voting to decide on wrestling with pentathlon, hockey, canoeing and



BODYSLAM: Wrestling faces an uncertain future. Photo: Simononly

taekwondo also getting votes to be dropped from the Games.

IOC president Jacques Rogge did not vote.

Canoeing scored the fewest and was eliminated first with taekwondo following it to safety in the next round, leaving three sports in the decider.

Wrestling got eight votes against it in the final round of voting with hockey and pentathlon tied at three votes each.

The IOC said 25 of the 26 Olympic sports were elected as core sports for the 2020 Games which will also include rugby and

golf, making their first appearance in 2016.

Wrestling joins baseball and softball, making a joint bid after being taken off the programme in 2005, martial arts karate and wushu, rollersports, wakeboarding, squash and sports climbing as candidates for the one open spot.

The IOC executive board will meet in St Petersburg in May to determine which of these will be put to the vote in September.

Wrestling had 344 athletes at the London Olympics, competing in greco-roman and freestyle disciplines. — Reuters

In brief...

Pakistan face Olympic ban

PAKISTAN could soon join neighbours India as Olympic outcasts with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) considering suspending the country over what it said was government interference.

Pakistan Olympic officials claim the government has been interfering with the administration of the POA. The IOC banned India in December over government interference in elections of the Indian Olympic Association.

Donald turns to Jordan

WORLD number three Luke Donald, desperate to shrug off the unwanted tag of 'one of the best golfers never to win a major', has turned to NBA great Michael Jordan in a bid to improve his mental approach.

"It's been good to pick Michael's brains and find out what he was thinking about when he was playing basketball. He's always trying to play mind games, he doesn't like to lose."



Siam's motocross mania

THAILAND'S best bikers will go up against the global elite for the first time when the 2013 FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) Motocross World Championship Grand Prix of Thailand makes its debut in the Kingdom in March.

The race weekend will be hosted at the Pinthong Industrial Estate 3 track in Chon Buri from

March 8 to 10, drawing global attention and an expected windfall of hundreds of thousands of baht.

Thai riders will compete in a national meet to determine the 12 wild cards for the grand prix.

Ahead of their debut in the competition, Thai riders will get guidance on techniques and tactics from Dutchman Jan Postema, a former world

motocross champion.

The race is one of 18 stops in Europe, South America and Asia on the motocross World Championship calendar.

The Motocross World Championship Grand Prix of Thailand will be televised live to more than 100 million households in over 120 countries.

— *The Nation*

Man Utd and Chelsea head to Bangkok

MANCHESTER United will visit Bangkok from July 11-13 and Chelsea will spend a week in the capital from July 12-18.

Singha Corporation's Sports Marketing Director Jaturon Himathongkom is delighted that two of the English Premier League's biggest teams have chosen to come to Bangkok.

"This will be the first time two English Premier teams visit Bangkok at the same time," said Jaturon, who added that United's full schedule for the Thailand trip would be announced in the coming weeks.

Chelsea's schedule will include

a match against a Singha Thailand Allstar XI in the Singha Cup, on Wednesday July 17 at the Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok. Chelsea's visit to Bangkok is part of their "2013 Here to Play, Here to Stay" tour of Asia, taking in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Chelsea will engage in several activities during their week-long trip, including a soccer clinic at Bangkok's Super Kick stadium, charity work and a sightseeing cruise along the Chao Praya River.

"They will train in more than one stadium, with some sessions open to the public. They will also

visit Siriraj Hospital to offer their well-wishes to His Majesty the King," said Jaturon.

Some 100 rooms at Bangkok's Shangri-La Hotel are already reserved for some 60 players and staff, with Jaturon confirming that first-team players are expected to make the trip "unless they are committed to big games or are injured".

Jaturon dangled another enticing prospect for local fans, saying that Arsenal, Liverpool and Spurs could be visiting Thailand in the near future thanks to Singha's alliance with new EPL sponsor, Carlsberg.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Brazil won the last Futsal World Cup.

Futsal Continental Cup

THAILAND is planning to host a new futsal tournament, the Continental Cup, featuring champions from six continents later this year.

The event, to be held between November 1 and 10 at Hua Mark Indoor Stadium and Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok was initiated by Football Association of Thailand (FAT) President Worawi Makudi.

The capital's 12,000-seat Indoor Futsal Arena in Bangkok, which was built at a cost of 1.3 billion baht primarily for last November's Futsal World Cup, failed to host a single game as it didn't meet FIFA's safety standards for the event, and is not on the list of host venues for the Continental Cup.

The six continental champions from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America and Oceania will do battle against FIFA World Cup champions Brazil and hosts Thailand.

