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INSIDE TODAY

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■ **'THEY CAN TAKE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL ACTIVITY'**

Land title deeds back in hot seat

■ Department of Special Investigations picks up the torch in Sirinart National Park probe as DNP struggles to maintain momentum

By **Orawin Narabal**

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) stepped in this week to expedite the ongoing investigation of illegal land encroachment in Sirinart National Park.

Acting on a complaint from The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), whose own investigation seemed to ground to a halt last year when an expected 366 investigators from Bangkok failed to arrive, the DSI has taken the reigns.

"I believe DSI will make the work flow faster because they have more authority to check for the details and documents than DNP has and they can take direct action against illegal activity because they are more independent," Sirinat Marine National Park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham told the *Gazette*.

Where appropriate, the DSI will be using the newly revised Anti Money Laundering Law to prosecute cases, explained Prawuth Wongsinil, chief of the DSI Consumer and Environment Protection Office.

"The new law will be used to press charges of..."



DSI helps with investigations initiated by former DNP Director-General Damrong (pictured).

Continued on page 8

Aldhouse



**Afraid to fight
murder charge**

Full story on page 2

**White Police
aim to clean
up dirty cops**

MEMBERS of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) arrived in Phuket on February 19 to introduce a nationwide program designed to oust crooked police officers and slowly change police culture in Thailand.

Each of the 1,460 police stations across Thailand will have 10 of its officers selected this year to help gather information about the behavior of police officers and the station's actions as a whole.

"The officers will receive the honor of becoming 'White Police'. Another 10 will be selected next year.

Continued on page 3

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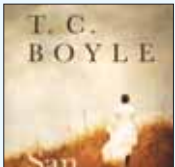
Business

An in-depth look into fuel consumption habits in Phuket. **Page 11**



Property

Bill Barnett pegs Layan Beach as the next Phuket hotspot. **Page 14**



Arts/Entertainment

Get your fix of books, blues, bodies and big names. **Page 38-39**



History

The *Urak Lawoi*, a people who settled an entire archipelago. **Page 41**



Charity

It's the gift that keeps on giving – the indestructible soccer ball. **Page 42**



Sport

FILA meets in Phuket to discuss the future of wrestling. **Page 48**

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Aldhouse afraid to put on gloves for murder trial

By Chutharat Plerin

BRITISH kickboxer Lee Aldhouse admitted in court Monday that he was afraid to fight the premeditated murder charges he faces for the slaying of former US Marine Dashawn Longfellow in 2010. Nonetheless, the confessed killer entered a plea of "not guilty" in front of a judge at the Phuket Provincial Court.

"I am afraid to fight the case. I heard that if I plead guilty, my penalty will be commuted," Aldhouse told the judge.

"Do not listen to anyone. Listen to me. I am telling you to stick with the truth," the judge replied.

Aldhouse recounted to the court his version of the night's events that led to the death of Mr Longfellow. And though Aldhouse did confess to the judge that he killed the 23-year-old American Marine, he maintained that he did not have the premeditated intention of murder.

Aldhouse faces charges of premeditated murder under Section 288 of the Thai Criminal Code. The penalty for that charge is death or a term of imprisonment of 15 to 20 years, Tawan Sukyiran, the public prosecutor assigned to the case, confirmed



Aldhouse was extradited from the UK in December 2012. Photo: Gazette file

to the *Gazette*.

However, Mr Tawan explained that his understanding was that the death penalty would not be considered as an option in the sentencing if Aldhouse were found guilty, as he had already confessed to stabbing Mr Longfellow.

Aldhouse, also known by his kickboxing nickname "The Pitbull", fled Thailand on August 17, 2010, three days after the slaying of Mr Longfellow. He was

arrested by British authorities upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, London, on an unrelated charge.

The British national is the first person to be extradited from the UK to Thailand in more than 100 years, according to Col Wichit Intorrasorn from Provincial Police Region 8.

Aldhouse is not due to be presented in court again until August. He will remain in the custody of the Phuket Provincial Prison until then.

'Missing' Swiss student pleads guilty to Ranong Immigration theft charges

THE Swiss student who was thought to be missing for a month before she was found in Ranong Prison has pleaded guilty to theft charges, receiving a suspended sentence.

When Tscherina Nora Janisch, a 22-year-old Swiss exchange student, refused to pay a three-day visa overstay fine on December 25 last year, she was arrested by Ranong Immigration officers.

Officers said that while they were processing her arrest, she stole a Canon PowerShot A640 from one of their desks, and she was charged with theft.



Tscherina Janisch. Photo: Travelfish

Ms Janisch remained in jail for almost a month before her family learned where she was.

On January 23, Ms Janisch's

mother was in Ranong to post her daughter's 130,000-baht bail bond. Cpl Rungroj Somjai of the Ranong Tourist Police reported at that time, "She confessed to the overstay, but denied stealing the camera."

On February 9, Ms Janisch pleaded guilty to theft in the Ranong Court, the *Gazette* was told by a court officer.

"She received a 6,000-baht fine and was sentenced to seven months in prison," the officer said.

"However, because she pleaded guilty, she received a one-year suspended sentence," he added.

— **Orawin Narabal**

Sidecar backslide kills one

A MOTORBIKE with a sidecar carrying six Burmese workers slid down a hill and flipped over in the Blue Canyon Country Club on February 14, killing one and seriously injuring two.

"One of the passengers, Mr Muang, told us that they worked at the Blue Canyon Country Club and were returning home after work. Their motorbike had trouble going up a hill, and eventually slid down it at a high speed and flipped over," said Tah Chat Chai Police Duty Officer Prakob Boonkwan.

A Blue Canyon Country Club staff member explained to the *Gazette* that the Burmese workers were not part of their staff, but were part of an outsourced construction team working on a



The motorbike and sidecar flipped as they slid down a hill.

condominium project within the country club.

"Mrs Su, 35, died at the scene. One female passenger suffered a broken arm and one of the men broke a leg. The others were not seriously injured," Lt Col Prakob added.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

German survives three-storey fall from balcony

A GERMAN tourist who fell from the balcony of his third-floor hotel room on the morning of February 16 is still on life support, but has been moved out of ICU and is said to be in stable condition at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Patong Police received a report at 2:45am that Alexander Sven Zott, 35, had fallen from the third floor balcony of his room at the Kalim Resort.

"His arms and back were broken and blood was flowing from a head wound," said Lt Thawatchai.



Alexander Sven Zott is still on life support at Vachira Hospital.

Inside the man's hotel room police found an unaddressed letter which said, "I am dead;

come with me to paradise. I love you with all my heart. Kiss..."

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



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Commander Amarin Akaravong of the OIG talks to police officers in Phuket about police culture.

Police culture to face shakedown with new officers

From page 1

Eventually, we will be able to change police culture for the better, and bad police officers will not be able to function within the 'White Police' organizations," said Commander Amarin Akaravong from the Office of Inspector General.

"We have to pay more attention to the performance and behavior of our officers. We have heard that some police officers have even become drug dealers, which is painful to find out.

"The public has shown more and more concern with how police are behaving – we can see this from the number of complaints about police acting inappropriately that are being filed with us," Pol Gen Amarin stated.

He made it clear that the goal of his visit to the island was to see whether or not the police of Phuket were adequately fulfilling the needs of the people, especially tourists.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Top cop grapples with Valentine's Day case

By Thawit Bilabdullar

PHUKET'S top cop took the reigns in a Valentine's Day violence case after a teen couple expressed their concern to members of the Phuket Press Club that the alleged attackers would be protected from the law by their father, a Thalang police officer.

Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat summoned Thalang Police Acting Superintendent Sirisak Wasairi to report to him immediately about the case, which revolves around the claim of a 17-year-old girl that she and her boyfriend, were attacked by two teenage boys whose father is Sen Sgt Maj Wichit Dada of the Thalang Police.

The girl, given the pseudonym "Koy" because she is a minor, further alleged that after the attack, Sgt Wichit restrained her 18-year-old boyfriend, Benz Densiri, while one of the boys threatened him with a gun.

Sgt Maj Wichit is the driver for the Thalang Police Superintendent and was also the driver for the previous superintendent.

The two parties involved in the case, as well as Thepkasattri Mayor Piyawat Jirajamorn and about 20 of Koy's relatives took part in a meeting at Thalang Police Station on Sunday to resolve the issue.

Despite three hours of talks, they were unable to reach a solution.

'They pointed a gun at Benz's head. They should be charged with attempted murder'

– Koy

"They pointed a gun at Benz's head," said the girl. "They should be charged with attempted murder."

The case investigator, Thalang police officer Niphon Temsang, confirmed that the couple filed an attempted murder complaint with the police on Sunday.

"The case will be sent to the juvenile prosecutor because both the suspects are minors," he added.

Ms Koy told members of the Phuket Press Club last Friday that on the evening of February 14, she and her boyfriend were leaving the garage owned by Benz's father when two boys rode by on a motorbike and

"looked at them in an unfriendly way".

"Suddenly, the two teenagers, who are Sgt Maj Wichit's sons, turned the bike around and came back to us. They hit me and Benz with a metal rod," Ms Koy said.

Half an hour later, the couple went to the restaurant owned by the boys' mother to ask why the boys had attacked them. "We live in the same village and we've never had any arguments," Ms Koy said.

Outside the restaurant, the teenagers started to fight again. During the fight, Mr Benz was cut.

"Sgt Maj Wichit Dada was there," she continued. "He should have helped us stop the fight."

Instead of helping the situation, Ms Koy alleged that Sgt Maj Wichit restrained Benz while one



Ms Koy required 10 stitches, while her boyfriend needed a total of 17.

of the boys threatened him with his father's gun.

Nonetheless, Ms Koy says she was able to defuse the situation to the point that she and Mr Benz could leave and be treated at Thalang Hospital.

Ms Koy needed 10 stitches in her face and Mr Benz required eight for a neck wound and nine for the wound on his head. After receiving treatment at the hospital, the two went to the Thalang Police station to file a complaint.

"I could tell that the police did

not really want to accept our complaint," Ms Koy said.

When contacted by the *Gazette*, an officer at Thalang Police station stated that Sgt Maj Wichit said Mr Benz's wounds were caused by jewelry his son was wearing. Sgt Wichit also told fellow officers that his son was wounded in the fight and was taken to hospital.

The four teenagers were at one point very close friends and "did everything together", the officer told the *Gazette*.

Swiss tourist flips car, dies in Rawai

A SWISS tourist allegedly trying to avoid a police checkpoint in Chalong died early this morning after his car hit a shelter in Rawai, flipped and landed in the sea.

The 46-year-old was driving with a female companion when he hit the already damaged shelter at the sea gypsy village in Rawai.

"We got the report at about 5:20am," said Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaiduang.

"We went to the scene and saw a Toyota Vios in the sea, about two meters from the shore. The bridge railing and the shelter on the road near the sea were damaged from the crash," Lt Col Jumroon said.

"The body of the man was still in the car. His female companion, who is from the Philippines, was sitting and crying on the shore," he said. "She had been rescued by people who witnessed the accident."

The woman, named by police only as "Ronaly", reportedly told



The car hit the already damaged Rawai pier shelter before it flipped and landed in the ocean below.

Col Jumroon that the couple had been drinking all day and had gotten massages, then continued drinking into the night.

When they were ready to return to their hotel in Patong, they wanted to avoid a police check-

point in Chalong, so they went through Rawai, she allegedly told police.

Witnesses said the car was going at high speed when it hit the shelter.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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DBD investigates Thai legal and accounting firms

A SPECIAL investigation by the Department of Business Development (DBD) into foreign-owned businesses in Phuket has revealed links to Thai legal and accounting firms here that may be helping companies set themselves up illegally in Thailand.

"These firms may be allowing foreigners to use their company address to represent the physical building of the foreigners' business."

"They may also be offering their staffers' names as nominee shareholders," DBD Director Wutthichai Wipusanawit said on February 18.

DBD Phuket office chief Nimitra Mangkajit said that at this point no wrong doing had been established.

"Right now, we are just conducting a thorough examination of the companies," he said.

The special investigation team will be targeting companies in four other provinces: Chon Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Surat Thani and Krabi, Director Wutthichai said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

DSI investigates Russians

By Orawin Narabal

OFFICERS from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) launched their own inquiry on February 13 into Cherng Talay locals' complaints that Russian business were stealing their jobs.

The visit comes in the immediate wake of the Phuket Employment Office's crackdown on illegal foreign businesses currently underway.

Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Unit 3, said that he was in Phuket to investigate Russian-owned businesses with nominee shareholders.

"We will inspect the area and collect information from local vendors who are struggling because of these companies," he said.

"After that, we will check with the Department of Business Development to see if these companies are being issued work permits or not," he added.

"Owners of companies that have not been issued work permits for their foreign staff face a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or a fine of 100,000



OrBorTor President Ma-ann Samran (right) shows Lt Col Somboon Sarasit (center) Russian-owned businesses in Cherng Talay. Photo: Orawin Narabal

to a million baht," he said.

"If Thai nominee shareholders are involved, they will also be charged," he added.

Col Somboon, who was accompanied by Cherng Talay OrBorTor President Ma-ann Samran, said that he would start by inspecting Alex Holiday Tour

Co, Ltd, the company that voluntarily shut its Bang Tao office after taxi drivers protested against it and tore down its sign on January 28.

"We have called Dan Wanbaworn, who is the Thai nominee shareholder and a member of management team to talk to us tomorrow [February 14],"

he said.

The DSI plans to inspect businesses in the Cherng Talay area first, and then move on to Patong, Kata and Karon.

Col Somboon invited locals with information about foreign-owned businesses operating illegally to report them to the Department of Special Investigation at 02-8319 888.

Baan Bangtao Taxi Club Vice President Kasem Samran explained the problem local taxi drivers are facing to Col Somboon.

"There are about 400 taxi drivers in the Cherng Talay area and all of them live in Cherng Talay. They use their own cars to do their business – it is a local business in our community."

"We have heard from some tourists that Russian business operators told them not to use services run by local people and it has caused us a great deal of trouble," Mr Kasem said.

"About 2 years ago, we made enough money to support our families, but after our jobs were stolen, we have been unable to make enough money," he said.

Myanmar Navy comes ashore in historic visit



Myanmar Navy arrives in Phuket. Photo: Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command

TWO warships from the Myanmar Navy arrived in Phuket on Wednesday in the navy's first diplomatic visit to a foreign country.

The Myanmar Navy, which currently operates more than 122 vessels, will arrive in Phuket to mark 65 years of diplomatic relations with Thailand. The visit offers the chance for joint military discussions, Lieutenant Commander Chaloeasak Chaijit of the Naval Civil Affairs Department of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command told the *Gazette*.

"There will be talks about military relations, possibly about a joint marine patrol for the first time," Lt Cdr Chaloeasak said.

"The warships, UMS 561 and UMS 562, are ships used for coastal patrols in Myanmar territorial waters around the Ranong border," Lt Cdr Chaloeasak added.

The Thai Navy visits Myanmar once every year or two. However, this will be the first time the Myanmar Navy has visited any foreign country.

"The visit shows that Myanmar has become more open, and is a good sign of growing relations between the Thai and Myanmar navies," he said.

The ships, with 80 to 100 officers on board, arrived in Phuket at about 7am on February 20. They were welcomed by officers from the Third Naval Area Command and will stay for three days.

The diplomatic visit will not be all work.

"The first social function will be hosted by the Myanmar Navy on their ships on February 20. The next day we will host a social event at Cape Panwa hotel," Lt Cdr Chaloeasak said.

— *Chutharat Plerin*

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Communication, infrastructure as important as full reservoirs

By Orawin Narabal

DESPITE the Phuket Waterworks' assurance on February 13 that water supplies were going to keep taps in Phuket wet this dry season (*see panel*), the *Gazette* received a report on February 14 that a resident of Baan Rockgarden 5 in Rassada had been without water for three days.

The *Gazette* relayed the information to Mr Pisak Chonlayut, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority, and learned that a water pipe had broken, preventing water from reaching the area.

"On February 11, the water pipe that carries water from the filtration plant in Bang Jo in Thalang broke, so it caused a water shortages in Kamala, Cherng Talay, Srisoonthorn and Rassada," Mr Pisak said.

"We have been able to fix the problem," he added.

In addition to a busted pipe, miscommunication caused further water problems in the area, he said.

"During a recent water shortage, the residents of Baan Rockgarden 5 and Baan Srisuchart Grandview 2 in Rassada reported the problem to



Pipes and pumps that work and officials who communicate are needed to keep water flowing. Photo: Gazette file

Rassada Municipality. The municipality tried to resolve the issue by adding more water into the reservoir near Kuan Din Dang in Baan Sapam," Mr Pisak said.

Kuan Din Dang is where water processed by the Bang Jo filtration plant is held before a booster pump sends it to Rockgarden 5 and Baan Srisuchart Grandview 2, he explained.

"They added so much water that it caused a problem with the booster pump at the reservoir and it broke, which is why there was a recent water shortage in those locations," he said.

The problem has been temporarily solved by replacing the broken pump with an older pump. However, the older pump is unable to provide the same level

of pressure.

"The Baan Rockgarden 5 and Baan Srisuchart Grandview 2 locations have water now, but the pressure is low, and if a lot of people use water at the same time, it might not be enough," he added.

Mr Pisak said the booster pump would be completely fixed and water supplies returned to normal by February 17.

Enough water for dry season



Mr Pisak announced a plan to improve Kog Tanod reservoir. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET has enough water on hand to supply the whole province this dry season, said Pisak Chonlayut, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority on February 13.

At a meeting to discuss Phuket water supplies chaired by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, Mr Pisak said that 48.5 million cubic meters of water are currently in reservoirs in Phuket province, with 7.2 million at Bang Niew Dum, 7.3 million at Bang Wad and 34 million in other reservoirs around the island.

He announced a plan to conserve water at the Cherng Talay Reservoir, Kog Tanod, which overflows – a waterline will be run from the reservoir to the water filtration plant in Bang Jo in Thalang next year at a cost of 99 million baht.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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Mr Supakij had 2,000 baht worth of marijuana in his possession.

National defense volunteer nabbed with marijuana

THALANG Police arrested a national defense volunteer with two bags of marijuana at a checkpoint in Thalang on February 16.

When police saw a white Toyota Vios attempting to avoid the checkpoint at Baan Yamu at 8:30pm, they stopped the car, driven by Supakij Benjamas, 29, and searched it.

"We found two bags of marijuana in a peanut can," Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwutthianun said.

"We found a card identifying the driver as a national defense volunteer," Lt Col Amnuay said.

"The value of the marijuana was 2,000 baht and Mr Supakij was charged with possession and use of a class 5 narcotic," said Col Amnuay. "The maximum penalty is up to five years in prison or a 50,000 baht fine."

The checkpoint at Baan Yamu on Saturday was part of an initiative organized by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat to crack down on drugs and weapons in Phuket.

At the time of Mr Supakij's arrest, the checkpoint was manned by top brass: Thalang Police Deputy Superintendents Amnuay Kraiwutthianun, Pisit Chunpet and Wiwat Chumnankij, as well as Thalang District Chief Administrative Officer Siripong Leprasit.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Students plant rare species of palm in honor of Princess Sirindhorn

PHUKET teachers and students helped plant 100 rare White Back Palm trees near Ton Sai Waterfall on February 14 in honor of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut led the tree planting ceremony, which included officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Teachers and students from Muang Thalang School and Weerasatree Anusorn School joined the ongoing project to preserve and protect the unique nature within Khao Pra Taew.

Governor Maitri explained that the project is derived from the Environmental Conservation Youth Camp initiative which is part of the Royal

Initiative of Princess Sirindhorn to preserve and protect the natural beauty of Thailand.

The White Back Palm, also known as the 'Governor's Palm', is indigenous only to Khao Pra Taew and was first identified in 1929 by an Irish botanist, according to Khao Pra Taew chief Pongchart Chuehom.

"When Princess Sirindhorn visited Ton Sai Waterfall on December 18, 1996, she planted White Back Palm trees," Mr Pongchart said.

In addition to planting 100 trees, participants helped spread fertilizer around an additional 219 trees.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Governor Maitri plants one of the 100 rare White Back Palms in Khao Pra Taew.

Six busted for drugs valued at B1.5mn north of Phuket

POLICE busted a drug ring February 14, netting drugs with a street value of about 1.5 million baht when they arrested six drug dealers with *ya bah* (methamphetamine), *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and cough syrup in Phang Nga.

Acting on a tip-off, police went to the home of Chaithuth Prasanphan, 35, and his brother Somchai Prasanphan, 40, in the Muang District of Phang Nga.

"They found 4,003 *ya bah* pills, 488.90 grams of *ya ice*, 70 bottles of Iwadil cough syrup, a list of customers and used drug paraphernalia," said Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyart.

Also in the house were Boonyawee Wareesri and Thanawat Petchkliang, both 27 years old, who confessed that they were visiting Mr Chaithuth and Mr Somchai with the intention of using drugs.

"We questioned the four of them and found out that two men who live nearby, Bulard Boontem,



All six suspects were charged with the possession, use, sale and distribution of a class 1 narcotic.

52, and his son, Natee Boontem, 26, were also involved in the drug distribution process," Maj Gen Chalit added.

"So we went to their house and arrested them after finding 600 more *ya bah* pills and 146,480

baht. They confessed to using and distributing drugs," he said.

"The items we seized are worth over 1.5 million baht," Maj Gen Chalit added.

All six suspects were charged with the possession, use, sale and

distribution of a class 1 narcotic.

Mr Wareesri, Mr Petchkliang, Mr Chaithuth and Mr Somchai were additionally charged with the illegal distribution of a pharmaceutical product — the cough syrup.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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PMBC treats, releases three beached dolphins

THE three Spotted dolphins that beached themselves on February 7 in Khao Lak have not returned to land after being treated and released back into the sea, Patcharaporn Kaewmong, a veterinarian at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) confirmed to the *Gazette* this week.

"I think they are safe since they have not come back to us," said Dr Patcharaporn.

When the dolphins beached themselves, Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, of the PMBC's Endangered Species Unit (ESU) was alerted of the situation and went immediately to the scene.

"We went to the beach in front of the JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa. By the time we arrived, the dolphins had been moved by Khao Lak and Pak Weep



Veterinarians treated the dolphins before releasing them into the ocean.

rescue workers to a pool," Dr Kongkiat said.

The dolphins were all females, about 2 meters long and weighing 40 to 50 kilograms. They were weak and one of them had scratches on its skin, he said.

Dr Kongkiat believes the dol-

phins might have swum to shore because they had grown tired and were separated from their pod.

The veterinarians treated them with vitamins and antibiotics before releasing them back into the sea 500 meters from shore.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Ranong visa-run van flips

A VISA-RUN van returning to Phuket from Ranong with 10 Russian passengers flipped three times as it allegedly took a sharp turn at high speed on the wet roads of Phang Nga on February 13.

None of the passengers was seriously injured.

"On the way to Ranong the driver was going very, very fast. We understood that he was a professional driver, but everyone felt uncomfortable with the speed," said Kristina Doran, a Russian expat who moved to Phuket last July.

On the return trip the driver slowed down somewhat, "like 110km", Ms Doran said. The passengers relaxed, and as it started to rain, Ms Doran fell asleep.

"That's when the van flipped three times. I heard the road was wet and there was a sharp curve. People slammed into each other as the van was turning over," she told the *Gazette*.

After the van came to a stop, the passengers managed to open a door and get out. Two women had trouble breathing and four people had back problems, but nobody appeared to be seriously hurt, Ms Doran said.

"It was really magic that everyone was okay," Ms Doran added.

Immediately after the tour van passengers climbed free of the wreckage, a car moving at high speed also flipped on the curve, Ms Doran said.

"It was like a movie," she added.

Six passengers from the tour van were taken to Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

"They had bruises, scratches, and some had rib pain, but no one was admitted to the hospital," emergency room staff told



Rescue workers attend to one of the 10 Russians who was in the visa-run van when it flipped three times on its return to Phuket from Ranong. Photo: Gazette file

the *Gazette*.

The hospital bill was covered by the visa-run company's insurance, Ms Doran explained.

"At first I went to my lawyer and wanted to get compensation for the accident because I could have died, but I ended up doing nothing about it because I am alive. I don't know why, but I'm not

upset with the driver, I know he was fast, but I'm not upset with him," Ms Doran told the *Gazette*.

The *Gazette* contacted the visa-run company, KBV, with the number provided by Ms Doran. However, the staffer who answered the phone denied that their visa-run van was involved in the incident.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Student drowns at Ton Pariwat waterfall



A crowd gathers after Mr Ali's body is pulled from the water. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

A STUDENT from Dubai drowned at Ton Pariwat waterfall in Phang Nga on Valentine's Day after having left his friends to explore the area.

Muhammad Ali, 20, had separated from his friends to "walk around and take photos" in the Ton Pariwat Wildlife Conservation Area after a morning of rafting at Kong Songprak, said the conservation area chief Uthen Siriphuwanart.

"His friends returned to their car to wait for him. When he didn't arrive two hours later, they reported to us," Mr Uthen said.

Officers started to search for Mr Ali, but were forced to stop at sunset.

The next morning, divers found Mr Ali's body in the pool below the waterfall.

"His friends said Mr Ali couldn't swim and thought that he might have... fallen into the water," said Phang Nga Provincial Police Deputy Commander Saman Chainarong.

The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and Mr Ali's family have been informed of his death, confirmed Mr Uthen.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



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*The Charm Residence Project: Pralving Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. It's company registration number is 083552010143, with its registered office at 5/41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 56,666,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2012). The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprises three five-story residential buildings, and one seven-story residential building, with a total of 245 residential condominium units (and no commercial condominium unit). The company is also developing a residential land allocation project located at Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. It is being developed on the land under the land title deed number 12177, land plot number 5, page search 960, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The area of the land subject to the development has an approximate area of 3 Rai, 1 Ngan and 15.8 square Rils. The company is the owner of the land. The land is encumbered to Kasikorn Bank PCL. The project is currently being developed. Once the buyer pays the full purchase price under the sale and purchase agreement, the company will be ready to transfer the ownership to buyers within 30 days. The development of the project commenced in April 2011, and the development of the common properties and public services in the project should be completed around December 2013. Once the development is completed, the company will register the condominium. The buyers of the condominium units will be required to pay the common area fees, taxes, and other fees as determined by the developer or the condominium juristic person, subject to the laws on condominium and the terms and conditions set by the company.



