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■ 'NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL STAY HERE. I WILL DIE HERE.'

Sea gypsies to stand ground

■ Rawai sea gypsies face forced relocation as court orders evictions

By **Orawin Narabal**

FEARING they will have nowhere to go if court-ordered evictions are carried out, villagers at the southern Phuket sea gypsy community in Rawai have steadfastly resolved to stay put.

"Our people have been living here for more than 200 years. Our homes once lined the length of the beach, but now we have only 19 rai to live on," said village elder Ngeam Dumrongkaset, 68.

Put Hadthong, 48, and his family refuse to move. "We have nowhere to go. My family has been living here for more than 60 years. Although they say they have documents to prove who owns the land, this is the land of our ancestors. No matter what happens, I will stay here. I will die here," he said.

Mr Put learned of his eviction notice after his nephew handed him the court order when he returned from work one day in 2009.

"It was on the afternoon of March 21. I had just...

Continued on Page 6



THEIR FUTURE, TODAY: Where the sea gypsy children in Rawai will play hangs in the balance.

Shot Tourist Police officer faces murder charges

A TOURIST police officer, still recovering from multiple gun wounds from a shooting on Wednesday, is now facing charges of murder.

Sen Sgt Maj Pinchai Piyadilok was taken to hospital before police arrived at the location he was shot. Police arrived to find two men dead and another alive, but shot three times in the chest.

Full story on Page 3

Phuket to be role model for title deed land probes

A DEPUTY Ministry of Interior arrived on island this week to immediately launch a land title deed investigation aimed at establishing Phuket as Thailand's role model for land probes.

Full story on Page 4

Leatherback turtle babies scramble to sea

HUNDREDS of leatherback sea turtles, the most endangered species of turtle in the Andaman region, have hatched in Phang Nga.

Full story on Page 6

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This Week



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The Kingdom's first rubberized asphalt road in Krabi. **Page 12**



Tech

Find out how to retrieve your lost or stolen phone. **Page 17**



Boats

Andrew Scott learns how to purchase a superyacht. **Page 37**



In Focus

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Explore

Going the other way at Phuket's second cable ski park. **Page 43**



Sport

Phuket's young archers aim for international competition. **Page 50**

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Fear delays launch of new airport bus

By Chutharat Plerin

THE long-awaited and much supported Phuket Airport Bus Express – marking Phuket's first "hop on-hop off" bus service from the airport to major tourist beaches along the west coast – will not be launched this month.

The news came at a provincial transport committee meeting at the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) on Tuesday led by ardent supporter of the new service, PLTO chief Teerayut Presertpol.

The committee agreed "in principle" to approve the new service, but vetoed the launch on the condition that tuk-tuk and taxi drivers be consulted first on whether or not they would accept it.

A gravely disappointed Mr Teerayut told the *Gazette*, "Actually, I expected the committee to approve the PLTO's issuance of the needed permit to the bus operator, OS Car Rent & Tour, but they didn't."

Instead, the committee supported the suggestion by its chairman, Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, that local tuk-tuk and taxi drivers be consulted first before approving any official steps toward launch-



Ready to roll but no place to go. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

ing the new service.

"I am worried that there will be attacks [on the bus drivers]," V/Gov Chamroen explained to the meeting.

"I am especially worried about the tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Kata-Karon," he added.

Asked whether the provincial government would allow the local tuk-tuk and taxi drivers, rather than the public, to decide whether or not

Phuket would have the bus service, V/Gov Chamroen dodged the question, saying only that, "Phuket is still moving forward, but we will move forward cautiously."

Dates and venues for the public feedback meetings have yet to be set, but it was agreed that such meetings were to be held before May 15, Mr Teerayut said.

The committee will not meet again before that date, he added.

Pharmacy selling abortion pills raided in police sting

A PHARMACIST in central Phuket Town has been charged with illegally selling abortion pills in an undercover operation carried out by Ministry of Public Health officials.

A complaint filed directly to police in Bangkok resulted in the sting operation on the City Health Care pharmacy, on Dibuk Road, near the junction with Soi Romanee, on the afternoon of March 12.

"An officer who is three months pregnant entered the store and asked to buy abortion pills. The pharmacist gave her the pills and charged her 16,000 baht," Ministry of Health legal officer Chatree Pinyai explained.



The pharmacy in Phuket Town that was raided by Public Health officials. Photo Kraitsada Mueanhawong

The pharmacist was charged with selling illegal medication, selling unapproved medical equipment and for practicing as a pharmacist without a license.

– Kraitsada Mueanhawong

Bag snatcher accidentally turns herself in to police

A WOMAN wanted as a bag-snatcher was arrested by Phuket Police on March 17 after going to the Thalang Police Station to report an alleged beating by her boyfriend.

Rudeemas "Yaem" Sumeng, 22, walked into the police station apparently unaware that there was a warrant out for her arrest as a member of a bag-snatching gang.

Ms Rudeemas revealed that her partner had an arrest warrant in his name and police double-checked their case files, only to



Ms Rudeemas got herself arrested. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

find that Ms Rudeemas was also listed on the warrant.

– Thawit Bilabdullar

From tourists to addicts

DRUG suppression officers arrested a former Phuket tour business operator who turned to selling drugs after his business closed due to hard times.

Siriwat Srisuriyachai, 43, was arrested on Sakdidet Road in Phuket Town at 11:30pm on March 14.

"An undercover officer pretended to buy 1,000 baht of *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine] from Mr Siriwat and agreed to receive the drugs later," Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul explained.

After the handover, officers moved in and made the arrest.

"We searched his car [a Mercedes-Benz] and found 78.78

grams of *ya ice*, 29 tablets of Ecstasy and nine small glass bottles containing Ketamine," the district chief added.

Officers also seized drug paraphernalia, including hypodermic needles, and 49,990 baht in cash. "The drugs have an estimated street value of 299,230 baht," Mr Supachai said.

"Mr Siriwat claims this was his first time selling drugs, and he said that all the drugs he had were delivered from Bangkok to Phuket by bus," the chief added.

Mr Siriwat was charged with possession, sale and distribution of class 1 and class 2 narcotics.

– Kraitsada Mueanhawong

Tourist bus driver arrested for DUI

POLICE arrested a drunk bus driver who hit a pickup truck on March 13 after dropping off tourists at the airport.

Sirisak Suksai, 48, was driving near the airport when a tour bus clipped his pickup and broke the right rearview mirror.

Mr Sirisak chased the bus until it stopped at the Thalang Museum.

When police arrived, the driver, Ayan Noppawong Na Ayuthaya, 55, talked in a confused way.

He registered 0.26 per cent on an alcohol test, which is above the legal limit of .05 per cent, and was charged with drunk driving and driving without a license.

Mr Ayan faces drunk driving penalties of up to a year in prison, a fine of 5,000 to 20,000 baht, and a six-month suspension of his license.

– Orawin Narabal



Sirisak blows over the legal limit.



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Two dead in shootout

Tourist Police Officer seriously injured in gunfight, charged with murder

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PHUKET Tourist Police officer was charged with murder after he arrived at hospital, leaving two dead, gunned down in a housing estate near Phuket Town.

Sen Sgt Maj Pinchai Piyadilok was taken to hospital for gunshot wounds to his leg and stomach before police arrived at the scene, the Phuket Garden Ville housing estate.

Officers received reports of shots fired at the housing estate, near Phuket Rajabhat University, at 2:30am.

They arrived to find the body of Saran Chaithum, 26, leaning against the open door to the room.

In the bed was the body of Chalermpol Tripuk, 26.

Both were dead from gunshot wounds.

Police found only one survivor at the scene, Natthapong Kaewkuanchum, 25.

"He had been shot three times in the chest," Phuket City Police



Police found two 26-year-old men dead in a room at a housing estate after neighbors heard gunfire.

chief Col Sermphan Sirikong said.

Mr Natthapong was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, Col Sermphan added. He too is recovering from surgery and had yet to be questioned by police as the *Gazette* went to print.

"In the room, we found two 9mm cartridges, two bullets and crushed kratom leaves on the floor," he said.

"We have questioned five of the neighbors, but none of them witnessed the incident," Col

Sermphan said.

The alleged gunman, Sen Sgt Maj Pinchai, was transferred to Prince of Songkhla University Hospital in Haad Yai, after undergoing emergency surgery in Phuket.



The man claims to have been disciplining the child.

Alleged child rapist denies all charges

A PHUKET shopkeeper accused of raping a 9-year-old girl in October has denied the charges against him, claiming that he struck the child to discipline her.

"The suspect claimed that he just wanted to discipline the girl because she was drawing on the wall of his house," Public Prosecutor Atikun Puangprom told the *Gazette*.

Mr Atikun explained that the suspect testified to striking the child.

"However, the details of the assault as described in the suspect's testimony are not to be revealed to the public," he said.

The suspect has been charged under Sections 277 and 279 of the Criminal Code. If found guilty, the man faces a 20,000-baht fine and 10 years in prison for sexual assault and a 40,000-baht fine and life in prison for the rape of a person under the age of 13.

"The suspect denied both charges," Mr Atikun said.

The suspect has been released on bail of 350,000 baht, a Phuket Provincial Court officer told the *Gazette*.

The trial will resume on November 19.

— Saran Mitratrat

New driver found dead, pinned by bus door

POLICE are investigating the death of a bus driver whose body was found, still standing, pinned by the partially closed door of his own bus on Monday morning.

Phuket native Ekkarat Sarapol, 29, from Wichit, arrived and parked his Sawat Travel Company bus alongside other tour buses at the Phuket Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, at 6am.

He was last seen alive at 7am by a security guard who saw him cleaning and preparing the bus to take guests to Phang Nga.

"Because he was out of clear sight, between other buses, his body was not discovered until 9:30am," Lt Jirawat Tanchun of Phuket City Police explained.

"We believe he pressed the button to close

the door, but slipped while walking down the stairs and was trapped by the closing door," Lt Jirawat said.

"His neck shows deep bruising caused by the force of the door. We believe that he suffocated, as his airway was blocked.

"He was stuck and could not call for help," he said.

"However, we will continue our investigation as other factors may be involved in the death," Lt Jirawat explained.

Mr Ekkarat started working with Sawat Travel as a tour bus driver only three days earlier, the *Gazette* was told.

"The bus is also new to the company, which acquired it a month ago," Lt Jirawat added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



Rescue workers prepare to transport the body of the 29-year-old bus driver to hospital.

No wildfire warning, but alert remains

THE lack of rainfall across the island in recent weeks has yet to prompt the authorities to issue a wildfire warning for Phuket, but they have called for people to be vigilant as a precaution.

"We have not issued a fire warning as there are small packets of rain falling on scattered areas," Phuket Forest Protection and Fire Control Director Kejboon Leawtrakul said on Wednesday.

"However, there is a danger of forest fires if, for example, people drop cigarette stubs in drought-hit forest. That's why we have been handing out leaflets at Khao Phra Thaeo National Park several times a week," he added.

People burning off garden cuttings, burning to clear land and pranksters were identified as other potential firestarters.

To report a forest fire call 1362.

— Saran Mitratrat

25 illegal Sri Lankans arrested

POLICE arrested 25 refugees found walking along the busy Chao Fa East Road in Chalong on Wednesday.

"The group included 18 men, six women and a 2-year-old boy. Among the six women, one was two months pregnant," Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapis Det-intarasorn said.

None of the refugees could present passports, he explained.

Some had United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cards identifying them as Sri Lankan nationals.

"They have all been charged with illegally entering the country. They will be handed over to Immigration for deportation," he added.

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One of the 20 contestants.

Miss Thailand World contestants hit island beach

THE 20 Miss Thailand World contestants on a publicity tour in Phuket wowed onlookers on March 14 when they took part in a swimsuit photo shoot on the beach in front of the Cape Panwa Hotel.

Among the 20 beauties is one Phuket native: Nathasinee Wichaidit, 20, from Koh Kaew.

The group departed Phuket that afternoon, and will travel to Myanmar on March 25 to promote Thai culture by joining a fashion show themed "Beauty still has value... Beauty to the sight of Asean".

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

See our special report on page 39

Chinese spotlight jet-ski scams

Consulate official's complaint prompts Tourist Police Commander to investigate

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A COMPLAINT by a senior Chinese consulate official has prompted Tourist Police Commander Roy Ingpaioj to visit Phuket in person to investigate allegations of unscrupulous jet-ski operators at Patong Beach.

Maj Gen Roy led 22 Tourist Police officers on an inspection of Patong Beach on March 15.

The visit followed Qin Jian, Vice Consul of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, in Songkhla, filing a complaint to the Phuket Damrongtham Center (provincial ombudsman's office) about Chinese tourists being scammed by jet-ski operators.

In the complaint, Mr Qin relayed concerns from Chinese tourists that jet-ski operators were outrageously overcharging for repairs to damaged jet-skis.

Nucha Petchvimol, deputy president of the Phuket Jet-Ski As-

sociation, explained to the general, "The jet-skis suffer extensive damage in accidents. Anytime an accident happens, we have three different repair specialists provide estimates of how much the repairs will cost in front of the tourists who were involved in the accident."

"The insurance company will pay for damages up to 50,000 baht, but if the repairs cost more than that, the tourists must pay the rest," Mr Nucha said.

Mr Nucha defended the practices of local jet-ski operators.

"We instruct every tourist how to ride a jet-ski,

what to do if an accident occurs, and what insurance coverage there is. Every time the tourist must sign the rental agreement to accept that they understand the conditions," he said.

The operators have instructional leaflets, with images, written in Thai, English and Russian – but not Chinese. "We are working on the Chinese version," he said.

'The jet-ski operators provide a good service to tourists.'

– Tourist Police Commander Roy Ingpaioj



Tourist Police Commander Roy Ingpaioj inspects a jet-ski on Patong Beach.

Satisfied with the explanation, Maj Gen Roy said, "The jet-ski operators provide a good service to tourists. Instructions are handed out to every tourist who rents one. However, I suggested they add Chinese to the instruction leaflets.

It would be very helpful to prevent any misunderstandings."

Gen Roy and his team of officers then continued their tour of Patong Beach, handing out tourist information leaflets as they strolled along the sand.

Phuket: national land probe model

A DEPUTY Ministry of Interior arrived in Phuket on Tuesday to launch a land title deed investigation with the aim of establishing Phuket as a role model for land probes.

"Many plots of land have been acquired through corrupt officials," Deputy Interior Minister Pracha Prasopdee told the *Gazette*.

"This investigation, commencing immediately and lasting 30 days, will establish Phuket as a role model for the rest of the country in how to deal with this problem."

"Due to the revenue Phuket generates for Thailand as a whole, the government corruption that has led to land encroachment on the island has come to the attention of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the Ministry of the Interior," Mr Pracha said.

The 10 officers promised to spearhead the project with the cooperation of the Phuket Land Office, had, as of Tuesday, not yet arrived on the island.

"I received a letter today [March 18] from the Ministry of Interior that promised that 10 Ministry of Interior officers would take charge of the investigation, but the officers have yet to arrive," Phuket Land office chief Somyot Laochoo confirmed.

Mr Pracha explained that the ministry had identified almost 200,000 land documents (156,853 Chanote; 4,437 SorKor 1; 26,616 NorSor 3 Kor; 4,080



Deputy Interior Minister Pracha Prasopdee visited Phuket as another land probe started up.

NorSor 3) issued for land in Phuket that is in prohibited areas according to the Thailand Land Code BE 2521.

"We are waiting for orders from the Ministry of Interior on which land title deeds will be investigated," Mr Somyot told the *Gazette*.

The land investigation will focus on the construction of buildings on the steep hills in Kamala and along the beach, Mr Pracha said.

Mr Pracha also told the press that Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut had been assigned to take the reins on the issue of investigating land title deeds in Phuket.

"We do not want to harm anybody, but if the land documents are illegal we will take the land back," he added.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Walk on the Moon

Police deny bribe allegations, make reputation-saving arrest

By Orawin Narabal

A SENIOR Phuket City Police officer arrested a woman for tarnishing the name of the Royal Thai Police after she allegedly claimed to have paid him 400,000 baht in bribe money.

The news follows Duangporn Luesub, 36, arriving at Phuket City Police Station on Monday to discuss the issue with Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan, the sole case officer who is also the officer who allegedly received the bribe money.

Mrs Duangporn said she gave 400,000 baht to a woman who claimed she would use the money to bribe Lt Col Prawit to free Mrs Duangporn's husband from Phuket Prison, where he is being held for drug possession.

Col Prawit and fellow Phuket City Police officers arrested Mrs Duangporn's husband, Suwit Buaprom, on drug related charges on February 15.

Mrs Duangporn hired a lawyer to fight the charge.



Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan was accused of taking a 400,000-baht bribe in the case he is investigating.

"Later, a woman claiming to be a friend of the lawyer said she could help my husband, but she said I had to pay her 400,000 baht," Mrs Duangporn said.

"I did not have that much money at that time, so I agreed to

pay 20,000 baht that day. Later, I paid 80,000 baht more and recently I paid the remaining 300,000 baht," she said.

However, time went by and Mrs Duangporn heard no news about her husband's release.

"Later, the lady called me again, asking for another 300,000 baht. I visited my husband in Phuket Prison and explained the story to him. He told me to stop paying the woman and to ask for our 400,000 baht back," she explained.

Mrs Duangporn called the woman and asked for her money back, but the woman allegedly said she had already paid all of it to Col Prawit and his fellow officers.

In response, Col Prawit yesterday defended the honor of the Royal Thai Police, saying they were corruption-free.

"We work with clean hands. We never accept or take bribes from anyone. What the woman who received the money claimed has created a bad image for Thai police," he said.

"We have arrested her and charged her with insulting an officer," he stated.

Col Prawit revealed the name of the woman arrested, but asked the media not to publicly reveal her identity while the case was in progress.