Eight teams will be divided into two groups of four each for the cross-over semi-finals and then on to the final.

"We will stage the AFF Futsal Championship in October at the Hua Mark Indoor Stadium and Nimibutr Stadium before the Continental Cup. It'll be a dress rehearsal for our team before the big event, which we intend to stage every year," said Worawi.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Harrington to play Thai Open

THREE-time Major winner Padraig Harrington, defending champion Chris Wood and Europe's Ryder Cup captain for 2014, Paul McGinley, will light up the fairways of the US\$1 million Thailand Open next month, at Bangkok's Thana City Golf & Sport Club.

Also joining the impressive line up are Japanese legend Shingo Katayama and Kim Kyung-tae – the rising star of Korean golf.

"There is no question that this year's Thailand Open features one of its strongest ever fields. This will be the first time Padraig

Harrington will play in our national Open and we are thrilled that he has taken time out of his busy schedule to join our event," said Rungrid Luxitanonda, on behalf of the Thailand Golf Association (TGA) and Singha Corporation.

"Our national Open has made remarkable progress since it returned to the golf calendar in 2009 after a brief hiatus. The tournament has reemerged as one of the region's premier national Opens, particularly with it now being jointly sanctioned by the JGTO," added Rungrid.



Padraig Harrington. Photo: tourpro

Star attraction Harrington won his second successive British Open Championship title in 2008. Fellow Irishman McGinley is a four-time winner on the European Tour and has played on three winning Ryder Cup teams.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Schaefer's job in the balance



INFLUENCE: Football Association of Thailand (FAT) president Worawi Makudi will decide if Winfried Schaefer keeps his job. Photo: AFP

Football

THAILAND'S under-fire coach Winfried Schaefer remained defiant in the face of fresh speculation over his job, after his side's 3-1 defeat at home to Kuwait in their opening Group B match of Asian Cup 2015 qualifying on February 6.

The setback comes after Schaefer guided the War Elephants to the final of last year's AFF Suzuki Cup, only to lose 3-2 on aggregate to Singapore.

Speculation is now rife that the 62-year old's future as national coach hangs on whether he can guide Thailand through qualifying to the Asian Cup finals, due to be held in Australia in two years time.

Thailand were comprehensively beaten by Kuwait, who raced to a 3-0 lead before conceding a consolation goal at Rajamangala National stadium, Bangkok.

After admitting his team had been outplayed, Schaefer quickly dismissed growing speculation over a job he has held for more than a year and a half.

"Kuwait looked fitter than us – they have prepared since January and they had the Gulf Cup tournament to play before this game. In the first half, they got five yellow cards, which showed the commitment of their players.

"We tried to stop the No 17 [Bader al-Mutwa], who played very well and caused a lot of problems to our defense. Many of our lads played well below their standard, but that's understandable because our league has not started yet.

"I am not concerned about my future. My task is to prepare the team for our second game. I don't pay attention to what happens off the pitch. I believe that if we prepare the team well for the trip to Lebanon, we can get our campaign back on track."

One of the few positives for the veteran trainer was the performance of diminutive BEC Tero Sasana midfielder Chanathip Songkrasin, who looked lively in his cameo role in the second half and gave the Thais a glimmer of hope with a goal from a long-range strike.

"He tried to change the game after he came on as substitute," said Schaefer of the player whose dribbling skills have earned him the nickname "Messi J". "He did score a goal for us. All credit to him."

Football Association of Thailand president Worawi Makudi, whose relations with the coach have reportedly been rocky since the defeat to Singapore, said he would discuss Schaefer's future with board members.

Thailand travel to Lebanon to play their next Asian Cup 2015 qualifier on March 22.

— *The Nation*

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DETERMINED: Phuket Soccer Schools Under-14 team (blue) versus Arsenal Soccer Schools Bangkok.



Phuket Soccer Schools Under-10 B team versus Samui United. Photos:PSS

International tourney a success

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) 3rd annual International Tournament was held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) on February 9-10.

A total of 350 players competed in 38 teams from Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Koh Samui and Phuket.

The tournament was played on six-age-specific sized football pitches with goals. The Under 8 and Under 10 matches were played 5v5 and Under 12 and Under 14 played 6v6.

PSS develops all their players through small sided games (SSG), where more touches of the ball and involvement in different positions is guaranteed.

On Sunday, Phuket FC's assistant coach Khun Choochai Angkabkeaw, midfielder Giorgi Tsimakuridze, defender Nontaphan Jiensathawong and goalkeeper

Kampon Phatomakkakul, helped make the presentation a memorable experience for all the visiting players.