GLO battles rumors that the lottery is fixed. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

National lottery draw in Phuket to fight rumors of rigging results

TO DISPEL rumors that the national lottery is rigged, the Government Lottery Office (GLO) will be staging one of its lucky draw mobile events in Phuket at the Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town on March 1.

"The rumor was started by a scam letter which guaranteed that the numbers people chose would be drawn, for a fee," Phuket public relations chief Punyawee Thongsiriseth explained.

"The lucky draw mobile event is meant to give people an opportunity to see the lottery draw process, including the equipment they use during the drawing," Mrs Punyawee said.

"Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut will chair the event, and other Phuket dignitaries and local leaders, as well as the press, will be present," she said.

A local government officer will join the GLO staff in choosing the lucky numbers, she explained.

"After witnessing the process, people will no longer believe that the lottery can be rigged," Mrs Punyawee added.

GLO will hold a talk from 9:30 to 11:30am at the Metropole Hotel the day of the drawing on the topic "Do you believe in a rigged lottery?"

The drawing itself, starting at 2:30pm, is open to anyone interested in watching in person, though it will be necessary to show an official form of ID.

— Chutharat Plerin

Idle hands to empty pockets

Patong police catch real estate, gambling con artists

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PATONG Police arrested two con artists on Monday who allegedly made more than 16 million baht by posing as real estate agents and luring potential clients into fixed gambling matches of *fantan* while they waited for "rich buyers" to visit their property.

Acting on reports from two men who said they had been scammed out of 200,000 and 900,000 baht, police arrested Wasan Choothong, 29, and Tiwalai Ruprasut, 58, at the entrance of Bangla Road in Patong.

Both had outstanding arrest warrants for fraud.

Mr Wasan had three warrants, issued by Phuket City Police, Bor Pud Police and Ranong City Police with total fraud accusations totaling about 15 million baht. Mrs Tiwalai had a fraud warrant issued by Bang Saphan Police in Prachuap Khiri Khan for about 1.3 million baht.

"The suspects told police that they had conducted many scams," said Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan. "They said the total amount they had made through these scams was



The pair made over 16 million baht from their gambling hustle.

over 16 million baht."

The scam was simple Col Chiraphat said: Mr Wasan and Mrs Tiwalai posed as real estate agents and approached people trying to sell some land or a house, offering to arrange a meeting with a rich prospective buyer. There

would be a long wait for the buyer to arrive, during which the victims would be invited to gamble to kill time. Associates of the scammers would be called in to participate in a rigged game of *fantan*, which is a traditional Chinese game of chance.



Wasan Choothong



Tiwalai Ruprasut

"The next thing they knew, the victims were broke," said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Paisarn Sangthep.

The Patong Police are preparing to transfer the two con artists to other jurisdictions for prosecution.

DSI launches fresh attack on illegally issued land title deeds

From page 1

...selling, changing or transferring protected natural resources, environment or any country property," Lt Col Prawuth said.

The law requires certain businesses, such as gold dealers, car rental agencies, antique dealers and, critically, land brokers, to file detailed reports with the Ministry of Finance every time they make a transaction above a set baht amount, to be determined by the ministry.

Penalties for breaking the law are one to ten years in prison, 20,000 to 200,000 – baht fines, or both.

"Suspicious land title deeds

have been issued for 3,000 rai of the 60,000 rai national park. These land title deeds were then sold to groups of foreign investors to build 14 hotels and resorts," Lt Col Prawuth told the *Gazette* on February 19.

"We have also found investors queued up to apply for suspicious land title deeds for about 360 plots of land in the national park," he added.

The DNP stopped issuing *Chanote* titles for land in the park area after 1964, and any land that has a *Chanote* issued after 1964 is to be considered illegally owned, explained the former head of the DNP, Damrong Phidet, in August.

"Our investigation process will be strong and fair," Lt Col Prawuth said. "We will investigate those who are really involved in the process of issuing illegal land documents. Some of these land documents have passed through many hands. Investors who just bought the land might not know the background of the land titles, so we cannot press charges against them – we have to be fair to them," he said.

"We are examining the details of the park land and the resorts and hotels that were suspected of encroaching on the park. After that we will send the information to the Anti Money Laundering Office (AMLO) to check if there are any

money laundering charges that can be levied," he said.

To help investors determine whether or not land they are considering purchasing may be legally sold, the DNP has developed a program called "DSI Map", which provides an IT database with satellite images and aerial photographs of Thailand, explained Lt Col Prawuth.

"The program shows the national park and national protected forest borders," he said.

"The program is only in Thai, but we hope to have an English version available soon," he added.

The current interactive map can be found at www.dsi-map.go.th.



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Insurgents' defeat sparks fresh bombing campaign

AROUND THE nation

MILITANTS in the Deep South responded to a devastating defeat in which 16 of their number were killed by the Royal Thai Marines by launching a series of bomb attacks in Pattani City last Saturday.

The bombs killed two rangers, wounded 12 people and damaged a bar, shops and a department store in the city's bustling commercial district.

Despite the fresh violence, the government says it is planning on offering an "olive branch" to militants by replacing the Emergency Decree that applies in the Deep South with the more lenient Internal Security Act.

The insurgents' recent defeat took place in the early hours of



Military in the Deep South prepare for more attacks. Photo: The Nation

February 13, when around 50 armed men wearing army uniforms and body armor launched an attack on the Bajoh marine base in Narathiwat.

But due to a tip-off, the Royal Thai Marines were waiting for them.

The ensuing gunfight was highly one-sided. Sixteen of the

militants were killed without a single casualty on the marines' side.

The death toll was the worst for the militants in a single day since hostilities re-erupted in 2004.

The following Saturday, the insurgents appeared to take revenge, with a series of explosions in Pattani City that killed two rangers and injured 12 people.

At least 10 explosive devices were found in various locations in the center of the city. Among the targets were a night market and a restaurant at the central clock tower.

Officials were instructed to step up security in the city, as the insurgents were believed to be planning more attacks in revenge for the failed ambush.

Meanwhile, the government says it is planning to replace enforcement of the Emergency Decree with the more lenient Internal Security Act (ISA), which would allow insurgents to enter a plea bargaining scheme under Article 21.



The 12-year-old girl. Photo: The Nation

Cops offer reward for information on torturing duo

POLICE have offered a 100,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of a Thai couple suspected of enslaving and torturing a now 12-year-old Karen girl over a five-year period.

The pair, Natee Taeng-orn and Rattanakorn Piyaworatham, deny the charges and had been released on bail following their arrests earlier this month.

They have since disappeared.

The young victim told police she had to do housework without pay and help Mrs Rattanakorn bathe dogs at her shop. When the girl made a mistake, she was locked in a cage and hot water was poured on her.



The trail the couple had blazed on their journey. Image: Google

Round-the-world cycling couple killed in Thailand

A BRITISH couple on a round-the-world cycling tour were killed in a road accident in Chachoengsao Province last week more than 18 months into their trip.

Peter Root and Mary Thompson, both 34, had left the UK in July 2011 and had cycled through Europe, the Middle East and China, *The Nation* reported.

After Southeast Asia, the couple were planning on heading to New Zealand to rest.

Lt Col Supachai Luang-sukcharoen of the Thai police told AP that investigators on February 13 found their bodies, bicycles and belongings scattered along the roadside in Chachoengsao, which is about 20 kilometers east of Bangkok.

Close to the wreckage was a pickup truck that had crashed into a tree.

The driver, Worapong Sangkhawat, 25, was seriously injured. He told police he hit the couple after reaching down to pick up a cap from the vehicle's floor.

Mr Worapong has been released



Peter Root and Mary Thompson left the UK in July 2011. Photo: The Nation

on bail and faces charges of causing death by dangerous driving.

The couple, who met at art school 14 years ago, were documenting their journey on their website, *twoonfourwheels.com*.

Still online at the time of writing, the site showed a map with a red line marking their route across Europe and Asia from France. At the Cambodian border with Thailand, the line ends.



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In brief...

EU tightens sanctions on North Korea

EUROPEAN Union governments agreed on Monday to tighten sanctions against North Korea, restricting the country's ability to trade following last week's nuclear test.

The sanctions expand those approved by the UN Security Council in January, adding measures preventing trading in North Korean government bonds, gold, precious metals and diamonds, EU diplomats said.

Belgian child killer Dutroux denied parole

A BELGIAN court denied parole to child killer Marc Dutroux on Monday, ruling he could not be freed with a security tag on his ankle as there was no prospect of him fitting back into society.

Dutroux, 56, was sentenced in 2004 to life in prison for kidnapping and raping six girls and killing four of them in the 1990s.

UN body says United States lax on clerical sex abuse cases

A UN committee has accused US legal authorities of failing to fully pursue cases of child sex abuse in religious groups, an issue especially troubling the Roman Catholic Church.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child wrote this month that it was "deeply concerned" to find widespread sexual abuse by clerics and staff of religious institutions and "a lack of measures... to properly investigate cases and prosecute them".



IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE... IT'S A HOT ROCK? The trail of a falling object from space is seen above the city of Chelyabinsk in the Urals. Photos: Reuters

Treasure hunters in wake of Russian meteorite's trail

By Chukwuemeka Madu

A METEOR that exploded over Russia's Ural mountains and sent fireballs blazing to earth has set off a rush to find fragments of the space rock which hunters hope could fetch thousands of dollars a piece.

Friday's blast and ensuing shockwave shattered windows, injured almost 1,200 people and caused about \$US33 million worth of damage, said local authorities.

It also started a "meteorite rush" around the industrial city of Chelyabinsk, 1,500km east of Moscow, where groups of people have started combing through the snow and ice.

One amateur space enthusiast estimated chunks could be worth anything up to \$US2,200 per gram – more than 40 times the current cost of gold.

"The price is hard to say yet... The fewer meteorites that are recovered, the higher their price," said Dmitry Kachkalin, a member of the Russian Society of Amateur Meteorite Lovers. Meteorites are parts of a meteor that have fallen to earth.

Scientists at the Urals Federal University were the first to announce a significant find – 53 small, stony, black objects around Lake Chebarkul, near Chelyabinsk, which tests confirmed were small meteorites.

The fragments were only 0.5 to 1 cm across but the scientists said larger pieces may have crashed into the lake, where a cra-

ter in the ice about eight meters wide opened up after last Friday's explosion.

"We just completed tests and confirm that the pieces of matter found by our experts around Lake Chebarkul are really meteorites," said Viktor Grokhovsky, a scientist with the Urals Federal University and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"These are classified as ordinary chondrites, or stony meteorites, with an iron content of about 10 per cent," he told RIA news agency.

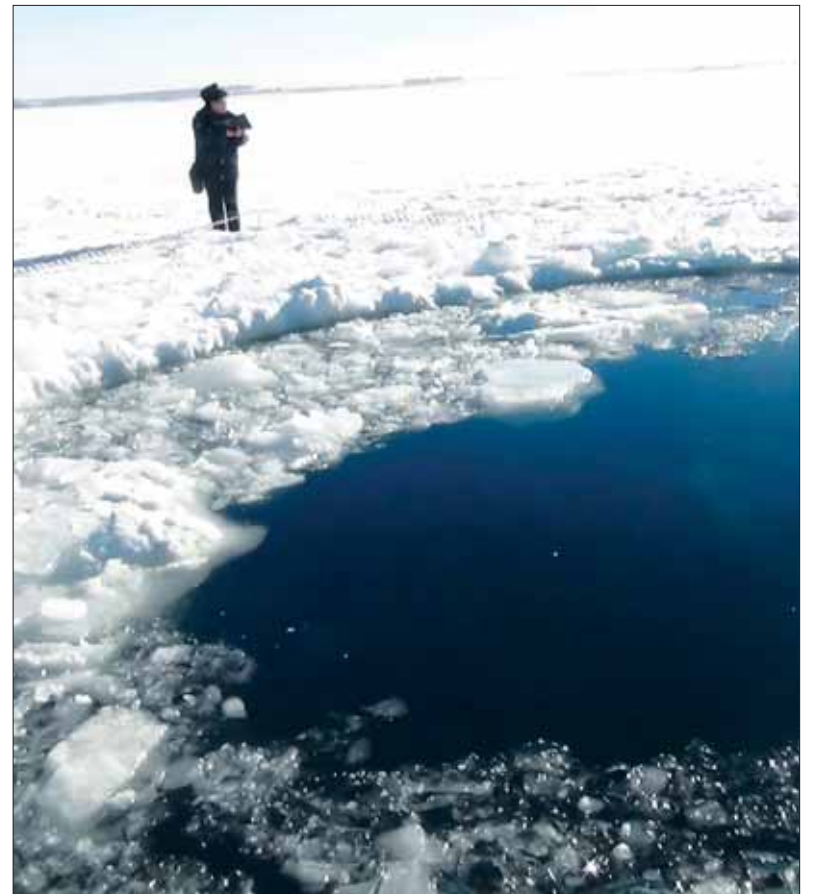
He did not say whether the fragments had told his team anything about the origins of the meteor, which the US space agency NASA estimated was 17 meters across before entering Earth's atmosphere and weighed about 10,000 tons.

The main fireball streaked across the sky at a speed of about 30km per second, according to Russian space agency Roscosmos, before crashing into the snowy wastes.

More than 20,000 people took part in search and cleanup operations at the weekend in and around Chelyabinsk, which is in the heart of a region packed with industrial military plants.

Many other people were in the area just hoping to find a meteorite after what was described by scientists as a once-in-a-century event.

Residents of a village near Chelyabinsk searched the snowy streets, collecting stones they hoped would prove to be the real



A Russian policeman works near an ice hole, said by the Interior Ministry department for Chelyabinsk region to be the point of impact of a meteorite.

thing. But not all were ready to sell.

"I will keep it. Why sell it? I didn't have a rich lifestyle before, so why start now?" a woman in a pink woollen hat and winter jacket, clutching a small black pebble, told state television Rossiya-24.

The internet filled quickly with advertisements from eager hunters hoping to sell what they said were meteorites – some for as

little as about \$US33

The authenticity of the items was hard to ascertain.

One seller of a large, silver-hued rock wrote in an advertisement on the portal Avito.ru: "Selling an unusual rock. It may be a piece of meteorite, it may be a bit of a UFO, it may be a piece of a rocket!"

– Reuters

Islamist group claims kidnap of foreigners

AN ISLAMIST group linked to al Qaeda claimed responsibility on Monday for kidnapping seven foreigners in an attack in a remote Nigerian town at the weekend, when raiders used explosives to blast their way into a housing compound in a hail of gunfire.

Gunmen killed a security guard and abducted a Briton, an Italian, a Greek and four Lebanese workers after storming the compound of Lebanese construction firm Setraco in Jama'are in Bauchi state last Saturday.

It was the worst case of foreigners being kidnapped in the mostly Muslim north of Africa's most populous country since an insurgency by Islamist militants intensified two years ago.

"By Allah's grace (we) have the



The kidnapping of foreigners by radical religious groups in Northern Nigeria (pictured) only began about two years ago. Photo: Burmesedays

custody of seven persons, which include Lebanese and their European counterparts working with Setraco," read a statement from Ansaru, a group that has kidnapped other foreigners in the past.

The kidnapping was "based on

the transgression and atrocities done to the religion of Allah by the European countries in many places such as Afghanistan and Mali," the statement said.

Three foreigners kidnapped last year were killed in two failed rescue attempts in northern

Nigeria and Ansaru, blamed for those kidnappings, they warned they could act again.

"Any attempt or act (against us) by European nations or by the Nigerian Government will lead to (similar) happenings," said the group, which has not issued any specific demands.

Ansaru's full name is Jama'atu Ansarul Musilimina Fi Biladis Sudan, which roughly translates as "Vanguards for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa".

The group has risen to prominence only in recent months.

Kidnapping of foreigners for ransom has been common in Nigeria's southern oil region for a decade but abductions by radical Islamists in the north only began two years ago.

– Reuters

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Fill 'er up with gasohol please

How the policy to discontinue 91-octane unleaded gasoline will impact local consumption

By Steven Layne

DUE to the discontinuation of the supply of pure Benzine (91-octane) petrol nationwide, the consumption of gasohol in Phuket this year is expected to increase by at least 50%.

Rattakorn Klinchan, head of research at the Phuket Energy Office affirmed that supplies of pure Benzine 91 were discontinued nationwide on January 1, with most Phuket stocks already drying out this month.

While Benzine 91-octane – known commonly as 'Regular Unleaded Gasoline' – has been phased out, Mr Rattakorn confirmed that Benzine 95-octane will still be in circulation.

"There are at least two pumps in Phuket where you can get pure Benzine 95-octane. One of them is the Susco pump in Thalang. The other, I've been told, is in Chalong, but I'm not sure exactly which pump."

The *Gazette* has confirmed that the Chalong pump selling pure Benzine 95 is the PTT pump on Chao Fa West road, differentiated by PTT using a yellow label.

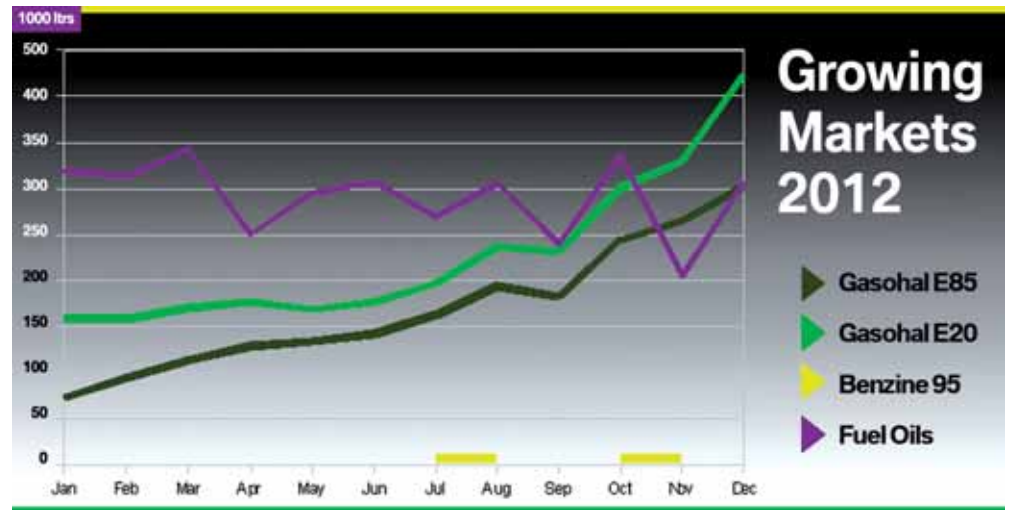
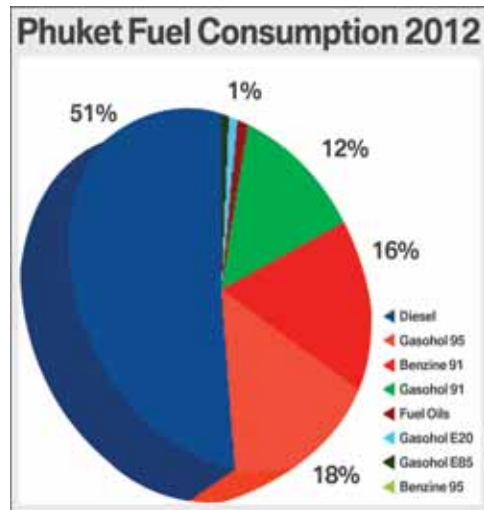
Mr Rattakorn went on to share fuel consumption data with the *Gazette*, noting that Gasohol (both 91 and 95-octane) consumption was about twice as high as that of pure Benzine 91-octane in 2012.

"Last year, the average daily consumption rate of Gasohol in Phuket was about 234,000 liters, while that of pure Benzine was about 124,000ltrs per day."

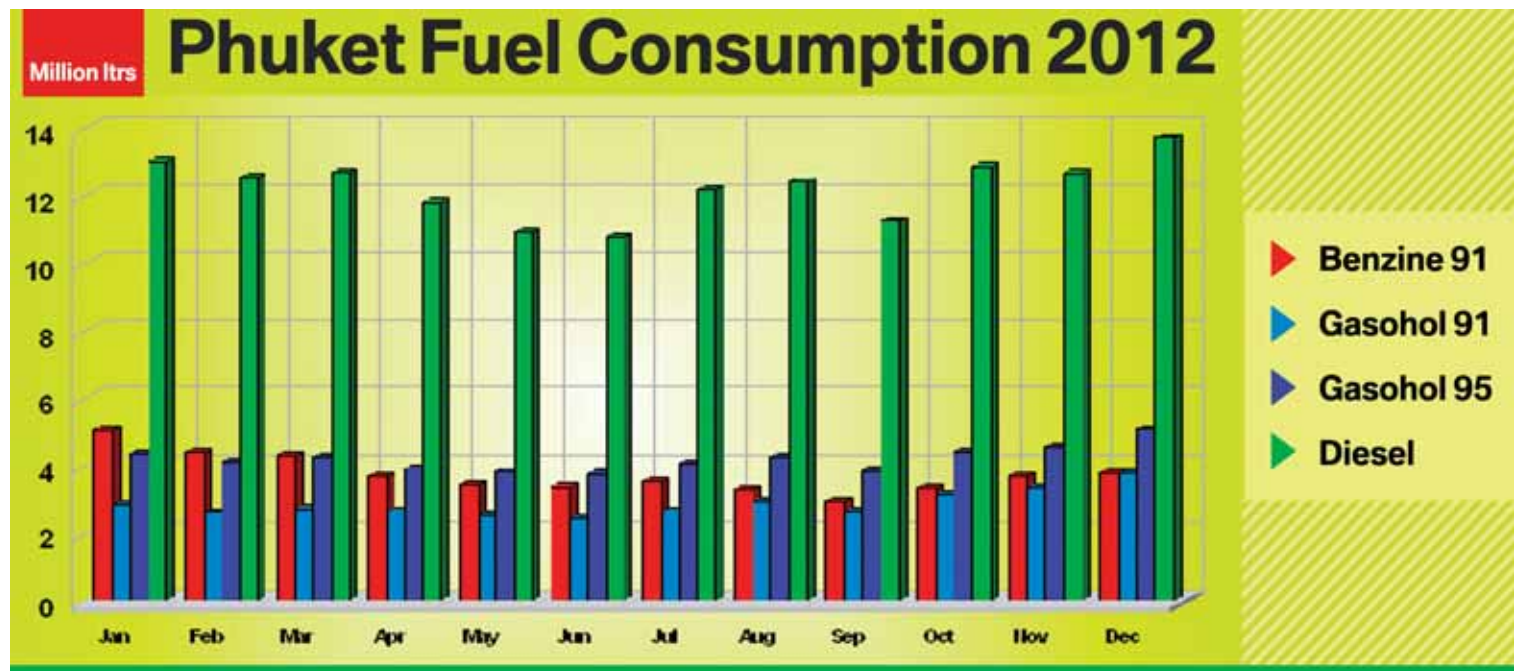
Since Benzine 91-octane will be unavailable and 95-octane is available in limited quantities, Gasohol consumption in the province will likely increase by at least 50%.

"Our statistics show that a total of 45.1mn ltrs of Benzine 91 were sold [legally] on the island in 2012, or an average of about 3.75mn liters per month," he said.

"Meanwhile, petrol pumps in Phuket reported [to the Revenue Department] selling about 34.59mn ltrs of Gasohol 91-octane, an average of about 2.8mn ltrs per month. As for Gasohol 95-octane, 50.6mn ltrs were sold, or about 4.2mn ltrs per day."



WHAT MAKES PHUKET GO: The pie graph (above, left) shows proportions of fuels sold on the island last year. The line graph (above, right) charts a 168% jump in the monthly consumption of E-20, and a 313% spike in E-85 gasohol in Phuket, from January until December.



More than 51% of all fuel sold in Phuket last year was diesel. Total fuel consumption, as measured by sales, stood at 285.48 million liters.

Mr Rattakorn said that from now until April 25, the Phuket Technical College will be providing free conversion tune-ups for older cars that were not designed to handle Gasohol – a blend of unleaded gas-

line (pure benzine) and the organic byproduct-turned-additive, ethanol.

"In conjunction with the energy department, students will do the conversions on older cars free of charge, but car owners

will have to pay for additional parts."

Specific inquiries about gasohol tune-ups can be made by calling 076 210 179. Also, see opinion piece about petrol on page 16.

Policy sees ethonol demand surge

IN LIGHT of the government's policy to discontinue circulation of Benzine 91-octane fuel, as to promote Gasohol, daily domestic consumption of ethonol rose by nearly 80% in the first month of the year.

This surge was complemented with a 31% increase in Gasohol consumption in January.

The cease supply order, effective since January 1, is part of the government's long-term strategy to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel, as well as promote domestic ethonol production.

Quoted in articles by *The Nation* and *Kom Chad Luek*, the director-general of the Energy Ministry's department of energy business, Veerapol Jirapraditkul, said that the country's daily domestic consumption rate rose from 13.58 million liters in December, 2012 up to 17.7mn ltrs per day in January, 2013.

As result of the increased demand for gasohol, domestic ethonol

consumption spiked by 78.5% over the same period, from 1.4mn ltrs up to 2.1mn ltrs per day.

The director-general said he expects the rate of ethonol consumption to be about 2.5mn ltrs per day by the end of the year.

Director-general Veerapol noted that there is still about 4mn ltrs of Benzine 91 on stock at petrol pumps nationwide.

He added that he expects remaining reserves in the Bangkok metropolitan area and near vicinity, to run out within this month, while supplies in other provinces are expected to last until March.

Meanwhile, demand and consumption for super unleaded gasoline – Benzine 95-octane – has shot through the roof.

"While Benzine consumption dropped from 8.65mn ltrs per day to 4.21mn liters per day, consumption of Benzine 95 jumped from about 100,000 liters to 970,000 ltrs per day [from December 2012 to January 2013]," he said.

Director-general Veerapol added that he expects daily consumption of Benzine 95 to be between one and two million liters per day by the end of the year.

The director explained that the Energy Department will be rolling out some campaigns aimed at stimulating continuous consumption of Gasohol.

Meanwhile, he said that the department, in cooperation with a working committee for the AEC (Asean Economic Community) – were conducting studies and drawing out plans about the exporting of Gasohol.