Six of those injured were rushed to Patong Hospital, three were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Runaway bus on Patong hill injuries 10, kills one motorist

ONE person is dead after a Phuket tour bus slammed into eight motorbikes and five cars on Patong Hill on March 15.

Athiwat Petchsai, 22, died after he was struck by the runaway bus in front of Wat Patong temple after the vehicle's brakes failed as it descended Patong Hill at about 7:30am.

The bus was en route from Phuket Town to pick up tourists staying at a hotel in Patong.

Ten others were reported injured, including the bus driver, Thammanoon Pinkongphan, 35.

Three of the injured were rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

The remaining six were taken to Patong Hospital.

Mr Thammanoon was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for treatment after he suffered injuries to his chest, knee and wrists when the tour bus plowed into the temple wall.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Motorbikes take island heat, arson suspected

A SERIES of suspected arson attacks on motorbikes in Phuket last week has police scrambling to identify the culprits.

"We suspect the bikes were set on fire by a single gang of teenagers out to cause trouble," Phuket's top cop, Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat, told the *Gazette*.

"I have already assigned a joint police force from Kamala, Kathu and Cherg Talay police stations to investigate the cases," Gen Choti said.

The first incident occurred in the parking area at the popular Laem Singh Beach on March 12, in which four bikes were found blazing at around 4pm.

Later that evening another bike was found

burning on the side of Pha Hin Tang Road.

The most recent motorbike to suffer burning rubber was discovered on March 13 at 3pm along the Kathu-Koh Kaew Road, not far from the Phuket Mining Museum.

About 200 meters from that motorbike, Lt Sawas Pholon of the Thung Thong Police and his team discovered a five-liter container of petrol hidden in the grass. Also not far away, police found a helmet.

"All the evidence was gathered to check for finger prints," Lt Sawas said.

Locals told police that the motorbike was owned by a gardener in the area.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



The two incidents took place only a day apart. Photo: Thawit Bilabduhar

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LUCK BE A LADY: 22 gamblers get cleaned out by a police bust near Surakul Stadium.

Police swoop on gambling den

A JOINT police raid on a house in Phuket Town on March 14 netted 22 gamblers playing the popular "shrimp-fish-giant water bug-flower" board game.

Officers led by Lt Col Prawit Engchuan of Phuket City Police joined teams from the Phuket Provincial Police and Wichit Police in the raid of the shophouse, about 100 meters from Surakul Stadium, at 11:50pm.

Police seized 8,660 baht cash, six bet markers for 10,400 baht, 30 bet markers for 1,040 baht, gambling debt log books, and other gambling paraphernalia, including the board game.

"Our team of investigators learned the location of the gambling den from our informants. Players used the back door of the house to enter and exit the venue," Col Prawit said.

"All 22 people were charged with gambling," he added.

Sombat Issalolarn, 70, who identified himself as the owner of the house, was charged with providing a venue for illegal gambling.

Settaphat Nilkomol was charged with being a dealer for illegal gambling.

"Police arrested every person and seized all gambling property found at the venue. The suspects were taken to Phuket City Police Station to be charged, and then handed over to Wichit Police for further investigation," he added.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Leatherback turtles: hatching a plot for the future

THE beach at Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park has been full of life over the past month with 339 baby leatherback turtles hatching from five protected nests in the area.

"We are still watching two more nests expected to hatch soon," park chief Witoon Detpramuanphol told the *Gazette*.

In the past, enormous leatherback turtles weighing as much as 360 kilograms would lay a total of 400 to 500 nests along the beaches of Phang Nga and Phuket (see page 18). Now, however, there are less than 10 nests a year, explained Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center.

Of the five species of turtle that live in the Andaman, leatherbacks are the closest to becoming extinct, he added.

"Only about one in 1,000 baby leatherbacks survive to adulthood," Dr Kongkiat pointed out.

To protect the dwindling population of leatherbacks in the Andaman region, Dr Kongkiat asked people to not remove turtle eggs from nests and not disturb the turtle-nesting areas.

"In the nesting season many turtles come ashore or close to shore. If anybody notices them please, do not disturb them; if you are a fisherman, and one is caught in your net, please free it and return it to the sea," he said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



339 baby leatherback turtles scurry for the sea. Photo: Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park

No monkeying around

Russian couple caught touting pig-tailed macaques on Koh Kai Nok

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A RUSSIAN couple were arrested at a tourist sight-seeing island off Phuket on March 14 after they were caught charging tourists to have their photos taken with pig-tailed macaques, a protected species in Thailand.

Andrey Belov, 31, and Ekaterina Denisovich, 22 were arrested by Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division (NED) officers led by Lt Col Kongkaj Phunoknium.

"We went to Koh Kai Nok and saw Mr Belov and Ms Denisovich carrying three pig-tailed macaques, asking tourists if they wanted to have their photos taken with them," Col Kongkaj explained.

"We asked to see their passports and documents to prove they were in legal possession of the macaques. They told us they did not have the documents with them, but the documents were back in their rented room in Kata," he said.

After placing the two Russians in custody, the officers entertained the couple's claim and escorted them back to Phuket.

"We took them to their room in Kata. They showed us the health record books for each of the three



Andrey Belov (right) and Ekaterina Denisovich (in yellow) were charging tourists for photos with the monkeys.

macaques and a document proving the monkeys had been fitted with microchips.

"However, they could not explain to us what information was logged on the microchips. They said they were given the monkeys by a Russian friend.

"They also could not show us

any official documents proving that they had the legal right to have the animals in their possession," he explained.

The couple were held overnight at Phuket City Station and departed the next morning for Koh Yao Noi, where they will be charged with possession of a pro-

hibited species without a permit.

If found guilty, Mr Belov and Ms Denisovich each face a fine of up to 40,000 baht or up to four years imprisonment, or both, Col Kongkaj explained.

"The monkeys will be sent to a wildlife reserve in Phang Nga," he added.

Sea gypsies stand ground for land rights

From page 1

...come home from work. My nephew said officers had delivered a court order requesting that I attend court two months later. It was then that I learned the land I have been living on my entire life apparently belongs to Mr Piyawat Sa-Ngeamkul," he said.

"People living in seven other houses also received the court order," Mr Put added.

After five court appearances, the court finally – on February 28 this year – ordered the villagers to vacate the land.

Mr Put placed his faith on the Rights and Liberties Protection Department under the Ministry of Justice to provide help.

Pol Col Narat Savetanant,



Conditions in the village are already cramped. Photo: Orawin Narabal

director-general of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, and a team of officers held a meeting with about 300 villagers on March 16 to discuss the issue.

"We wanted them to know that we are working with other departments to come up with a reasonable solution," Col Narat said.

Immediately after meeting the villagers in Rawai, Col Narat led a

meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall to highlight the sea gypsies' plight.

"The Ministry of Interior, the Department of Special Investigation and the Royal Thai Police are cooperating to find a way to fight the claims, and to find a lawyer to represent the sea gypsies," Col Narat told the meeting.

"Our officers will be reviewing maps, historical photos and conducting interviews to prove that the Rawai sea gypsies have been living in the area for generations," he added.

Mr Put hopes the efforts pay off. "They told us they will set up a meeting in Bangkok to discuss our problem. After that they will come back to tell us what they have agreed," he said.

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*The Charm Residence Project: Proling Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. Its company registration number is 053052010143, with its registered office at 5-41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 58,666,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2012). The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprising 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 121777, land plot number 8, page search 580, 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 Rats. 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."





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QUEER news

Thai woman gives birth to something egg-straordinary

A WOMAN in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province claims to have given birth to an egg.

Sopharat Phantharak, 36, has placed the miraculous object on a pedestal lined with white cloth and is inviting local villagers to come and pay their respects to it.

Mrs Sopharat, who is already a mother of four, claims that before the miraculous nativity she had a strange dream in which an angel gave her the egg, as well as the white cloth.

Now, local villagers are flocking to her house to see the miracle, with many of them prostrating themselves in front of the egg, which looks just like that of a chicken.

Mrs Sopharat has also placed a silver tray next to the object for villagers to leave money and gain merit.

Police officers are investigating Mrs Sopharat to see if they can charge her with fraud.

Kitti Rattanasombat, the director of Tha Sala Hospital said that "normal people don't give birth to eggs".

Mr Kitti admitted that abnormal births were possible, but added that giving birth to a "duck egg, chicken egg or reptile egg" certainly did not happen.

This was more likely to be due to someone making up stories to get attention, he said.

Superintendent Suthep Kosakul of Tha Sala Police Station said officers had examined the egg and confirmed it was a chicken egg with "nothing special" about it.

Most villagers who saw the egg did not believe it was the result of Mrs Sopharat giving birth.

Some said that if the object had been a lump of flesh of some sort, they might have believed it – but not a chicken egg.

– Khao Sod

Triple homicide suspect caught at popular Phuket visa-run pier

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE have arrested the prime suspect wanted for a triple homicide over a land conflict in Phang Nga.

After nearly three months on the run, Somsak Wongsri, 49, was arrested in Ranong on Tuesday.

He was wanted for the execution of Prajuab Choojit, 24; Sarawut Boonklin, 31; and Somboon Kimtin, 69, who was the father of popular Thai country music singer "Ice R Siam".

The executions took place in a rubber plantation in Takuapa district on December 22.

"After he killed the three men, he went to Ranong where he was in hiding until he was arrested by police on Tuesday, at 7pm," Police Region 8 Commander Yongyuth Charoenwanit told a press conference in Surat Thani on March 14.

Somsak was arrested at Ranong's Saphan Pla Pier, well



Somsak was arrested for the triple homicide. Photo: Mongkol Suratthani

known among Phuket long-stay tourists and expats as the jump-off point for visa runs to Myanmar.

"He was attempting to leave

Thailand," Lt Gen Yongyuth said.

"The suspect has been charged with murder, possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition,

and carrying an illegal firearm in a public place," the general added.

Somsak remained silent throughout the press conference.

"He told police in his statement that he was involved in a conflict with the three men over access to his land. The access crossed land belonging to the three men," Gen Yongyuth explained.

"The suspect will present information only in court, which he has the right to do. He has the right to remain silent," Gen Yongyuth reminded the press.

"Somsak has been denied police bail because his actions have been classified as a form of heinous crime," Gen Yongyuth added.

During the press conference, Ice R Siam pleaded with Somsak, asking why he killed her father, but Somsak remained silent.

After the press conference, police escorted Somsak to the rubber plantation in Takuapa to re-enact the crime.

Dog-lovers pounce on 'round up strays' policy

THE current *Phuket Gazette* online poll asking whether or not stray dogs should be rounded up and taken off Phuket's streets has stirred the island's dog-loving community into a frenzy.

The poll, launched March 7, offered respondents the following options:

- Yes, get them off the streets; they are a nuisance and dangerous.
- Yes, but only dogs identified as aggressive.
- No, the focus shouldn't be on the dogs but on the people who feed them and perpetuate their existence.
- No, there's no need to collect them, they're not a big problem in Phuket.
- No opinion.

The poll followed Phuket Pro-

vincial Livestock Office chief Weerasit Puthipairoj, 58, calling for all stray dogs to be humanely collected off the streets and taken to the Livestock Office's dog shelter in Thailand.

John Dalley of the Soi Dog Foundation issued a missive, calling for Phuket dog-lovers to vote in the poll and to cast their votes in favor of sterilization (see page 19).

"The poll contains no options for the ONLY scientifically proven (and humane) method of stray animal population control in SE Asia, this being sterilization. The closest option to an informed and intelligent answer is the fourth one ("No, there's no need to collect them, they're not a big problem in Phuket.") and I encourage you to take a moment and vote for this option," Mr Dalley said.



Emails flooded in to the Gazette after the poll launched. Photo: Taz-Voll

Mr Dalley added, "The best option, which is notably missing from the poll, would be to conduct an island-wide sterilization program as Soi Dog is currently doing with the

support and full cooperation of the local governments on Phuket. This program sees 10,000 dog sterilized each year."

– *Phuket Gazette*



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Yaowapha: The replacement PM?

SPECULATION is rife that the Pheu Thai Party fears Yingluck Shinawatra may be forced to step down as prime minister soon and is preparing for her older sister Yaowapha to take her place.

PM Yingluck is currently under investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) over her alleged concealment of assets when she took the office as prime minister in 2011.

At the same time, Mrs Yaowapha is preparing to stand in a by-election for Chiang Mai Constituency 3 after the sudden resignation of incumbent Pheu Thai member Kasem Nimmolrat.

Mr Kasem, who won the seat last year, cited ill health among his reasons for stepping down last month. Mr Kasem is a close associate of the Shinawatra family, serving as "chauffeur" to Mrs Yaowapha and aide to her daughter Chinnicha.

Mrs Yaowapha, who held the seat herself until she was banned from politics for five years during the recent political crisis, is seen as a shoe-in to take the seat back again.

AROUND THE nation

Rumors are rife that Mrs Yaowapha is being moved into position in the House of Representatives in order to replace Yingluck as prime minister in case she is forced to step down following an unfavorable NACC ruling.

According to financial statements that PM Yingluck submitted to the NACC when she became an MP and prime minister, her husband, Anusorn Amornchat, held 4.01 million shares in Ad Index Co Ltd. Each share was worth 10 baht.

PM Yingluck also stated that she had given 30 million baht to the firm in 2006 as a loan. However, the company's records show no evidence of any such loans until 2007.

Pheu Thai Party spokesman Prompong Nopparit recently commented on the matter. He

played down the case as frivolous, even though the NACC ruling, if unfavorable, could lead to the suspension of the prime minister, pending a judicial review.

Some observers were not convinced, however.

"Yaowapa's rush to grab a House seat after the expiry of her ban suddenly makes sense," wrote political commentator Avudh Panananda in a recent column in *The Nation*.

"The party spokesman might be right that his ruling party is not grooming a replacement for Yingluck. But the Shinawatra clan is bracing for all possible contingencies."

Mr Avudh went on to slam the Shinawatra family for wasting public money.

"The clan's interest comes, obviously, before that of the country. To ensure the continuity of Shinawatra control, taxpayers will have to dole out at least 10mn baht for organizing the by-election."

Speculation abounds that Yingluck's older sister Yaowapha (right) will take power.
Photo: The Nation



Monarchy broadcast sparks controversy

A ROW has broken out over the cancellation – and subsequent broadcast – of the final episode of a controversial five-part debate on the status of the Thai monarchy on public broadcaster ThaiPBS.

The final part of the series, which featured a debate between Thammasat University academic Somsak Jeamteerasakul and social critic Sulak Sivaraksa, was scheduled to be broadcast on March 15.

But after about 20 monarchy loyalists protested outside the station's office on the afternoon before the broadcast, the final episode was replaced with a taped episode of the *Tob Jote* program on a different subject.

Station management explained that it had decided to delay showing the episode over concerns for the safety of its staff as well as fears the program may have been causing "social divisions".

In protest against the decision, host Pinyo Traisuriyathamma said



The final episode was finally aired on March 18. Photo: The Nation

he and his team would stop producing the show. Writing on Facebook, veteran magazine editor Mr Pinyo said: "To show our media standpoint against internal intimidation and interference without professionalism... I and my team have made a unanimous decision to stop producing the programme."

The final episode of the show was eventually broadcast on Monday, March 18.

Bomb kills much-loved police officer

A HUGE bomb exploded in Narathiwat last week, killing three police officers, including the well-respected deputy superintendent of Rusoh Police Station.

The 90kg bomb exploded as a vehicle carrying six police officers crossed a bridge.

Lt Col Jakkrit Wongphrommes, Sgt Piya Phoophanwer and Cpl Suwes Jantharangsee died in the blast.

Deputy chief at Rusoh Police

Station, Col Jakkrit, 49, was known for his dedication to peace-building and for helping to foil several violent attacks in the region.

Police said they already had good leads on the bombing, identifying six or seven suspects including several well-known insurgents.



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In brief...

Defense contractor arrested for handing over information on nuclear weapons

A US defense contractor in Hawaii has been arrested on charges of passing national defense secrets, including classified information about nuclear weapons, to a Chinese woman with whom he was romantically involved, authorities said on Monday.

Benjamin Pierce Bishop, 59, a former US Army officer who works as a civilian employee of a defense contractor at US Pacific Command in Oahu, was arrested last Friday.

China willing to promote dialogue between Koreans

CHINA'S new president Xi Jinping told South Korea's president on Wednesday that China was willing to help to promote dialogue between North Korea and South Korea, saying stability on the Korean peninsula was in China's interest.

Xi also told Park Geun-hye in a telephone call that China hopes all parties work hard to ease tensions, according to a statement on the website of China's foreign ministry.

Mother abandons paternity suit against basketball legend Jordan

AN ATLANTA woman who says basketball legend Michael Jordan is the father of her 16-year-old son has dropped her paternity suit against him.

Pamela Smith, 48, filed a paternity suit against Mr Jordan last month seeking child support. Mr Jordan denies he is the father of the child and has also filed a counterclaim seeking sanctions against Ms Smith for making false claims.

New Pope's simple style signals shift in Catholicism's tone

WITH every day the newly election Pope Francis reigns, his style reveals more contrasts with his predecessor Benedict in ways that amount to an unspoken criticism of how the retired pontiff conducted his papacy.

The enthusiasm former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio has sparked among Catholics by approaching the job like a parish priest rather than a papal monarch points to a yearning for a leader the Church has not seen since the charismatic Pope John Paul II.

Seven days are a short time to judge a papacy on, but the approval for Francis seems to show this is closer to what many Catholics want in a pope. Italians frequently note with approval that he reminds them of the

popular Pope John XXIII (1958 to 1963).