The Under 8 division was made up of eight teams from Koh Samui, Phuket, Hong Kong and Singapore. The teams played each other once in the group stage and the top four went into the Cup Semifinal and the bottom four played in the Plate Semifinal. The Plate Final was contested between ESPZEN Soccer School Yellow and Samui Arena Academy. In a close contest, the team from Samui took the honors 3-2.

ESPZEN Soccer School Blue was pitted against Asia Pacific in the Under 8 Cup Final, with Asia Pacific victorious 3-1.

The Under 10 division had two groups of five teams. Phuket Soccer Schools had their A team in the Cup Final and their B team in the

Plate Final. The B team narrowly went down in the Plate Final 1-0 to Vanda Football Academy. It was better news for the A Team. Despite conceding early to Phuket's Para FC in the Cup Final, they regrouped and went on to claim a 2-1 win and were crowned the Under 10 Cup winners.

The Under 12 division also had two groups of five teams. The Plate Final between Vanda Football Academy and Asia Pacific Soccer Schools went to penalties after ending 0-0, with Asia Pacific winning 3-1.

In the Cup Final, Bang Jo Utd went two goals up before Samui United scored a goal to make the final few minutes a tense affair. Bang Jo United held firm and claimed the Cup with a 2-1 victory.

The Under 14 division was also split into two groups of five teams. Youth Football Home and Thalang

FC A competed in the Plate Final. The match ended 0-0, so penalties were needed to decide a winner. Thalang FC A managed to keep their cool and win the Plate 2-1 on penalties.

The Cup Final was an eagerly anticipated match between two unbeaten teams, Samui United Academy and Phuket based Para FC. These two teams met in the group stage and played out a 3-3 draw, but Para FC managed to step up another gear in the final, winning 4-0.

PSS Head Coach/Organizer Martin Hill said: "I was extremely pleased with how the event ran and we were fortunate in that the weather, although hot, had a cooling breeze throughout the weekend. The facility at TSLC gave us a fantastic platform for PSS to showcase our biggest event of the year. Phuket FC's involvement on the finals day

added more excitement and the tournament players had the chance to shine in front of their idols. Thanks to our sponsors, we were able to award all players with tournament medals. We are now looking at dates for next year's 4th annual International Tournament."

– *Phuket Gazette*

Next up for the football youth of Phuket is the much anticipated 5th annual Fair Play League run by Phuket Soccer Schools. This will begin next Sunday, Feb 17, at British International School from 2pm. The entrance cost is just 500 baht per player and this includes, a full playing uniform that players get to play in and keep as a memento of the league. All male players born 1999 – 2004 and female players born 1998 – 2004 are welcome to join us for this 5 week program.

Emailinfo@phuketsoccerschools.com for a registration form.

Thanyapura sports camps



The Sport Performance Camps are aimed at children.

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) will offer a range of Sport Performance Camps in July for children from 9-18 years old of intermediate and advanced level, and Sport Excel Camps available for young athletes of all sporting abilities from 4-18 years old.

The camps will assist young athletes in their pursuit of sporting excellence in the following fields: football, swimming, tennis, triathlon and rugby.

The Sport Performance Camps are aimed at children and have been designed by TSLC's internationally renowned coaches specifically to provide children with stimulating and exciting sport activities, that foster skill development and teamwork.

"It's a real delight for us to work with young athletes. It is both rewarding and fascinating to advise and observe as they hone their skills and take their abilities to the next level," said TSLC Director of Sports Academy, Craig Johns.



"I think it's an inspiring environment here for children. Training alongside world class athletes, Olympians and world record holders gives a sense of tangibility to their aspirations. Training at the same facilities as these sporting greats shows them that their goals are attainable with the right outlook and support," he added.

The Sport Performance Camps will take place at TSLC in Phuket from July 1-6 and July 8-13.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact TSLC via tel: +66 (0) 76 336 000 email: sportcamp@thanyapura.com or by visiting thanyapura.com/tslc/tslc-sports-camps.

Patong beat TNT

PATONG Cricket Club (PCC) played TNT at a gusty Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, February 10. The match was a real to and fro affair with both teams in the driving seat at some point. It was an experienced PCC side who, despite a valiant effort by TNT, walked off with the win.

TNT fielded first and welcomed the PCC opening pair with a barrage of fast paced deliveries. With the fall of the first wicket in the second over, TNT can be forgiven for thinking that they had the upper hand. A whirlwind partnership between Dave Watson (70 off 52) and Raju Seemant (40 off 37) quickly put that idea to bed. The 80-run partnership was eventually brought to an end with the departure of Seemant in the 13th over.