Most of Thailand's ethonol is produced from Cassava, Mollasses and Sugarcane at more than 20 production plants across the country, which have a combined capacity of about three million liters per day.

PTT has announced plans to produce 4mn ltrs per month of a special-grade biodiesel called bio-hydrogen diesel (BHD) with



Gasohol and deisel are the only option at most Phuket pumps.

15% palm-oil content.

PTT has upgraded its IRPC refinery to allow for the production of BHD, which will be 15% palm oil and 85% diesel fuel.

The initial production target is set at about 4mn ltrs a month.

Most diesel offered at pumps nationwide over the last few years has been a bio-diesel mixture with between 3 to 5% palm oil content.

Krabi is poised to become Thailand's palm oil production hub leading into the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community.

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Expats rank Thailand high in global survey

ONE of the largest 'expat living' surveys conducted last year ranked Thailand second in terms of experience and quality of life, while ranking the Kingdom third in economics.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) recently published the results of its 2012 Expat Explorer Survey, which encompassed responses from more than 5,000 expats residing in thirty countries.

The same survey from 2011 ranked Thailand first in expat experience and quality of life, while 10th in economics.

Surpassing Thailand in 2012 in the categories of experience was the Cayman Islands. Meanwhile, Spain, Singapore and Malaysia also made the top-five list for this category, which took into account expats' lifestyles – especially the ease with which expats can set up in their new country, how well they integrate into the local community and their overall quality of life.

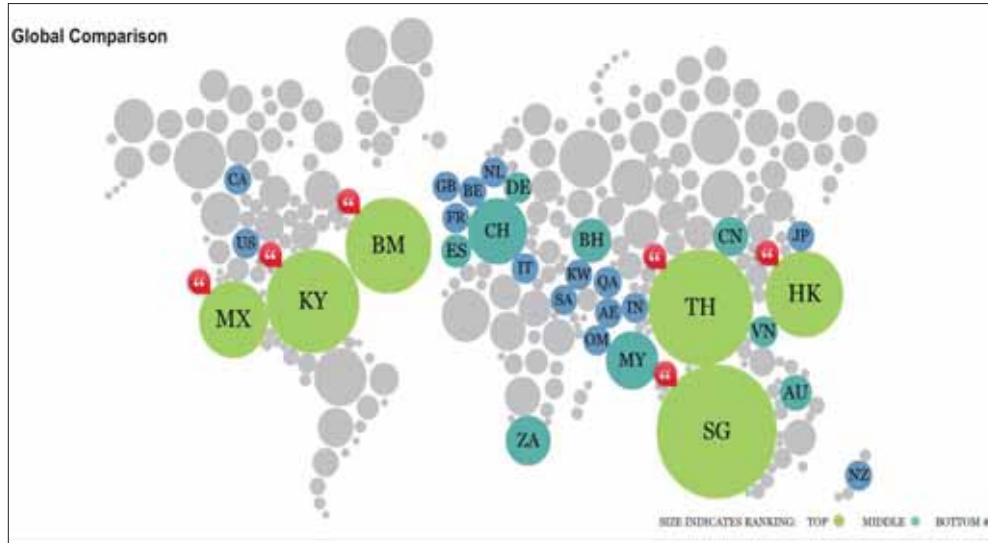
Of the respondents in Thailand, 83% said they had an improved quality of life after relocating to the Kingdom. This is compared to Singapore (76%) and Malaysia (72%).

One of the criteria considered in the experience ranking was "better standard of accommodation", with 60% of Thailand expats reporting such improvements after relocating, compared to Malaysia (69%), Singapore (48%), Hong Kong (19%) and the global average (39%).

Another experience area in which Thailand topped the list for expats was the social scene; 60% of respondents in the Kingdom agreed that their social life was more active since moving abroad. This is compared to expats in Hong Kong (52%), Singapore (43%) and Malaysia (39%).

Not surprisingly, the category of 'commuting' did not get a positive response from Thailand expats, with only 36% reporting a better commute since moving to the country.

While this was higher than the respective response of expats who had relocated to western countries such as Italy (30%), the



This pictograph highlights countries that expats had favored in a recent global expat survey. Several countries in Latin America and Asia topped the list. Photo: HSBC

UK (32%) and the USA (35%), Thailand remained leagues behind Hong Kong (72%), Singapore (57%), Malaysia (44%) and the overall global average (45%) in this category.

Late to integrate

Despite their preference for Thailand in terms of experience and economics, expats in the Kingdom reported less favorably in terms of getting acquainted, with the Land of Smiles ranked 11th in overall setting up and 10th in overall integration categories.

Despite the many positives of expat life in Asia, both financially and in terms of quality of life, it appears that a move to the region does come with some difficulties.

Expats living in Asia generally report finding it difficult to integrate into the local community. The number of expats who agreed strongly that they had integrated well in the local community in Asian countries including Malaysia (25%), Singapore (19%), Thailand (14%), and Hong Kong (11%), were much lower in comparison to many English-

speaking countries such as Canada (44%), Australia (43%) and the UK (41%).

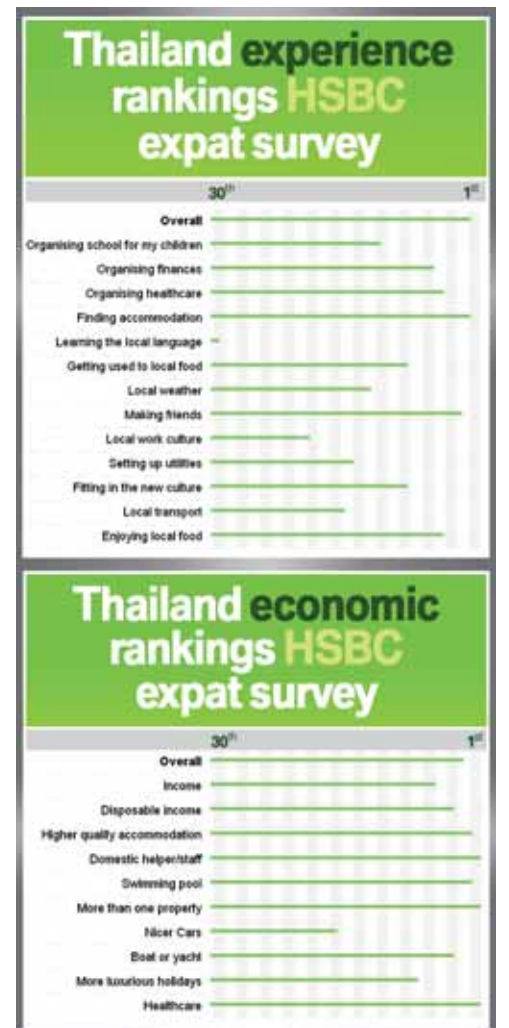
The trend is highlighted when looking at the social activity of expats in these countries, with many expats in Hong Kong (50%), Thailand (48%) and Singapore (41%) in strong agreement that they tend to socialize with other expats rather than locals.

Learning the local language is a serious barrier to integration for expats living in Asia, with more than half of expats in Hong Kong (59%), and higher than average levels in Thailand (45%) and Malaysia (25%), finding learning a local language very difficult.

As a result, while a third (33%) of expats across the world agreed strongly that they try to learn the local language of their new country; these levels are much lower in Thailand (24%), Singapore (15%), Malaysia (14%) and Hong Kong (9%).

Asia makes cents

Five Asian countries made the overall top ten rankings of HSBC's Expat Economics



Thailand's rankings for various experience and economics categories. Image: Gazette

League Table including Singapore (1st), Thailand (3rd), Hong Kong (4th), China (7th) and Vietnam (10th).

The table looked at various economic categories, namely income, wealth opportunities, healthcare costs and choices, property attainability and access to cars, yachts and other luxuries. In terms of being a 'wealth hotspot', the survey ranked Thailand in 4th behind Singapore, Bermuda and Hong Kong. In the category of 'income', Thailand ranked 6th, behind Singapore, Bermuda, Mexico, Hong Kong and China, respectively. As for 'disposable income', Thailand was in 4th, behind Bermuda, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Thailand did top the list for several economic categories including 'luxuries', 'domestic staff/helper', 'more than one property' and 'healthcare'.

– Phuket Gazette



OTOP fair to showcase a lot of local products

NO LESS than 15 million baht is expected to be circulated at the upcoming "OTOP City – Four Regions" fair, an event that will showcase up to 200 booths selling quality local products from Phuket and across the country.

The fair will be held from February 22 to March 2 at the Saphan Hin fair-grounds in Phuket Town.

Speaking at a recent meeting of organizing committee members, Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak said that the Phuket Community Development Office had received a budget of 170,000 baht to organize the fair.

As part of the National Community Development strategy's campaign entitled "OTOP Mobile to the Factory and Festival", the aim of the fair is to promote distribution and sales channels for

OTOP products, and thus increase income for OTO retailers, he said.

Some 50 booths, at the fair's entrance, will feature Phuket products. These include Batik fabric from the Chaiya Batik brand, as well as other similar traditional designer fabric products; etched leather products; locally-cultured pearls; snacks and sweets from Pornthip Phuket Co Ltd, as well as cashew nut products from local producer Cashewy, among other things.

In addition to this, there will be at least 136 booths featuring OTO products from across the country, as well as a number of activities and shows showcasing the culture and heritage of four of Thailand's regions – South, North, Northeast and Central.

OTOP stands for One Tambon One Product, and is an entre-



Phuket cultured pearls will be one of the OTO products on offer.

peneurship stimulus scheme introduced by the Thaksin Shinawatra government (2001-2006) and modeled after Japan's OVOP system.

The opening ceremony of Phuket's upcoming OTO fair will be held from 7pm on Friday, February 22.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Tourism by the numbers

A DYNAMIC shift in Phuket's tourism market is pushing demand away from the beaches. Overseas tourists are pushing up numbers at the large malls, such as Central Festival and Jungceylon, where the top three nationalities of customers are Chinese, Russians and Australians.

Last month, retail giant Central Retail Corporation announced a US\$332 million expansion project in Phuket to include a mega entertainment center, luxury fashion shops and a convention center.

In 2012, Russian and Chinese visitors accounted for 38% of international airport arrivals to the island, according to a new report issued by consulting firm C9 Hotelworks. This trend is consistent with Thailand's continued surge in the mass market, where last year over three million visitors from China and Russia came to the country.

C9's Managing Director Bill Barnett said: "Hot on the heels of a rising Asian middle class and the resurgence of a prolific group travel segment, is that Thailand's

resort markets are becoming urbanized playgrounds. It's not just about the beach anymore, as shopping and attractions are gaining momentum as strong demand catalysts."

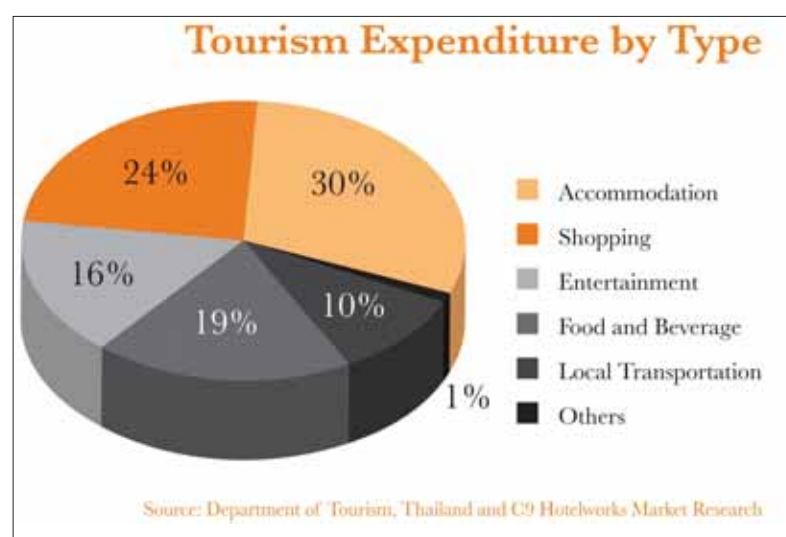
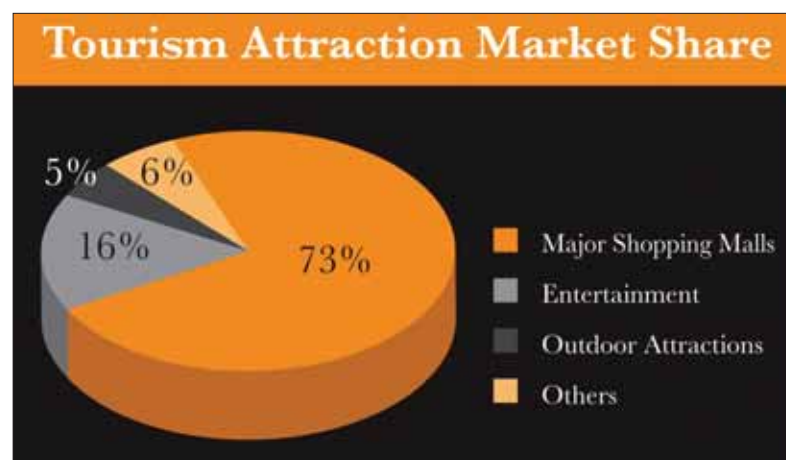
Extensive research by C9 in its 2012 Hotel Market Update revealed that tourist spending is heavily weighted towards major shopping malls which command 73% of the market share of island attractions, followed by 16% for entertainment shows, such as

Mr Barnett said 2012 saw a 'staggering' volume of traffic, which exceeded the airports stated capacity by 47%. Compounding this was a 13% surge in year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in inbound and outbound passengers.

Asia's other iconic resort destination, Bali, saw 2012 international arrivals y-o-y growth shrink from 22% in 2011 down to 4.15% last year, while Phuket retained its overseas momentum with a 16% surge in 2012. C9's research indicates that the sheer size of the charter flights from the emerging Chinese and Eastern European markets is the key differentiator.

Airlift continues to drive Phuket's hotels where full year 2012 market-wide occupancy hit 76% and an average room rate of US\$142. While Patong experienced the strongest occupancy demand, surprisingly, growth in the luxury tier pushed up occupancy by 9%.

However, there is still some concern about the incoming supply pipeline of over 4,000 new



Shopping malls like Central are a hit with tourists. Photo: Gazette file

Fantasea and Siam Niramit.

Extensive consumer research showed that Phuket visitors spend 30% on accommodation, with retail shopping close behind at 24%.

Visitor numbers are pushing Phuket International Airport to its limit, with over 9.5 million passengers processed last year.

hotel rooms between 2013-2016.

Analyzing the shifting sands of Phuket's tourism market, Mr Barnett added that the sector to watch was the expansion of

"off-beach" demand generators. "Tourism behavior is evolving and it's clear that a new rule book applies in the numbers-based game."

— Bill Barnett



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And then came Layan

Photo: Helicam Co Ltd.

Property Watch By Bill Barnett

THINKING of owning property in an island paradise? Swaying coconut trees, tropical drinks in dayglow colors and of course the ultimate deal closer – the beach.

Let's take an example, someone named Dieter, snowbound in Bavaria, with subzero weather, a veritable glacier outside the front door and packs of wolves howling at the moon.

Maybe the wolf thing is an exaggeration but you get the drift. In the long dark winter of discontent, what dreams does our hero Dieter have? Sun, sand and a life lived in Phuket.

In broad terms, much of the island's high street property trade is focused in beach areas – be it

Karon, Kata, Surin, Rawai, Patong, Kamala, Bangtao, Cape Panwa or Cape Yamu.

There is little doubt that all beaches are not created equal. Some have fine white sand, others have views or aspects, and yes, there are those so close to a jungle of bars and restaurants that you can hear the tops being pulled off beer bottles long into the night.

One beach area that somehow escaped the mass excesses of the last boom five or six years past is Layan up near the north end of Bangtao.

On the books, things were set to go over with a large luxury resort Shangri-La, which offered multimillion dollar villas for sale, and even a proposed marina project nearby.

Then came the global recession, the fall of Lehman Brothers

and all those multicolored shirt protests and the area went into sleep mode. Sure, there were successes: Layan Estate, Pavilions, Laguna Village, Lakewood Hills, Layan Gardens, Maan Tawan, La

'Expect this area to experience the domino effect, which hit Nai Thon last year.'

– Bill Barnett

Colline and a handful more.

And failures: Baan Talay, Layan Sunset, and Tamarind Hills. While the barometer of the neighborhood was the stalled Shangri-La site.

The big sleep continued as a rush of activity bypassed the

area and moved up to the next beach – Nai Thon.

No beach area in Phuket has evolved so quickly over a year as Nai Thon. With new hotels, luxury villas and condos, the once unspoiled area has now started to take on the look of Phuket's other beaches. Rising ranks of taxi stands, the white sands now obliterated with sun loungers and parking areas being taken over by vendors.

Moving in the early days of 2013, my own radar was on Layan as being a beehive of activity. Leading Thai group Minor purchased the Bundarika resort last year and it's currently being upgraded into a luxury branded Anantara. A vacant portion of land, which was acquired, is being planned for multimillion dollar branded villas and an extension of the group's

vacation ownership product is expected to follow.

Next to this is the Japanese conglomerate Kajima, who have put in the infrastructure for what will be one of the island's premier ultra villa estates. Here, 22 lots with panoramic ocean views will have mega-homes built on them at selling prices expected to exceed 200 million baht.

Though the Indonesian owners of the former Shangri-La development remain on hold, nearby at Pavilions, Hong Kong entrepreneur Gordon Oldham is preparing to launch a new phase of large exclusive residences.

At Laguna, the property giant recently brought to market a new phase of residences and deluxe townhouses, which straddle the area between the master-planned community and the Banyan Tree Double Pool Villas.

Just up the street, the Nikki Beach resort is piling and getting ready for construction.

Driving around the area, the fenced off Baan Talay site, which was purchased by an overseas property fund, is up for sale as a prime resort or residential lot. And next to this land, preparation has been done for house lots, which have been subdivided and put into the market. Also, the Villas overlooking Layan are promoting another phase of the project.

There is speculation that the plans for the Layan marina project might be brought to ground again, given the property traded hands some 18 months ago.

As for the rumor of a golf course in the area, that remains thin air, with little substance or truth at this stage.

Why Layan? Why now?

It's fairly simple, as that's where the land is and room for developers to grow.

Expect this area to experience the domino effect, which hit Nai Thon last year.

As to where will be next?

Mai Khao, Koh Siray and finally at one point Ao Po, all seem destined to fall under the hammer.

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

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Express your Inner self

HOLIDAY Inn Express has opened its first property on Phuket, providing savvy leisure travellers with affordable comfort in a prime central location. The Holiday Inn Express Phuket Patong Beach Central has all the characteristics that guests expect of the trusted global brand.

The 277-room hotel defines smart travel by combining comfort and convenience with proximity and price. Only a few steps from Patong Beach, Phuket's first Holiday Inn Express is also located close to a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options.

In addition to comfortable guestrooms with high-quality bedding and private balconies, situated away from the bustle of Patong's nightlife, guests can also enjoy a wide range of facilities, including a 24-hour fitness room and a swimming pool.

"Today's savvy traveller is looking for quality accommodation in a prime location and Holiday Inn Express offers the most important elements guests look for in a hotel without the frills," said Jonathan Mills, head of operations Holiday Inn Express and IHG Shared Services Australasia.

He added: "This is the formula of the brand's success across the world and we are confident that the Holiday Inn Express Phuket Patong Beach Central is well-poised to meet the demands of this growing



EXPRESS SERVICE: The 277-room hotel is located in Patong. Photo: IHG

segment in one of Thailand's most popular leisure destinations."

Guests staying at the Holiday Inn Express Phuket Patong Beach Central will enjoy a breakfast bar with all the essentials expected from a breakfast buffet, while those strapped for time may grab a quick muffin and a coffee from the hotel's Grab & Go counter. The hotel has free WiFi throughout, a self-service laundry room, vending machines, gym facilities, a compact meeting room and business center.

All Holiday Inn Express guests

can earn and redeem points at over 4,500 hotels globally through IHG's Priority Club Rewards program.

The launch of Holiday Inn Express Phuket Patong Beach Central underscores the brand's commitment to expanding its footprint in Asia. The brand will open more hotels across Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia over the next 12 months. There are currently 39 Holiday Inn Express properties and 57 more in the pipeline across Asia, making it one of the fastest growing and largest chains in the region.

—Phuket Gazette

COMO at Yamu

COMO Hotels and Resorts, the award-winning five-star hotel group based in Singapore, is to develop and manage a new property on the Yamu peninsula of Phuket. Point Yamu is located in Phang Nga Bay on the northeast coast of Phuket, this property is the tenth member of COMO's family of unique destinations and is scheduled to open in November 2013.

Located at the very headland of Yamu peninsula, Point Yamu offers 109 rooms, including 30 private villas, with panoramic views of the cape and the surrounding Andaman Sea. Guests can use the resort as a base to explore the dramatic limestone islands and calm turquoise waters of Phang Nga Bay.

Just 20 minutes from Phuket International Airport, the hotel will be an attractive proposition for Asia-based guests looking for a short break to rejuvenate, as well as long-haul guests seeking a comprehensive escape from city life.

Point Yamu will offer a 100-meter long swimming pool, a COMO Shambhala Retreat featuring eight treatment rooms, as well as a yoga studio, an Italian and Thai restaurant, "Glow" featuring COMO Shambhala's healthy cuisine, and a private beach.

The interior aesthetics will be designed by Italian Paola Navone

— an extraordinary Milan-based talent who will be continuing a COMO tradition of working with some of the best contemporary-minded talents in the business.

Founded by Christina Ong, COMO Hotels and Resorts is known for its handpicked, intimate, and individually curated properties, including The Halkin in London, two Metropolitan hotels in London and Bangkok, Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, Cocoa Island in the Maldives, and three Uma experience resorts in Bali and Bhutan.

"The addition of this Phuket property is aligned with COMO Hotels and Resorts' expansion plans within the region, supporting our growth strategy to include key destinations within the COMO portfolio," says Harry Apostolides, vice president of Business Development, COMO Hotels and Resorts.

"This new COMO resort will be our second Thai property, after the Metropolitan in Bangkok. These two properties will, in concert, showcase both the vibrancy and serenity of Thailand. Phuket is one of the top tourist destinations in the region, and we have focused on its east coast — an area of outstanding natural beauty and great biodiversity. The location perfectly frames the COMO experience of service and cuisine.

— Phuket Gazette



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David's many laws of averaging

Island Investor

By David Mayes

AVERAGING is a word that has many meanings when it comes to investing. The investment world is full of conflicting opinions and advice, and a very common mistake people make is following advice that may be intended for short term speculative money and applying it to long term investment money, or money that is meant to be generating a current income. There is no need to make this situation worse by misinterpreting the meaning of a simple word such as averaging.

In the world of trading there is a saying that, "losers average losers". What this means, is that instead of taking a loss when it is shown, people will try to lower their average entry price by making a new trade and doubling their position size. This way the price only has to recover halfway and the original loss is regained.

Of course, if the position continues to deteriorate you will now be losing money at twice the rate. This is really the same as the roulette strategy where you keep betting black and doubling your bet until it wins. At least you get free drinks when gambling at the casino to help you deal with the results of the losing strategy.

A very common investing strategy that works is called dollar cost averaging. This involves planning to average your purchase price over a long time period, by contributing to the position on something like a monthly basis over many years.

In the meantime, markets can crash, go back up and crash

An example that really highlights the value of averaging out is when you buy something and it instantly drops like a rock and you are now facing a bigger loss than expected.

That horrible decision to take the loss or hold on for a recovery doesn't need to be all or nothing.

Selling half will help greatly reduce the pressure as any future loss will take place at half the speed, and if it shoots right back up to where you bought it you will still have gotten back something.

The opposite of this is when taking profits, if you take half you are still in it for future gains, but won't give it all back if things turn down. The great thing about an averaging out strategy is that it can get rid of the default "do nothing" decision that the fear of making a mistake will often lead to, which often makes investors feel helpless and do things like riding the dot com bubble up and then right back down.

By taking some off of the table, you feel like you are back in control again.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He also runs Humble Asset Management, a British Virgin Islands based alternative investment fund. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573.



Cut losses with averaging. Source: Images of Money

again but as long as the general long term pattern has an upward bias, this strategy will make money. Generally speaking, markets do have this tendency, so this kind of averaging is a winning strategy if you have the discipline to stick to it when the economy is in the crapper.

Another kind of averaging is averaging out. This can be done on a winning or losing trade, or a profitable or unprofitable investment. It is a good strategy when your gut is giving you simultaneous strong signals for both directions. While you can average out over as many different transactions as you want, it is easiest to explain the concept with two.



WEIGHING THE ODDS: Apply averaging to your financial portfolio. Photo: IOM



Recent history of overall market trends based on the S&P market index.



Minister Boonsong Teriyapirom



PM Yingluck Shinawatra

Thailand/EU FTA talks

A JOINT meeting of the state and private sectors on Monday agreed to form two committees to plan a framework for a Thailand European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation, said Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyapirom.

Monday's meeting of government officials and the Thai Chamber of Commerce took place on the eve of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's March 4-6 European visit, when the Thai-EU FTA will get a go-ahead.

Mr Boonsong said there will be two committees, one to be chaired by the commerce permanent-secretary, comprising ad-hoc members of state, private and social sectors responsible for exchanging information, while the other is to be charged with facilitating trade in the private sector.

The budget will be allocated for the export promotion fund.

Mr Boonsong stressed that European economic problems will not negatively impact the FTA negotiations as it is believed that any problems will be resolved soon.

The minister also said he believes the FTA talks will be advantageous for Thailand as it will help offset the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which will end at the end of 2014.

Meanwhile, Chairman Pongsak Assakul, of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said it is good that the state sector pays attention to this issue.

The private sector will hold a seminar on April 29 to gather stakeholder opinions on the free trade talks before further discussion with the state sector takes place.

- McoT

Hotels prepare for April blackouts

MAJOR retailers, hotels and other businesses are planning strategies to cope with a possible electricity crisis in April, preparing to reduce power consumption to prevent blackouts and losses in revenue.

A large supply of natural gas from Myanmar will be disrupted from April 4-12 as two drilling rigs in the Andaman Sea are shut down for repairs. Other fuel sources may not be enough to keep power-generating plants going at full capacity.