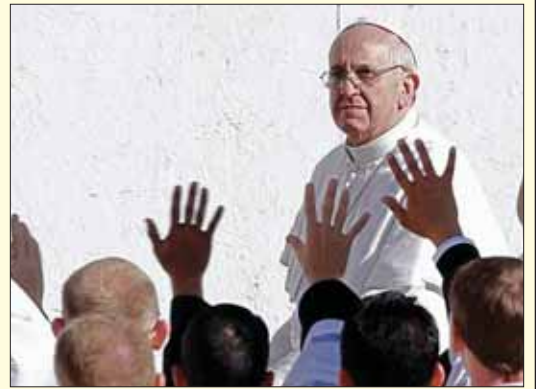
"This is a new breeze of fresh air that is blowing through the Church and the name of that breeze is Francis," Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, a fellow Argentine, told Reuters.

"This is a call to humility and service to others that will mark his papacy," he said after the inaugural Mass.

Referring to Benedict's election in 2005, in which Francis was the runner-up, Italian theologian Massimo Faggioli said, "Bergoglio represents the road not taken eight years ago."

"Benedict is a great theologian, but being pope is not about being a theologian," he said.

— Reuters



Pope Francis passes waving priests as he arrives in Saint Peter's Square for his inaugural Mass at the Vatican. Photo: Reuters

Syrian rebels, Damascus trade allegations of 'chemical attack'

By Dominic Evans

SYRIA'S government and rebels accused each other of launching a deadly chemical attack near the northern city of Aleppo on Tuesday in what would, if confirmed, be the first use of such weapons in the two-year-old conflict.

Syria's information minister said rebels had fired a rocket carrying chemical agents that killed 16 people and wounded 86. State television said later the death toll had risen to 25.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict using a network of contacts in Syria, put the number of dead at 26, including 16 soldiers.

A Reuters photographer said victims he had visited in Aleppo hospitals were suffering breathing problems and that people had said they could smell chlorine after the attack.

"I saw mostly women and children," said the photographer, who cannot be named for his own safety.

"They said that people were suffocating in the streets and the air smelt strongly of chlorine."

The photographer quoted victims he met at the University of Aleppo



People injured in what the government said was a chemical weapons attack, breathe through oxygen masks. Photo: Reuters

hospital and the al-Rajaa hospital as saying: "People were dying in the streets and in their houses."

President Bashar al-Assad, battling a two-year-old uprising against his rule, is widely believed to have a chemical arsenal.

Syrian officials have neither confirmed nor denied this, but have said that if it existed it would be used to defend against foreign aggression, not against Syrians. There have been no previous reports of chemical weapons in

the hands of insurgents.

Information Minister Omran al-Zoabi said rebels fired a rocket with chemical weapons at the town of Khan al-Assal, southwest of Aleppo, in what he called a "dangerous escalation".

He said the rocket had been launched from Aleppo's southeastern district of Nairab, part of which is rebel-held.

But a senior rebel commander, Qassim Saadeddine, who is also a spokesman for the Higher Military Council in Aleppo, denied this, blaming President Assad's forces for the alleged chemical strike.

"We were hearing reports from early this morning about a regime attack on Khan al-Assal, and we believe they fired a Scud with chemical agents," he told Reuters by telephone from Aleppo.

US President Barack Obama, who has resisted overt military intervention in Syria's two-year-old civil war, has warned President Assad that any use of chemical weapons would be a "red line".

Israel has threatened military action if any chemical weapons were diverted to the Syrian- and Iranian-backed Lebanese Shi'ite movement Hezbollah.

— Reuters

Bombs kill nearly 60 on date of Iraq invasion anniversary

MORE than a dozen car bombs and suicide blasts tore through Shi'ite Muslim districts in the Iraqi capital Baghdad and other areas on Tuesday, killing nearly 60 people on the 10th anniversary of the US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Sunni Islamist insurgents linked to al Qaeda are regaining ground in Iraq, invigorated by the war next door in Syria and have stepped up attacks on Shi'ite targets in an attempt to provoke a wider sectarian confrontation.

The Iraq war began on March 20, 2003, with US air strikes in Baghdad.

Now a decade after US and Western troops swept Saddam



Residents gather at the site of a car bomb attack. Photo: Reuters

from power, Iraq still struggles with insurgents, sectarian friction and political feuds among Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish factions who share power in the government of Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

— Reuters

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You can run, but you can't hide

American citizens earning income in Thailand prepare to report to 'Uncle Sam'

IN LIGHT of the ongoing 'federal fiscal fiasco' in Washington DC, the US tax regime is looking to grow its global revenue pool, with American expats residing in places like Phuket high on the list to be scrutinized.

Last week, a small group of American taxpayers gathered in Phuket for an informative yet dreaded update seminar about the latest income reporting and tax filing requirements for US citizens earning income abroad.

Sponsored by the Phuket chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) at the Holiday Inn, Patong, the seminar was presented by international tax specialist John Andes, a US CPA and Thai-American partner with the Bangkok-based accounting firm KMPG Phoomchai Tax Ltd.

Mr Andes reiterated that all American citizens, regardless of their domicile or residency status, are required to file US income tax returns annually, report world-wide income and disclose certain information about foreign investments.

Americans residing overseas who have earned income – no matter how or where they were paid – have two primary options to consider when trying to reduce their US tax obligations.

FOREIGN EARNED INCOME

Qualified individuals can claim the foreign earned income (FEI) exclusion by filing form 2555, which is filed with Form 1040. Almost all US taxpayers residing outside the US will need to file paper returns.

The IRS center in which to send the forms will differ depend-

ing on whether there is a payment due or not.

This information is explained in the form 1040 instructions, or through the tax software or tax preparer.

In order to elect the FEI exclusion, US citizens or permanent residents (green card holders) must qualify by meeting three criteria.

The first is to pass either the *bona fide* residence test, or alternatively, the physical presence test.

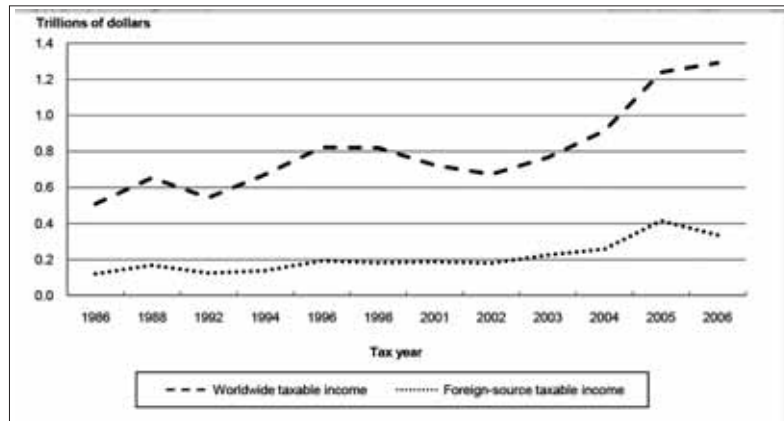
To pass the *bona fide* residence test, a US taxpayer must have lived in a foreign country for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year (January 1 – December 31).

This test also requires that the taxpayer did not claim to be a non-resident of the foreign country of residence for its tax purposes.

Slightly more flexible, the physical presence test requires the taxpayer to be physically present in a foreign country (or countries) for 330 full days during any consecutive 12-month period – though not necessarily in the same calendar year.

In addition to passing one of the above tests, the taxpayer must have changed his tax home from the US to the foreign country, and if the foreign country has an income tax, the taxpayer's earned income must be subject to that country's income tax.

Mr Andes noted that the annual ceiling – the maximum amount of FEI that can be excluded – is \$95,100 for the 2012 tax year, and will increase to \$97,600 for the 2013 tax year.



Foreign-source taxable income of corporations with a foreign tax credit compared to worldwide taxable income for all US corporations. Source: IRS

He went on to address the so-called statute of limitations on how far back the IRS is authorized to conduct a tax audit.

"There is a three year statute of limitations for the IRS to audit a tax return. The statute of limitations is six years if the taxpayer omits additional gross income in excess of 25% of the amount of gross income stated in the tax return filed with the IRS.

"The important thing to remember is that in order to evoke the statute of limitations, you need to file the required tax return and information returns."

"If you fail to comply [by not filing] and they [the IRS] decide to investigate you, then there is no statute of limitations to be evoked. This means that the IRS can audit you as far back as it wants."

FOREIGN TAX CREDIT

Another option for American taxpayers to consider when looking to reduce their US tax obligation is to claim a foreign tax credit for foreign income taxes paid or accrued on income

taxable in the foreign country and the US.

This credit, designed to avoid double taxation, cannot be claimed against income that was excluded from US taxation through the FEI exclusion.

"The foreign tax credit reduces actual US tax on a dollar-to-dollar basis; a deduction for foreign taxes only reduces income subject to tax," he said.

Whether to elect an FEI exclusion or claim a tax credit depends on if the taxpayer's non-US tax home is in a high tax jurisdiction (which varies depending on income bracket) such as Thailand or countries in the European Union.

"If you are in a high tax rate jurisdiction, meaning you are paying taxes at a higher rate in the foreign jurisdiction than you would in the US, then it makes more sense to forgo or revoke the FEI exclusion election," he said.

John added that once an FEI exclusion is elected, it remains in effect for all subsequent years unless revoked. However, once



American income earners in the Asia Pacific

revoked, it cannot be re-elected before the sixth year following the year the revocation was effective, unless the taxpayer obtains the IRS Commissioner's consent, he warned.

US taxpayers who are living abroad on the general tax filing deadline of April 15 get an automatic extension of two months to file. The taxpayer can file for an additional four month extension (total six months, or by October), using form 4868.

If, however, the taxpayer has an amount owing to the IRS, he must pay that amount by April 15. The extension is only an extension to file, not to pay.

In a future issue, we'll go over the reporting requirements for foreign assets and investments, as well as other tax developments.

– Steven Layne

CB500x gets new Phuket wings



The BigWing showroom will look just like this CGI depiction.

BIKE lovers are anticipating the new Honda BigWing motorbike dealership and showroom, set to open its doors in Phuket on March 28.

A Honda sales representative told the *Gazette* that the dealership has already received many inquiries and reservations.

"Since the beginning of the year CB500X has been the talk of the town not only amongst the locals, but also foreigners. It's the latest domestic model this month and it

has the most number of reservations now at Honda BigWing Phuket, despite the bike being displayed a month later than the other 500cc models (CB500F and CBR500R)," he said.

"This is one of three domestic models being exported worldwide. Its domestic production gives it an advantage over other 500cc models, as it's offered 215,000 baht.

He added: "CB500X is the only



TAKING FLIGHT: The CB500x is attracting interest from the Phuket market.

model fitted with Pirelli tyres, the same brand Lamborghini uses."

The opening of the new dealership is just in time for Phuket's annual "Big Bike Week", which is touted to be the biggest motorcycle event in Asia.

This year's event is expected to attract over 5,000 motorcycles with more than 30,000 visitors

from 26 countries.

The event will take place around Patong Beach, from Sunday, April 14, to Sunday, April 21, coinciding with the Songkran Festival (Thai New Year). – *Phuket Gazette*

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B85mn rubberized road in Krabi to bounce up prices

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ANTICIPATING the construction of Thailand's first rubberized asphalt highway, the Deputy Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MAC) led a survey team to inspect a total of 17 kilometers of road in Krabi's Ao Luek district. Aimed at increasing the value of domestically produced rubber over the long term, and thus stabilize rubber prices, the proposed pilot project is expected to utilize a budget of 85 million baht.

Joining Deputy Minister Yuthapong Charassatian on the inspection was Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon, Krabi Provincial Administration Organization President Somsak Kittitorrakul and other MAC and related officers.

The route inspected was state

highway 44, the road between Ao Luk and Bang Sawan village of the Ban Klang subdistrict.

Mr Yuthapong, who is also the leader on the working subcommittee of national strategy to increase the value of Thai rubber, said: "Rubber and rubber products are fundamentally important for Thailand's export market, as they generate a lot of income.

"However, the [raw] rubber and rubber products that we export are mostly raw materials, or otherwise simple and basic products. Thus, we are missing out on opportunities to earn more income from more value-added [products], he added

"A long term solution is to add more value to rubber products. So, we are pushing for rubber to be used in the country as a composite

ingredient to mix with asphalt [a semi-solid form of petroleum] in road construction," he explained.

"We chose this area to be a pilot because it has a primary road with many rubber plantations around the area and nearby. The road is under the responsibility of the Krabi Highways office [administered out of Surat Thani]," he said.

There are about 5,300 vehicles per day passing through the area, of which about 500 are heavy trucks, Mr Yuthapong said.

From this point, the project team will estimate expenses and present the final plan to the Natural Rubber Policy Committee.

We expect the project to cost about 85mn baht. The road could be used for about 10 years [before needing to be replaced], and



VALUE ADDED: Deputy Minister Yuthapong Charassatian points to a crack on the proposed pilot road in Krabi that may be rubberized.

the project will increase the value of domestic rubber, he added.

A rubberized road proposal was initially pitched in Nakhon Si Thammarat last year, but was not carried out there due to compli-

cations with land ownership.

The project will be presented during ASEAN Rubber Day, a rubber promotion event to be held in Phuket from April 10 to 20, Mr Yuthapong concluded.

Malaysia ETF as an investment

Island Investor

By Don Freeman

MANY expats living in Thailand are probably familiar with Malaysia to the south, but they may not be familiar with Malaysia as a potential investment option through the iShares MSCI Malaysia Index Fund ETF (EWM). Additionally, upcoming elections down there could bring about major changes and impact the ETF's performance.

WHY MALAYSIAN ETF?

Malaysia benefits by its location in the heart of Southeast Asia, but away from the Ring of Fire, and its threat of natural disasters.

For those reasons, along with



SAY IT IN MALAY: Performance of the iShares MSCI Malaysia Index over the last 10 months. Source: FinViz.com

a skilled English speaking workforce, Malaysia and especially Penang, has become a

major electronics manufacturing hub that's now even more on the radar of manufacturing companies as an alternative to increasingly expensive China.

Moreover, floods (past, and the persisting threat of future ones) in Thailand and natural disasters elsewhere have spurred renewed interest in Malaysia.

In addition, the Southeast Asian country likely had 5% or so economic growth last year and this figure could rise in the future as the economies of both China (Malaysia's largest trading partner) and the United States show signs of recovery.

Malaysia's currency also tends to be relatively stable as it's not free floating. Instead, it's carefully managed to prevent large swings in value.

Finally, as a more liberal Muslim country, Malaysia is popular with tourists and students from the Middle East, plus the country has made an effort to position itself as an Islamic banking and finance hub.

COMING CHALLENGES

However, Malaysia is not without its share of problems, which investors need to be aware of. With a population that is approximately 60% Muslim Malay, 23% Chinese and 7% Indian, Malaysia's minorities – who tend to dominate the professional and entrepreneurial classes – are increasingly resentful about affirmative action policies that benefit the Muslim Malay majority.

Meanwhile, educated urban middle class Malays and their more conservative religious counterparts in the northern states are unhappy about corruption, and are also demanding other changes.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, which has ruled Malaysia for over 54 years, must hold elections by June 27th and their failure to gain a two thirds majority in parliament after the 2008 elections came as a shock to them and for investors as well.

The opposition led by Anwar bin Ibrahim (who was once jailed for corruption and has faced two controversial trials over sodomy accusations) is expected to mount the toughest challenge yet faced by the ruling coalition.

AN OPPORTUNITY

At the end of last year, the iShares MSCI Malaysia Index Fund ETF, which tracks the MSCI Malaysia Index, had an expense ratio of 0.51%, a 12 month yield of 1.58% and gave investors a return of 13.61% for the year. EWM also had a 15.48% three year return, a 6.45% five year return, a 14.68% 10 year return and a 3.49% return since inception.

The Malaysian stock market has long since recovered from the Global Recession in 2008 and should continue to perform well as the US economic recovery takes hold.

Short-term Malaysia will likely experience volatility but looking out longer term the Malaysian ETF should still be a steady market performer for investors.



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❖ Notarial Fax: 076 346 150
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PROPERTY Gazette

TSLC Sports Hotel a hit

THANYAPURA Sports & Leisure Club has launched Asia's first Sports Hotel, where athletes of all levels can enjoy seamless hospitality in chic guest rooms inspired by the sporting lifestyle, and complemented by Olympic-level facilities across the spectrum of major sports.

The 77-room Sports Hotel comprising 34 Sport Rooms, 34 Energy Rooms and nine studios has been accepting guests since mid-November 2012.

During their stay, guests can connect to five sports academies with world class facilities. The academies include football, aquatics, tennis, rugby and triathlon.

Thanyapura President Robert Hauck said guests at the hotel could find themselves rubbing shoulders with a who's who of world sport. "We have recently hosted world record holders and Olympic champions from the British, Dutch, Italian and Hungarian national swimming teams, who were here at TSLC for high performance tune-up sessions.

"But at the other end of the spectrum, we are now getting around 10 Korean honeymoon couples a week, who want to do Muay Thai sessions or yoga. It has always been my belief that there is an untapped market in Asia for a new, more active getaway for



Every aspect of the hotel centers around creating the balance between achieving comfort and developing sporting ability. Photo: Thanyapura

couples or families. Everyone can benefit from Thanyapura's world class facilities and winning vision, and be inspired."

Mr Hauck said the first big name on the Sports Hotel guest list had been Ruedi Wild, the winner of last year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon. "And the door hasn't stopped revolving with sports stars since," he said.

"The Sports Hotel is ideal for athletes. The rooms and studios are not fussy or cluttered, but they are contemporary, pared back, and designed with the athlete's needs in mind, from a special menu available for athletes in training to bike racks for cyclists and triathletes who want

their steed close at hand to custom mini-bar items like power bars to the high end mattresses for a good night's rest and the spectacular Gregory Burns prints on the walls. All hotel guests have free access to pools, gyms, sports locker rooms, running tracks and some group activities."