With a smattering of wickets brought about by the bowling efforts of Anthony Dupont and Andrew McMillan, both claiming 3 for 42, and enthusiasm in the field, TNT restricted PCC to 217 all out.

The opening pair of McMillan and Henry got TNT's innings off to a blazing start. McMillan was trapped leg before wicket in the 5th over. Despite carrying an injury, Henry anchored the TNT innings, looking comfortable against the respected PCC bowling attack.

Henry fell for 58 off 80 in the 26th over. With the score on 131 for 5 after 26 overs, TNT were under no illusion that they needed to up the run rate. The PCC team had other ideas though. Despite losing left hand pace man Dave Watson to a nasty hand injury, the PCC team pulled together. Led by a stellar bowling performance from Manish Sadarangani (4 for 25), PCC snuffed out the rest of TNT's batting line up. TNT were all out for 175.

Jabuday's Island Cricket Club versus Laguna Cricket Club will be the next game on February 17. Both teams have a strong line up and spectators can expect a battle royale to unfold at the ACG.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Pearl end five-game losing streak

Four goals by Phuket United's Brazilian star secured victory last Saturday, putting the team back on track



Santos (left) in pivot against Leo Bang Sue.



Referees re-attach the net after a goal.

By Steven Layne

A THRILLING 4-1 second-half run secured victory for Phuket United (7-4) in their match against Leo Bang Seu last Saturday night in Phuket Town.

The much needed win ended the Andaman Pearl's five-game losing streak.

Played in front of about 500 fans at the Saphan Hin Indoor Sports Complex, the match was both team's 20th of the 30-fixture Thai Futsal Premier League 2012-2013 season.

Unquestionably, the man of the match was Phuket's leading scorer, Jackson Santos, who scored four of the Andaman Pearl's seven goals. The Brazilian winger became the fourth top scorer in the league with 23 goals this season.

The match's first goal came from Santos in just the second minute of play.

However, Leo Bang Seu was quick to answer and crept ahead 3-1 with goals by Prapaat Yu-samran (3 and 10 minutes) and Su-ruck Soodchieo (8).

Phuket's Kittipong Son-suwan answered with a goal in the 11th minute, while Santos scored his second goal and the equalizer a minute after that.

The teams went into the locker rooms with a 3-3 deadlock at half time.

It was the home team who came out more refreshed with Kittipong scoring his second of the match in the second minute of the second half.

Two minutes after that, a beautiful pass from Kittipong assisted Santos to complete

his hat trick and put the Pearl up 5-3.

The Phuket assault continued with a goal by Akkadet Chuaiklai in the 28th minute.

Leo Bang Seu's Prapat completed his own hat trick with a goal three minutes later to bring his side back into contention, trailing 4-6. The visitors brought their keeper out of the nets in a power play, but Phuket's defense proved solid.

Taking advantage of a vulnerable Leo defense, Phuket rallied several counter attacks. One of Phuket's shots was caught by the Leo keeper while clearly standing behind the goal line, but the referee did not blow the whistle, which enraged fans.

However, a Phuket counter attack in the 36th minute would settle the score once and for all. Brazilian right-winger Marcos found Santos beating his marker on the opposite side, who then sent his piercing shot under the cross bar – a shot so powerful – it loosened the net from the cross bar.

The referee had to stop play in order to re-attach the net but fans were euphoric.

The result moved Phuket up to 8th place with 30 points from 10 wins and the same amount of losses, while Leo Bang Seu remain in the table pits in 15th place.

At the time of going to press, Phuket were the only team in the 16-team TFPL to not have drawn another team, though there is little doubt that many of their losses could have – should have been draws.

The Pearl boarded a bus last Sunday, bound for Chiang Mai, where they stayed for a few days to prepare for their following league match, played last



BRAZILIANT: Jackson Santos (25) celebrates a goal with team mates. Photos: Steven Layne



Piyapan Rattana drives against Leo defender.



Phuket United fans pose at the last match.

Wednesday night (February 13) against Lampang United.

For results of that match, previous matches and other team updates, check the *Phuket Gazette* Sports section online.

Last Saturday's victory against Leo Bang Seu came as a huge sigh of relief for Phuket, whose future was starting to look doubtful following five straight losses – four on the road and one at home.

Fans next opportunity to watch Phuket

United's fast paced and emotional action on the court will be Saturday evening against second placed Thai Port FC.

Although the match was initially scheduled for 7pm, fans are advised to check the *Gazette* sports section online (PhuketGazette.net/PhuketSports/) for confirmation, since another important football friendly match has also been scheduled on Saturday evening (see graphic below, left).

Phuket FC to take on 2012 TPL champions

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