Viboon Kromadit, Amata Corporation chief marketing officer, said an electricity shortage during the hottest time of the year would affect industrial plants heavily, including those at Amata's two industrial estates. About 60-70 per cent of its nearly 900 plants would be affected if there were a blackout, he said.

Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding has two power plants in the western province of Ratchaburi, which consume 525 million cubic feet per day of natural gas from Myanmar and have total capacity of 3,645 megawatts. When the supply from the Yadana field is stopped in April, the two plants will be powered by diesel and bunker oil, said Noppol Milinhanggoon, Ratch's chief executive officer.



Yadana Oil Project in Myanmar will close briefly in April. Photo: dcasia

Some generating units are already prepared for the fuel switch. Ratch has stockpiled 63 million liters of bunker oil and 23 mn litres of diesel, sufficient for six or seven days' operation.

Teerayuth Chirathivat, CEO of Centara Hotels and Resorts, said it was closely monitoring the energy authorities' updates on what areas might be affected and for how long. He said all the company's hotels could cope for a while with a cut in power supply, as all had their own generators. However, if a cut persists, it could be a problem.

"We may need to rely more on alternative power. At present, all our hotels use solar power for partial water heating, but this

could not satisfy demand for other purposes," he said.

He noted that electricity costs now amounted to 6-7 per cent of revenue for all Centara's properties in Thailand. Of the total, air-conditioning accounted for 60-70 per cent.

"If the government wants our help, we're ready to help. We have been complying with the requirements, like keeping the conference rooms' temperature at 23 degrees without making clients uncomfortable."

Tanongsak Somwong, president of the Tourism Association of Koh Samui, said last year's blackout on the island had taught operators to prepare for the worst.

- The Nation



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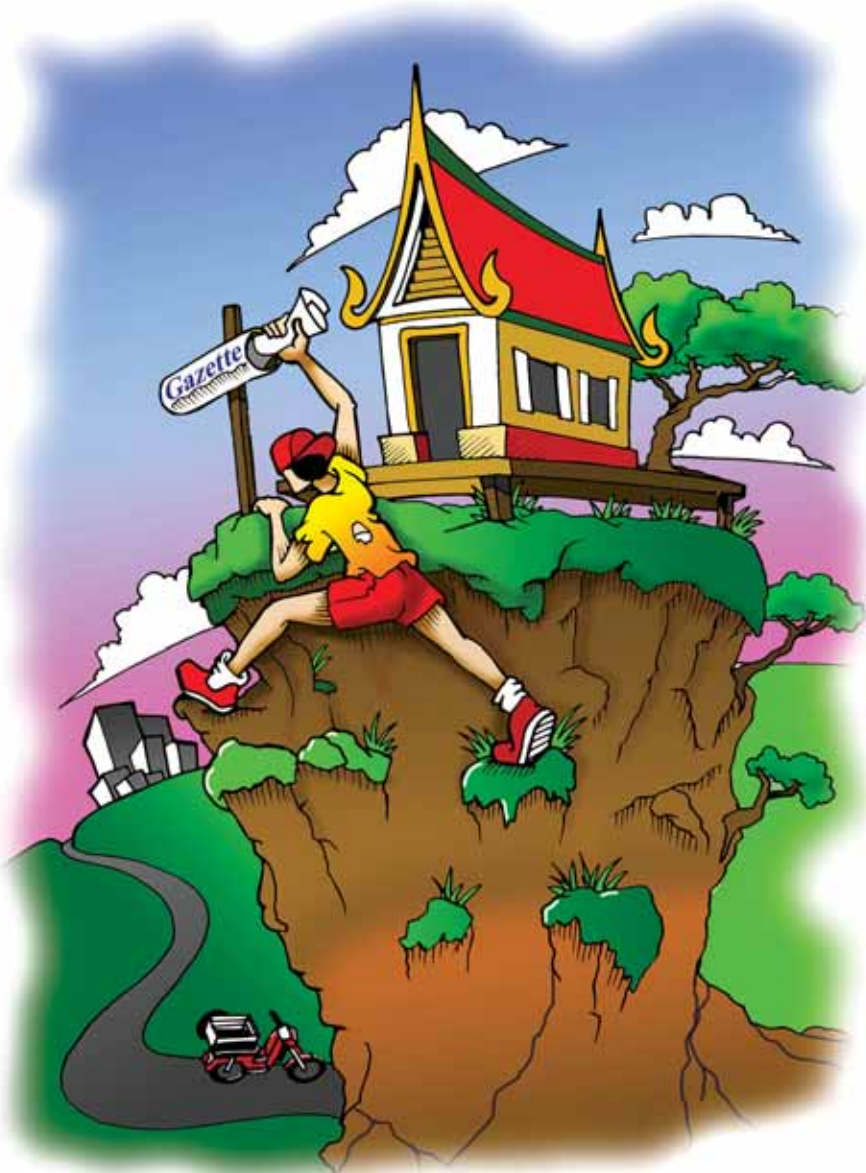
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Time to rein in rogue cops

PHUKET Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat should be applauded for getting personally involved in the investigation into the attack on a teenage couple who claim to have been assaulted by two sons of a Thalang Police officer on St Valentine's Day (see page 3).

Reports of assault involving minors are all too common in Thalang, which has a history of teenage gang violence going back several generations. The case in question is especially sensitive, however, because of the victims' claim that the police officer himself was directly involved in the attack, having restrained the male victim while one of his sons threatened him with a firearm.

The allegations are disturbing in several regards, including why the officer got involved in the dispute rather than trying to diffuse it and, just as importantly, how the officer's son came into possession of a firearm.

Cases such as this are always potentially explosive because of the widespread belief, held by a large majority of Thais, that police officers – as well as their children and other family members – are allowed to operate above the very laws they are sworn to uphold.

The same belief also applies to members of rich and powerful families, who are also regarded as being above the law by the average citizen. There is no lack of examples in the national media to back up this way of thinking, which seems to apply to people on both sides of the current political divide. Even the son of one sitting Cabinet member is widely believed to have gotten away with murder due to his father's political connections.

It is this sense of social injustice and inequality, of course, that is a primary obstacle to Thailand's national development. In addition to fostering the perfect social environment for corruption to flourish, it also creates a collective mindset that protest – which almost always comes with the threat of violence – is the only available path to justice. We see this played out again and again, both locally and on the national stage, with needless loss of life, untold property damage and devastating impact to our economy.

If their allegations prove to be true, the couple who went to the Phuket Press Club to report the abuse should be commended for their bravery; even if, by their own admission, they were acting out of fear.

As Maj Gen Choti is probably by now aware, Thalang Police District has been the site of numerous anti-police protests in the past. In typical fashion, these end with the lightning transfer of the officer or officers involved, who are seldom, if ever, prosecuted.

Let us hope against hope that in this case the circumstances will be fairly and thoroughly investigated and, if sufficient evidence is found, the case tried in the Criminal Court system, with the officer stripped of his rank if found guilty.



Shots and swerve culture kills

Re: Gazette online, Swiss man dies allegedly avoiding police checkpoint, February 16

Avoiding a police checkpoint? Now what driver would need to do that? I don't know for sure that this man was drunk when he drove through the shelter and into the sea, but I do know how acceptable it is to drive while drunk in Phuket, and it concerns me.

The price of local public transportation options late at night drives many expats and tourists to take their lives into their own hands after a night of drinking. Back home it was taboo to drive home drunk from a party or a night at the bars; friends called cabs or just nicked your keys.

On our little island, however, drunk driving doesn't have the same stigma. The number of people who wake up in bed after a night drinking wondering who took them home, only to find their own motorbike out front, is truly disturbing.

I've never even heard of a designated driver in Phuket. We can blame the taxis and lack of local public transportation for only so much.

Given the current situation, friends need to be friends; in fact, acquaintances need to be friends, and actually step up and help prevent drunk driving.

Please, take turns being designated drivers, and make sure everyone can make it to the next big night out.

Tony Bertozzi
Phuket Town

Water is one thing, pipes are another

Re: Gazette online, No shortage of water in Phuket this dry season, officials say, February 16

It's good to hear there's no shortage of water. Now all we need is the infrastructure to get it to people's houses – you know,

Letters to the Editor

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

pipes and that sort of thing.

Our (modern) estate in Ban Liphon has been without water for the past eight days, since the wells ran dry. We've been having to resort to putting bottled drinking water down the toilet.

Agogohome
Gazette Forum

Speedy advice on slowing people down

Re: Gazette online, Phuket-Ranong visa-run van flips three times in Phang Nga, February 14

I was on that road two days ago; it started to drizzle and within seconds the predictable dry road surface turned into an unpredictable and dangerous one.

Between Ranong and Takua Pa I saw several overturned pickups and sedan cars. The visa-run drivers are notorious on this stretch.

The solution is simple – install tachographs and impose mandatory lengthy jail sentences as a deterrent.

Amazed
Gazette Forum

Justice must be served to the brave

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police officer's sons accused of Valentine's Day attack, February 17

What a brave couple. I hope they get justice in the courts and are not threatened during the process. They should insist on an investigation by an outside police unit, or as sure as I live in, and know Phuket, there will be a

cover-up...

Violence in Phuket is becoming commonplace. Is it time to do a public poll on violence using this couple as a focal point for violence issues?

Brutal assault and threatening gun violence is as serious as it gets, short of actual murder. Is it not time for Thai and *farang* to stand together on such a serious issue? My Thai wife and I think so.

Daniel
Rawai

How to really fix the national lottery

Re: Gazette online, Government stages lottery draw in Phuket to fight rumors of rigging, February 14

I have a question related to this lottery being easily fixed. When the draw takes place, there are no checks carried out by the government on the unsold tickets. It's easy for some organized group to trawl through the unsold tickets to find any outstanding winning numbers.

By coincidence, The Nation ran a story about a couple killed on their motorbike on Valentine's Day. They became famous last November when they won 42 million baht from unsold tickets in their shop!

Time for an electronic lottery, I think. A public draw will do nothing to stop unsold winning tickets being found after the draw has taken place.

Ga
Gazette Forum

Driver's Ed needed

Re: Phuket Gazette, Taxis Go Green, February 16-22

Taxi drivers are important ambassadors because they create tourists' first impressions. The way they drive should reflect this.

Dexter Stanley
Wichit

Phuket Gazette

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Drivers' carelessness causes traffic jams

PEOPLE stopping to buy items from roadside vendors causes some of the congestion around the Koh Kaew Intersection on Thepkasattri Road. The other main issue in the area is people carelessly driving – they need to pay more attention to traffic instructions and regulations. If people took more care when they were driving, it would solve many traffic problems.

For example, drivers should not increase their speed when they see a traffic light turn yellow. Everyone knows that when the light is yellow you are supposed to slow down and prepare to stop.

People need to keep the traffic laws in mind and follow them. I think everyone knows what's right and what's wrong. They just ignore what's right sometimes to make their lives easier. They forget that other people are using the road too, and that they should be considerate.

The intersection on Thepkasattri Road at Koh Kaew is one of the busiest on the island. Not only is Thepkasattri Road the only route in and out of the island, but it's the main road to the airport. In addition, there are businesses and residential areas along it in Koh Kaew, as well as a market. These make the area even busier. The traffic is the worst from 7am to 10am and from 3:30pm to 6pm.

Traffic gets slowed down between these times mostly because of drivers' behavior and the size of the road. If the road were significantly wider, it would make a big difference. However, as it is drivers must modify their behavior and obey traffic laws.

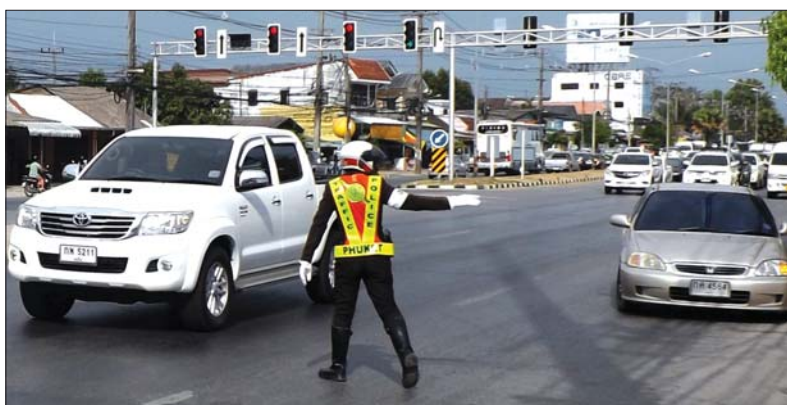
My job is to serve the people on the road, not arrest them.

All my attention goes to making the traffic flow as smoothly



Phuket City traffic policeman Pol Sen Sgt Maj **Boonliang Maneewong**, 53, is from Sisaket province in the Northeast. He graduated from the Provincial Police Training Center Region 2 in Chon Buri province in 1984 and has been working with the Thalang Police since 1985.

He has been a traffic officer for 20 years, and for the last three years he has been posted at the Koh Kaew traffic lights. Here he talks about the Koh Kaew Intersection, one of the busiest on the island, and shares his ideas about how to improve traffic flow.



YELLOW MEANS WHAT? Traffic officer Boonliang Maneewong urges all vehicle operators to follow the laws of the road. Photos: Chutharat Plerin

as possible. I don't have any secrets for doing the job well, I just try to do my best and use my judgment in deciding how to direct traffic. Sometimes I have to let motorists go through a red light to promote traffic flow.

Please understand that according to the law, if a traffic policeman is present, motorists must obey him, not the traffic lights.

The best way to solve the traffic problems would be to widen the road or rebuild it to improve flow. It's such an important and



Sen Sgt Maj Boonliang

heavily used road. But I don't know when that will happen.

In the meantime, I'll just do my best to keep traffic flowing.



NO CHOICE: The dangers of riding a motorbike make the high cost of owning a car well worth it. Photo: PublicDomainPictures

No other way but 3 liters of gas per day

Island View

By Steven Layne

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

MANY health authorities (such as the Institute of Medicine) recommend drinking at least three liters, or about 13 cups of water daily.

I can't say for sure that I always drink that much; some days, I might drink half that, if even, but on such days, an imminent headache will usually remind me to hydrate.

What I can say with certainty, though, is that I do consume at least three liters of fuel on any given working day. In order to get to and from work, I need to put two tankfuls of petrol into my car every month – about 100 liters.

Demanding about 25 to 30 per cent of my earnings (including car payments), such a commute is one of the biggest drawbacks of my job. Since my office is located about 15 kilometers from my home in Phuket Town, my options are limited. When I first started working, I carpooled with colleagues, and supplemented this by using public transport (*sawng taews* and the airport bus) when I could.

This didn't last that long. Five or six months into the job, I finally bit the bullet; found a reliable used vehicle, took out an auto loan to pay for it, re-learned how to drive a car (after about a 10-year hiatus of not needing to drive, living in central Thailand), and got my Thai drivers license.

Now, 16 months later, having guzzled some 1,600 liters of petrol to drive about 15,000 kilometers – mostly in Phuket's worsening traffic – I have to regularly remind myself why I made the decision in the first place.

Last night that reminder skidded in front of me in a streak of sparks as my wife and I were leaving our subdivision. A small motorbike was still running on its side in the middle of the road, a young man moaning on the ground nearby. Luckily, the victim appeared only to have chipped his teeth, but complained that a steel plate in his upper leg, just above his prosthetic, was causing him grave pain.

While we waited for an ambulance, the young lad told me about how his original leg was amputated after it got run over by a large truck in a previous motorbike accident. I told him about how I sabotaged my upper left arm in my own motorbike accident four years ago. Then, I thought about the friends I've lost to motorbikes – Dan, Don, Spencer, Emily and Ex. I hope they are resting in peace.

The ambulance eventually came and the kid was trucked off to the hospital, hopefully to see tomorrow in a new light. Back at the office, I find myself with one of those headaches again. Make no mistake, some day soon I will go back to embracing a life of true environmental stewardship. But until then, a glass of water or two will just have to suffice.

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

You will need to keep your departure card

When my son flew out of Phuket, immigration officials asked him for his departure card. He didn't have it, and had to pay a 500-baht fine. He says that when he arrived in Phuket he had filled out a form, but a staff member at the airport told him he didn't need it. What is the procedure with arrival and departure cards?

Why was he told he didn't need it and then told to pay a fine for not having it?

Thank you
Liane Treherne

A Phuket Airport Immigration officer replies:

When you go through immigration, the officer will keep the arrival part of the card and leave the other part, the departure card, in your passport.

It is impossible that your son would have been told not to keep this card. It's an official document and should be kept.

However, if you lose the card, it is easy to get a new one. Just come to the airport a little bit early to inform us of the loss.

There is no fine for not having a departure card. The 500-baht fine your son paid was possibly an overstay fine – that is 500 baht per day.

You should get a receipt any time you make a payment at Immigration. If you don't get one, please ask for it.

Can I prepay my electric bill?

I live in Patong and I will be away from home for the next nine months.

I don't want the electric company to disconnect my service while I'm gone, so I'm considering paying them in advance – say 5,000 baht – and letting them subtract the monthly payments from that.

Is this possible? If so, how should I go about doing it?

Previously In The Dark
Patong

Sunan Kaewchuthong, Accounting Assistant Patong Electricity, replies:

If you have a Thai bank ac-

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

count, it is very easy to set up automatic withdrawals for your electric bill.

First come to our office to fill out the proper application for setting up an automatic payment. You will need to bring a copy of

the first page of your bank account book, the page with your name on it, as well as your most recent electric bill.

Then take the application to your bank and ask them to verify your account, and bring the application back to us.

Once your application has been processed we can start deducting payments from your account the following month.

Keep in mind that if the electricity isn't being used in your house, the bill will only be around 40 baht a month.

If you need more information, feel free to call the Patong Electricity office 076-346 229.

YOUR Phuket

OLD PHUKET FESTIVAL

The festival, centered around Thalang Road in the old part of Phuket Town, was sponsored by the TAT and presented local food, activities and traditional (*Yaya*) dress near several Chinese Shrines.



SANSIRI LIFE COMES HOME FEBRUARY 15-17 AT SIAM PARAGON, BANGKOK



CEO
Khun Apichart
Chutrakul



THE BASE Phuket is one of Sansiri's 50 Projects launched in Thailand

BOATHOUSE CHATEAU PALMER, MARGAUX WINE DINNER

Phuket's iconic wine and grill restaurant, Boathouse, on the glorious sands of Kata Beach, proudly presented the Château Palmer Margaux Wine Dinner, on Friday February 15, 2013.



From left: FB Director Santiago Lopez; GM Marie-Laure Fleury; Bernard de Laage de Meux, development director of Chateau Palmer; Bryan Burger, executive chef and George Ciret, wine director.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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

PROPERTY of the week

PLAZA DEL MAR
Entrance to Laguna Phuket



See page 24

JOB of the week

Absolute.
WORLD
Share in the dream

See page 27

BOAT of the week

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage
SINCE 1997



See page 31

HOLIDAY CHOICE of the week

eden
Oasis



Beautiful Sea View Condominiums
Your Perfect Holiday
Home in Karon

See page 25

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties For Sale

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

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.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-storey house for sale, Patak Road, Kata seaview, Big Buddha view. 1,100sqm land, Chanote title. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, area for possible pool building. Tel: 081-536 7985. Email: kurzinv@yahoo.de

KARON BEACH CONDO

Waterfront suites, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 167sqm. Overlooking beach. 16 million baht. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

BEACH LAND ON KHO YAO YAI

5.6 rai direct 80m beach frontage unobstructed views, road, power & water on site. 5 million baht/rai. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com www.phuketlifestyle.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

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

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

RAWAI FREEHOLD CONDO 1,2,3 BED

For sale or rent. 14 units left, sea view, luxury. Chanote forever, fully furnished, good price, Rawai Beach, 200m to fishing pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Near British International School. 4 bedrooms + maid's room. 17 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com For further details, please see our website at phuketimmo.net

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

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.

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

URGENT SALE/RENT



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

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

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.

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

KATHU 4-BED VILLA

Secure in Baan Suan Loch Palm, 10 mins to BIS, 15 mins to Patong and Central Festival. Fully furnished. Asking price: 14.9 million baht. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900 (English), +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai). Email: donmountford@gmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Talang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF ARAI

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.

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cheng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

KAMALA FOR SALE

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

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE/RENT



Fully furnished house in Talang, 84sq wah, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 aircons. Price: 4 million baht. Contact Kook. Tel: 081-787 2198.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

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

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

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Elegant little eco cottages
in ocean front Phuket resort
Small freehold plots: 1.5 million baht
Small cottage w/plot: 2.5 million baht
www.jindarin.com
Tel: 083-520 0020.
75% SOLD OUT

Freehold, studio, 28sqm. 1.3 million baht. 5 minutes to beach, furnished. Tel: 089-469 9256. Email: chino9280@hotmail.com

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

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

for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

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

Huge shopehouse 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

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

Ready to move in. Villa 1: on 1,100sqm land, 15.9 million baht. Villa 2: on 2,200sqm land, 19.9 million baht. Brand-new, each with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool. Guest bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Perfectly located in a development with underground electricity and security, only 800m from Mission Hills Golf Course, less than 10 minutes to airport, Phuket International Academy and Ao Por Grand Marina. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

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

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

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: ibiwo@csloxinfo.com

Real 180° stunning seaview
land, unobstructed, east side,
Yamu Hill development. 2 plots
of 1 rai each. Chanote title.
Price: 5.5 million baht per rai.
Tel: 084-625 5090. Email:
phuket.turquoise@gmail.com

For sale. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, 67sqm living area. Only 2.69 million baht. Tel: 089-8726 895. Email: jospeder@live.no

Near Phuket FantaSea.
Price: 3.2 million baht. Ne-
gotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041.
Email: teddykong0222@
hotmail.com

Outstanding location. Condo: 90sqm, 2 bedrooms, both en suite, 3 aircons, 5 minutes to beach and Jungceylon. Free secure car parking. 4.7 million baht o.n.o. Viewing recommended. Tel: 090-168 1716. Email: kinsailor007@gmail.com

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

RENOVATED VILLA
Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 3
bathrooms, pool. 4.75 million
baht. Tel: 082-420 7052.
stayonphuket.com

Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with 10m long infinity swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

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

[illegible]

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Best Sea View Deal in Patong

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

Properties For Rent

RAWAI CONDO FOR RENT

84sqm, 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, large pool, tropical garden, amazing panoramic view from Chalong Bay up to Phi Phi Island, fully furnished includes water supply, cable TV, and internet. Only long-term rental: 22,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-204 5817.

PRIVATE POOL VILLA AVAILABLE NOW

3 bedrooms, fully furnished, located in secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

APARTMENT PATONG

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

B.L. APARTMENT

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

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). Tel: 086-476 9612.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

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

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: phvcondo@aol.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.

NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 20,000 baht per month, quiet area. Ao Ma Kham Bay, 4km from town, 2km to beach. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at panwagreen.weebly.com

LONG-TERM BEACH CONDO

Nai Harn, 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden. 50,000 baht per month. Email: phbouvier14@yahoo.fr

3-BED HOUSE THALANG

2 storeys, fully furnished, price from 15,000-18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

Fully furnished 2-bedroom apartment. Available on 1 March. 800m to beach, gym, swimming pool, WiFi, cable TV. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: northwo@hotmail.com

NEW CONDO FOR RENT IN KATHU

Furnished condo with aircon, WiFi, TV, fridge, gym & pool 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

2 villas in modern style, one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco.bonta@gmail.com See our website at www.villa.cheloni.com

SURIN CONDO

1-3 bedroom poolside, furnished. 200m from beach. jgstryker@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT



Ground floor shophouses for rent, long contract up to 10 years. Location at Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, opposite to Water World Asia, 100m from Bangla Road. (these units only come along every 10 years). Tel: 086-569 4872. Email: swlh2010@gmail.com

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80 sq. meter ground floor units

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



Please contact Khun Nong for more details

m : 087 266 8400 e : plazadelmar@gmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, at Pa Khlok, fully furnished, quiet area. Rent 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE, RENT/SALE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-626 5616. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PATONG 1 + 2 BED APARTMENTS

Large pool, maid, security, free wifi, cable TV. Close to beach, mall and nightlife. From 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

CONDO IN PATONG

Large 50sqm studio, nicely furnished, pool and parking. Long term. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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.

HOUSE TO LET

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

Live in Rawai?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at The Network property office



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

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

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

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

Mail: **AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net**

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

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

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

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@bayshoreprojects.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

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@imedgeconcepts.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

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

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

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, JavaScript, 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

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 smartbusinessphuket@gmail.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(number sign).NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(number sign).NET
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

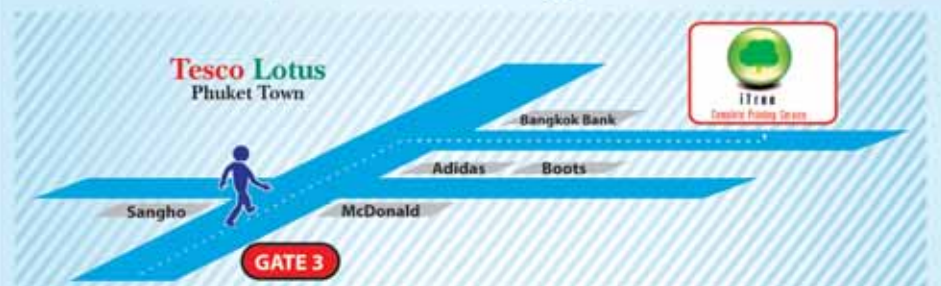
KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

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

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

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

RUSSIAN SALES

Two Chefs are now looking for an outgoing salesperson. Russian nationality. This is a good opportunity for the right person with possibility to get high salary and good commission. If you are used to using photoshop or coral it is very good. Tel: 087-276 6796. Email: jon@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.com

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: malinlon@hotmail.com

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.

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@boatlagoonjaching.co.th

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Exotissimo Travel is one of Asia's leading destination management companies.

We require staff for our operations department in Phuket. Your job is to handle the daily operations for inbound tours into Phuket. You will be responsible for checking all files created by reservations staff, booking guides and transportation and ensuring that all aspects of every tour are handled correctly.

It is essential you have a pleasant and out-going manner. You must be an excellent problem solver and be good at dealing with people..