Mr Hauck added that Sports Hotel guests would enjoy access to Thanyapura's ground-breaking Integrative Health Center, which seeks



Hotel Guests relax at the bar.



Thanyapura Sports Hotel pool serves as the perfect warm up for TSLC's renowned Aquatics Academy. Photo: Thanyapura

to integrate several aspects of medicine, such as physiotherapy, traditional Asian medicine and contemporary treatment technologies to enhance athletic performance, health and well-being. Individually tailored health evaluations and treatment using light and electro-magnetism are also available to complete the integrated health and wellness offering for sports enthusiasts.

The Sports Hotel is also

complemented by Thanyapura's Mind Center, where expert instructors teach athletes the art of meditation as another means of focusing and improving performance, as well as general well being. "We are pioneering some cutting edge work at the new frontier of sport – where the mind and body intersect, and how training the mind can benefit athletic performance."

Thanyapura also boasts a spa with signature Sports Massage, organic delights with a special athletes' menu at DiVine restaurant, team building event facilities and the health-inspired Booster Bar.

—Phuket Gazette



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

B2.8bn beachfront Mai Khao condo unveiled by Sansiri



UNFORGETTABLE: Even the sales gallery, located adjacent to where the condominium development will be built, displays lasting and timeless architectural elements. This view, from Mai Khao Beach, is facing southeast.

SANSIRI Pcl will extend its Phuket property profile to include the upper income homeowners' tier, with the launch of 'Baan Mai Khao,' a brand-new premium-class beachfront condominium to be built on the north of the island.

The Bangkok-headquartered developer is creating an impressive presence in the island's holiday home market with its latest development, valued at over 2.8 billion baht.

The development is set to break ground by the end of the third financial quarter of this year, and will be completed 18 months later.

Developed with the theme of 'Unforgettable', Baan Mai Khao is situated on a stretch of Mai Khao beachfront, an elite neighborhood amidst many well-known five-star beach resorts.

What is being dubbed as "affordable luxury" units in the project will be offered from 7 to 53 million baht.

Sansiri's Senior Executive Vice President, Business Development and Project Development Division (condominiums and high rises), Uthai Uthaisangsuk, revealed that: "Phuket is Asia's number one holiday home market and one

of the world's most desirable destinations, in which the tourism industry continues to enjoy healthy, steady growth.

"To meet the ever-increasing demand for high-quality residential properties in Phuket, Sansiri proudly announces the launch of 'Baan Mai Khao', a new premium-class condominium project located right on the world-famous Mai Khao Beach renowned for its pristine natural beauty."

Just a 15-minute drive to the Phuket International Airport, the project shares the same prime neighborhood as many of Phuket's five-star beach resorts and hotels popular with Thai and international tourists, including the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, Anantara Phuket Resort and Spa, Sala Phuket and Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa.

"Baan Mai Khao is Sansiri's first premium-class Phuket beachfront condominium project and, here, we have created a totally relaxed ambiance where you will feel totally invigorated day-after-day. Baan Mai Khao offers a range of layouts and sizes which are ideal for either residential [homes] or [as an] investment. We are proud of the unique qualities of this superior project and are confident that such a high standard development will be welcomed by customers – foreign and Thai," added Mr Uthai.

Baan Mai Khao is being pitched as an 'unforgettable' development that aims to convey a superior level of living amidst the embrace of nature, sea, sand and sun – an occurrence that, once experienced, will linger long in memory.

The distinctively designed 'Semi-Outdoor' Lobby opens to the shimmering sea and the eye-pleasing green landscape features plants like Melaleuca Cajuputi Powell (or Samet Khao in Thai) and Syzygium Grande (Wha-Hin in Thai) which are symbols of Mai Khao Beach.

Internal and external Sino-Por-



Uthai Uthaisangsuk (inset), and a marvelous view looking west out to the beach and ocean – the same view that the penthouse suites will have.



STUNNING: The interior of one of the bedrooms in a three-bedroom unit.

tuguese architectural elements reflect the "Timeless Heritage" style while the Silhouette Skin technology ensures daytime sunlight.

First-class facilities include a 70-meter-long swimming pool stretching full length between the condominium buildings and the beach, and Sunken Daybed zone offers tranquil relaxation surrounded by greenery.

Baan Mai Khao is located on a 13.5 rai land plot (about 21,600 sqm) in Thalang district's Mai Khao subdistrict. The entire project comprises six three-storey condominium buildings and three five-storey buildings with a total of 206 residential units sized from 59.50 to 263.50 sqm.

Five unit types are available including one bedroom (59.50 to 72sqm); two-bedroom (79 to 98sqm); two-bedroom duplex (115 to 137.5sqm); three-bedroom (134 to 162.5sqm) and penthouses (260 to 263.5sqm).

Other facilities include a car park for 100 vehicles; a superb, large and well-maintained garden; a swimming pool; a fitness room; WiFi internet and a dependable 24-hour CCTV security system. Moreover, here, you are close to many leading five-star hotels, fine international restaurants and top-

class Thai spa providers.

Baan Mai Khao is Sansiri's first ever development in Phuket that features a professional concierge service exclusively for owners.

You and your family can be superbly cared for right from the first moment you arrive in Phuket with services such as airport transfer and nanny service, as well as delivery of virtually all desired items or food items available on Phuket right to your door – all contributing to making your holiday even more special.

Baan Mai Khao show units will be on display for visitors and early birds looking to make reservations on March 23 and 24, 2013 at the Sales Gallery in front of the project.

Although the official sales launch will be in June, potential clients shouldn't wait too long to act.

"We've already got a long waiting list of clients in Bangkok, so about half of the units are already reserved,"

– **Phuket Gazette**

SCB Sansiri Platinum Cardholders who make reservations during this promotional period may be entitled up to 1,000,000 points from their credit card to redeem for privileges and/or benefits. For more information, please call 1685 or visit sansiri.com.

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Land prices double upcountry

THE expansion by leading property firms of their investment in the provinces during the course of last year has resulted in land prices doubling in many areas.

The main provinces and areas subject to the expansion drive are Rayong, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani, Phuket, Pattaya, Hat Yai and Khao Yai.

Preecha Ariyanon, managing director of Term Sup Group, a developer in Rayong, said the price of land along the province's Sukhumvit Road had increased from an average of 20 million baht per rai (0.16 hectare) two years ago to 40mn baht now.

Land in Pluak Deang district has also doubled in the same period, to an average of 10mn baht per rai.

Local developers are, however, able to compete with the property companies from Bangkok that have expanded into the province, as they had acquired their land before prices started to surge, he said.

For example, Term Sup Group holds more than 4,000 rai in Rayong province, which is valued at an average cost that is still below 20mn baht per rai.

As a result, the company can develop residential projects at a lower cost than new competitors in the local market.

Yesterday, the company introduced a 1 billion baht condominium project, the Wisdom Grandiose Condo, comprising 330 keys, with units priced from 1.6mn baht.

The units will each have 30 sqm of utility space.

Term Sup Group also plans a townhouse project worth between 1.6bn and 2bn baht as its next launch, Preecha added.



Sansiri's dcondo mine, Phuket.

Rayong province has recently seen the launch of 10 condominium projects with a combined 1,000 units, worth 4bn baht in total.

One of the projects is a development by Sansiri, which has launched the 600mn baht condo, Nernpra, which will have 328 units.

Low-rise housing is another new market for listed property firms expanding their investment in Rayong.

The Confidence, a subsidiary of Quality Houses, has introduced the 660mn baht Casa Seaside Rayong detached-housing project, while Lalin Property has launched a similar project worth 600mn baht.

Udon Thani province has also seen land prices rising sharply, from an average of 20mn per rai on Pho Sri Road two years ago to between 30mn and 40mn baht now.

This is down to leading developers Sansiri, Asian Property Development, LPN Development, Land & Houses and Supalai all having shown interest in expanding their



Construction in rural Bangkok. nist6dh

investments in the province.

Meanwhile, land prices in Phuket and Songkhla have also soared from 2010 levels due to rising residential demand, said Business Housing Association president Issara Boonyoung.

The average price in Phuket rose from 20mn baht per rai to 40mn baht during the period, which like other examples noted, was due to a number of Bangkok and local property firms expanding their investments



Mahapanya Vidyalai in Haad Yai. Photo: grolli77

in the province, he said.

Thanawat Poolsil, president of the Songkhla Real Estate Association, said demand for the development of residential projects was focused on two Songkhla districts: Hat Yai and Sadao.

The price of land in Haad Yai has risen by an average of 10 per cent a year and is now about 50mn baht per rai, while Sadao district has witnessed a similar annual rise to 10mn baht, he said.

-The Nation

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The art of elbow wars

THE world is full of stupid people. I'm not quite sure if the surging global population is resulting in a larger base of less-than-zero IQs, but seemingly there are more idiots in the world today that at any other time in the history of mankind (note this is sexist and should be 'peoplekind', but that just sounds all too utilitarian).

In fact, at the moment my own personal journey into the land of *Dumb and Dumber* has me on an airplane headed to Singapore with roughly 170 lost souls.

Granted, this is a low-cost airline carrier, hence the odds that the ratio of idiots to available seats is higher than usual. Case in point try visiting a McDonalds or a Walmart and check out how smart you feel.

Hacking out this article is not easy as my elbows are tucked in like some arcane yoga pose. Shall we call it the "armless crouching cat" or "fearless angry penguin"? I love those screwball holistic names, it beats the sheer boredom of numbers or letters.

A trip to the airport these days is not unlike a visit to Willy Wonka's idiot factory. Lines dominate any traveller's visit to Phuket International Airport and every visit now seems serendipitous in look and feel, like a line up from *The Usual Suspects*.



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

High on the list of annoyances are couples and groups of people who take on the 'divide and conquer' strategy. Each one heads to a different line and just when you see light at the end of the tunnel, the single person in front of you multiplies. My raw anger and antagonism towards these idiots who bend the rules of human decency shows no sympathy. If only I had a well-concealed stun gun, this would sort out the riffraff immediately.

From rage to vent, the journey continues down with Alice into the rabbit hole of madness. Being the punctual type, I'm often on board in the early stages and left to fend with all manner of stupidity, which goes from bad to worse. The family who have somehow managed to misplace their boarding passes during the perilous 100 meter journey from the boarding gate to the aircraft and now have to unpack all their belongings, hence holding up the entire line.

Or people with backpacks. This is a great mystery to me. Most of those who carry these heavy loads have far too much makeup, high heels or are just

too damned old to be roughing it. I have nothing against wilderness types but these folks have just spent their holiday at an air-conditioned mall. Please go out and buy a carry on suitcase and spare us those whiplash straps to the face, or damaged ears by the really big backpacks.

We can go on to those who carry on all their belonging in six plastic bags and insist on unpacking before being seated, resulting again in an angry line. Or those who try to wheel on a suitcase, which anybody else understands is wider than the aisle. But, they try to bang their way down the chute, oblivious to the consequences.

Once seated, that's when things get interesting. Buckle up and let the elbow wars begin. Strategy plays keen on establishing territory but it's so easy to go from the thrill of victory to the agony of defeat. Reach down to tie your shoelace and you find an alien elbow has invaded your space. Or else those ignominious souls who immediately upon reaching cruising altitude slam back their seats into your face, rendering your reading or computer space useless. Again, give me a stun gun and I'll sort out this endless array of stupid people.

I may even take a moment to rant about the airlines' lack of a decent cup of coffee. We have



PRIME REAL ESTATE: Buckle up and let the war begin. Photo: Bill Barnett

landed on the moon, and created a monster with the Internet so why can't we get a decent cafe latte at 10,000 meters? Or that other great moment when the airline staff announce that you can get your immigration cards upon landing, all the time not mentioning that some stupid person forgot to put them on board. That's where the real thrill begins: trying to manage your carry-on bag while trying to fill out a landing card all at a medium trot.

So yes, there you have it, the sorry state of mankind in the new age of low-cost air travel. Millions of idiots flying from country to country, or city to city oblivious to the world around them. My take is that not

everyone should fly, and I'd be glad if somehow most of them stayed home. But how to cull the herd or qualify the worthy from the damned? Maybe it starts with the flashpackers or profiling people with confused looks on their faces that enter the airport.

The captain has just turned on the seat belt sign and I suddenly regress by giving the reclined seat in front of me a quick short jack kick, waking up my inglorious flying-mate. The small act of violence somehow manages to soothe the savage beast, at least for the next ten minutes.

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



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Lock down your mobile devices

IN NEW York City, the crime rate has been slowly, steadily decreasing every year for the past 15 years.

Until last year. In 2012, there were 3,484 more major crimes reported than in 2011 – and 3,890 more thefts of iPhones and iPads. Stolen iPhones and iPads are reversing a long-standing decline in major crimes.

The situation in Phuket is no better. I get questions all the time from people who want to know how to track their stolen iPhone, or iPad – or Android phone or tablet. The short answer: it's easy to do before the device gets swiped, but impossible (or at least extremely difficult) to do afterwards.

If you have an iPhone or an iPad, now would be a very good time to turn on Apple's "Find My iPhone" support. The free Find My iPhone app lets you use another iPhone or iPad to pinpoint your missing phone on a map. There are also ways to protect private data; display a message reading "bring my phone back or I'll tell my uncle Soprano"; play a sound at full volume for a few minutes even if the phone was set to silent (a convenient way to locate the missing phone if you're in earshot) and remotely lock your phone or pad.

Here's how to turn on Find My iPhone.

First, make sure you're running the latest version of iOS. Find My iPhone is available in iOS version 5 or later.

Second, sign up for iCloud by tapping Settings, iCloud. You need to set up an Apple ID, which is just an email address and password. That same Apple ID will work with the iCloud web site at icloud.com. You can also use the same Apple ID in the iTunes Store and the App Store.

Third, tap iTunes and install the Find My iPhone app. It'll take a couple of minutes to download and install.

Fourth, when the app is ready, tap Settings, iCloud, Find My iPhone. Then tap Allow to turn on Find My iPhone tracking. That's all it takes. As long as your phone is connected to the internet, it's being tracked.

If you lose your iPhone or iPad, or it's stolen, finding it is easy:

First, with any web browser, go to icloud.com/find.

Second, sign in with your Apple ID and password.

Third, click on the Find My iPhone button.

Fourth, if you have more than one iOS device (say, both an



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

iPhone and a couple of iPads), you have to choose which device you want to track.

And that's all it takes. If your phone or tablet is online, it'll

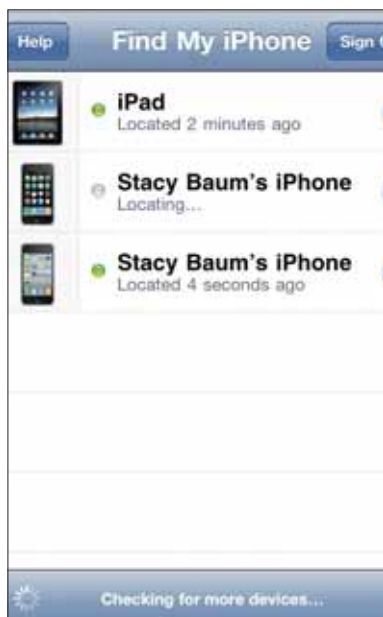


Always use protection with mobile devices. Photo spodzone

appear with a green dot next to the name of the device. If it's offline, you see a red dot. Tap on a device that's online and the last location of the device will show up on a location map. Unfortunately, the location isn't updated in real time, but it does get refreshed every few minutes.

You can send the phone a message, if you like, or play that blasting sound. If your iPhone or iPad is offline, you can set an option to have an email sent to you when the device gets re-connected to the internet.

That same web application –



Apps like 'Find My iPhone' can help you to track your lost or stolen mobile phone. Photo: Selbe

the one at icloud.com/find – also works for tracking some Macs, using an app built into OS X 10.7.2 and later, called Find My Mac. All you have to do, in order to activate Find My Mac on a Mac, is to open the iCloud pane of

System Preferences and verify your Apple ID and password. Wait for your ID to be verified, then check the box marked Use Find My Mac. Click Next, then click Allow. You'll have to use an account with administrator access to your Mac.

There are several analogous programs on the Android side of the fence. The best-reviewed app I've seen is called Where's My Droid. Like Find My iPhone, this app will ring even a silenced phone, retrieve the GPS coordinates of the phone and link it to Google Maps. It will also password protect your phone to make it more difficult to wipe it or root it, and Where's My Droid will notify you if the SIM card or phone number gets changed.

Where's My Droid Pro (US\$4) adds the ability to take pictures with the phone or tablet's camera, and send them to you; remotely lock the device; wipe the phone or tablet's SD card or all of the data on the device.

You can download it on Google Play.

But how do you find your Android phone/tablet if you didn't have the foresight to install and activate one of these apps? In my experience, it can be done, if you're lucky.

Plan B – only available for Android – locates your lost phone/tablet by using cell towers and GPS. It sends the location of your phone to your Gmail inbox. I've seen Plan B in use, in the US, and results are spotty. I don't know if it will work in Thailand. It, too, is available on Google Play.

A word of warning. If you do manage to find your phone, DON'T go after the thief yourself. The web is full of horror stories of people who confronted iThieves, and ended up dead or worse. You may have trouble locating a policeman who understands Find My iPhone, here in Phuket, but then again you may be surprised – more than a few local gendarmes use the program themselves.

So now, while you're thinking about it, go get all of your mobile devices signed up.

Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe, Chalong. 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



VIRTUAL THIEVERY: Installing the applications necessary to recover your stolen iPhone or iPad is best done before you lose it. Photo: wikia.net

Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's gatherings, as events unfold. Sandwich Shoppes.

We're moving Sandwich Shoppe Patong to Kathu in the next few months, and starting a new Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer

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

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Draining Phuket turtle power

IT WOULD be difficult to find a more depressing issue than the plight of the various sea turtle species that face extinction in local waters, some of which are also at risk of disappearing from the planet completely (see news page 6).