Ideally you should have a minimum of two years experience with a local tour operator or similar position, or at least have an understanding of the complexities of this important job.

You will be a key person in our team and the right applicant can expect an attractive salary with excellent benefits.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree
- Thai national - male or female
- Min. 2 years experience in a travel company
- Good written and spoken English (German or French speaking is an advantage)
- Good computer skills (word, excel, outlook)
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Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply.

Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to christophe@exotissimo.com

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd.

Tel: 082-805 57 72

Fax: 076-610 182

Email: christophe@exotissimo.com

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

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.

RECEPTIONIST PATONG

Hotel is looking for a reliable Thai female. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

STAFF WANTED

Cashier who speaks English and Thai, experience preferred. Tel: 086-987 7339 (English). Email: stanlaysphuket@hotmail.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

SALES & SERVICE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services Co. Ltd are looking to fill this position asap. Reporting to expat management, preferred applicants are Thai nationals, aged 25 years plus, degree educated with good English communication skills. Excellent remuneration package / benefits offered to the right person. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879 (English). Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

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Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documents to:

rinky@absoluteworld.net and ahrm@absoluteresorts.com
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Tel: 66 76 341 901-10 Fax: 66 76 341 122-3

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Absolute are currently looking for Russian speaking sales representatives to join our already successful team. We offer excellent conditions, great product, full training and support. If you are a communicative, positive and dynamic person please send email to oxana@clubabsolute.com and we will get back to you asap.

COOKS AND MAIDS

Luxury villas in Patong looking for experienced cooks and maids. Live in or live out. Full or part time. Tel: 080-699 2436, 088-760 9841. Email: koka.kat@gmail.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

SALES WOMAN WANTED

For smart home / audio-visual company, Bangkok and Phuket area. Reasonable English skills needed. Salary plus commission / expenses. Please send CV with photo to info@techworx.asia

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

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

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If you want to stop
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Chalong, Surin, Karon

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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

LIMITED BUSINESS SALE

Set-up Thai business includes TAT license with 2 work permits. 170,000 baht. Tel: 080-595 0458.

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Luxury villas in Patong looking for experienced cooks and maids. Live in or live out. Full or part time. Tel: 080-699 2436, 088-760 9841. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

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

PARTNER WANTED

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Natural Thai Spa.
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5 storeys, 2 buildings,
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Sale: 24 million baht with full
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Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

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Secondhand kitchen hardware: ovens, sinks, grills and etc. Tel: 082-283 8250 (English & Thai). Email: phuket@rayadivers.com

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Ground floor shophouses for rent, long contract up to 10 years. Location at Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, opposite to Water World Asia, 100m from Bangla Road. (these units only come along every 10 years). Tel: 086-569 4872. Email: swlh2010@gmail.com

SURIN BEACH CLUB FOR SALE

Prime real estate; approx 900sqm of beach front property with sunbeds. Full service kitchen; seating capacity of 100. No key money or rental required. Contact for details. Tel: 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.com

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Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. Tel: 080-690 8978.

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Kamala Beach Estates is looking for an experienced, personable GM. For full job details and requirements, please email to kbeownerscommittee@gmail.com. Applications should be received no later than 25 Feb 2013.

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. For more information please call 087-881 7600. Email: cocodi.orster@gmail.com

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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.

NICE RESTAURANT & HOUSE FOR RENT

In Kamala. Good furniture. Only 15,000 baht per month. For more information please call 089-289 1508.

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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

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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).

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COUNTRYCLUB 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@gogold.hk

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

For sale or trade membership plus money for Blue Canyon Family Membership. Price: 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-090 4113. Email: ohmer13@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full family membership. Annual dues paid up to end 2013. 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-908 2454 (English). Email: evan.burford@gmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

BCC FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

830,000 baht dues included, spouse paid for two years (worth 40,000 baht). Transfer included. Tel: 081-893 3462 (English). Email: voute.a@gmail.com

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

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

Pool Tables**POOL TABLE BILLIARD - GAMES**

Pool tables, billiards, foot-ball, touch screen, and air hockey for rent and profit sharing. All accessories for sell & services. Call now. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

SOCCER/FOOSBALL TABLES

Brand-new "Heavy duty" soccer/foosball table for rent and sale. Suitable for bars and hotels. Call us now. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.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**

WHEELCHAIR SALE

Folding wheelchair for sale: 1,200 baht. Carpet for sale: 1,200 baht, good quality, 170x240cm. Tel: 087-381 5171.

Personals**BACKGAMMON**

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

FRIENDS

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

Pets

I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME!

Several adorable rescued dogs, all sterilised and vaccinated. More photos @ www.doggieheaven.net or contact Sherin.peace@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 cleester 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**

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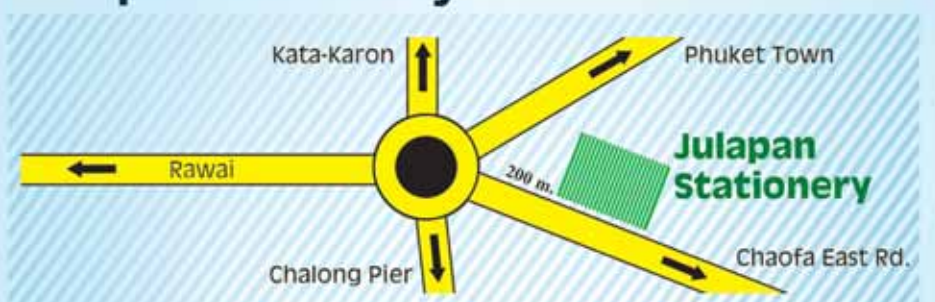
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\$359,000 USD
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Switch 51 (2003)
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NEW LISTING

Tayan 55 (1990)
\$325,000 USD

Gulf Craft 36 (2009)
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Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)
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Imago 48 (2007)
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Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
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Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Email: jim@leemarine.com

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13 METER CRUISER



Our boat has served us well but now we need a bigger one, so sadly we have to let her go. This boat is registered for 17 people. It has a wooden hull, is 3.5 meters wide, draws 1.5 meters and has a diesel engine that generates 123KW. We use it to slowly cruise around 1 hour a day at about 5 knots. Set up for fishing or day tours it is fitted with Fish Finder and GPS. Originally wanted 1.5 million baht, but have now reduced to 1 million baht. Must sell this month. Tel: 086-944 1623 (English), 087-382 9163 (Thai). Email: phil@krabikconnect.com

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www.lambertbrothers.co.th

NEW KARNIC 2052

Deep V Hull, 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and marine heads. 1,299,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

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Superb quality HD hypalon RIB. ABC Boats near new demonstrator. Fitted 140hp used outboard, fuel tank, bimini and multi-roller trailer. Superb performance and seakeeping. 595,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenalunga 21". Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). Composite construction, strong and fast. 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,795,000 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

NEW KARNIC 1851

Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

SUNSEEKER YACHT FOR SALE



Sunseeker Caribbean 52ft. Located at Ao Por Grand Marina. Price: 4,800,000 baht. Tel: 087-626 0495 (English). Email: dan.softstudio@gmail.com

BOAT SHARE

1/4 share in two boats: one Riviera 48 and one Gulfcraft 34. Fully equipped for diving, fishing, touring. Professional management and crew. Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-271629, 081-895 1724. Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

SEA DOO BOAT SPEEDSTER -97

Jet boat speedster. Twin 85hp rotax engines. Trailer included. 235,000 baht. Tel: 083-644 6479 (English). Email: joda6@hotmail.com

BOAT FOR SALE

Semi-rigid 150hp, 2 stroke, trailer, aluminium tank 100 liter, GPS, Sonar. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 8628 (English), 080-144 6022 (Thai).

THAI FISHING BOAT

Cheap price for quick sale, fully restored, excellent condition, very reliable and cheap to use. Contact Peter. Tel: 085-253 4429.

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

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenacorsa 18". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

17-FOOT YAMAHA SPEED BOAT

115 HP Yamaha outboard engine, new trailer, unsinkable fiberglass boat, GPS, fishfinder, sports equipment, radio, MP3, 2 anchors, 100-Watt search light, and a lot of extras. 370,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 089-645 4848 (English & Thai), 086-603 9268 (Thai). Email: germanwater team@yahoo.de

MOONSOON FOR SALE



28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp/ V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

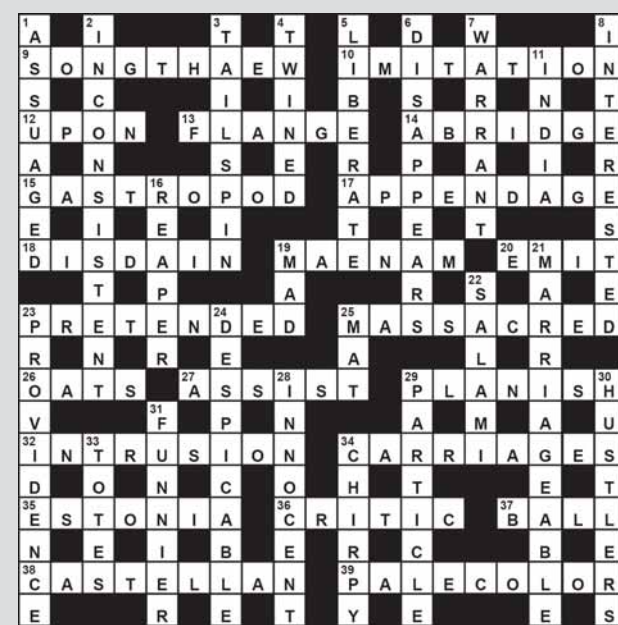
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword

COFFEE break



Aircraft For Sale

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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

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Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

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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



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

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

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

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.

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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THE VIEW

The View Phuket at Kata Beach, a Luxury Condominium, had its Grand Opening last Saturday, February 16.



From left: Mr Alexander Julek Grabowski, CEO; Ms Sasipa Khankaew, managing director, Mr Nabile Graidia, also managing director.

IN FINE TUNE WITH..... JOHN ILLSLEY, AT PIMALAI RESORT & SPA, KOH LANTA, KRABI

GM Franck de Lestapis, had the great honor of welcoming John Illsley, an English musician, bass guitarist and one of the founding members of the critically acclaimed rock band Dire Straits. Chef de partie “Rat” helped him out with her acoustic guitar.



From left: Mr Sawit Ketroj, MD Phuket Future Development Co Ltd; Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban; Mr Sampan Thongsamak and Mr Esa Huovila MD of St James properties Co Ltd.

THE EMERALD TERRACE CONDO LAUNCH ON FEB 6 AT JUNGCEYLON PHUKET



Fin's fabulous French Sunset Wine Tasting and Wine Dinner at Andara

Monday 4th March
Fin's fabulous French Sunset Wine Tasting Party with food and wine tasting stations and DJ-poolside
5.00 – 8.00 pm
THB 1,200 ++ per person

Tuesday 5th March
6 courses fabulous dinner with Marjorie & Stephane Gallet from Roc des Anges presenting their award-winning wines
start from 7.30 pm
THB 2,500 ++ per person

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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 23 through March 31, 6:30 to 10:30am: Daily Breakfast on the beach at Moevenpick Bangtao

You are invited to our Daily Breakfast on the beach. For reservations please call: 66-76-310400

February 23-24; 7pm to 12am: Xtravaganza Makeup Party at La Terrazza Phuket on Nai Harn Beach

Another great theme party at La Terrazza: Xtravaganza. The dress code is 'crazy', following in the style of Lady Gaga and friends. During the evening makeup artist Annette J will perform a special makeup demonstration on models. A special guest DJ LUDO-V from Beijing will spin the music during the evening. Free buffet offered by La Terrazza and special free shots for this Xtravaganza night! We will start at 7pm, the buffet will be served starting from 8pm. Come even earlier if you would like to enjoy the sunset at one of the most beautiful spots in southern Phuket. For more information contact Alessandro Previtali on: 66-84-509 1975

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

March 3, 10am to 4:30pm Phuket Sailing Club Family Open Day at Ao Yon, near Cape Panwa

The Phuket Sailing Club invites you to come and join our Family Fun Day. Activities include taster sailing for Adults on our Platu keelboat or one of our Cats. If you know how to sail, you can take out one of boats for free – 16ft Cat, Laser,



Omega Sport, Topaz sailboats and Toppers. Other activities for all the family include dinghy sailing, canoeing and SUP's. Bring your own food to cook on our BBQ or join our club BBQ – booking required. Please book if you are interested in sailing with us. For more information contact Katy Gooch-Firmin on: 66-85-215 9185.

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 other 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.

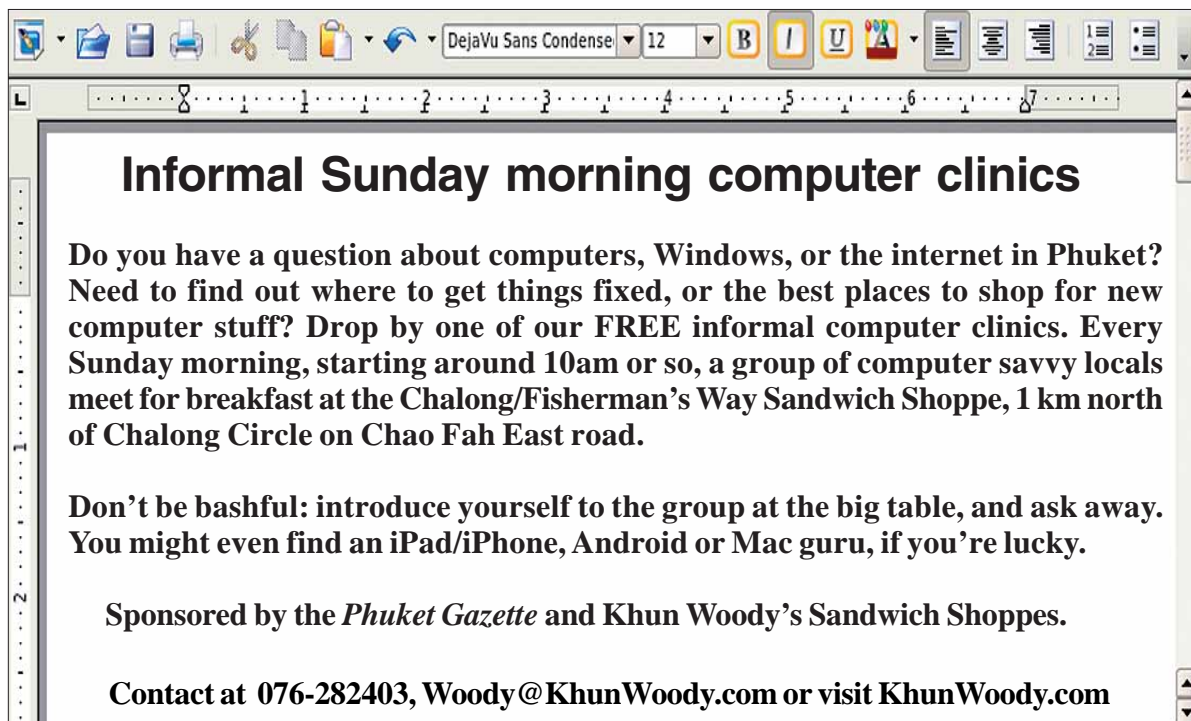
May 6, Substitution in place of Coronation Day (Public Holiday)

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.

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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.

Anatomy of a land line meltdown



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

AS I continued my pursuit of a decent internet connection for the house I'm moving into, a funny thing happened. That's funny as in strange, not funny as in hilarious.

Depending on where you lived in Thailand, at about 2am on Friday morning, February 15, if you had internet service from TOT your line went down. Again, depending on where you lived, the line came back up about 11am to 2pm. That's more-or-less 12 hours with absolutely no internet connection, anywhere in Thailand. And, as best I can tell, it happened to every single TOT customer – Phuket, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Isaan.

What about hot swapping? What about redundant switches? What about alternate backup sites? I mean, this is the internet, for heaven's sake. It was designed and built to take a nuclear attack and keep on working. Sure, you get occasional outages for an hour if some idiot is asleep at the wheel and the system is set for manual routing (which should never be the case, but it happens). City blocks can get shut off if somebody digs with a backhoe and takes out the trunk line to the block. Servers can go down if they're taken out by viruses, or if the power goes out and the generator doesn't work – but any organization worth its salt has alternate sites that can be fired up within minutes.

But an entire country going offline for 12 hours? That's the kind of thing you expect if Iran's

government pulls the plug, or if Syria suddenly decides its citizens shouldn't be able to communicate. Indeed, it happened last November in Syria, from November 29 to December 1. In this case, though, the cause doesn't appear to be politically motivated. It's simply incompetence. I think.

The fact is that nobody knows why the internet went out. I've seen two plausible explanations, neither of which sounds encouraging. The first reason, reported by a local newspaper, was that TOT's "main server in Bangkok crashed." The second reason, reported on *ThaiVisa*, was that two fiber optic cables in southern Thailand were severed concurrently – "one was cut by nibbling squirrels (or possibly mice), the other by someone planting palm oil trees."

The first explanation doesn't ring true, at least to me. TOT's main switch for domestic use, known as AS 9737, has a huge 120 Gbps connection to the TOT Local Network Internet Exchange switch identified as AS 37930 – yes, all of these big switches have numbers that identify them uniquely. But AS 9737 also has a backup connection at 22 Gbps to the CAT exchange AS4652 in Bangrak. CAT didn't go down, so there should have been backup internet access immediately available to TOT. How a failure in a "server" – most likely a switch, and probably AS 37930 – could've taken out all domestic internet baffles me.

As for the second proffered reason – remember, neither of these are official explanations – I just don't buy it. If all of TOT's



GOING CHERNOBYL: Despite crashing in Thailand on Friday, February 15, the internet was originally designed to survive a nuclear attack. Photo:boatingwithtr

internet traffic, domestic and international, relies on two fiber optic cables in southern Thailand, the people who set up the network topology for the TOT system should hang up their white lab coats. And if the people in charge of watching the lines saw one of them go down, they should've had an army out fixing it immediately. I guess it's possible that 1) the TOT routing system was totally *borked* and 2) a squirrel chewed through a line and 3) a palm oil tree digger cut a second line, all simultaneously. Somehow, I seriously doubt it.

Here's what I know for sure: on the *Phuket Gazette* web site, reader "Annoyed" said, "I have not had an internet connection for 24 hours; this morning I was finally able to get back on line. The TOT customer service lady was impatient (obviously stressed out with so many callers having similar problems), her English was slurred, and she was at times not even polite. Having been unable to conduct business because of the TOT problem we really didn't need to add TOT rudeness."

Reader "Agogohome" said, "Did I report it? Nope! It's not worth the phone call or visit, just to receive the usual surprised response, and their worthless promises."

And there's the rub.

First, it's hard for me to accept that the largest internet service provider (ISP) in the country just went dead for more-or-less 12 (or 24) hours. It shouldn't even be possible.

Second, there's no notification about system-wide outages. When internet services in other parts of the world go down, there's a web site people can go to, to see up-to-the-minute information about what caused the problem, and how long it'll take to fix it.

Third, even the employees

don't know what's happening. I see that happening over and over again in Phuket: there's a widespread internet problem, a customer calls the hotline, and they're told that they're the first ones to report it. If that doesn't fly because the customer's too savvy, the employee on the phone says that (choose your favorite nonsensical excuse) happened, and they have no idea when it'll be fixed. They may even offer to

seen exactly zero reports of the TOT outage in the mainstream Thai press – a phenomenal lack of concern.

Perhaps the outage originated as a failure of the ICT Ministry's web site blocking system, which according to the *Washington Post* allows the government to shut down all internet in Thailand in a few minutes. Cuba, Ethiopia, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Yemen, and a few African countries have similar systems. I just don't know.

Unless the government announces an open inquiry, the outage will probably just be ignored. I won't hold my breath.

Moral for you: the Second Law of Landlines in Phuket, as was espoused last week in this column.

Never get one landline internet connection. Get two, on two separate lines, from two different ISPs. That won't protect you if the whole country goes internet-dark. But it should handle anything short of a catastrophic failure.

Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10:00 at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (in English) and 11:00 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. It's always free. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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



NUTS: Could this fella have brought down the internet? Photo: I Taylar

send out a technician, knowing full well that a hundred other people have reported the same problem.

It's all about communication. Painfully, our ISPs don't seem to understand that their customers would appreciate some frank explanations. Rabid customers would also stop calling the support lines incessantly if they could just find some information they can trust.

I'm not picking on TOT – they're not the only offenders. Since February 11, I've had widespread reports of outages on the True DOCSIS 20 Mbps system. (DOCSIS is the technology that relies on coax (similar to a cable TV cable), that's only available in select parts of the island. True calls it "Ultra.") While the "fast" DOCSIS 20 Mbps line was down, it looks like the "slow" DOCSIS 10 Mbps line was up and running fine. We've had complaints of bad lines at phuketinternetspeed.com, and I've seen similar complaints on the *ThaiVisa.com* forums, but there's been nothing official.

So what really happened? It's likely that we'll never know. I've

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Pannaree Na Nakorn

DIRECTOR of Raintree Spa, Pannaree Na Nakorn is a petite woman who has big business ambitions. Resplendent in a red jacket and seated in the beautiful tropical garden of her flagship Raintree Spa on Montri Road, she recounts how she came to own seven spa businesses – in Phuket, Bangkok and Hua Hin – all within the space of seven years.

A graduate in literature (majoring in philosophy), Pannaree had contemplated a career in writing but a call to filial duty changed all that. As the eldest daughter of Chinese-Thai parents, she was expected to look after the family-run small spa in Kathu, whose success has encouraged her on to set up a bigger salon. She found the perfect location on Montri Road in Phuket town. As the plot came with a large and mature rain tree, it gave birth to the new business name. Thus, Raintree Spa was born in 2007, featuring a purpose-built space with a distinct nod to old Phuket architecture. The magnificent rain tree stands guard, its canopy providing cool shade and serving as a landmark of sorts.

“Not long ago, there was almost nowhere for Thais to go for spa treatments, which were available only in plush hotels. Therefore Raintree spa became quite popular and although expats and tourists now use our services, Phuketians

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

still constitute the bulk of my client base,” says Pannaree. “Sometimes the whole family will come. One family came with their *ah-mah* (granny) who remembered that she used to play around here as a child. It was the rain tree that spurred her memories. It’s that sort of moment that makes your job worthwhile. Of course, I want to succeed in business, but sometimes it’s about creating and being a part of the community as well.”

This brings to mind the old-fashioned beauty salons where women congregated, not only to beautify themselves but also to meet friends and catch up with gossip.

Although the modern Raintree Spa has none of that, Pannaree makes sure it retains homey atmosphere. Guests are greeted with a welcoming cold towel and refreshing herbal drink. Phuket-style cakes served with ginger tea, and a hot towel complete the treatments.

“A spa is first and foremost about relaxation. I try my best to induce a calming atmosphere to relax to senses. The experience is: guests walk in and see the

beautiful surroundings, drink scented tea, smell the wonderful aroma of our spa products and enjoy our pampering therapy. Spa treatments must work on all the senses to be successful.”

Apart from the main Raintree Spa, Pannaree also runs two other spas near the town’s main market by the name of Kim’s Massage and Spa. Recently, she has added a brand new branch of Kim’s on Rawai Beach. “I love Rawai because of its association as the Thais’ favorite spot. Not a beautiful beach by any standard, but I love the colors of the skies at dusk. Even with all the changes brought on by the presence of new types of tourists, Rawai still has plenty of charm.”

Despite her success as an entrepreneur and businesswoman, Pannaree still nurtures her lifelong dream of becoming a writer (and a movie director). Alas, all her time is taken up with running the business. Despite her busy schedule, she always finds time for an occasional massage, something she indulges in at least three times a week. “I don’t have time for a spa treatment, but I am addicted to massage.”

Pannaree, 34, is married to Chiravut Woody Kornjarungkiat, the southern regional manager of Bupa in Phuket. “I get all the support I need from him. He is both my life and business partner.”



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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So it is with San Miguel

ANYTHING by T Corahessan Boyle is worth reading. His first two novels – *Water Music*, about two African expeditions up the Niger by 18th century Scottish explorer Mungo Park and *Budding Prospects*, about modern day marijuana growers in northern California – rank among the two funniest novels ever written in English – wildly exuberant dances of demonic prose. He's mellowed since then, dipping often into fiction about historical characters.

So it is with *San Miguel* (Bloomsbury, London, 2012, 367pp). This is the sequel to *When the Killing's Done*, his first novel about the Channel Islands of Santa Barbara. There are three sections, each told from the point of view of a woman. The first is entitled Marantha. She is the tubercular wife of a former Union Army captain, who comes to the island in 1888 ostensibly for her health.

She has her good days on the island, but mostly this is a long lament about her crude shack, the isolation, the winds and rains, the treeless tracts grazed upon by 5,000 sheep. There is no company, except for two-hired hands and her 13-year-old daughter Edith.

The action picks up in the second section. Edith is now a beautiful 16-year-old girl. When the family returns temporarily to Santa Barbara, leaving the sheep ranch to

Books

By James Eckardt



TC Boyle at a book signing. Photo:US Consulate General Munich

a new caretaker, she is overjoyed.