Sea turtles are an integral, but fast disappearing, part of Phuket's natural heritage. Older generations of Thais will remember the numerous Thai films that featured footage of huge female leatherback sea turtles lumbering ashore to nest on the island's west coast beaches, making Phuket's name virtually synonymous across the nation with these ancient and amazing creatures.

Fast forward a few decades to 2013, when virtually any sea turtle nesting on a Phuket beach, regardless of the species, is considered newsworthy. The simple fact is that the island's beaches – and offshore waters – render existence for these reptiles almost impossible.

This comes despite the fact that most sea turtle species far pre-date mankind and have a remarkable reproductive strategy that factors in huge losses of hatchlings to an array of predators, including sea birds, canines and – it goes without saying – man.

The leatherback in particular dates back some 110 million years, according to fossil records. This evolutionary staying power indicates a well-honed biological design, provided that its natural habitat is not compromised – but it is.

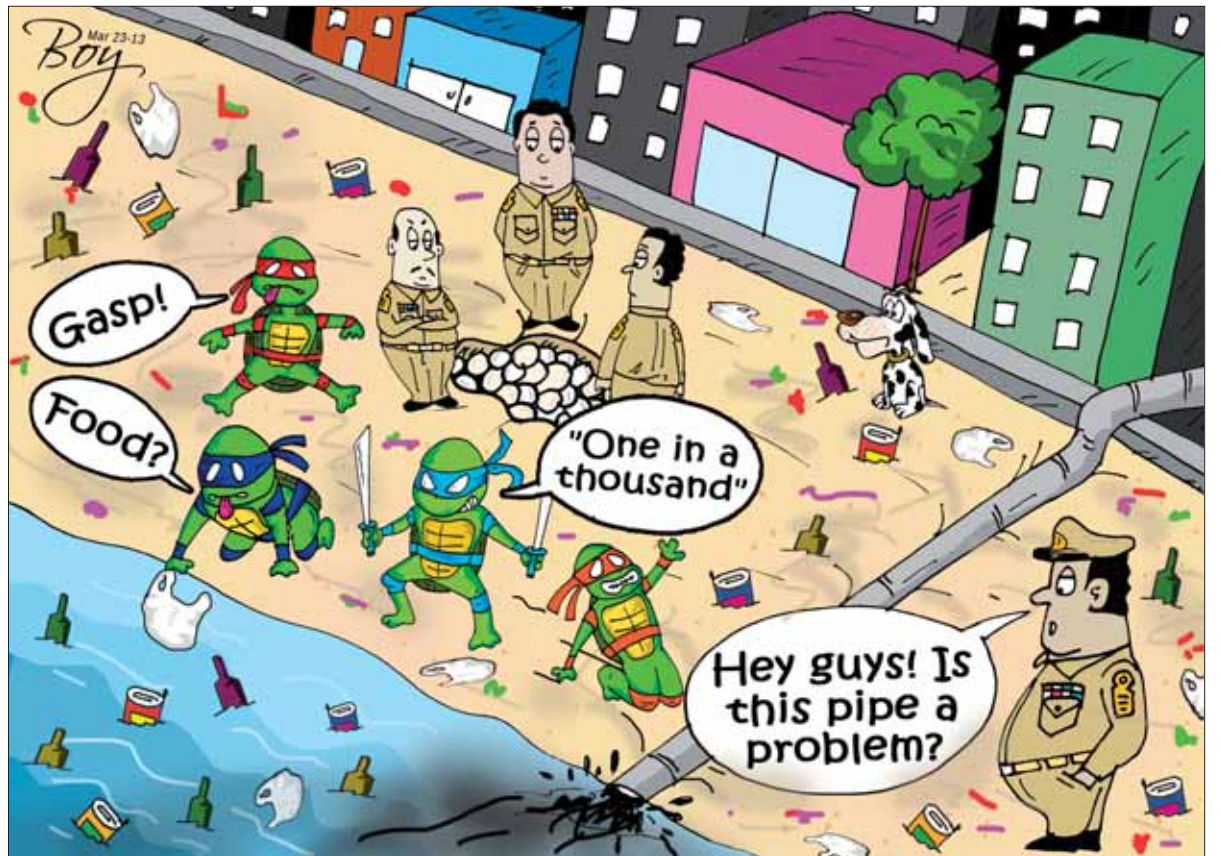
We are all, each and every one of us, culpable for all of the plastic garbage that finds its way into the sea and ends up killing these animals, which mistakenly take the rubbish as their natural prey. But ingestion of improperly disposed plastic is only one of the threats these creatures face.

Another factor in their demise is unsustainable commercial fishing practices, such as drift gill nets, which can entangle sea turtles or deprive them of their natural prey. Thailand, despite being a party to various accords aimed at protecting sea turtles, is notoriously bad at protecting them and is abashedly engaged in the rape of the seas in general, including inside its territorial waters and even marine national parks.

Thai fishing fleets typically consist of desperately poor migrants whose day-to-day struggle to survive seems to preclude the luxury of consideration for other forms of living beings. The Thai captains of these vessels need an overwhelming intervention and change of outlook if there can be any hope for sea turtles in our waters.

Sadly, we live on an island where even the most common sense laws, such as the illegality of driving on the wrong side of the road are brazenly flouted.

It is hard to find any hope on the sea turtle issue; it will be sad indeed if these ancient sea turtle species go extinct in our lifetimes, but we will only have ourselves to blame.



Hammer the tuk-tuks and ping pongs

Re: Gazette online, Phuket metered taxis still under the gun, January 15

The taxi meter and taxi tuk-tuk mafia case should be your main headline every week until the government does something about it. It is a shame that all tourists coming to this nice place are constantly harassed by tuk-tuk drivers.

At the same time you should take up the issue of 30 people trying to press ping pong show on tourists 150m before the entrance to Bangla Road – it is shocking and very annoying for tourists to be confronted by this every time they go for a walk.

Hammer these points in the paper every week until action is taken.

Tommy Patong

Letters

to the Editor

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

tourist business in Thailand they could save many lives. The visa runs should be put out of business.

I had a non-o visa for years and would rent a car and make my visa renewal a pleasant two-day trip until the minibuses made the drive too dangerous. I got a retirement visa to save my life. Think, immigration, think.

Chip Pough
Phuket

What a shark is worth

Re: Gazette online, National News: Thailand may oppose protection of sharks, manta rays, March 6

Typical, put money in front of what is right.

The number of shark sightings around the islands here are dropping significantly each year. Tourists come to the islands of Southern Thailand to enjoy nature and see things that they can't at home as their eco-systems have been destroyed.

Is the price of losing species of sharks and rays worth 30,000 baht? That's what a farmed one is worth to an outside market that contributes zero to the tourist trade of Thailand.

Eco Divers Phuket
Facebook

Not a match between worlds

Re: Gazette online, Awesome Phuket, March 17

I agree, "Living here ain't half bad" but how much better could it be?

No one expects Phuket to have First World standards with Third World pricing, but what we have now are costs creeping up to First World prices with Third World standards, particularly in regards to infrastructure on the island.

It's making Phuket less and less attractive as a retirement option for expats and a holiday destination for tourists.

Harry
Gazette Forum

Dangerous visa vans

There are a lot of lives lost and many more injuries each year during visa runs. The minibuses are very dangerous.

They speed and drive recklessly to get to Ranong and return.

If immigration gave some thought to the reputation of the

More ideas for making driving safer

First, of course there should not be any u-turns, everyone knows how dangerous they are. Circles are safest, since you have to slow down.

For me the speeding taxis,

minivans, trucks and buses are the worst, zigzagging in and out of the traffic like bikes. One way to get them to slow down is to fine the company behind them, not the drivers.

When there is an accident caused by reckless driving, have a 200,000-baht fine for the taxi company and 500,000-baht fine for the trucks/buses/vans. That will make the companies think twice.

Finally, "shock education" at schools, with accident photos of people the students know, together with information from the teacher about how the accident happened.

Kentil Nilsson
Phuket

Slow down on the Sakoo shortcut

The shortcut to the airport through the village of Sakoo is a dangerous route.

Every time I leave the house a minibus, private taxi, or 18-wheeler truck is speeding down this road like it's the formula one racetrack. I see many accidents on this stretch and the government doesn't seem to do anything about it. Nighttime is even worse with motorcycles which have no rear lights.

May I suggest nighttime checkpoints, on-the-spot fines for no rear lights, and very strict speed limits and fines to suit before someone gets killed.

Sakoo resident

Marijuana too

Re: Gazette online, Bus driver charged with drunk driving after dropping tourists off at Phuket Airport, March 14

Maybe the local police should test the tuk-tuk drivers. We were about to get into one on Bangla Rd and he was smoking marijuana right in our face as we were talking to him.

LF
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

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Editor: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai
News Manager: Chris Husted
Features Editor: Marc Mulloy

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net
Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net
General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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Keep the hounds out of the pound

FIRST PERSON

IN response to Dr Weerasit's comments ['Feed stray dogs? Barking mad...'], First Person, March 9-15 issue of the *Phuket Gazette*, Soi Dog Foundation never has and never will pay anybody to feed stray dogs. SDF only supplies food to temples that care for large numbers of dogs.

Soi Dog Foundation sterilizes large numbers of animals, (nearly 50,000 in the past nine years).

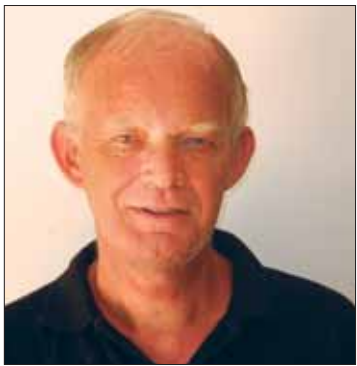
As Dr Weerasit is new to Phuket, he may be unaware of the huge numbers of stray dogs on Phuket nine years ago and the fact that the problem was spiraling out of control. In June 2012 SDF started its PUP program (Prevent Unwanted Puppies).

This program, which will run initially for two years, sees us holding mobile clinics systematically across the island, working in close cooperation with the island's local administrations, all of whom share our view that mass sterilization of both owned and stray animals is the only long-term solution in a country where euthanasia is officially not allowed.

The target is to sterilize 20,000 dogs over the initial two years. If 80% of animals in an area are sterilized, then the population will decrease. That is a fact.

Removing sterilized dogs and dumping them in the dog pound is actually counterproductive.

Dogs are territorial by nature and keep other dogs out of their areas. Removing sterilized dogs simply opens up the area to new dogs that may not be sterilized and



John Dalley is the founder of Soi Dog Foundation, a not-for-profit, legally registered charitable organization in Thailand, the United States, Australia, the UK, France and Holland.

Here, Mr Dalley replies to Phuket Livestock Chief Weerasit Putthipairoj's public policy that strays should be rounded up from Phuket's streets and taken to the shelter in Thalang for care.

the problem starts all over again.

This view is shared by Dr Weerasit's superiors in Bangkok, where years of incarcerating stray dogs in huge dog pounds has had absolutely no effect on the stray population. The Livestock Department is now moving towards mass sterilization in the capital as they can see it is the only solution.

Dr Weerasit's claim that Phuket is rabies-free is extremely dangerous since the Phuket Livestock Department allows unvaccinated dogs and puppies from other provinces, where rabies is endemic, to pour onto the island for sale at markets.

It is illegal in Thailand to transport unvaccinated dogs across provinces. Most puppies sold in Phuket come from breeders elsewhere and unsold puppies are inevitably dumped, fueling the stray dog problem and increasing the risk of rabies being introduced.

Dr. Weerasit did not mention how he will stop these dogs from coming onto the island.

The statement that all stray dogs should be taken to the dog pound

in Thalang is in itself barking mad. The Livestock Office in Phuket admits it does not have the budget to take care of the dogs and the dog shelter has a capacity of 400 animals. Dogs are only fed when food is available. To put all Phuket's stray and unregistered dogs into the pound would require that they be stacked several deep.

SDF has offered to vaccinate and sterilize all the dogs in the pound as well as treat the many injured dogs. We have been denied access and reports from those who have visited there describe it as nothing more than a death camp – furthermore, puppies are being born on site.

The pound should be closed to new arrivals, the existing dogs be wherever possible adopted and the remainder SDF would care for. The pound should then be closed and demolished as for such a place to exist is a blot on Phuket and it serves no useful purpose.

This is an excerpt. For the full version see PhuketGazette.net



A message to those people who would show us their bodies in non-beach locales, like shops: No thank you. Photo: Let Ideas Compete

Clothes on please

Island View

By Marc Mulloy

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

WE'VE all been there – standing in front of the refrigerated dairy section in a local supermarket, wondering if the locally-made unsalted butter tastes anything like the imported variety when suddenly a mountain of skin reaches up for yogurt, displaying a dark bush of underarm hair and way too many freckles.

"Hey mister, this is my local supermarket! If you want to walk around semi-naked, do it at home!" my inner voice screams, but of course I say nothing, give a disdainful look and trundle off in search of anything that will put a distance between me and this uncouth shopper.

Seriously, this supermarket is nowhere near the sea, so why are there people walking around in nothing but shorts or bikinis? I know Thailand is famous for its *mai pen rai* attitude, but when will we/they draw the line when it comes to shoppers' attire? In the UK recently a certain chain of supermarkets banned people from entering in their pajamas. Signs were posted reading "To avoid

causing offence or embarrassment to others we ask that our customers are appropriately dressed when visiting our store (footwear must be worn at all times and no nightwear is permitted)."

Surely we could attempt something similar here along the lines "To enter this store please make sure you are wearing at least two separate items of clothing".

To make matters worse, the shirtless brigade often seem to arrive as a couple or a group, as if being naked together makes it all right. Admittedly some of the ladies wearing two items of clothing are able to distract my attention for an instant but I then give them a disdainful look too, distance myself from them and go off to buy some pomelos.

Issues & Answers...

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

Getting out of Tesco Thalang

Can someone please explain to me why the side entrance to the Tesco Lotus superstore in Thalang is not open?

*Derek Brierley,
Phuket*



Tesco Thalang Photo: Saran Mitrat

Thepkrasattri Mayor Piyawat Jirajamorn replies:

The street beside Tesco Thalang is a public street and Tesco is free to open the side entrance.

Pissamai Klongkhun, Tesco Lotus Thalang chief of Loss Prevention and Security, replies:

We have already asked our Bangkok office for approval to open the side entrance, but for motorcycles only.

We are concerned that cars using it would impede ambulances

traveling to Thalang Hospital.

If we receive approval, we will make the side entrance accessible as soon as possible.

Arnon Kaewbumrung, director of Thalang Hospital, replies:

It would be good to open the gate on the side street for motorcycles, as they now park on the street and block traffic.

However, the street is too narrow for cars – they could slow emergency vehicles.

Renewing a driver's license

Do I need a letter from immigration confirming my address when renewing my driver's license?

*Dave Edmundo
Chalong*

Konlayut Jattutasri, Chief of the license issuing section at the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office (PLTO), replies:

To renew your driver's license, you must apply at the PLTO in person.

If you have a work permit, you do not need a letter from immigration confirming your address.

Just bring your work permit and copies of the relevant pages of the work permit.

However, if you do not have a

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

work permit, we require the letter from immigration confirming your address.

You also need to bring your previous driver's license and your passport (plus copies), and a doctor's certificate verifying that you are physically fit to drive.

We no longer require you to bring photos because we have a camera that transfers photos

directly onto the new licenses.

Kraisorn Boonprasop, Superintendent, Phuket Immigration Office, replies:

To be issued a letter confirming your address, just show us your Thai driver's license. If you have not changed your address, this will suffice.

However, if you do not have a driver's license or you have changed your address, you will need to bring your passport and the lease or rental agreement of the place where you live.

You will also need to bring a copy of the house registration document (*tabien baan*) for the house that you live in.

The fee for an address confirmation letter is 300 baht.

YOUR Phuket

The island's biggest music concert "Central Festival Phuket Summer Fest Love Song Concert 2013" makes its return on March 9-10 at Lan Lom. Acts entertaining



guests with their own individual style of love songs include award-winning artists *Palmy* and *Room 39*.

"CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET SUMMER FEST LOVE SONG CONCERT 2013"



"SEE SAN WAN WAN"



Thanyapura recently had their annual staff party "See San Wan Wan" with a vibrant energetic themed concept, organized by Thanyapura's HR Department.



IMPIANA PRIVATE VILLAS

Impiana Private Villas at Kata Noi hosted an exclusive dinner for the executive board from "Pfleiderer Group, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of engineered wood and surface finished products.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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March 23 - 29, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

Cheapest Seaview Land



See page 22

JOB of the week



See page 27

BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

One Stop
for perfect house hotel resort



See page 25

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Properties For Sale

CHEAPEST SEAVIEW LAND



Close to Mission Hill, seaview, golf course view, mountain view, 6 rai, Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai, with road, water, electricity. Can buy partial, 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-389 7799. Email: pee_bang56@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE IN CHALONG

Land & Houses, Parichart. 51sq wah land, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 big living room, kitchen, garden, car park. Price: 2.6 million baht. Tel: 084-063 3752, 082-912 0526.

PATONG LUXURY CONDO SALE

2 beds, 1 bathroom, living room and fully equipped kitchen, 98sqm. Very high std, nice view. Big balcony, 2 swimming pools, gym, quiet location. 7.5 million or N/O. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phv condo@aol.com

3-BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE

Chalong complex, secure, 240sqm land. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

6.5 rai of flat land, waterfront with Chanote title. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



Available in July, 6 bedrooms, near BIS, extensive facilities for family. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: febebb@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Located in Permsap villa, close to Cherng Talay. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

KATHU GOLF CONDO/ PATONG CONDO

72sqm, 1 bedroom, only 3.9 million baht. Freehold, one available at this price. If you love golf or are looking for an ideal condo to rent out contact me, only one left! Patong Condo already complete, leasehold re-sale, low price of 3.8 million baht, 44sqm. 1 bedroom, excellent rental opportunities for a return on investment. Tel: 076-345024, 090-865 5231. Email: kevin@apexasia.asia

LUXURY CONDOS SALE/RENT



2 bedrooms, living room and fully equipped kitchen, 160-212sqm. Very high standard with a nice view. Big balcony, swimming pool, gym. Kathu, 10 minutes to Patong Beach, 5 minutes to Phuket Town, all department stores, and international hospitals. Sale: 8.5-11.5 million baht. Long-term rent: 45,000-63,500 baht. Tel: 086-268 7901. Email: condophuket@yahoo.com

PHUKET TOWN CENTER

House for sale. 252sqm. 5.5 million baht. Contact Jiab. Tel: 087-269 3989.

15-ROOM GUESTHOUSE

15-room guesthouse, bar and restaurant with motorbikes. Excellent bookings and income. Call 076-292816, 085-218 6375, 081-5699 933 (English & Thai) for details. Email: dmatot@hotmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaipruek Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

LAND AT AO POR

22 rai, Chanote title, flat land with rubber trees, directly on the major road no. 4007 towards Ao Por Pier. 1.5 million baht per rai, from owner. Tel: 084-753 3512. Email: hhphuket@hotmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

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 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.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

PHUKET VILLA CONDOS PATONG



New condos. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

GOLF POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Very good price! 4 bedrooms, dining room, western kitchen, large office with golf view, 50 sqm. Swimming pool + life time golf membership. Tel: 081-883 9983, 080-521 1222 (English & Thai). Email: Jakrapopw@yahoo.com

LAYAN LAND FOR SALE

11 rai of beautiful flat land for sale close to Layan Beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447 (English & Thai), 081-927 4027 (English). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA



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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

LAND FOR SALE

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

BANG TAO BEACH APARTMENT

Stylish 2 bedroom plus study apartment in well managed development on secluded beachfront. Fully furnished and equipped. Great grounds, sea views and pool. Price reduced to 5.65 million baht for quick sale. Tel: +61-8-7225 2507, +61-4-39-88 6520. Email: markfootner1@hotmail.com

HOUSE PATONG

House on the hill, nice view, 240sqm, 3 bathrooms and 3 bedrooms, 2 terraces plus 3 separate apartments. 8.8 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



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

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Properties For Rent

STUNNING 3BR POOL VILLA KATA

Spacious, 3 beds, kitchen, 3 terraces, WiFi, parking. Now until November. 260,000 baht per month, excluding utilities. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PATONG CONDO SEAVIEW

11th floor, 5-star hotel, luxury, minimum 3-month stay. 12,000 baht per month. Available on 10 April. Tel: 080-824 2771.

NAI HARN BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Long term, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet, 19,000 baht per month, available immediately. Tel: 089-292 5309 (Thai), 087-464 3769 (English). Email: devizes@aol.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



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

LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

7 bedrooms with swimming pool, golf view. Close to all shopping malls and international schools. Long term, short term acceptable. Please call 081-271 3228 or email to info@procarpentering.com for more info and photos.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, furnished kitchen. Near Phuket zoo. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

1-BED APARTMENT FOR RENT



New fully furnished apartment. Fitted kitchen with golf view in Chalong. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



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

ROYAL PLACE CONDO - PRIVATE

Fully furnished, 1-bed apartment, quiet location, washing machine, available now, rent negotiable. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

Secure, quiet, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575. Email: hkguy789@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL BEACH CONDO

Spacious condo, kitchen, 2 bedrooms/ bathrooms, free WiFi, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.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

EXCEPTIONAL HOUSE IN KARON

Fully furnished house available in the heart of Karon for long-term rental. 2 bedrooms with en-suites, aircon in every room plus ceiling fans. Modern kitchen, lounge, dining, courtyard. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-690 5248 (English). Email: lil@ladolcevare.com.au

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully furnished, kitchen, garden, car park, cableTV, WiFi, washing machine, rental at 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-521 9888, 084-051 1955 (English & Thai). Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

PATONG STUDIO 50SQM

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

HOLIDAY RENTAL, BEACH 3MINS

Spacious, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, WiFi, parking, beach 3 minute walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.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.

KATALAND

Excellent plot, ideal for restaurant, 560 sqm. Long term contract. Tel: 076-284137, 081-737 1585 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-285202. Email: tailor@amorns.com

LOVELY HOUSE 13,000 BAHT/MONTH

Furnished, WiFi, cable TV, pool. Near Chalong circle. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com For further details, please see our website at http://welcomeinn.info

KATA TOWNHOUSE

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, car park, electric gate, 2 balconies, aircon, hot water, 90% furnished. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-412 0971.

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms. At the Point, near Central Festival, 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

2 & 3-BED PATONG APARTMENTS

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

POOL PENTHOUSE SEAVIEW

Holiday rental. 1, 2 or 3 beds, kitchen, rooftop pool, deck, gazebo, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms. Bang Tao. Also bungalows, houses and apartments available. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

SURIN CONDO

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

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from Mar 15, 2013. Tel: (86) 138 1634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.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

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

HOLIDAY RENTAL, BEACH 3MINS

Spacious condo, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, free WiFi, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom with bathroom, living-room with full western kitchenette. All extras, aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished. Quiet setting near Na Nai. 12,000 baht per month. Please call 084-185 8536 for more information.

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

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

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Native Thai with good command of English, computer and administrative skills. Email: forsale.phuket@gmail.com

TEAM LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS

Bayshore is looking for team leaders and supporters for online social networking. Must have good communication skills, spoken and written. Must be able to handle the customer database, and support tickets and news. We expect 3-5 team leaders with 10 supporter assistants each. Salary after qualifications. Tel: 088-445 2800 (English), 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

THAI STAFF

Thai staff wanted for kindergarten, must speak English, enjoy working with children. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

FOREIGN STAFF WANTED

Secretary needed for online support and marketing. Fluent in English writing, computer literacy. Able to plan and organize your day to achieve results. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

Chef Position available

at a 5-star Boutique Resort in Patong, Phuket

We are an elegant 21-room 5-star Boutique Resort in Phuket, looking for an experienced Chef for a 50-70 seats fine dining restaurant with authentic Thai and fine Western cuisines.

Candidates should possess the following:

- ▶ Minimum of 5 years experience as a Chef
- ▶ Experience in western fine dining food preparation
- ▶ Knowledge in Thai food preparation is a plus
- ▶ Good attitude and capable of managing a small team of cooks
- ▶ Local Thai National or an Expat with work experience in Thailand or Phuket.

Interested applicants may send their resume/CV showing their qualifications with salary expectation and a recent photograph to: boutique2113@hotmail.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

We are looking for a customer service officer. Female between 20-35, Thai nationality only. Tel: 082-007 0700 (Thai). Fax: 076-367212. Email: info@phukettravel.co.th For further details, please see www.phukettravel.co.th/recruitment.html

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

To teach class of 9-12 children, ages 6-9 years old, must have experience and degree. Start on 22 April, Chalong, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com

MAINTENANCE MANAGER NEEDED

Experienced maintenance/facilities manager is sought for a villa on the west coast. Send CV. Email: ggreg@yahoo.ca

CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST

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

RUSSIAN SALES

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



Life Home Project Foundation

Life Home Project is a non-profit organization for helping women and children effected with HIV/Aids. We are looking for candidates the position in the following

Project Manager

Requirements:

- Male or Female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in Administration or related field
- Experience in accounting would be an advantage
- Able to coordinate and work for fund rising
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Experience in child care would be interesting

Interested candidate, please submit your CV and recent photo to Life Home Project Foundation
10/11 Moo 1 Rassada, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel 076-614060

Contact person : Khun Wan 083-9696084
Khun Joojee 0813979809

Email address : info@lifehomeproject.org or sec.irelandconsulate.phuket@gmail.com

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: kokakat@gmail.com

RESTAURANT MGR

Russian Mgr Required with good English and experience. Tel: 082-415 4546. Please contact by email: lizunov.o@mail.ru

SALESPERSON / ASST. TO MD

2 years experience. Thai or foreigner. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. Area: Phuket, Samui, Krabi. Send CV to info@macraetrading.com

STAFF



Level- free school, Boat Lagoon. Top salary guaranteed for top qualification. 6-month internship required: Thai or foreign female, fluent written and spoken English, enthusiastic and challengeable in learning, hard working, dedicated, possible abroad. Great opportunities and future will be offered. Send applicant's resume with photo to geniusskj@daum.net

Employment Wanted

SALESPERSON

Food importer and distributor based in Rawai is seeking a salesperson. Sales background and experience in food industry are preferred. Applying foreigners must have their own company. Salary and commission scheme offered. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

British International School, Phuket

BISP - Requires Summer Camp Staff - July 2013

The British International School requires experienced English Summer Camp Staff for July. Applicants are required to have a recognised degree and a TEFL qualification. As it is a residential camp overnight boarding duties are required. Camp dates 29th June - 27th July 2013. Applications can be submitted to ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BISP)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573
E-mail: patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



A2Zen Consulting Ltd. bases its Interior Design vision on innovation. Its highly qualified team of Italian Interior Designers and Interior Architects are constantly riding the wave of novelty and originality to ensure that every project comes to life emerging for its exclusive personality.

To achieve this, a great part of our work goes toward following the latest trends in the design world by constantly updating, attending seminars and trade fairs as well as continuously researching new distinguishing products to ensure the most successful outcome of each and every project.

3D ARTIST 1 POSITION

Qualifications:

- At least 2 year experience of 3D modeling software (Rhinoceros or Blender or 3DSMax with V-Ray will be preferred)
- Able to use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create enhanced texture for the rendering
- Good in both written and spoken English
- Prepared to learn new things
- Able to work with team under pressure and time constraint

Working Place: Chergtalay, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 6 pm

Interested applicants should e-mail their CV/Resume to: info@a2zen.net

Please indicate the position you are applying for in the SUBJECT line of your e-mail, also attach your CV in English ONLY, a recent photo, expected salary and date that you could start.



A2Zen Consulting Ltd.

125/3 Moo 5 Bangtao Place, Chergtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

BAR SUPERVISOR,
THAI WOMAN

Stylish Thai woman, 35-45 years old, to recruit and supervise all female bar staffs in new 5-star VIP club. Must speak English and have employment references. Great salary + percentage of turnover + stylish accommodation on site. If you are trustworthy, stylish, and enjoy working with Farangs call us. Tel: 090-876 9687, 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER
ON KOH LANTA

50-bungalow charming resort located on Koh Lanta, is now seeking a General Manager. The ideal candidate will have had a successful career in the hospitality industry, and be a naturally strong team leader; young-at-heart with the enthusiasm required to succeed in a lively, yet eco-friendly beach resort. Tel: 081-750 7072 (English & Thai). Email: stephane@stelcorpo.com

RESTAURANT STAFF
NEEDED

Small restaurant in Kata is looking for experienced staff, English is a must. Salary: 14,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 5855. Email: jad.nahle@hotmail.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.

- 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

ASSISTANT SALES
MANAGER

Real Estate Agency is looking for an assistant sales manager. Requirements: Thai national, female, good skills in English, private car, working experience in real estate. Email: sales@rt-pro.ru

STAFF WANTED

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Thai Nationality, not over 35 years old, Degree, Fluent in written and spoken English, Computer literate, Strong communication, Proactive and detail oriented, Experience in Management role. Able to work in Patong area and travel across the island to meet clients. Salary 20-30,000 baht per month, negotiable. Tel: 076-346800. Fax: 076-346802.



Luxury Boutique Beach Resort on Thaimuang Beach, Phang-Nga, with 15 private Pool Villas ranging from 165 to 895sqm, F&B operations, 2 beaches, spa, fitness, tennis etc.

The resort is rated 17th Best Luxury Hideaway In The World and the kitchen is critiqued to be among the very best in Thailand. A member of the prestigious Relais & Chateaux, the resort is owned and operated by a large and well-known private Thai company. We are a team of close to 100 staff working together as family and we are looking to urgently recruit more members to our staff for immediate employment:

Senior Management

■ Chief Accountant

- Reporting to General Manager and corporate Master Accountant. Responsible for all aspects of operating the Accounting Department adhering to current law, professional accounting standards and company requirements. Relevant education, certifications and experience required. Previous experience with Comanche PMS and good knowledge from hotel and preferably small luxury hotel accounting will be considered an advantage. Organizational, hands-on, and multi-tasking skills required, with a team work spirit. Good English communication skills an advantage.
- Competitive salary and benefits including single live-in accommodation are on offer for the right candidate.

Accounting Officers

- Cost Controller
- Income/AR
- Purchasing/Receiving
- Storekeeper

- Competitive salary and benefits for all positions according to experience as well as quality double accommodation offered. Basic to good knowledge of spoken English an advantage.

Please email resume with photo to: hrrs@wanakarnresort.com

Indicate position/area for which you are applying.

All applications treated with full confidentiality.

For additional information, please call HR Department on Tel: 076-584 300

SWEDISH / FINNISH
TOUR GUIDE

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

ARCHITECT

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

GUIDES WANTED

We are looking for 2 experienced guides, preferably Thai, with good English language skills. Must be outgoing and ensure that our customers have a fun time whilst keeping them safe. See our web site: www.mayabaytours.com. We will pay above average wages and will take good care of you if you take good care of our customers. Siripanon Tel: 087-382 9163. Email: phil@krabikonnnect.com

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

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

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 English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

LIVE-IN COMPANION

For Thai lady, at Kata. House-keeping and cooking. Contact Noi: 076-330518, Tom: 087-627 3464.

RECEPTIONIST
PATONG

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

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

BISS FLAPPER

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

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

SALE: POOL TABLE, FRIDGES, ETC.

Sofas, armchairs, bar stools, tables, and etc. Email for full price-list at stewartlees@gmail.com

SHISHA & HOOKAHS FOR SALE

Add hookahs to your bar for big profits. Sms your email for e-catalog. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

KITCHEN HARDWARE

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

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

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

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Please contact info@luxuryphuketholidays.com

BAR FOR SALE! NEW TIGER

Bar in New Tiger, fourth row from the front. Just under a two-year contract. 3.4 million baht. O.B.O. Tel: 086-048 8394 (English). Email: Yellow feverbar@gmail.com

SHOP IN KAMALA BEACH

Fashion clothes shop for sale in Kamala, best location at the beach road. Approx 40sqm, air conditioned, fully equipped if wanted. 20,000 baht per month. One year left of three year contract, very good trial period! For sale because I am moving back to Sweden. Tel: 082-190 6107. Please send email to terece@loveforever.se

PRIVATE GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Near Nai Harn. A beautiful home for a retired couple in a quiet and secure private park. Living room, 2 bedrooms, modern kitchen, TV, internet, swimming pool, covered car park. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-777 3607. Email: bi@inauengroup.ch

Business Opportunities

NEW BEAUTY SHOP FOR SALE PATONG



Opposite Esso. Newly renovated, 2 rooms + kitchen and bathroom, 2 cutting stalls, 2 hair basins, 1 face massage stall, 2 aircons, ground water pump for washing and drying machine. Rent on 3-year contract: 10,000 baht per month. Price at 500,000 baht, ready for work. Contact Nok. Tel: 080-632 6330 (English & Thai). www.beautycare.asia

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

A well-established fitness center with a large membership base situated in Phuket Town. Now for sale. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

NAIL SPA

Great business opportunity in central Patong. Fully equipped nail spa for sale at 1.2 million baht. Email: forsale.phuket@gmail.com

TOUR SHOP PATONG

Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. For more information please call 080-690 8978.

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT



Luxury project for sale. 50% complete. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: patriklam bert@hotmail.com

PARTNER WANTED

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

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

6 years on contract, great location, Patong Beach Road, full furniture and equipment. For more information please call 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omaraquraini@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Patong, central location, beside busy hotel, toilet, kitchen, TVs, pool table. For more information please call 081-606 2918 (English).

PROJECTS FOR SALE

Rawai Construction Company, full service company, 7 years, Phuket. Design + drawings, engineering, land for sale. 97/37 Sai Yuan. Contact Construction manager: Ron Kite. Tel: 083-636 7147.

5-IN-1 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Good location, 1.25 rai. 1). Jungle bar, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating: 65 people, parking: 15-16 vehicles, good business. 2). Beauty salon: fully equipped. 3). Massage 4). Lease-out restaurant. 5). Lease-out indoor pub: fully equipped, stage, seating: 70 people. Available for 8 years + 9 months left on lease. Sale: 5.7 million baht. Negotiable! Contact by sending email to five.business@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

One of the most successful entertainment venues in the new Tiger Complex. In Soi Bangla. This bar is on sale due to personal reason. Please call 085-796 6144. Email: dtephpatong@hotmail.fr

SMALL RESORT

8-house resort: 6 houses with 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen. 2 houses with 3 bedrooms, living and kitchen. Tel: 085-789 1773 (English). For more info use email: hakan.se derholm@gmail.com

7TH FLOOR SUITES (HOTEL) BUILDING FOR SALE



Kata Beach Center. 9 apartments and a 300 sqm penthouse on the roof plus fully equipped restaurant and pool with terrace are free of rent and now available. Price: 38 million baht (950,000 euros) includes Chanote and Thai company. Tel: 081-788 8280. If seriously interested please email thewhitehousekata@gmail.com For Russian contact Oxana. Email: phuket.lux@gmail.com

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

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

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

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity,
please **airmail**.
Do not Fax!

Business Products & Services

BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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

F-1 TRIP

Malaysian F-1. 3 days pass, round-trip air ticket. Make an offer. 22-24 March 2013. For more information please call 087-266 7514.