"It was as if she'd never in her life seen or heard or felt or tasted, as if she had been color blind, as if her ears had been stuffed with wax and her tongue coated in magnesia. She'd been deprived, that was what it was, locked away on an island like some fairy princess, everything drab and changeless and the only sound the keening of the wind and the weak disjointed cries of the sheep, the seals, the birds. The world had

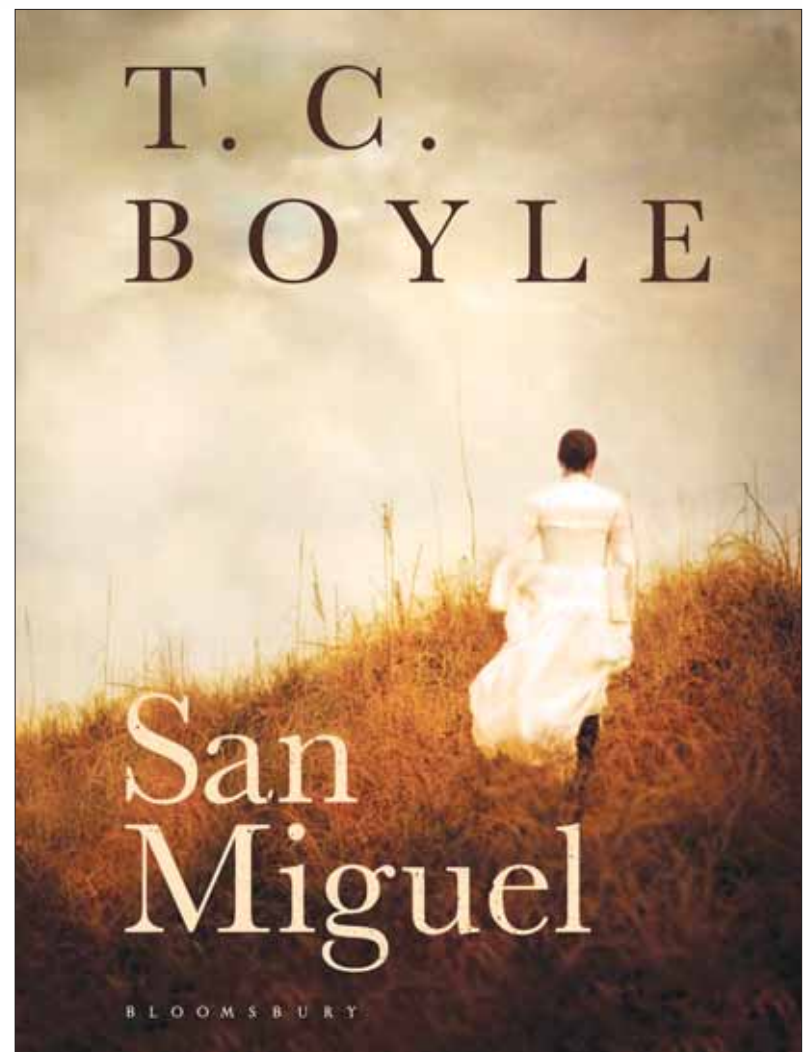
been stilled and now – in a sudden explosion of color and noise, glorious noise – it had come careening back to life."

Soon she is happily ensconced in a posh boarding school in San Francisco where she blossoms, accomplished in art, music and acting in school plays. Her ambition is to become an actress and singer on stage.

Then her mother dies. Her iron-willed father pulls her out of school and orders her back to the island. She runs away but her father retrieves her at the Santa Barbara train station and she's off on a boat back to San Miguel. How will she escape? What will she do afterward?

In the final section, Elise is a plain 38-year-old New Yorker who accompanies her new husband, Herbie Lester, to San Miguel in 1930. A World War I veteran, Lester is wounded and recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington when he befriends another soldier, Bob Brooks, a Los Angeles millionaire with the long-term lease on San Miguel and ownership of the 1,500 remaining sheep.

The young couple live on the island for the next twelve years, expanding their home and fashioning a comfortable existence while hosting a parade of rich people who arrive by private



This is his second novel about the Channel Islands of Santa Barbara.

plane and yacht. He expands his gun collection, she her library. She home-schools their two daughters and suddenly they are famous, featured in *Life* magazine. Herbie Lester is proclaimed "The King of San Miguel".

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor sparks a series of events that will end the idyll in tragedy.

"They were the Japs she read of in the newspapers, demonic twisted little men spitting babies on their bayonets, raping women wholesale, leaving Nanking in ruins and Shanghai in chains. That was the reality.

And this, this cockeyed dream of wide-open spaces, of freedom and self-reliance and goodness, simple goodness, was the delusion."

Boyle's previous novel about the two larger Channel Islands, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa, starts off with a shipwreck and ends in the mass slaughter of feral pigs. There are no such dramatic events in the sequel. The story of Herbie and Elise Lester is a quiet one of two honest, loving people making a family life against all odds. If this is not exactly a thrilling story, it is certainly an inspiring one.

Vdelli brings the blues to Phuket

At last month's Jagota Family Gourmet festival, held at the Royal Phuket Marina, the headline act on stage was Australian blues-rock trio Vdelli. Here Gazette Features Editor and blues fan Marc Mulloy talks to guitarist and singer Michael Vdelli.



Bluesman Michael Vdelli. Photo: Marc Mulloy

Phuket Gazette: This was your first gig in Phuket and our first festival so how do you think it went?

Michael Vdelli: We really enjoyed it actually. It was quite humid so we got a bit sweaty and had to work harder but the equipment was great and I think this festival will be even bigger and better next year. **PG: After this short visit you're off on a new European tour, a bit of a temperature change there?**

MV: Yeah, we land in Munich where it's minus six degrees at the moment. I think this our 26th tour in Europe so we are used to it. We are very popular over there and have a lot of fans. Our music is not really commercial so getting on the road is the best way we have of making a living from our music. We often play every night in a different town, from small clubs to large festivals. We do over 150 gigs a year mostly throughout Europe.

PG: Talking of making a living from your music, you have a new album, *Never Going Back*, out soon. How do you feel about illegal music downloads and people getting MP3 music for free?

MV: I don't want to sound negative but I think getting free music online, while good for the consumer, is not so good for work-

ing musicians. Internet exposure is one thing but if they can get your music for free it devalues music. Some kids don't even listen to albums anymore. Buying an album means you've paid for it and you'll listen to every track. There is a reason a band makes track three come after track two and before track four. The internet is useful for hobbyist musicians to get exposure, but for serious musicians the only way is to get out there and play. This is why we tour and gig so much and sign and sell our CDs directly to the fans out there (laughs). But I love playing live more than anything really, so that's why we do it.

PG: You are very popular in Europe. Is your fan-base still growing?

MV: Yeah, but it has taken many years to get here. Things have been looking up these past three years and there are now many more articles and reviews about us. Our ethos is to make people feel better after a concert than before they got there. So, if we do that, then we've done our job.

PG: You're a powerful guitarist. Who are your influences?

MV: Jimmy Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn are probably my two favorites along with Rory Gallagher, Johnny Winter, Freddie King, BB King, Albert King, Otis Rush,

Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy... the list goes on.

PG: What was your first guitar?

MV: My first guitar was an Onyx explorer – a copy of a Gibson explorer – then an Ibanez Artist semi-acoustic, then in 1991 the Les Paul I still play now. I probably need a new one by now but the Les Paul feels like a comfortable pair of shoes. Gibson are letting me try a couple of new guitars this tour but I may still need my battered old Les Paul.

PG: Tell us about your new album *Never Going Back*.

MV: Our label Jazzhaus records in Germany is releasing it on February 22 then it will be on iTunes and Amazon, then later in the year it will be released in Australia. I'm quietly confident about this album.

PG: Have you been able to write any songs while in Phuket?

MV: I feel good when I'm here, so it's hard to write blues or rock lyrics. About a year ago I was here, in Kamala, on another project and wrote an easy listening album for someone else. Maybe one day we'll write a lighter, happier, summery album while we're here (laughs).

For more information visit vdelli.com.

Stumble into season 3 of the *Walking Dead*



TOUGH CROWD: Now in its third season, the *Walking Dead* uses zombies in the style of George A Romero.

By Chris Hudon

IF YOU haven't seen the *Walking Dead*, let's have a short recap – for you 'dead heads' out there – sit tight, we'll be with you in a minute.

Based on a comic book series of the same name, the *Walking Dead* is an American television drama about a small group of survivors searching for shelter in an inhospitable world after a zombie apocalypse.

'Biters' – as they're aptly named – are everywhere.

The end of the world begins in Atlanta, Georgia, where we follow the wife of a local sheriff and her young son as they're led through danger by the sheriff's best friend Shane.

Slowly, our group expands and we add a host of other surviving personalities: the sage; the hicks; the urban type; the doctor; the kids; the emotionally wounded girl.

It may sound like every other "dead" movie you've ever seen, but this series has a palpable dark mood, an awkward tension, a

tone achieved through compelling sets and zombie extras that suspends disbelief.

While convincing sets and makeup will lure you in, character drama and shocking revelations will keep you coming back to this house of horrors for more punishment. All the personalities you will come to know and love aren't safe... ever.

If zombie movies aren't your thing – and that's OK, nobody's perfect – this may not be the series for you.

In comparison with such well-funded mainstream Goliaths as *Game of Thrones*, the show falls short in some regards.

But consider this, according to a press release from the AMC network, the show's mid-season premiere last week was the strongest telecast for a series in basic

cable (non-paid) history, with a viewership of 12.3 million, making it the most-watched basic cable drama telecast.

That many people can't be crazy in a bad way.

As the story progresses – one which is pre-determined by the comic book series – tough talking southern cowboy sheriff Rick Grimes emerges as the leader of our rag-tag band of survivors, after waking from his coma.

Rick will become the show's central character whose actions ultimately determine the fate of who will live and who must die.

In season one, while looking for his wife and son (who fled with his best friend Shane, though he doesn't know that) Rick says: "I'm just a man looking for his wife and son. Anyone who gets



Rick Grimes (front) and the whole cast.



GUT WRENCHING: The kind of face that even a mother could not love.

in the way is going to lose."

He is the tough guy hero of the series. But as we reach the middle of season three, where we are now, we can't be sure who the real hero is anymore.

The show has been well received by critics and fans alike and has received many award nominations, including a Writers Guild of America Award nomination and a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Television Series (Drama).

Linda Stasi writing in the *New York Post* says: "This season... Let me just say I watched it in the newsroom with a headset on and didn't realize that I had been screaming out loud. OK, this isn't necessarily unusual behavior in a newsroom, but it's unusual when it comes from watching TV."

Overall, the first season was widely regarded the best so far, with the plot stagnating early in season two, then picking up again towards the end of that season. The beginning of season three was a return

to the *Dead* we all know and love, but last week's mid-season premiere has been met with mixed reviews.

Chris Kirk – who is no doubt a fan of the show – writes of the mid-season premiere on *Slate*: "The *Walking Dead* lacks not only any recurring source of real humor but any positivity. The characters have victories but no triumphs. Rick rescues Glenn and Maggie, but it was like checking off a box on an endless list of problems – the characters have no room in their lives for back-slapping or hooting or high-fiving."

Admittedly, last Sunday's episode featured some stale dialogue and little humor but I urge you not to pass judgment too hastily. The show has its ups and downs but in the world of the *Dead*, anything can and will happen.

Season 3 Episode 11 airs on Sunday, February 22, at 9pm EST. You can watch for free online at: free-tv-video-online.me/internet/the_walking_dead/

Filling the void with Florence

FLORENCE and the Machine's album *Ceremonials* is a haunting symphony dominated by powerful, high-pitched vocals that blow the house down. Picking up where the success of her debut album *Lungs* left off, rather than departing from it, *Ceremonials* is an esoteric blend of mystical lyrics, booming production value and a quirky something that isn't easy to define.

This is an album that will no doubt appeal to a generation of 'misunderstood' teenage girls.

Though her label offered to pay for her to record in the US, under the supervision of a number of pricey R&B producers,

Florence Welch opted to refine her sound with the producers of her first album.

The album opens with the thunderous shout chorus of the song *Only If For A Night*, the narrative of a dream visitor for whom Florence "does cartwheels in your honor" amidst crashing drums and a racing string accompaniment. She also incorporates the influence of 1960s soul singers on the track *Lover To Lover*, using a sound that has become like second nature to today's female singer-songwriters.

Everything about *Ceremonials* is bigger, more grandiose – almost forced at times – as Welch dares not stray far from what made

her famous, though setting her sights ever higher. Although her talent is evident and unquestionable, the album feels drawn out, and before long you may find yourself having to flip to something a bit more upbeat.

There's an air of inevitability around this album's impending ubiquity, and its success will be richly deserved. It's not a strategy that will work indefinitely, but by taking what worked about *Lungs* and amplifying those qualities to a natural, satisfying conclusion, Florence has made a near-great pop record that should afford her the creative freedom to do whatever she wants the next time around.

You could argue *Ceremonials* is cautious, but it's also good.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Florence and the Machine perform in Vegas.



OUTLANDISH: From deep crimson to green to bright pink, cordyline (above) will add dramatic notes to a predominantly green environment. Left: dracaena reflexa. Photos: Carol Vanhook and Scott Zona

A motley crew of variegated plants

WHEN Shakespeare used the expression “motley”, he meant the multi-colored garb of the court jester, also known as the harlequin or fool. His role was to crack jokes, behave foolishly and thereby divert and amuse the King. In the nineteenth century, the Italian composer Leoncavallo told one of his characters in *Il Pagliacci* to press “on with the motley”, meaning to go out, play the fool and have fun.

The phrase has stuck, as has the tradition of associating zany behavior with “motley” attire. Indeed, as Thai comedy shows can attest, the more outlandish and garish the dress of a character (*thanok*), the more visible and daft his antics are likely to be.

Multi-hued plants in the tropical garden are often outlandishly different and certainly add drama and color to a predominantly green environment. So, in terms of gardening, “on with the motley”, is an invitation to add impact to your



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

patch with foliage color.

One of the best plants for providing unusual color is the cordyline. While it does not have the range of coloration that the croton possesses, it refuses to be upstaged by other plants.

Right now, there are maybe a dozen cordylines in my garden, exhibiting a range of color from red-edged green foliage to deep crimson leaves. The latter are the most spectacular of all, and contrast superbly with their greener neighbors.

Once it is established, the cordyline becomes an imposing single-stemmed, fibrous plant up to eight-feet tall, with large broad leaves up to a foot or so in length. A Southeast Asian native, it does best when there is some

shade and moisture for its roots as well as direct sun.

A common and vigorous variety, *Alberti* has green leaves edged with crimson, but the form *rubra*, which initially sports bright pink leaves that then turn a deep crimson, is the variety which is most popular here—deservedly so. All cordylines grow well once established: the trick is to make sure they are watered during the initial weeks. It is also possible to cut back the main stem in order to encourage new and bushy growth. You may even be able to

re-pot the existing top.

Another variety of cordyline – *petiolaris* – hails from Australia.



Cordyline. Photo: Michele Truex

This is not a genuine “motley”, one having large, spreading clusters made of uniform, green lance-shaped leaves and rolled leaf stalks. It is a vigorous grower, up to fifteen-feet tall. But perhaps its most prized role is indoors, since it is one of the very few house plants that will tolerate shade for extended periods.

Cordylines used to be frequently confused with *dracaenas*, a larger genus of perennial herbs, which are mostly West African in origin. The smooth, glossy, sword-like leaves are often variegated with a broad white or yellow stripe down each leaf, and the plant’s habit varies from spiky or

rosette-like to a softer, more shrubby appearance.

It is much better in a pot than the cordyline, and will put up with dry conditions for several weeks. Most often seen in Phuket is the corn plant (*dracaena fragrans*), a popular yard plant, which has a tall columnar habit and can attain twenty feet or more. *Lindenii* has yellow leaves with a green central stripe, and the spectacular *Victoriana* has wide, drooping, bright green leaves with a silver central stripe and yellow edges.

Reflexa has a slightly different appearance: it consists of a tangle of wiry stems with attractive and dramatically variegated clumps of green leaves with yellow borders. It is a very robust plant and will do well in a container with limited attention.

As with all varieties, propagation is from stem or tip cuttings, though it is possible to strike seed obtained from the insignificant flowers. No *thanok* there.

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

Tip of the Week

Pesky pests: Aphids

APHIDS, known as plant lice in the USA or as greenfly (also blackfly, whitefly) in the UK, are one of the commonest and most pernicious garden pests.

They are small sap-sucking insects, which cluster together in large numbers, and feed on the plant’s juices as they rise through the stems and shoots. They breed rapidly, with a life cycle of twenty to forty days and can be very destructive. Aphids excrete a sweet, sticky



Aphids. Photo: Dave Gunn

substance called honeydew, which attracts ants. Ants protect the greenflies from natural predators in order to feed on the

gummy secretion.

This honeydew also attracts bacteria and mold. Natural enemies of aphids include ladybirds (beetles) and hover fly larvae. Chemical insecticides are effective as sprays, but it is better to use eco-friendly plant extracts, which work equally well. For example, extracts from local plants such as *neem* or *lantana*. Washing up liquid also works when sprayed on affected plants.



Cordyline australis. Photo: Sandy Austin

A journey from Aceh to Lipe

The adventurer who settled an entire archipelago in the Andaman Sea

THE Adang-Rawi archipelago is situated in the Andaman Sea, just 50 kilometers from mainland Satun province.

The archipelago consists of more than sixty islands, of which Adang, Rawi, Lipe and Tarutao are the largest.

The group of islands was designated as a marine national park in 1974. Today the pristine islands offer some of the finest beaches and dive sites in Thailand for those who are willing to travel the distance.

Of the sixty or so islands within the Adang-Rawi archipelago, only Koh Lipe is inhabited all year round by native *Urak Lawoi* people who settled there over a hundred years ago. Today Koh Lipe has a population of almost 900 *Urak Lawoi*, a sea-nomadic group, who still maintain their own distinct culture and language.

The *Urak Lawoi* of Adang-Rawi credit their arrival in the archipelago to an adventurer from Aceh named Kiri.

According to local stories, in the early 1900s Kiri began his search for a new home. He was looking for a place rich in natural resources where he could settle down and live out his days.

Kiri along with his two brothers travelled across the sea in a rowboat until they reached the northern part of Kedah on the Malay Peninsula.

In Kedah, Kiri got married to a Chinese-Malay woman. While his two brothers decided that the land they had stumbled upon was good enough to settle down, Kiri wanted to push northwards further into the Andaman Sea. So, this time with his wife and four friends, Kiri started on another sea voyage. Sure enough they sailed into Bulon Island near Langkawi. Here Kiri and his friends decided to stop off for a while.

Shortly after their arrival in Bulon, Kiri's wife died. His three other friends, not wanting to sail any further decided that Bulon Island was good enough for them to settle down.

Kiri however was not satisfied. He wanted to venture further north. He set sail once again, this time with only his daughter Teh and his friend Jaebeenae.

Their third expedition took them to Lanta Island near Krabi. Here Kiri got remarried, this time to an *Urak Lawoi* native. He finally settled down in Lanta, with his new wife. They had a son and a daughter together.

Although Kiri lived in Lanta for a while, he could not forget the

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

richness and abundance of the Adang-Rawi archipelago that he had passed during his voyage.

At that time Kiri had become well acquainted with Phraya Phuminart Phakdee. The Phraya served as governor of Satun province from the year 1900 until 1914.

During that time the British were aggressively asserting their claims on the Malay Peninsula. This culminated in the signing of the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909, in which Siam agreed to secede four Malay states under Siamese rule to British control.

The states, Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and Perlis became part of British Malaya. Satun, at the time part of Kedah, was given to Siam due to its majority Thai population.

Just before the treaty was drawn up, Phraya Phuminart Phakdee was worried that the British might declare the Adang-Rawi islands as part of their dominion due to their close



A WORLD AWAY: In the Adang Archipelago, the small 4 kilometer island of Lipe is the most important. With water available year-round, it is the home of the largest permanent settlement, of approximately 800. Photo: Argenberg

the island, sometime around the year 1949. Although he was not an *Urak Lawoi*, Kiri is still deeply revered by the *Urak Lawoi* people of Adang-Rawi.

During World War II the population of the Adang-Rawi archipelago increased as more *Urak Lawoi* migrated there from the mainland to avoid being drafted into the military. Still they were the only people that inhabited the islands.

The only other people who frequented the Adang-Rawi archipelago during that time were crews of merchant ships that travelled frequently through the Strait of Malacca, and pirates who used the islands as their bases to rob these merchant ships.

Interestingly, Tarutao Island, loosely part of the Adang-Rawi archipelago, had been used as a Thai penal colony for some time up until the Second World War.

Thai political prisoners and convicts had been incarcerated there since the early 1930s.

During the Second World War, supplies from the mainland were cut off due to naval blockades. The prisoners and even the wardens on Tarutao Island were soon left to starve.

Knowing that supplies were not going to arrive any time soon, the prisoners and wardens banded together and took to piracy, attacking merchant ships that ventured near Adang-Rawi and Tarutao. The pirates continued their raids on the high seas until the end of the Second World War, when the British finally stamped them out for good.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com



Kabang are sturdy vessels, traditionally used by the Urak Lawoi. Photo: TC Revues.org

proximity to Kedah. He therefore asked Kiri to lead some of the *Urak Lawoi* people from Lanta Island and resettle them in the Adang-Rawi archipelago.

The governor thought that if the *Urak Lawoi* of Lanta settled in the archipelago, Siam could prove to Britain that the islands rightfully belonged to them.

Kiri readily agreed. He led a group of *Urak Lawoi* people from Lanta to the Adang-Rawi archipelago where they settled down.

The plan worked. In the treaty of 1909, Britain withheld claims to Adang-Rawi and Satun, but took all the islands further south, including Langkawi, under British protection.

Over the next few years, Kiri drew a number of *Urak Lawoi* people from Lanta Island and Sireh Island in Phuket to Lipe Island. In the years that followed, he was appointed the first village head of Lipe Island. He died on



An Urak Lawoi mother and child. Photo: Gerd.Seyffert

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Giving the power of play'

THE "One World Futbol Project", is donating 1.5 million virtually indestructible footballs to children living in refugee camps and communities affected by war, natural disasters, or extreme poverty all over the world.

The One World Futbol Project has benefited the lives of more than 525,000 children in 137 countries, in cooperation with more than 138 partner organizations.

The 'Futbol' distributed by the project never goes flat and never needs a pump. The balls are made from a rugged material that cannot be punctured or crushed. They have been field-tested in Africa, Haiti and Iraq.

The ball's creator, Tim Jahnigen, estimates it can last for around 30 years. He was inspired to invent a super-long-lasting football for children growing up in extreme poverty after watching television footage of kids in war-torn Darfur, who played with pieces of garbage lashed together with string.

The traditional footballs donated by aid organizations quickly deflated under harsh playing conditions, illustrating the need for a more rugged alternative.



BALLIN': Never was there truer love.



SOS Children's Village, Phuket.

In 2013, Chevrolet will donate 5,000 long-lasting footballs to children in need throughout Thailand. They have already given many away at the SOS Children's Village in Phuket.

One World Futbol and Chevrolet have partnered with SOS Children's Villages Southeast Asia, World Vision Foundation of Thailand, and the Rajapranugroh Foundation under Royal Patronage, to ensure that footballs are given to the children in greatest need.

In Thailand, 52 dealers nationwide will join the One World Futbol program by donating balls in their local communities.

A total of 10,000 balls have been ear-marked for the Southeast Asian countries of Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore.

With One World Futbol's "Buy One, Give One" campaign, individuals can donate a ball to a child in need by purchasing a ball online for themselves at oneworldfutbol.com



BOOKWORMS: Students study for the new LAMDA spoken English exam.



Finding their voices

MANY of us spend a lot of time and money on improving our face and head: hair styles, piercings, Botox injections, make-up, jewelry, tanning and more.

The one thing that gets ignored is the voice. Yet when we hear somebody with an attractive voice we compliment them.

Have you noticed that when you have a dry throat? Everyone loves you.

According to administrators, at BISP (British International School Phuket) student's voices are being encouraged.

Head Master Mr Neil Richards has introduced a LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exam in using spoken English with the assistance of drama teacher Mr Timothy Evans. The exam is called simply, "using spole."

For five weeks, Years 7, 8 and 9 have been practicing voice production and talk planning. The exams involve a prepared talk and a conversation with the London LAMDA examiner.

For many students it was their first external exam. LAMDA flew

out a senior examiner and she spent an entire week testing the three year groups.

It is the biggest world-wide examiner in acting, mime and speech. Coincidentally, Mr Evans has a LAMDA actor intern in his drama department this term, Ms Zoe Schellenberg. She provided pep talks and help with nerves to all the examinees before they went into the exam room.

And how did the BISP students do? Excellently. A 98 per cent pass rate. With many Merits and Distinctions. And not just from first language English speakers. Thai, French, Japanese and Russian students may have English as their 2nd or 3rd language but that did not prevent some of them from getting a Distinction.

Is the exam of any use? Yes. It can be mentioned when submitting applications for university.

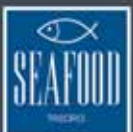
One IB Theatre student, Shannon Smith, asked if he could have a go at the LAMDA Acting exam. He courageously chose the highest one: Grade 8 Gold. And what did Shannon acquire? A Distinction.



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KIS gets 100th student

KAJONKIETSUKSA International School has announced the arrival of their 100th student enrollment at the new international school campus in Kathu.

For this reason, administration at the school recently decided to begin Secondary education at KIS and have appointed a new member of staff, who will lead Secondary education.

According to a statement released by the school: "This news is interesting for the Phuket Community as it reflects the need for good education on the island. More people are moving towards international education as the ASEAN community is coming up."

The expansion of the school and the newly appointed Head of Secondary there represent a growing island-wide focus on international school education – especially among the local market segment. Also, a KIS building at the Kajonkiet Campus is going to be made available to international school students during their summer holiday.



And repeat after me that you do solemnly swear...

Signing off



Your weekly pith:

"Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."
— Oscar Wilde

These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes for prosperity.'

In Praise of the 'Pahkowmah'



THE *pahkowmah* is the traditional Thai bathing cloth. Men wrap it around themselves after taking a bath. It's a simple piece of cotton cloth, a little over two feet wide and a yard long, usually imprinted with a checkered pattern.

But its simplicity is deceptive. The *pahkowmah* has a multitude of additional uses that make it the indispensable all-purpose cloth.

It can be worn around the head as a turban, strung up as a hammock for babies, or tied into a bag to carry things in. It can be used as a shawl, scarf, sheet, napkin, handkerchief, washcloth, towel, belt, pillow, mat, dust-cover, or tablecloth.

On formal occasions it can be used with a tuxedo as a cummerbund. It can even be used as a necktie, so long as no one is watching too closely.

In emergencies, it can function as a rope, sling, or bandage. It can even be used to strangle somebody with if you are homicidally inclined. (This is not recommended because of possible legal complications.) In time of urgent need, it can even be used instead of toilet paper (you'll want to wash it afterwards).

You can see that the humble *pahkowmah* symbolizes all the richness of traditional Thai culture in its unspoiled state, before Yuppification smote us with its leprous hand. It is disappearing rapidly in the cities, and is identified mainly with old people and farmers. Young urban Thais have abandoned it in favor of the bath towel.

For these reasons, the

Ministry of Culture ought to be promoting it. Let's have a *pahkowmah* renaissance. Let's take this noble garment out of the bathroom and, in a burst of revolutionary fashion fervor, transform it into a trendy item of outdoor wear for both men and women, on both formal and informal occasions.

Tourists must be introduced to this nifty souvenir. They will quickly become enamored of it, for it is the ONLY garment to wear in Thailand's horrendous heat. Once they return home, they can popularize it among their countrymen. Properly modified, the *pahkowmah* can be marketed abroad.

In the summer heat, what Scotsman would not trade in his heavy woolen kilt for a sprightly *pahkowmah* patterned in the tartan of his clan? Shrewdly rebranded as the "MacPah", this Thai garment could easily become as Scottish as bagpipes and haggis.

The Arab headcloth has traditionally come in only three designs: red and white, black and white, and plain white. The *pahkowmah* would brighten things up with a splash of bright plaids.

The Western business suit, too, is noted for its monotony. We could add to it a dashing *pahkowmah*, breezily thrown over the shoulder to convey a casual air of trendy hipness.

These innovations will take some heavy marketing, but I feel sure that the Ministry of Culture is up to the job. The next time Thailand hosts a big international conference, I want to see Obama, David Cameron, and Ban Ki-moon all wearing *pahkowmahs*.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's washing his *pahkowmah*.

The politically correct Little Red Riding Hood

With so many new variations of this popular Grimm brothers tale being made into blockbuster films recently, here is an abridged PC version.

THERE once was a young person named Little Red Riding Hood who lived on the edge of a large forest full of endangered owls and rare plants that would probably provide a cure for cancer if only someone took the time to study them.

Red Riding Hood lived with a nurture giver whom she sometimes referred to as "mother", although she didn't mean to imply by this term that she would have thought less of the person if a close biological link did not in fact exist.

One day her mother asked her to take a basket of organically grown fruit and mineral water to her grandmother's house explaining that this wasn't stereotypical women's work, but an empowering deed that would help engender a feeling of community.

Thus Red Riding Hood felt that she could get behind the idea of delivering the basket to her grandmother, and so she set off.

Many people believed that the forest was a foreboding and dangerous place, but Red Riding Hood knew that this was an irrational fear based on cultural paradigms instilled by a patriarchal society that regarded the natural world as an exploitable resource, and hence believed that natural predators were in fact intolerable competitors.

On her way to Grandma's house, Red Riding Hood passed a woodcutter and wandered off the path, in order to examine some flowers and was startled to find herself standing before a wolf, who asked her what was in her basket.

Red Riding Hood's teacher had warned her never to talk to strangers, but she was confident in taking control of her own budding sexuality, and chose to dialogue with the wolf.

She replied, "I am taking my

Grandmother some healthful snacks in a gesture of solidarity."

The Wolf said, "You know, my dear, it isn't safe for a little girl to walk through these woods alone."

Red Riding Hood said "I find your sexist remark offensive, but I will ignore it because of your traditional status as an outcast from society, the stress of which has caused you to develop an alternative and yet entirely valid world view. Now, if you'll excuse me, I would prefer to be on my way."

Red Riding Hood returned to the main path, and proceeded towards her Grandmother's house.

But because his status outside society had freed him from slavish adherence to linear thought, the Wolf knew of a quicker route to Grandma's house.

He burst into the house and ate Grandma, a course of action affirmative of his nature as a predator.

Then, unhampered by rigid, traditionalist gender role notions, he put on Grandma's nightclothes, crawled under the bedclothes, and awaited developments.

Red Riding Hood entered the cottage and said, "Grandma, I have brought you some cruelty free snacks to salute you in your role of wise and nurturing matriarch."

The Wolf said softly, "Come closer, child, so that I might see you."

Red Riding Hood said, "Goddess! Grandma, what big eyes you have!"

"You forget that I am optically challenged," replied the Wolf.

"And Grandma, what an enormous, yet fine nose you have."

"Naturally, I could have had it fixed to help my acting career, but I didn't give in to such societal pressures, my child."

"And Grandma, what very big, sharp teeth you have!"

The Wolf could not take any more

of these specist slurs, and, in a reaction appropriate for his accustomed *milieu*, he leaped out of bed, grabbed Little Red Riding Hood, and opened his jaws so wide that she could see her poor Grandmother cowering in his belly.

"Aren't you forgetting something?" Red Riding Hood bravely shouted. "You must request my permission before proceeding to a new level of intimacy!"

The Wolf was so startled by this statement that he loosened his grasp on her. At the same time, the wood-chopper burst into the cottage, brandishing an ax.

"What do you think you're doing?" cried Little Red Riding Hood. "If I let you help me now, I would be expressing a lack of confidence in my own abilities, which would lead to poor self-esteem and lower achievement scores on college entrance exams."

"Last chance, sister! Get your hands off that endangered species. This is an FBI sting!" screamed the woodchopper, and when Little Red Riding Hood nonetheless made a sudden motion, he sliced off her head.

"Thank goodness you got here in time", said the Wolf. "The brat and her grandmother lured me in here. I thought I was a goner."

"No, I think I'm the real victim here", said the woodchopper. "I've been dealing with my anger ever since I saw her picking those protected flowers earlier. And now I'm going to have such a trauma. Do you have any aspirin?"

"Sure", said the Wolf.

"Thanks."

"I feel your pain", said the Wolf, and he patted the wood-chopper on his firm, well padded back, gave a little belch, and said "Do you have any antacid?"

— Author unknown

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The Gibbon Loop – a triathlete's dream



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

JOHN Douma is a keen triathlete and a three-time age-group winner in Phuket with victories in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon in 2011 and 2012, and the 2011 Asian Pacific-70.3 Ironman Triathlon Championship. John kindly collaborated with Baz Daniel for this article.

The east coast of Phuket is still undeveloped, quiet and with minimal traffic, making it a favorite of local and visiting triathlete cyclists. The area surrounds Khao Phra Thaeo National Park, skirts a coastline that is also a photographer's delight and the Laguna Trifest each December races along this coastal region.

The main artery is Route 4027, a 19 kilometer section of road referred to as 'the Gibbon Loop' that commences at Heroines' Monument and ends at the intersection of Thepkrasattri (Route 402), only a few minutes away from Phuket International Airport.

Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC), situated in rural Thalung, is a great place to start this ride.

It's only a short way from 4027 on roads that are almost traffic free and is bordered by rubber and pineapple plantations.

A triathlon riding group cycles every Tuesday, Thursday and



Leon and Nickey Barnard.

Sunday at 7am, and 8am on Saturdays. The core ride during the week is a 50km work-out with longer rides on the weekend. However, there is the option of adding extra loops, or continuing on to other parts of the island in order to extend the distance. Although the ride maintains a



The Gibbon Loop, or route 4027, takes its name from the Gibbon Rehabilitation Center in Khao Phra Thaeo National Park. Photos: John Douma, Brian Clift

solid pace, it does seem much easier riding within the group.

Phuket has become the favorite destination for expatriates living in both Hong Kong and Singapore, who often fly in with their families for a few days of training.

Safety is always a main issue riding in metropolitan areas and the biggest frustrations are the stops and starts at traffic lights. Around this loop, one can ride for miles without seeing a car or a traffic light and it is ideal for time trials.

The first loop is a flat 9km one that passes through the sleepy village of Laem Sai and ends at Mission Hills Golf Club. The second loop of 13km is referred to as the Supalai Loop. It starts near Paklok and meanders along a quiet coastal road bordered by man-

groves, forest and stunning sea views. It ends near Ao Po. Both loops are traffic-free.

If you love hills, ride the second loop. Halfway along is a 2.5km section that is challenging for even hardened triathletes. Riding this course a few times prior to the triathlon itself helps to build confidence and a number of contestants do so before race-day, so that the fear factor has largely gone by the race day itself.

A word of caution. If coming from the Radi Pharmaceuticals side, take care on the first two descents, which are steep with sharp right hand turns. This is not the time to practice your descending skills and definitely avoid this downhill on wet days.

It is recommended that you have 27 teeth on your back sprocket. And, if you have to jump off your bike, just relax and enjoy the isolation and breathtaking views of Phang Nga Bay and its magnificent limestone karst formations.

As a hard core racer, you might reflect on what you are missing by trying to go fast on your bike, due to you having one eye constantly on your Garmin monitoring heart rate, speed and cadence.

There are moments when you

feel that you just want to be a recreational cyclist. Bang Pae Waterfall, the Gibbon Rehabilitation Center and Ao Po Marina are all great places to hop off and investigate if you have the time.

Ao Po is nearby with a number of ferries out to the outlying islands. Ao Po Marina is less than a kilometer away. Cape Yamu is also worth a visit.

Mountain bikers and hikers should explore the newly sealed five kilometer road that crosses the National Park.

The east coast is not as sophisticated as the touristy west coast but has its own charm and one of the pleasures is the chance to meet locals at the various roadside cafes.

Finally, there are days when a recovery ride is more beneficial than a fast one. Sometimes you have to "stop and smell the jasmine". When you feel this way, check out Monkey Pod, a coffee shop restaurant, which could be described as "modern tropical", 4km past Paklok.



Ao Po Marina is one of the attractions along the way. Photo: Dem Romero

Get physical, Thais told

THAIS spend more than half the day; over 13 hours on average 'doing very little' and only two hours of physical activity, a recent survey by the Mahidol University's Institute for Population and Social Research has found.

If the trend does not reverse, the population will continue to be plagued by obesity and other health problems, the researchers said.

"In fact, people should engage themselves in physical activity at least six hours a day," Public Health Minister Pradit



IDLE, US?: Women workers in rice factory. Photo: IRRRC

Sinthawanarong said yesterday.

According to the survey, Thais sleep 8.2 hours on average and are physically idle for more than five additional hours each day.

Pradit said a strategy has been drawn up to promote physical activities for people such as walking and bicycling.

"They should do such activities on a daily basis."

The strategy would include good routes for walking and bicycling. It aims to raise the ratio of people with adequate physical activity in their lives from 10 per cent to 76 per cent by 2014.

Pradit was speaking in his capacity as deputy chair of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation. – Nation Media

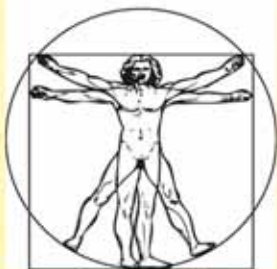


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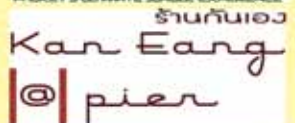
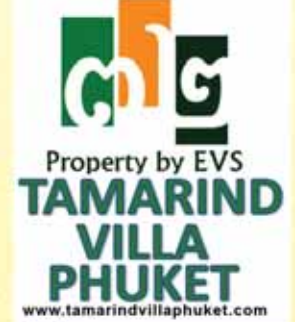
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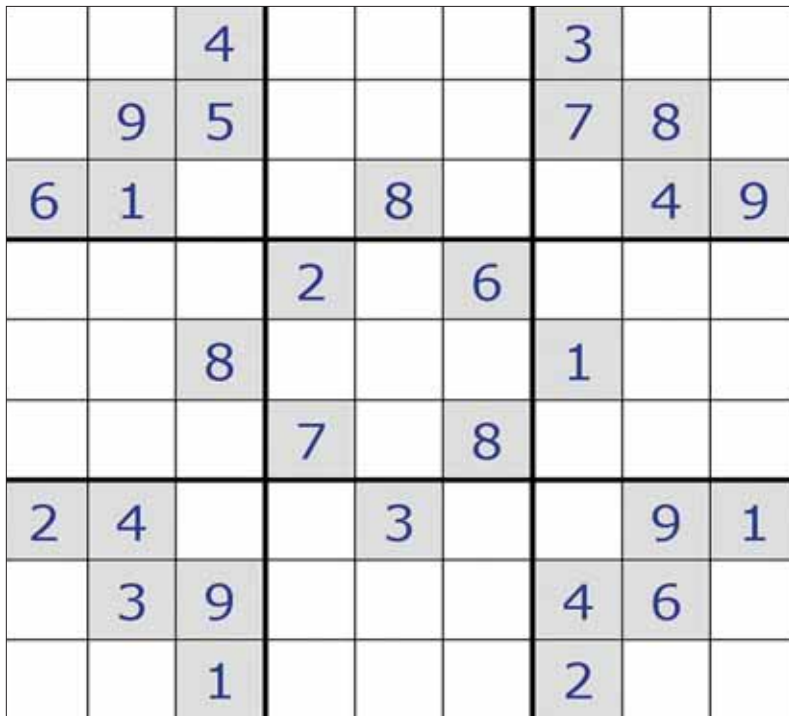
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COFFEE break

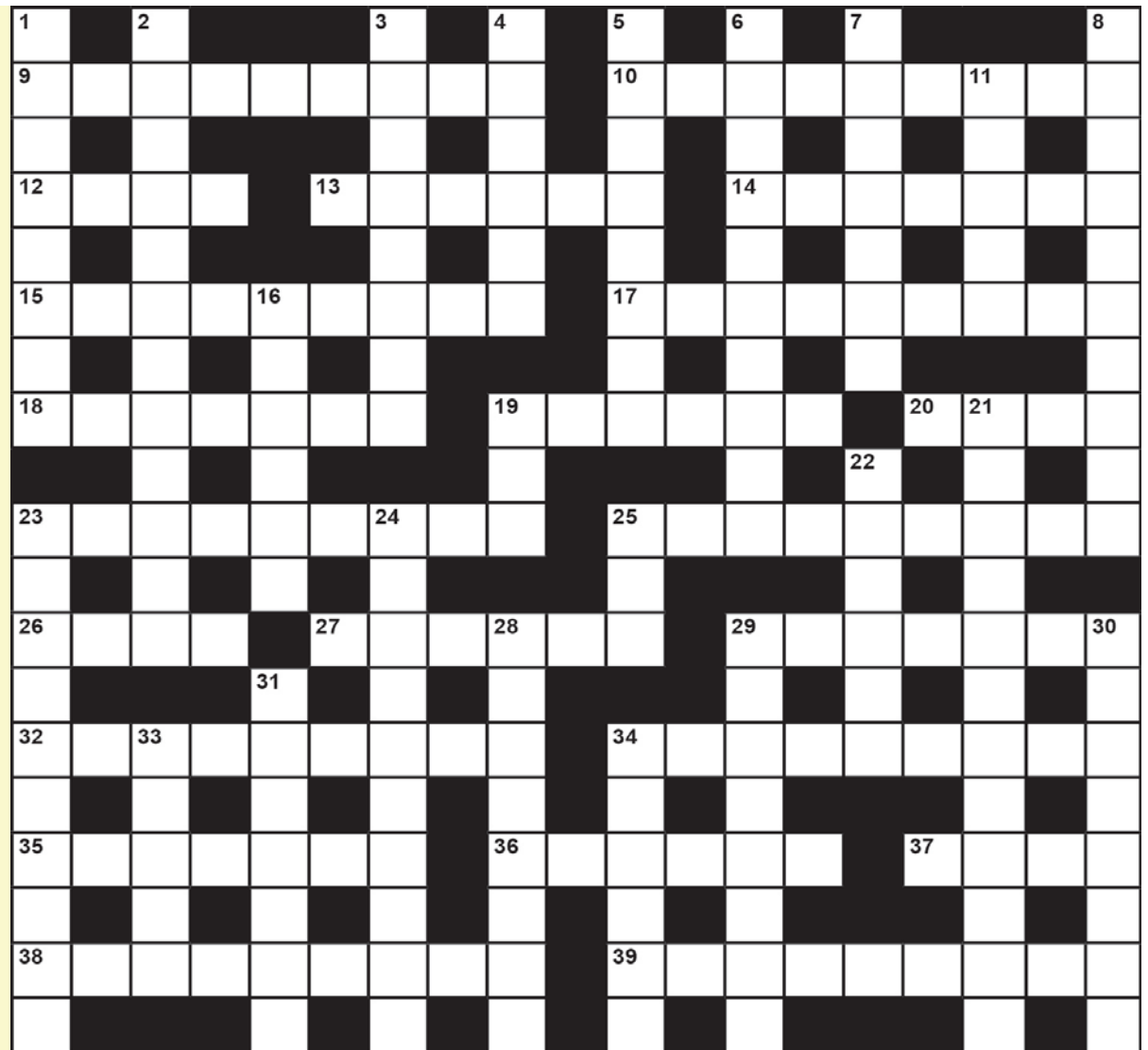
Across:

9. Wet, so hang out in local Phuket bus (9)
10. Not real, I'm at it maybe one number back (9)
12. In a higher place, no, back on top of (4)
13. Fine angle maybe in collar (6)
14. Shorten a span (7)
15. Do grasp to move snail (9)
17. Application aim a long time in addition (9)
18. Contempt did in, as worried (7)
19. Mean arranging morning in Chao Phraya sometimes (3,3)
20. Time to go back for discharge (4)
23. Assumed prefix before took care of (9)

25. The crowd care about daughter slaughtered (9)
26. As to making uncooked porridge (4)
27. Animal first aid (6)
29. Scheme is hard to flatten (7)
32. I turn in so make an encroachment (9)
34. Bearings in railway coaches (9)
35. Country notes anew one article (7)
36. Credit it one chapter for the reviewer (6)
37. Note everyone in the dance (4)
38. Throw Allen out as governor of the fort (9)
39. Cool pearl could be a washed out tint (4,5)

Down:

1. Guess Ada moved, relieved (8)
2. Is in contents strangely erratic (12)
3. Last, I nip out in a loss of




- control (8)
4. I'd went out curled up (6)
5. Let go from real bite! (8)
6. Sid turns up, comes into view, vanishes! (10)
7. Authorization for military action, go on! (7)
8. Lay to rest shortly, established editor aroused curiosity (10)
11. Possible aid in part of Asia (5)
16. Concerning perhaps rape harvester (6)
19. Crazy graduate daughter (3)

21. Maybe grab Maria out East, left note being of an age to get wed (12)
22. French salt, friend, in the Italian charcuterie (6)
23. Fate, editor is back in the province (10)
24. Ground bad spice the French find beneath contempt (10)
25. Mother, tenor, tangle (3)
28. Not guilty in having no money (8)
29. Maybe place it right in a little


- bit (8)
30. Thus maybe Les is about right in those who try to con people (8)
31. Fine run possibly for the more amusing (7)
33. To set up systems of betting (5)
34. Good-humored, in church I pry around (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31


PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

 This is an auspicious time for those born under the sign of Pisces to wish for what they want. The stars are ready to back your aims, with focus on finances becoming easier to handle once you take a more practical approach. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead should enjoy a more fulfilling social life in the coming year. Number four can open a lucky door this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

 Intuition guides Arians towards making the right decisions in the world of work this week, with resolution highlighted by the end of February. Money matters should be carefully monitored midweek as the stars indicate possibility of being short changed. Where your personal life is concerned, there is much to be gained by moving out of a social circle that has become boring. Your lucky number this week is three.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):


 Taureans who doubted a fire sign's motives at work should have their suspicions laid to rest. As February draws to a close, trust strengthens and there should be

something to celebrate by the end of the month. Those romantically involved with a water sign can be caught between trying to please their partner and keeping up with friends this weekend. The number eight can be fortunate this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):


 The stars advise that it will now be easier to get information that has been elusive. A fire sign should reveal facts that will lead to success at work, and another air sign holds the key to solving a personal problem. In the realm of romance, a financial issue can be hard to communicate about with an earth sign this weekend. Gemini's lucky number this week is seven.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Perseverance can demand your patience during the days ahead, but Cancerians are forecast to be satisfied with what they've accomplished by the end of February. Those who are on an economy drive should find ways to cut overheads, but another water sign partner takes some convincing. If you are single and seeking, an air sign's unusual way of getting attention brightens your weekend. Number one stands out this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star


LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 Where work is concerned, the stars suggest that you continue on the same path, even if diversions become apparent. An earth sign's ideas for saving time and money can be stored for future consideration, but it would not be wise to implement them now. Legal and financial issues can be solved more easily around the end of the month. Number five comes alive for those born under the sign of Leo this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 An edgy mood can affect those born under the sign of Virgo towards the end of the month, but your energy is strong early in the week. Business meetings are best scheduled before Wednesday. Romance with a fire sign comes at a higher price than you want to acknowledge, but a relationship with a water sign starts to look more promising. Number two looks special for Virgoans this week.


LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Kindness comes from an unusual source towards the end of February and this should allow struggling Librans to forget some worries. Those who have kept their heads above water so far this year are advised to remain cautious. Finances will be better starred as March commences. Romance with another air sign grows more intense, but a relationship with an earth sign can grind to a halt. Number eight is forecast to bring good luck this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):


 The world of work falls under the spotlight this week. Communication with colleagues can be tricky; the stars suggest giving another water sign a wide berth until the astral atmosphere eases. A fire sign is forecast to come around to your way of thinking by the end of the month. In the realm of romance, an earth sign's need for solitude should not be viewed in a negative light. Scorpios' lucky number this week is nine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Sagittarians seeking answers to a mystery are advised to bide their time. The stars advise that another fire

sign will tell you what they think you want to hear, while an air sign is waiting for the right moment to confess. Those who were about to make a romantic approach to a water sign could get cold feet; love with another fire sign can be rekindled. Number six can be important this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Capricorns have stronger energy as February ends and this is the ideal time to catch up with overdue work. In the realm of romance, meaningful conversations encourage you to feel confident about a relationship with an air sign. The flow of cash towards you increases at the end of the month - loans are forecast to be repaid more readily than expected. Capricorns' lucky number this week is nine.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 Aquarians who need to break bad news to a work colleague receive astral support midweek. The stars suggest that you will find a way to sugarcoat the words and the outcome will be less painful than you anticipate. This is also an auspicious time for the truth to be revealed in romance; a fire sign's admission can brighten your weekend. The number seven can bring good fortune this week.

International Sport

Pistorius charged with murder

A WITNESS heard “non-stop shouting” coming from the home of Paralympic track star Oscar Pistorius shortly before his girlfriend was shot dead, the lead detective in the murder investigation said on Wednesday.

Warrant officer Hilton Botha, a detective with 24 years on the force, also told the Pretoria magistrates court that Reeva Steenkamp was hit by three bullets, in the head, elbow and hip.

Botha said the angle at which the shots were fired through the door suggested the shooter had aimed specifically to hit somebody on the toilet.

Botha, who arrived at the scene at 0415 local time (0215 GMT) to find Steenkamp dead at the bottom of the stairs, also said police had found unlicensed .38 ammunition in Pistorius’ house in an upmarket gated compound north of Pretoria.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel said on Tuesday: “‘Blade Runner’ Oscar Pistorius put on his artificial legs and walked across his bedroom before firing four shots through a locked toilet door, killing his cowering girlfriend in cold blood.”

Reeva Steenkamp, a 30-year-old law graduate and model, died after being hit by three rounds from a 9-mm pistol.

Pistorius, 26, wept uncontrollably in court as Nel outlined details of a shooting that has stunned South Africa and millions around the world who saw the double amputee’s track glory as an inspiring tale of triumph over adversity.

Later, in a dramatic affidavit read out by defence lawyer Barry Roux, Pistorius said he had been “deeply in love” with Steenkamp, whom he had been dating since November, and had no intention of killing her.

Having had previous death threats and break-ins, Pistorius said he slept with a 9-



DEADLY WEAPON: Oscar Pistorius awaits the start of court proceedings while his brother Carl (left) looks on, in the Pretoria Magistrates court, February 19. Photo: Reuters

mm pistol under his bed in his plush Pretoria home in the heart of a well-secured gated community.

He and Steenkamp went to sleep on Wednesday night – the eve of Valentine’s Day – some time after 10 pm, he said.

However, in the middle of the night, he awoke in pitch darkness and thought an intruder had climbed through a window and entered the toilet, Pistorius said.

Without putting on his prosthetic legs – contrary to the prosecution’s version of events – he moved on his stumps into the bathroom adjoining his bedroom and noticed the closed toilet door. He did not realise Steenkamp was behind it, he said.

He shouted for the intruder to get out of his house then fired several shots into the door, before calling to Steenkamp to phone the police.

When she did not respond, he grabbed a cricket bat to beat down the door and found her slumped on the floor, he said.

“I was absolutely mortified by the events and the devastating loss of my beloved Reeva,” he said in the affidavit.

As Roux read the statement, Pistorius sobbed unrestrainedly, prompting magistrate Desmond Nair to halt proceedings for several minutes. “You need to concentrate on what’s going on,” Nair told him.

Before Pistorius’s testimony, Nel, the lead prosecutor at the bail hearing, painted a picture of premeditated killing, which carries a life sentence in South Africa.

“If I arm myself, walk a distance and murder a person, that is premeditated,” he told the packed courtroom, arguing that Pistorius had time to think about what he was doing. “The door is closed. There is no doubt. I walk seven meters and I kill.”

“The motive is ‘I want to kill’. That’s it,” he added. “This deceased was in a 1.4 by 1.14 meter little room. She could go nowhere. It must have been horrific.”

Nearly 1,000 km (600 miles) away, on South Africa’s windswept southern coast, scores of mourners gathered under cloudy skies in the city of Port Elizabeth for Steenkamp’s funeral.

Amid the grief, there was little sympathy for Pistorius, who at the time was

weeping on a wooden bench in the spartan, brick-face courtroom in the capital.

“She was an angel. She was so soft, so innocent. Such a lovely person. It’s just sad that this could happen to somebody so good,” said Gavin Venter, an ex-jockey who worked for Steenkamp’s father.

“I’m disgusted with what he did. He must be dealt with harshly,” he added, shortly before Steenkamp’s cremation in the Victoria Park Crematorium.

The case has drawn further attention to endemic violence against women in South Africa after the gang-rape, mutilation and murder of a 17-year-old near Cape Town this month.

After the hour-long private ceremony in the cream-colored hill-top church in Port Elizabeth, Steenkamp’s brother Adam and uncle Mike, fighting back tears, spoke briefly to reporters.

“There’s a space missing inside all the people that she knew that can’t be filled again,” Adam Steenkamp said. “We are going to keep all the positive things that we remember and know about my sister. We will miss her.”

The arrest of Pistorius stunned the millions who had watched in awe last year as the Olympic and Paralympic sprinter reached the semi-final of the 400 meters in the London Olympics, running on high-technology carbon fibre ‘blades’.