DATING NICE PEOPLE



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



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

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

CALL NOW:

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

FINE ART SERVICE

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

DETOX TO YOUR DOOR

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

Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Family Membership. Price: 640,000 baht (Transfer Included). Tel: 087-895 8160 (English). Email: faserio@gogold.hk

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

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, 087-890 3685. 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. Price: 560,000 baht (includes membership, transfer fee, and 2013 maintenance fees) Tel: 087-895 8160, 087-890 3685. Email: faserio@gogold.hk

PCC MEMBERSHIP

PCC full golf membership, transfer fee, 2013 fees included. 665,000 baht. Email: dconbeer@hotmail.com

Dive Gear

DIVE EQUIPMENT

Tanks, compressors, and boats for sale. Tel: 088-760 3770.

20 NEW SCUBA TANKS

Unused 12-liter scuba tanks with valves, all cheaper than trade. Sale: 6,000 baht. Please contact Will. Tel: 080-595 0458.

MARES BCD FINS AND BOOTS

Mares BCD Hybrid like new. Sale: 6,000 baht or nearest offer. Scuba Pro boots UK Size 8-9: 800 baht. Mares Avanti Quar-tro Black: 1,000 baht. Tel: 085-260 2576 (English). Email: chrisgraham2@mac.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

BISS FLAPPER

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

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

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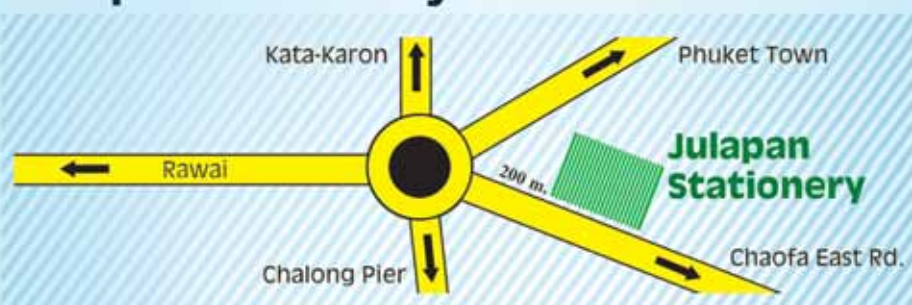
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword



COFFEE

break

ANTI-GRAVITY TREADMILL

The 'Phuket Today' show visited Bangkok Hospital Phuket to try out their new innovative machine for health treatments, the 'Anti-Gravity Treadmill'.



Simon Hand, TV producer (second from right) and Kiranee Narabal, TV presenter (center), are welcomed by Bodin La-Eid, (third from left) the deputy hospital director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket.



THAN PRINTING

From left: Chutharat Plerin, senior reporter at the *Phuket Gazette*, Praveen Kaivikai, division marketing manager of Than Printing, Kiti Prueksachatrat, marketing executive of Than Printing, Isaac Stone Simonelli, acting managing editor of the *Phuket Gazette* and (behind) Leslie Porterfield, desk editor.

PHUKET REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION (P-REA)

Thanusak Phuengdet, President of P-REA (second from right) and the P-REA committee welcome media from Turkey at Anuphas and Sons.



ABSOLUTE WORLD GROUP WINS ANOTHER THREE AWARDS IN USA

A trio of awards for The Beach Samui and Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa at the 2013 *Perspective Magazine Awards*



A Buddhist spiritual ceremony was performed at the grand opening of the new Hyundai showroom at Bypass Rd, on March 14.



Phakanat Kittiworakulpong, general manager (first from left), Suraluk Narukatpichai, managing director (second from left) and their guests.



MAZAR AND FRIENDS

At the opening party of the MAZAR lounge bar, a place for relaxing with friends.



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Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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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

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

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).

March 23-31, 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

March 29; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at the Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

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

March 30-31, 7:30pm to 1am: Shipwrecked Party at The Green Man, Chalong

Come join the festivities at our



Surf Night at Two Chefs Kata Beach

April 1

Shipwrecked Party. Another Theme Party organized by the Phuket party Boyz. All proceeds will be donated to the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation (phuketsunshinevillage.org). Price: 999 baht (includes Western and Thai buffet plus three drink coupons). Don't miss this opportunity to help children in need, simply by celebrating with us at the Shipwrecked party. Bring your friends, the more the merrier, and the more we can help the Phuket Sunshine Village children.

April 1, 15; 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach
Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ-Buffet, live music and cocktails to die for. Great food great fun and only 495 baht, with no extra costs added to your bill. For more info, visit: twochefs.com.

April 6, Chakri Memorial Day
Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty,

founded by Rama I, who made Bangkok the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the dynasty.

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 by pouring water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 18 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Breeze at Cape Yamu

April's lunch will be at the newly opened Breeze@Cape Yamu. All are welcome. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For reservations or further information, contact Carole on: +66-76-316711 or email info@phuketiwc.com

May 5, Coronation Day
Coronation Day commemorates

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

May 6, Substitution for 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 May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the Enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day
This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to disciples after attaining Enlightenment.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday
Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

September 19 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Holiday Inn, Patong

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 and guests 650 baht. Contact: info@phuketiwc.com

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

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

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival

Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which is floated in a canal.

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Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. *We're moving Sandwich Shoppe Patong to Kathu in the next few weeks, and starting a new Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer gatherings, as events unfold.*

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

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.
Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

PIMEX is better than ever

By Baz Daniels

THE Phuket International Boat Show, fondly known by its acronym PIMEX, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with a lineup of exhibitors, brands and products that are second to none, and which have made it Asia's favorite maritime and lifestyle show.

It commenced this year when the Phuket Governor opened it at the Royal Phuket Marina at 10:30am on Thursday, March 21, and it will run for the following four days from 11am to 7pm each day until finally closing on Sunday, March 24 at 6pm.

The show is the brainchild of well known Phuket personality Andy Dowden, and has grown from relatively small beginnings to include the region's largest in-water display with a range of luxury, power and sail boats ranging from superyachts, through to everyday boats and fun water craft. Two highlights at this year's show are the Classic Turkish Gulet, 'Capricorn', and the Astondoa 102 foot superyacht, 'Blossom Uno', both making their debuts at the show. There are also plenty of "entry-level" fun and trailer craft so you most definitely don't have to be a millionaire to go along, have fun, and even make a purchase to get you out and onto Phuket's glorious waters.

Originally, the show was staged on the "lay day" during the King's Cup Race week in December each year and was held at Boat Lagoon. But it has grown over the years to merit its own timing in March each year and the extended four day opening run as we see it today.

As to the location, there can be a no more enticing setting for a marine show than the exhibition

hall, boardwalk and marina basin of the elegant Royal Phuket Marina (RPM). Basking in the glorious sunshine, the whole of RPM becomes a veritable hive of activity not just of hard-core marine enthusiasts and boat buyers, but of families, moms and dads and of course legions of little ones for whom there is plenty of diversion and entertainment. But beware, one little girl we know of who visited last year commanded her daddy to buy her a 50 foot cruiser because, "it has bunk beds and they're really, really comfy!"

Interested boat buyers have the opportunity to step aboard and experience the vast array of boats on display, discuss all the pros and cons with knowledgeable sales staff, attend cocktail parties and just bask in the vast selection of major brands on display from around the world. Families and kiddies also have a great day out exploring the marine and lifestyle products and services, toys and gadgets, not to mention luxury villas, affordable condos and the myriad of investment opportunities in the residential and lifestyle sector which are on display.

RPM's three terrific restaurants: Skippers, the Royal Phuket Marina Yacht Club and Les Anges are open, starting with a 7:30am breakfast at the latter and they all serve great food and drinks right through until the show closes each day.

Andy Dowden, the PIMEX founder and show director says: "We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year and we have the best lineups of exhibitors ever. Everything from top-of-the-line luxury power and sail boats down to trailer boats and fun watercraft, gadgets and widgets, services and

real estate are showcased.

Exhibitors come from all around the world to exhibit at PIMEX due to its pivotal position in the regional marine industry as both a playground and a hub for marine leisure in Asia. As well as iconic maritime brands like Sunseeker, Northrop and Johnson, Fillipetti Yachts, Jeanneau, Azimut, Ferretti, Fairline, Beneteau, Gulf Craft, Hanse, Pershing and Princess there are numerous yacht charter and chandlery supply companies displaying."

The charter companies in the lineup are Sunsail, Elite Yachting, Asia Marine and Yachtpro, plus you can check out the news about the upcoming Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Race Week and maybe even rent a bareboat to take part in it. Then there's broader lifestyle exhibitors like Helicam; artist Marilyn Brand with her maritime-themed water colors; and author Colin Mackay with his newly published definitive book "A History of Phuket and the Surrounding Region" all vying for your attention.

"We have over 90 exhibitors from more than 15 countries representing in excess of 100 brands. PIMEX is unique in hosting the largest in-water display of quality boats and together with the air-conditioned marina-side Exhibition Hall there is something for everyone at the show," added Andy Dowden.

The Institute of Marine Engineers and the Royal Institute of Naval Architects are exhibiting this year and are getting their first taste of SouthEast Asia in preparation for a planned conference in 2014.

"The conference will be an exciting addition next year and is part of our commitment to the marine industry in Phuket and the



MAN WITH A PLAN: PIMEX organizer, Andy Dowden. Photo: Gazette file

region, to foster growth and development and provide support," said Dowden.

"The 2013 show is more diverse than ever and delivers a wide range of experiences for visitors. Entrance is free of charge and there really is something for everyone so we welcome all to come and join us between March 21-24."

While the cocktail parties swirl around the various yachts and stands, music fills the air and wine and beer tastings are offered up to help cool the fevered brow of frazzled parents. But they have no need to fret as little ones are as beguiled as anyone with the

assembled array of lifestyle and maritime playthings gently bobbing in the marina basin, or in the Exhibition Hall.

"Champagne" Charlie Dwyer is the Captain of the famous superyacht *Yanneke Too* and one of the region's most well-known and colorful yachting personalities. He says, "PIMEX is a must if you are in the yachting industry in Asia. It has gone from strength to strength each year and it's informative, innovative, interesting and a lot of fun. And of course PIMEX is not just about boats and products, it's also a great networking and fun venue for everyone."

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How to buy yourself a superyacht

By Andrew Scott

IN AN age when the rich and super rich are getting wealthier, what exactly are they spending their hard earned money on?

Property, cars, jewelry and paintings have always been popular items, but superyachts, now more than ever, are seen by the affluent as the 'gold standard' of making a statement with wealth.

The world's largest superyacht, *Project Azzam*, is currently under construction and once she's completed, this megayacht is expected to be a staggering 180 meters – vessels over 24m are generally classed as superyachts.

Such a grand superyacht is out of financial reach for most people, but for those wanting to invest in a standard-sized superyacht, the *Phuket Gazette* spoke to Stephen Crone, a professional yacht captain and manager of yacht management company Acronautic Pty Ltd, to find out how.

Phuket Gazette: Which companies provide a yacht selling service to potential clients in Thailand/Phuket?

Stephen Crone: Yacht brokerage is a global business and typically a superyacht (a boat over 24m) that is for sale would be marketed internationally, hence, when searching for a broker simply consider the company that you feel is the most professional or easiest to communicate with. Once you have identified a suitable broker, outline your requirements and budget and they should present you with a few options to consider. Due to the size and range of most modern superyachts, their location is not so relevant as they can be easily relocated to your preferred anchorage or marina.

What sort of licenses, paperwork does a potential owner need to have?

Most vessels over 24m, the size where a boat becomes a superyacht, are governed by a particular yacht registry. This size of yacht typically has a professional crew, and depending on the usage, the yacht registry will be influenced by the required qualifications of that crew. It is quite rare for the

yacht owner to actually have any formal license to operate the vessel.

If someone wants to buy a yacht without the help of a specialist company is this possible? If so, how hard is it to do?

Purchasing a yacht is quite similar to purchasing a house, normally a process of inspecting the yacht to check the build quality, current condition and whether any repairs or maintenance are required prior to settlement of the transaction. This inspection should be carried out by an industry professional and the report is used for insurance purposes and general knowledge of the condition of what you are purchasing. It would certainly be possible to negotiate a purchase directly with a vendor, however, we discourage this due to the risks involved – similar to a property purchase.

What are the key factors to consider when buying a yacht?

Certainly the most important factor to consider is a yacht's current condition. Salt water environments are particularly harsh and if components such as electronics, metals and exposed materials are not maintained properly they deteriorate very quickly. Annual maintenance costs should also be considered, as the expenses can add up very quickly. Typically 10 per cent of the value of the yacht is a good gauge to budget on the annual operating expenses. It is a good idea to contract an independent yacht consultant to provide professional advice on a yacht purchase. A yacht broker is normally biased towards the vendor that is paying them, a consultant or client representative typically works with the yacht purchaser's best interests in mind.

How does a potential owner get involved in the building process, design and layout of his/her new superyacht?

Building a yacht can be one of the most satisfying elements of yachting and many owners have a great pride in ownership and particularly if they have contributed to the design. Any boat broker or a specialist yacht consultant can assist in researching and

present a shipyard to build a custom-designed yacht. Typically a client representative is employed by the yacht owner to oversee the build and ensure that it meets the desired requirements upon delivery.

Once the yacht has been purchased how will the owner source crew?

There are many crew agents specializing in crew placement, AYC Superyacht Recruitment is the leader in recruitment throughout Southeast Asia and have assisted many yachts in Phuket. Crew can be sourced locally or internationally. It is important that the most appropriate crew are selected for the vessel because they are the link to providing a great yachting experience.

How easy is it to find a place to berth the yacht, arrange sea trials and survey the boat?

Berthing a yacht of this size is becoming more and more difficult, particularly in Phuket where options are limited to a few marinas. Sea trials and surveys are relatively easy to arrange through any reputable yacht brokerage. Here in Phuket there are several surveyors and Jimmy Watt from Siam Surveyors is one of the most recognized. Jim is a qualified Marine Surveyor and can provide reports for insurance, pre-purchase or just for safety's sake.

How easy is it to find a second hand yacht to buy?

Similar to searching for a home, yachts are advertised on the internet through sales websites and also glossy magazines. Boat International is one of the more recognized sources to initiate a search, as many brokerage companies use this as a central advertising solution since it displays one of the largest databases of yachts for sale.

Is it easy to charter a newly purchased yacht?

Chartering a yacht is a great way to generate some income to cover the annual expenses. Prior to accepting paying guests, a yacht must meet particular safety and manning requirements. It is best to outline



Superyachts line up at an Asia Superyacht Rendezvous. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

the intent to charter your vessel to your broker so that a vessel can be selected which would meet those requirements. It can be very difficult to modify a vessel for charter that has not been designed for that purpose.

How much do sales brokers charge?

This depends largely on the company and brokerage fees can be negotiated, but the typical fee is paid by the vendor and is in the range of 2 – 5 per cent.

What sort of legal procedures will a new owner have to go through?

Insurance, registration and commercial compliance if chartering. Customs should also be considered if relocating a vessel or changing the port of registry.

Stephen Crone specializes in new build yacht projects and custom designs. He can be contacted at sc@acronautic.com

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Lifestyles of the rich and super

Gordon Fernandes is the genial general manager of Asia Pacific Superyachts in Phuket. Some might think that hobnobbing with millionaires and looking after their ocean-going toys is one of Phuket's most enviable jobs. But, as he explains, it's not all "plain sailing".

By Baz Daniel

THE high-octane world of visiting super yachts and their super-wealthy owners is the one in which Gordon Fernandes, the Phuket GM of Asia Pacific Superyachts, plies his daily trade, providing a one-stop-shop "concierge service" that caters to every possible need of visiting mega-craft and the super-wealthy elite who populate them when they call into the beguiling waters of the Andaman.

In these days of extraordinary global wealth, tumultuous stock markets, and rock and showbiz millionaires it's all a bit confusing keeping abreast of what exactly constitutes a superyacht. Not that long ago, in simpler, gentler times, there was a general consensus that superyacht heaven kicked in once you had 24 meters of beautiful megayacht lulling beneath your hand-stitched deck loafers. These days the cognoscenti talk about thirty or even forty meters as the defining mark of entry into this elite club, in order to keep out the hoi polloi and blatant arrivistes. Then there's the perennial question of whether big really is better in the world of superyacht envy, or should pure style and class overrule crass considerations of size?

The average construction price of these babies is around thirty million US dollars with a permanent crew in the teens and it can cost four thousand US dollars a day just to run the generators. So, if you have to ask whether you can afford to join this elite club... you definitely can't!

The writer and avid social climber F Scott Fitzgerald once

LUXURY living

remarked to Ernest Hemingway that "The rich are different from you and me."

"Yes," replied 'Papa', a man not known for wasting words, "they have more money." So, as Gordon and I sat down over a glass of wine, I asked him if the Super Rich really were different from the rest of us.

"I have been doing this job for 15 years now and I have faced many very challenging requests from our clients that have taxed us to the ultimate degree. For example, there was the owner whose son wanted a live, baby elephant on board to celebrate his 10th birthday. We found an elephant and a mahout who was willing to have it taken on board the yacht, but then I started thinking about the logistics of putting "Dumbo" on the tender and using the boat's crane to lift it on board. I mean, what happens if a baby elephant swinging about over the sea between tender and yacht becomes... shall we say agitated? We eventually decided it was probably not too smart an idea and that "Dumbo" wasn't really meant to be a flying elephant after all.

Then there was the owner's dog that only ate Russian Beluga caviar. Well, we couldn't find any in "Little Old Phuket" at that time, but we eventually found some Iranian Osetra caviar in Bangkok and rushed it down. Unfortunately the snooty mutt knew the difference and refused to eat it! Eventually we



managed to "borrow" some Beluga from the owner of another boat, who thought it was all hilarious, and we finally got "Fido" to eat.