But the impact has been greatest in sports-mad South Africa, where Pistorius was seen as a rare hero who had transcended the racial divides that persist 19 years after the end of apartheid.

He carried South Africa’s flag at the closing ceremony of the London Olympics, and US magazine *Sports Illustrated* named him as one of the most inspiring figures of the year. – Reuters

Goal-line technology at 2014 World Cup

GOAL-line technology will be used at the 2014 World Cup and two more systems could be considered in addition to the existing pair, soccer’s world governing body FIFA said on Tuesday.

Two systems, Hawkeye and Goalref, have so far been licensed by FIFA and both were used at last year’s World Club Cup in Japan, one in each of the two stadiums, where goal-line technology was employed for the first time.

FIFA said a third system, developed in Germany, had already passed examinations and that the providers were in licensing discussions. A fourth system, also German, has also been tested with the results due this week.

FIFA confirmed goal-line technology was “successful” at the World Club Cup, although there were no incidents where it had to be used.

It intends to install goal-line technology at all 12 venues at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

“After a successful implementation of goal-line technology (GLT) at the Club World Cup in Japan in December 2012, FIFA has decided to use GLT at the Confederations Cup Brazil 2013 and 2014 World Cup,” FIFA said in a statement.



A referee tests the Hawkeye system in Japan. Photo: Reuters

“The aim is to use GLT in order to support the match officials and to install a system in all stadia, pending the successful installation, and pre-match referee tests.

“With different technologies on the market, FIFA has launched a tender today, setting out the technical requirements for the two forthcoming competitions in Brazil.”

FIFA said Hawkeye and Goalref would have to join the selection process.

Goal-line technology providers had been invited to join an inspection visit to the six Confederations Cup venues in March. Those venues will all be staging matches at the following year’s World Cup.

The use of goal-line technology, to help match officials in cases

where it is not immediately clear if the ball has entered the goal, was approved by soccer’s rule-making body, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), last year.

The use of goal-line technology had previously been rejected by FIFA, which performed a U-turn following the controversy over Frank Lampard’s disallowed goal for England in the 2010 World Cup match against Germany.

Replays clearly showed that the ball had crossed the line after bouncing down off the underside of the crossbar, but match officials did not award the goal. Germany, 2-1 ahead at the time, went on to win 4-1.

However, goal-line technology is not favored by European

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	Liverpool	15	39
8	Swansea	4	37
9	WBA	1	37
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

soccer’s governing body UEFA, which instead prefers to employ two extra linesmen, one on each goal line.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has already said that extra linesmen are unlikely to be used at the World Cup.

Many critics think that football should go further and allow the use of video replays to help refer-

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 23 FEB 2013	19:45
Fulham VS Stoke	
SATURDAY, 23 FEB 2013	22:00
Arsenal VS Aston Villa	
Norwich VS Everton	
Reading VS Wigan	
West Brom VS Sunderland	
SATURDAY, 23 FEB 2013	
QPR VS MAN UTD	22:00
SUNDAY, 24 FEB 2013	
MAN CITY VS CHELSEA	20:30
SUNDAY, 24 FEB 2013	20:30
Newcastle VS Southampton	
TUESDAY, 26 FEB 2013	03:00
West Ham VS Tottenham	

ees make decisions concerning offside, handball and fouls.

Referees have to make split second judgments with the naked eye while millions of television viewers are treated to slow-motion replays, from different angles, which often show clearly whether the official was right or wrong.

– Reuters

International Sport

Wrestling board refuses to fall

By Andrew Scott

FILA (International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles) board members gathered at the Duangjitt Resort in Patong on February 16-17, to discuss how they can save their sport after a recent decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to drop wrestling from the Olympic Games starting in 2020.

The IOC reviewed the 26 sports in the Olympic program, eliminating one sport so that they could add another later this year.

The two-day conference began with the resignation of FILA President Raphael Martinetti, who decided to step down after receiving a vote of no confidence from half of the 22 gathered FILA members. Serbian Nenad Lalovic was then voted in as interim president.

Mr Lalovic was asked about the build up to the resignation of Mr Martinetti at a press conference held on February 16 inside the resort. He told gathered media:

"About Mr Martinetti, the decision made him resign. It's a difficult situation for a president who was in power for 11 years when the IOC decides to eliminate his work from the Olympic Games. That was the main reason for his resignation."

An official president will be elected at the next FILA extraordinary meeting, but no decision has yet been made on when



Shell shocked FILA members at their recent conference in Patong. Photo: Andrew Scott

or where that will be. Fifteen IOC board members relied on a report from a special commission that had analyzed each sport and used 39 criteria under which they evaluated the core sports, grouped into the categories of reciprocal value, governance, tradition, universality, popularity, international development and finance, before voting in a secret ballot.

After the shock decision, the sport is now vying with baseball/softball, karate, roller sports, sport climbing, squash, wake boarding and wushu to make the shortlist of three

the IOC will draw up in St Petersburg in May. The IOC will then elect the winning sport to be included in the 2020 Olympics in September in Buenos Aires.

At the London Olympics, wrestling featured 344 athletes competing in 11 medal events in freestyle, seven in Greco-Roman and wrestlers medaled from 29 countries. In comparison, 26 countries participated in the combined shooting, horseback-riding, running, swimming and fencing event that is the modern pentathlon.

The sport will have to do all it can to win

over the IOC and Mr Lalovic agreed that FILA would need to be more proactive.

The FILA members left Phuket with a 5-point plan outlining what they need to do to try and reverse the IOC's decision, which is included below.

FILA'S 5-point plan

- 1) It is one of the hardest issues facing FILA, and we should deeply consider the best strategy to control this situation. We agree to protect wrestling from IOC's wrong decision.
- 2) Contact IOC members in your country through government, NOC, National Federation, individual or other sources if possible.
- 3) A strong presentation should be provided through senior, forum, symposium; possible title of presentation: 'Ancient, Modern and Future Olympics and Wrestling' prior to the meeting of the IOC Board at St Petersburg, Russia on May, 2013.
- 4) Petitions or propaganda regarding the inclusion of wrestling sports into the Olympic Games should be used as much as we can.
- 5) The FILA executive board will contact the head of IOC and other important people to discuss this issue.

Toxic culture fuelled Aussie swimmers

SLACK management allowed a "culturally toxic" environment to develop in Australia's swimming team at the London Olympics, with abuse of alcohol and prescription drugs as well as flouting of curfews and bullying going unchecked, a review said on Tuesday.

Australia's worst Olympic performance in swimming for 20 years came amid reports of schoolboy pranks, over-inflated egos, a lack of team unity and unrealistic expectations, prompting the wide-ranging independent review by a heavyweight panel.

"Standards, discipline and accountabilities for the swim team at the London Olympics were too loose," said the report, compiled by business consultants Bluestone, which was released on Tuesday.

"Situations were left to bleed with not enough follow through for fear of disrupting preparation for competition.

"Although few situations relating to London reported through this review were truly grave in nature, they compounded in

significance as no one reigned in control.

"There were enough culturally toxic incidents across enough team members that breached agreements (such as getting drunk, misuse of prescription drugs, breaching curfews, deceit, bullying) to warrant a strong, collective leadership response that included coaches, staff and the swimmers.

"No such collective action was taken."

Australia's swimmers are usually expected to lead the country's charge for medals in the first week of the Games but they failed to win an individual title and ended up with just one relay gold, six silver and three bronze medals.

The report said there was no single headline issue that caused the underperformance, nor did the problems suddenly emerge in London as the team gathered to compete in the Games.

"The findings of this review were that cultural factors did play a significant role in the "unpleasant"

experience that many Australian swimmers, coaches and staff had at the London Olympics in 2012, and the culture did not appear to assist or support high-level performance for most people," it said.

"It seems that the most significant issue in swimming was the quietly growing lack of focus on people across the board," the report continued.

"Participants reported that in the zealous and streamlined attempts to obtain gold medals, the delicate management of motivation, communication and collaboration were lost."

Once the expected medal haul failed to materialize over the first few days of the meet, team morale plummeted, the report said.

"Swimmers described these Games as the 'Lonely Olympics' and the 'Individual Olympics'," it added. "There was not much connection between groups of athletes, or between athletes, staff and coaches other than what was engineered reactively."

The report makes a raft of



Australia's Chris Wright (bottom) competes against Michael Phelps at the 2012 London Olympics. Photo: Sumofmarc

recommendations to Swimming Australia on areas such as standards and accountability, how to build better lines of communication both inside the team and with the media, as well as on building community in the team.

It also recommended head coach Leigh Nugent be sent on

an "intensive coach-the-coach leadership program" for three to six months.

"There is a dire need to develop and enable leadership throughout swimming, and to orient people to consider leadership as personal, not just functional," it said.

— Reuters



The world's highest paid athlete. Photo: Reuters

Showtime for boxer Floyd Mayweather

EIGHT-time world champion Floyd Mayweather has left American pay-cable network HBO in favor of a 30-month, six-fight deal with rival pay-cable channel Showtime and its parent company CBS in what is being called the richest pact in boxing history.

Financial terms of the deal between the undefeated boxer and Showtime/CBS, announced on Tuesday in a statement by Mayweather Promotions, were not disclosed.

In making the announcement, Mayweather also confirmed a May 4 fight with Robert Guerrero which will mark the fighter's Showtime debut.

Widely recognized as boxing's top pound-for-pound fighter, Mayweather (43-0, 26 KOs) has been a part of boxing's four biggest non-heavyweight pay-per-view events.

The 35-year-old fighter was listed as the highest paid athlete in 2012 by Forbes

after earning \$85 million (55 million pounds) from two fights against Victor Ortiz and Miguel Cotto.

Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao ranked second with earnings of \$62 million.

According to the statement, Mayweather averages more than 1 million pay-per-view buys per event, the highest of any boxer, and if all six fights take place it could result in the richest individual athlete deal in all of sports.

— Reuters

Strong LPGA field heads to Pattaya

WORLD number one Yani Tseng is hoping to complete a hat-trick of wins at the Honda LPGA Thailand tournament, to be held at the Siam Country Club Pattaya Old Course from February 21-24.

The Taiwanese star, who has won the last two Honda Thailand tournaments, arrives in good form after a strong showing at the Australian Women's Open, where she was runner-up to South Korea's brilliant Jiyai Shin. The second place finish pushed the 24-year-old Tseng over the US\$9 million mark in career earnings.

Tseng looked to be at her best in the final round at Canberra when she shot a sizzling seven-under 66 as she soared up the leader board. She appears in prime shape to take on the Pattaya course where she has been so successful in the past.

Jiyai Shin will be brimming with confidence after her impressive victory in Australia. Shin looked very relaxed and produced some stunning shots as she held off the challenge of Tseng and the South Korean-born New Zealand amateur Lydia Ko at the Australian Women's Open.

The 15-year-old Ko has displayed incredible maturity this season; her third place finish in Australia followed a victory in the New Zealand Women's Open.

Thailand's Moriya Jutanagarn finished in an impressive fourth place at the Australian Open, her first LPGA event as a professional.

Only 18-years-old, Moriya knows she can take on the best in the world and will go into the Honda Thailand event with a



Michelle Wie in action. Photo: Keith Allison

high level of confidence.

Moriya's performance crowned a strong showing from Thai players in Australia, with Thidapa Suwannapura doing remarkably well to finish in joint eighth place, while Pornanong Phatlum achieved a respectable joint 36th.

The Honda Thailand tournament has attracted a superb field, featuring the 60 leading players in the LPGA plus 10 accomplished invitees. All the top 10 ranked players in the world will be competing in what promises to be a tournament of the highest caliber.

— *Phuket Gazette*



World number one Yani Tseng.



Shanshan Feng (right)



Tiger Woods' niece, Cheyenne Woods.



Na Yeon Choi



Women's volleyball is on the rise.

Volleyball a smash with Thais

THE Thailand Volleyball Association announced the schedule for the women's Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) World Grand Prix this August.

The Thai women's team finished a best-ever fourth place at the top-tier FIVB World Grand Prix Finals in Ningbo, China, followed by their maiden victory in the Asian Volleyball Confederation Cup, in Kazakhstan, last year. The soaring success brought fame to the Kingdom and resulted in a boost in popularity for the sport at every level nationwide.

Last year in June, Bangkok hosted the World Grand Prix Preliminaries at the 3,500-seater Keelawes 1 Gymnasium—the event attracted over 7,000 spectators.

This year, Bangkok has been given the green light by the world governing body, the FIVB, to host the World Grand Prix Preliminaries Pool L, with four strong teams — two-time world champions Russia, Germany, Puerto Rico and Thailand — battling for supremacy from August 16 to 18.

Due to increased demand from spectators, the Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA) has decided to shift the competition venue to the Hua Mark Indoor Stadium, which has double the seating capacity of the Keelawes 1 Gymnasium.

"To avoid overcrowding at the competition venue, we have decided to begin selling tickets for spectators to watch the three-day event. Although Hua Mark Indoor

Stadium is much bigger than Keelawes 1, since seating capacity has been expanded to 6,245, I still believe we will see the venue as packed as it was last year for the thrilling competition," Shanrit Wongprasert, TVA director and an FIVB executive board member, said at a meeting last week.

"The tickets released will still be insufficient to meet the increased demand from spectators, so we will manage the distribution systematically to ensure only those with tickets in hand will have seats. Advance booking for tickets will soon be announced," he said.

The ticket information came after hundreds of spectators posted inquiries on social networks including Facebook and

Twitter, asking about availability.

The schedule for the FIVB World Grand Prix Pool L in Bangkok was also announced recently, with Thailand, current world No 12, set to take on Puerto Rico in the curtain raiser on August 16 at 4pm, before Russia face Germany on the same day at 6pm. Matches will be held in the evening for the first time.

The 2pm and 6pm match times will be in place for the remaining two days, August 17 and 18, with Thailand playing the second match on both days.

The Thai spikers will also test their mettle against 16 teams in the Asian Senior Women's Volleyball Championship, from September 13 to 21.

— *The Nation*

Alleged match fixing in Thai FA Cup

THAI football has been rocked by allegations of attempted match-fixing at last November's FA Cup final between Buriram United and Army United.

The Japanese referee in charge of the match has reported he was approached by unknown persons and asked to help fix the result. Buriram won the game 2-1, to clinch their second successive title plus an AFC Champions League play-off place.

Football Association of Thailand (FAT) president Worawi Makudi said he would open an investiga-



tion into the accusation, reported to Asian soccer's governing body, the AFC, by the Japanese official.

"We have already received the report the Japanese referee sent. I'll discuss the incident with FIFA and AFC officials as well as with Interpol when I travel to Malaysia on Thursday for a seminar about the problem of match-fixing. We have already

sent them all the relevant evidence we have about the game in question," said Worawi. "However, we will also be discussing the issue at the association's board meeting tomorrow.

We already have a committee to take care of the matter," Worawi said it remained unknown what impact the investigation would have on Buriram's participation in Asia's Champions League. Buriram beat Australia's Brisbane Roar on penalties to book a berth in the group stage earlier this month.

— *The Nation*

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BIG HITTER: Sah Nawez (Jabu Days ICC) lines up a six.



Ali Ahmed (Jabu Days ICC) turns to see the ball he lofted moments before falling into the hands of Shah Ullah. Photos: PCG

JLL HOTELS LEAGUE 2012-2013				
Team	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Patong	4	3	1	20
Laguna	4	3	0	19
ICC	4	2	2	15
TNT	4	1	3	13
Village	4	0	3	4

Laguna end first round undefeated

IN THE final match of the first round, and one of the most highly anticipated matches so far this season, Jabudays took on the undefeated Laguna at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, February 17.

Many thought this match might see the Laguna side capitulate to a very strong Jabudays side, the only side to defeat them in 2012. The match lived up to expectations, with the result decided in the final over, when Jabudays were bowled out for 197 just short of the 206 run target set by Laguna.

With the ACG outfield looking in pristine condition, Laguna had no hesitation in electing to bat after winning the toss. However, all did not go according to plan early on, with opener Andrew Cole run out in the 2nd over followed shortly thereafter by Sameer Khan who was caught at deep mid-on in the 4th over.

With two wickets down for only 11 runs, the Laguna side looked in an uncomfortable position. However, Bill Stahmer (76) and Stuart Reading steadied the ship to hold out a very accurate Jabudays attack going back to the clubhouse at the 10-over drinks break with just 36 runs on the scoreboard. Upon returning, they managed to push the run rate along until their 64-run partnership came to an end when Reading was bowled in the 18th over with the score on 75.

At the 20-over drinks break, Laguna were 4 wickets down for 94 runs. Meanwhile, Stahmer, the league's oldest player, continued on with gritty determination and a string of handy partnerships until he was finally dismissed in the 32nd over with Laguna 9 wickets down for 181 runs.

Jabudays had their tails up and were looking to bowl out Laguna

for less than 200 runs. However, Darren Shaw and Shah Ullah put on an undefeated last wicket stand to take the score to 9 wickets for 205 runs at the end of 35 overs. Pick of the bowlers for Jabudays were Anand Chand (1 for 8) and Naeem Ul Haq (1 for 30).

Jabudays took to the field after the lunch break feeling confident they could chase down the Laguna score. However, they too suffered an early loss when captain Anand Chand was caught at backward square leg in the 4th over with only 8 runs on the scoreboard. Imtiyaz Mushtaq (58) and Deepak Mehra (28) took the attack to Laguna returning to the clubhouse with 1 wicket down for 60 runs at the 10-over drinks break, well ahead of the Laguna run rate.

Laguna then introduced their slower bowlers, which slowed the run rate, but they were in desperate need of a breakthrough

if they were to have a chance of winning the match. They eventually broke the 86-run partnership when Meehra was dismissed in the 19th over with the score on 94 runs.

At the 20-over drinks break, Jabudays were only two wickets down for 103 runs and Mushtaq was looking in formidable form. Laguna knew they had to pick-up wickets to stem the run flow. They achieved immediate success with a wicket in the 21st over, followed by the prized scalps of Mushtaq and Ali Khan in the 22nd over.

S Nawez (33) and Surender Kumar put on a 37-run partnership until Kumar was dismissed by a sharp catch by Stuart Reading at backward point with the score on 143 in the 27th over. Val Guiraud then claimed the scalp of Nawez in the 29th over and was on a hat-trick after bowling

Balesh Desai for a golden duck. At 8 wickets down for 164 at the 30 over mark, and with 42 runs to claim victory from 30 balls, it was still anyone's game.

Vikram Sharma and Pareshe Bokari put on a valuable 35-run partnership taking the score to within reach of the target, until a match winning run-out by Shoeib Mushtaq with a direct hit from deep mid-wicket with the score on 191 in the 33rd over.

With 15 runs required from 12 balls, the balance had tilted towards a Laguna victory but it was not until the last Jabudays dismissal in the final over before the outcome could be certain. Jabudays were eventually bowled out for 197 runs, just nine short of their target. Pick of the bowlers for Laguna were Val Guiraud (3 for 44), Sami Ullha (3 for 48) and Shoeib Mushtaq (2 for 21).

— *Phuket Gazette*

Fair Play League

THE 5th Annual Fair Play League (FPL) kicked off its new five-week season at British International School (BIS) on Sunday, February 17. Run by Phuket Soccer Schools (PSS), the league is designed to promote fair play in football and help players integrate and play with other children from different schools, cultural and social backgrounds.

Before the under-14 matches, players and coaches were instructed by PSS of the objectives of the league and how players and coaches were expected to behave.

This season PSS has introduced a "Bonus Points" system, where teams will be given extra points if they concede 0-2 fouls/free kicks in a match. Any shirt pulling or simulation (diving) will result in a straight yellow card and no bonus points will be issued during that match. This encourages players to be aware of fair play and the ramifications of cheating or playing unfairly.

The under-14s played two 30-minute matches. In the first round of fixtures, the Thailand Blue got off to a strong start, beating England 7-2; Spain came from behind to grab all three points with a 4-2 victory over Thailand Green, and Argentina sneaked past Brazil in a close match with a 3-2 scoreline.

The second round of fixtures saw some high scoring and close matches, with Brazil conceding a last second equalizer to

tie 3-3 with Thailand Blue. Argentina played out a thrilling 6-6 tie with Thailand Green and finally Spain managed another win with a 9-1 victory over England.

The under 14s will continue their season on Sunday February 24 at BIS from 4:30pm and the under 11s will begin their season at 3pm.

It's not too late to join the fun, PSS are still looking for boys and girls for both under 11 and under 14 leagues.

PSS will allocate them a team to play in where they will make new friends and have a positive footballing experience. The price of entry is just 500 baht for the season and players will get to keep their FPL kit.

PSS will also be offering tryouts to possible Academy under-16s at 6pm, after the FPL each week at BIS. Tryouts are open to advanced players born 1997 and 1998, who are interested in training, training matches and tournaments.

Head Coach of PSS Martin Hill said: "PSS thinks it's important [that] we emphasize and reinforce the importance of 'fair play' in football and we hope many positives will come out of the FPL league this year for both players and parents."

— *Phuket Gazette*

To receive a FPL registration form email info@phuketsoccerschools.com.



FAIR SCHOOL: The under-14s and coaches at British International School. Photos: Martin Hill



Victoria chasing the ball during the under-11 friendly match prior to the FPL League.

Pearl anchored by Thai Port

Despite a commendable effort, Phuket United were unable to outshine the league's second best team

By Steven Layne

PHUKET United were defeated 2-3 by a stronger Thai Port Futsal Club last Saturday night in Phuket Town.

The match, Phuket's 22nd and Thai Port's 23rd in the 30-fixture GMM Thailand Futsal Premier League (TFPL) 2012-2013 season, was played in front of about 800 fans at the Saphan Hin Indoor Sports Complex.

Thai Port – owned by the Port Authority of Thailand – broke the ice early on with a goal in the first minute by Brazilian veteran Thiago Mora de Oliveira.

After that, it was mostly Phuket who controlled possession, ever determined to find the equalizer.

That goal finally came in the 17th minute with a beautiful strike from the top right of the area by Phuket's leading scorer, Jackson Santos.

The score remained 1-1 going into half time.

The visitors took the lead again 7 minutes into the second half with a goal by Thanapon Wongsam-aang.

Phuket equalized again five minutes later with another beautiful strike by Santos from the right side, scoring his 25th for the team this season.

The two goals put Santos in 3rd place for the league's golden boot race. Santos trails Navy's Jesada Chudet (28) and Si Saket's Brazilian star Romualdo Namorato (31).

With the score level at 2-2, Phuket picked up the offensive pressure, and Thai Port's defense started to show signs of weakness.

However, Thai Port's keeper Prakrit Daan-khunthot took everything that came his way, and did not make any mistakes.

In the 37th minute, Thai Port sealed the game on a quick counter attack after Worin Romnee capitalized on a loose ball mid court, catching Phuket's keeper Parinya Pandee out of position and sending the ball to the back of the net.



TURF DEFENDER: Thai Port's Thiago Mora de Oliveira is guarded by Phuket United's Brazilian star and top scorer, Jackson Santos. Photos: Steven Layne

Despite a commendable power play attempt, Phuket were not able to equalize for a third time.

After the match, Thai Port Thai veteran Wutichai Thin-tawee told the *Gazette* that his side was quite pleased with the result.

"We played to our plan, and that was to play strong defense..."

"In the second half of the season, we lost a lot of our good players who went to teams like Chonburi and Phuket [referring to Piyapan Rattana] so we've just been working on getting our new players to get used to the team."

Another Thai Port veteran, their only foreigner, Thiago Mora de Oliveira also spoke with the *Gazette* after the match.

"This season has been a lot harder than previous seasons due to the hectic scheduling of up to three league games a week, not to mention our tough FA Cup schedule. We were tired from the trip to Phuket, and I was also worried because Phuket has three Brazilians."

"I often knew which tactics they were using, but not all of my teammates knew, so it was difficult to adjust. In the end we did okay."



Brazilian veteran Thiago scored in the first minute of the match.

Thiago, who first came to Thailand to play 11-a-side football is playing his fourth season for Thai Port Futsal Club.

Phuket's star Brazilian Jackson Santos also gave his thoughts after the match.

"Although I'm having a really good season with 25 goals, I'm not so satisfied because our team has not been doing so well. We've been real tired from travel and working hard but have a lot to improve on if we are going to meet our goal of finishing in the top five of the

 THAILAND PREMIER LEAGUE 2012-2013				
RANK	Team	GP	GD	Pts
1	Chonburi RBAC	21	69	58
2	Thai Port	23	23	49
3	Bangkok FC	22	28	46
4	Si Saket	22	39	44
5	Surat Thani	21	20	39
6	Nonthaburi	22	0	36
7	Royal Navy	22	17	35
8	CAT FC	22	10	35
9	Lampang Utd	21	-7	34
10	Phuket Utd	22	2	30
11	Smt Songkhram	22	-4	22
12	Smt Sakhon	22	-22	21
13	Prachin FC	22	-18	18
14	Smt Prakarn	22	-38	17
15	Leo Bang Seu	22	-47	10
16	Highways Dep	22	-55	7

*As of Sunday, February 17, 2013 Graphic by Steven Layne

league," he said.

Phuket remain in 10th place with 30 points from 10 wins, 12 losses and a goal difference of +2.

Thai Port retained their 2nd place standing with 49 points, trailing runaway table toppers, Chonburi by 9 points.

At the time of going to press, Phuket were playing their next match, an away fixture against 12th placed Samut Sakhon.

For results to that match, and other futsal updates, check the *Gazette* Sports section online.

The Andaman Pearl have seven more games remaining this season.

Their next match is against 11th placed Samut Songkhram, which will played this Sunday (March 24) at the Fashion Island Futsal Arena with a 12pm kick off.

Phuket then return home to play 6th placed Nonthaburi on Wednesday, February 27, after which they will take on 5th placed Surat Thani on Saturday, March 2.

Both matches will be played at the Saphan Hin Indoor Sports complex and kickoff at 7pm.

Dredges' Army to host Phuket FC in rematch

DIVISION 2 upstarts, PhangNga FC will unveil their official lineup for the upcoming season, which kicks off early next month. The team will lift the curtain this Saturday, when they play Phuket FC, who have also nearly finalized their line-up. The two met last month in Phuket, with the home team prevailing 3-2. The rematch will be one not to miss.




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