The problem is that with great wealth, whether inherited or self-made, comes an intense sense of entitlement. They want anything on Earth and they want it now and they will not tolerate not having it. So, that's my job, which as you can probably tell can often be stressful. I've had owners demand live Canadian lobsters or foie gras from the top London suppliers. In the old days, Phuket wasn't that sophisticated and so I've had to run around to the top restaurants on the island and pay their prices to get such things, because the yacht owners want it NOW!"

How is the market changing these days I asked?

"At one end of the market there are a lot of superyachts for sale these days and some people are hurting.



ON CALL: Gordon Fernandes (left) takes care of the 'floating castles'. Photos: Phuket Superyacht Rendezvous

At the other end, the super-superyachts are getting even bigger with some of the Russian oligarchs boasting 120 meters at the waterline with a crew of forty-plus!

Also technology is everywhere and that has made a demanding clientele even more impatient. If we don't respond to them within the hour, they go elsewhere to get services. Mine is now a 24/7 on call existence and my iPhone is permanently switched on."

And what of the changes in Phuket with regard to providing what the super-wealthy are seeking nowadays?

Says Gordon, "The arrival of all the new Beach Clubs has given our clients an on-shore environment in which they feel at home, but for many of the super-rich their yacht is still their (floating) castle and they stay on board. Also our region's natural environment is still very appealing to people who are bored

with the Med and the Caribbean, with newer areas like the Mergui Archipelago and the Andaman Islands having great appeal."

Clearly Phuket still holds great appeal to the superyacht club and "Champagne" Charlie Dwyer who is a veteran America's Cup sailor and skipper of the 116-foot *Yanneke Too* remarks, "We've sailed all around the world and everywhere we go the owners say 'this is beautiful, in fact it's almost as beautiful as Phuket'"

And Adam Frost the founder of South East Asian Liveaboards makes the point, "The Thai people offer great hospitality. Combined with breathtaking scenery and superb facilities, there's simply no better place to enjoy the luxury yachting lifestyle."

Clearly Gordon's life of receiving midnight calls with bizarre demands from his wealthy clients is not going to end any time soon.



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Miss Thailand World 2013

The Kingdom's loveliest ladies visit Phuket on their way to the finals.

TWENTY Miss Thailand World 2013 finalists recently spent three days promoting local tourism and preparing for the next phase of their competition at the Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket.

Kasemkij Hotels, which owns Cape Panwa, released a statement saying it was an honor to host the event and its activities that are designed to promote philanthropic endeavors, tourism and culture in line with this year's slogan, "true ASEAN beauty on the global stage".

The contestants wowed onlookers when they took part in a swimsuit photo shoot on the beach in front of the Cape Panwa Hotel on the second day of their visit.

Among the 20 beauties is one Phuket native: Nathasinee Wichaidit, 20, from Koh Kaew.

Travel Industry Group Director of Kasemkij Hotels, Mr Poomiphat Navanukroh, said: "We are extremely proud to once again host the Miss Thailand World Training Camp at Cape Panwa Hotel. Previously, we hosted the event at Kantary Beach Hotel, Khao Lak in 2011 and at Kantary Hills Hotel, Chiang Mai in 2012.

"This year, the 20 finalists stayed with us in order to prepare for the final competition. And, as Phuket is such a splendid location, both naturally and culturally, I believe each contestant was very impressed and left with many good memories and experiences.

"The contestants paid a personal visit to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut at Provincial Hall and staged visits to Wat Chalong, Phra Thong temple in Thalang, Phuket Panyanukul (special education) School and Baan Lung Pitak Child-Watch Phuket.

"The Miss Thailand World contest is a very popular event, followed by millions of television viewers across the country. The presence of the contestants here in Phuket will give local tourism an extra boost, even though our southern island city is well known among Thai and foreign tourists. Additionally, The Absolute Suite, one of the most luxurious penthouse suites in Phuket, provided the perfect backdrop for the

contestant interviews. These will be aired on TV CH3 later in March as part of the Miss Thailand World Variety Program, which will hopefully attract more visitors to Phuket during the upcoming Songkran festive season."

Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket General Manager Philipp S Frickhinger said that he was certain the visiting contestants were impressed with the hotel and its facilities. "Everything was specially prepared for the Miss Thailand World 2013 finalists, including the famous swimsuit photo shoot which was shot on the hotel's beautiful white, sandy beach," he said.

"Over the three days at Cape Panwa Hotel, the contestants learned everything they needed to know to compete in the pageant and helped to promote Phuket tourism and take part in philanthropic activities," Philipp concluded.

The group departed Phuket recently and will travel to Myanmar on March 25 to promote Thai culture by joining a fashion show themed "beauty still has value... beauty to the sight of Asean".

The contestants will return to Bangkok for the final round of the Miss Thailand World pageant to be held at the Bangkok Convention Center at the Centara Grand hotel on April 9.

The pageant finale will be broadcast nationwide on Thai TV Channel 3 on April 10, starting at 10:30pm. - *Phuket Gazette*



Diary of budding existentialists

Three young artists from a recent BIS Visual Arts class discuss their work, due to be put on display at an upcoming exhibition at the school, from March 25-29, sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*



By Sariya Suwannakarn

The 'Phuket Vegetarian Festival', in which we pray for good fortune, and go through ten days of adhering to a strict vegetarian diet for the purposes of merit making and spiritual cleansing, includes many aesthetic displays, sacred ritual performances and parades around Phuket Town.



By: Lolita Shestakova

I used Salvador Dali's technique of reflection in my own surreal painting entitled "Layan beach". The subtle white line-work on the water indicates the light being reflected of the smooth surface. I balanced the colors evenly, which allows the mood of the painting to be very harmonious. I believe that many people living in Thailand have a strong bond with the water.

By Maria Isabelle Becker

My views of the natural environment, modern society, body image and the influence of the media are prevailing themes presented in my work. I mainly observe the human form from portraits to full-body figures and as a result of this I have developed a fascination and passion for drawing and painting the human anatomy, facial expressions and eyes in particular.



UPWARD BOUND: A group of Matayom 5 students relax during a break between classes at Uttaradit Daruni school.

Educating the AEC

A LEADING academic has recently outlined the role of higher education in preparing graduates and lecturers for the Asean Economic Community (AEC).

It is important for students in today's world to address the questions likely to confront them, and then figure out answers to the questions, he said.

"After they know the problems, they will adjust themselves before the changes come. They can't wait until the changes affect them," Chulalongkorn University Vice President and Assoc Prof Pornpote Piumsomboon said at a recent seminar on improving the capacity and quality of universities ahead of the AEC.

The seminar was held at the National Institute of Development Administration by the International Institute for Trade and Development and was attended by representatives of universities and several educational institutes.

Pornpote said students had to learn to create questions, find answers on their own and prove if the answers worked or not. "This would improve their thinking skills,

which are necessary at present."

He added that by doing so, students would discover how to seek knowledge by themselves from research-based learning and learn to adjust to changes.

On the other hand, Pornpote challenged lecturers to change the way they teach – from passing on knowledge to students directly to providing support as facilitators to help them find the answers.

Former Education Minister Prof Wjit Srisa-arn urged higher education institutions to educate students more about Asean in an attempt to upgrade the quality of their courses and increase capability.

"You should not only establish an Asean studies center at your campuses, but should include information and knowledge about Asean in general education subjects for bachelor's degree students. This will help with students' awareness, recognition and adjustment to be graduates of Asean."

Sivika Mekthavatchaikul, who is part of a subcommittee that studies institutions' readiness for the AEC, wanted universities to gather information and knowledge about

Asean from agencies at Foreign and Commerce Ministries and pass them on to students in their general education subjects.

To prepare Thai graduates to enjoy wider work markets in Asean, taking up international cooperative education in other Asean countries is good preparation and higher education institutions could do this immediately, Wjit said.

"Suranaree University of Technology has taken four or five years to gain acceptance from industry by having its students do internships for a semester as part of cooperative education," he said.

"Students interning in other Asean countries would learn the way to work and how to work with people in other countries and be ready to work in Asean."

Wjit and former secretary-general Sumate Yamnoon said higher education would have to move in harmony with those in other countries in the region to support students' mobility. They needed to improve quality standards and work together.

— Annapa Khaopa

Thai English lowest of Asean nations

WITH TOEFL [Test of English as a Foreign Language] scores averaging at 489, Thai students' proficiency in the English language appears to be the lowest in the Asean region.

In order to overcome this, academics are urging universities to seriously start strengthening students' English-language skills by making it a working language at their campuses.

"While, Thais' average TOEFL score stands at about 450; [students from] Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar have averaged around 500. Malaysia and Singapore were even higher at approximately 550 on average," Sriwika Mekthavatchaikul said at a seminar on improving the capacity and quality of universities ahead of the Asean

Economic Community (AEC).

She is part of a subcommittee that studies institutions' readiness for the AEC, which kicks off in 2015. The seminar was held at the National Institute of Development Administration by the International Institute for Trade and Development and attended by representatives from universities and several educational institutes.

Sriwika advised lecturers to make English the first language in campuses and start using technical terms more often while lecturing. Former education minister Prof Wjit Srisa-arn said usually English is included in university curriculum and accounts for at least six credits, and some universities had technical English courses, but that was not enough.



Prof Wjit Srisa-arn

"It is necessary for us to promote the use of English and learn how to use the language with people from other Asean countries," Wjit said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

ASIA				
	Mean TOEFL score by country in Asia			
Afghanistan	52	51	48	501
Azerbaijan	52	55	53	536
Bangladesh	.	.	.	.
Bhutan	57	57	53	557
Brunei Darussalam	.	.	.	.
Cambodia	.	.	.	.
China, People's Republic of	54	53	53	534
Hong Kong	.	.	.	.
India	58	57	56	571
Indonesia	.	.	.	.
Japan	54	54	53	534
Kazakhstan	52	52	51	514
Korea, Republic of	52	53	52	523
Kyrgyzstan	54	54	52	534
Macao	.	.	.	.
Malaysia	.	.	.	.
Maldives	.	.	.	.
Mongolia	.	.	.	.
Myanmar	53	55	53	537
Nepal	.	.	.	.
Pakistan	.	.	.	.
Philippines	.	.	.	.
Singapore	.	.	.	.
Sri Lanka	.	.	.	.
Taiwan (Republic of China)	54	50	50	513
Tajikistan	50	50	47	490
Thailand	49	49	49	489
Turkmenistan	52	50	49	501
Uzbekistan	.	.	.	.
Vietnam	53	53	52	529

2011 mean TOEFL scores by country. Source: ets.org

Uamporn Schori

"A FITTING title for my profile might be 'Return to the motherland after a 25-year sojourn in Switzerland'," suggests Uamporn Schori at the start of our interview.

Two and a half decades seems like a long time, but for Uamporn, who has kept strong ties with her "motherland" by ways of charity work for needy school children here, time is immaterial.

Approaching 60 this year, Uamporn has been living a rich and eventful life. Born and raised as a Muslim in Phang Nga to educated parents who had a penchant for the performing arts, Uamporn was the only child of her six siblings to inherit a love of dancing and singing from an early age.

"My policeman father was an excellent *rong geng* dancer (who performs a traditional Muslim dance practiced widely in the southern provinces) and my mother, a teacher and former Miss Phang Nga runner-up, had a beautiful voice. They inspired me and instilled a love of performing," recalls Uamporn.

Aspiring to follow in her mother's footsteps, Uamporn trained at Suan Sunantha Teaching College in Bangkok. She taught for seven years in Phang Nga but gave up after academic life proved too stifling for her creative bent. That and a failed marriage, Uamporn, now a single mother, turned to singing as a way to earn a living, a career that was

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

frowned upon by her relatives.

"I just didn't see why using my talent as a singer to earn an honest living was so bad," protests Uamporn. But the stigma attached to such nocturnal professions, together with pressure from her family became a constant strain. Luckily, salvation came in the form of a kind Swiss gentleman who proposed marriage. She moved with him to Biel, Switzerland, where she stayed for 25 years.

There, Uamporn became a "cultural social worker" helping Thais in and around Bern by interpreting for them at clinics, schools, registrar offices and the court.

In a charitable move, Uamporn and husband Rolfe established the "Association of Thai Arts and Culture", which aims to promote awareness of Thai values and raise funds for children in Thailand.

With contributions from Swiss individuals and money made from the Association's yearly cultural events, the organization raised about half a million baht each year.

Uamporn, who visited Thailand annually, made it her mission to

personally select schools and children worthy of support. The funds went towards school fees, uniforms and educational materials.

"No expenses were deducted from the money raised. "This charity work meant so much to me and combined the two things I love most – performing arts and education," says Uamporn, a tireless philanthropist who did this every year until her retirement to Thailand in 2012.

Two months ago, Uamporn became a proud owner of a wedding gown rental business called "Sitimariam" (her Muslim name). Inside this small Rawai store, bejeweled bridal gowns of all cultures – Malay, Thai, Indonesian and Peranakan – vie for attention.

One tiny corner displays Uamporn's dancer costume and headdress, a testament to her skills as a traditional dance teacher. She is available to dance at cultural events and will teach this art to young people or interested adults.

Though still in its early days, Sitimariam has managed to garner interest from expats and tourists who come in to pick up souvenirs, order a tailor-made Baba dress, or just browse. Business aside, Uamporn still believes there's room for more charity work, once the shop's up and running, that is.

For Uamporn, a new chapter of life has just begun. She has made it back to her homeland.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.



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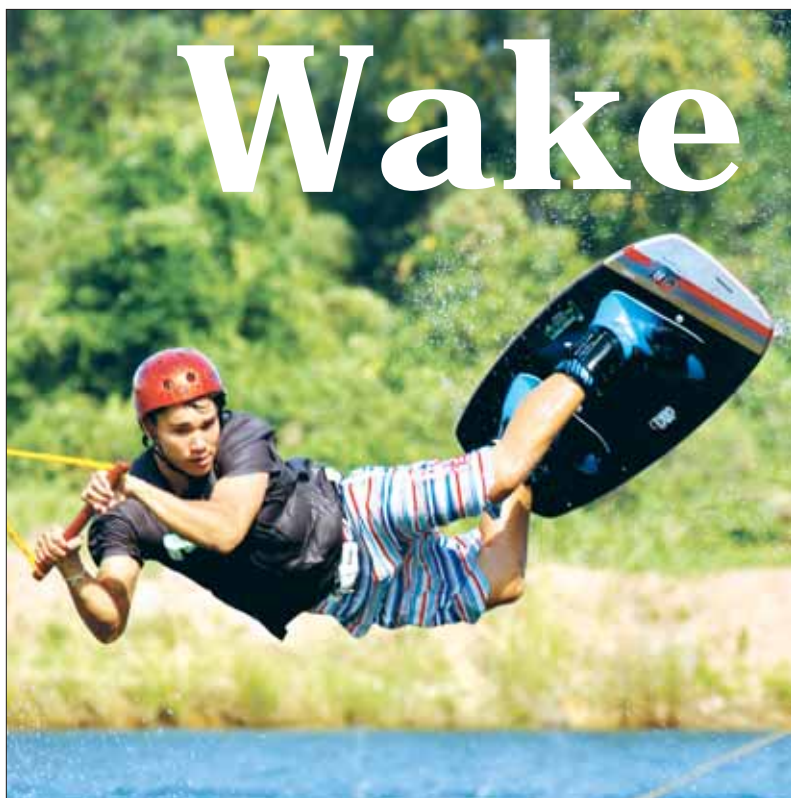


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The Gazette interviews an Israeli pro wakeboarder at Asia's first and only clockwise cable-ski park

By Chris Hudon

AS THE final hours of daylight waned in the sky, I pulled my rusty old BMW up to the ridge of a tin mine-turned-lake, home to Anthem Wake Park, across from Wat Manik in Cherng Talay.

Pausing but for a moment to study the deep blue water, the lake was both tranquil and alive.

However, this tranquil introduction was soon interrupted by a Japanese pro wakeboarder who attempted a massive aerial maneuver on the lake trying to land 'that big trick'. He smacked the water with a deafening thud.

It was then that I knew cable wakeboarding wasn't going to be as easy as some people make it look.

Construction on the park began in December of last year and took only a few months to complete. Anthem has six posts erected at 120 degree angles to give the rider a smooth transition from tower to tower and is 11.5 meters tall (the height of a cable line affects its tension and overall feel).

"We're always gonna have riders coming through," says Rebecca Lek, Anthem Wake Park's director of sales. "This is the first cable park in Asia running on a clockwise cable. A lot of [riders] only know their home cable, which is probably counterclockwise.

"That's the thing about cable rats," adds Rebecca through a sheepish grin. "If you know that somewhere has one of the best cable parks in the world, you're

gonna go there to say 'OK, check. Done.' People who are not used to [the clockwise] direction can improve their overall proficiency as a rider."

Another unique feature of the new park is its Sesitec 2.0 cable system, which allows beginners to try wakeboarding without fear of being dragged long distances by the cable or having it pull them too quickly.

The 2.0 line is run by an operator who manipulates the line so that you have a chance to gain footing and become comfortable on the board before trying the main line at speed.

Rebecca was kind enough to allow me a test run on the track, starting off on what I call the "kiddy cable" (the 2.0 line) and later graduating to the "big boy cable" after testing my mettle. It was great fun and if you've had any experience wakeboarding or water skiing I'm sure it will be a breeze. While I've never done either of those things, I do have good balance from surfing for several years, which helped me with the mechanics of the board.

While testing the track, I had the chance to catch up with a current wakeboarding legend, 27-year-old Israeli pro wakeboarder Lior Sofer.

"This is my tenth year riding now. I started because when we were young we would take family trips to the North [of Israel] and my friend who used to own a boat would tow us with a boogie board and one day they said, 'Hey, let's put the kid on skis'," says Lior.

The culture of riders at Anthem reminds of my early days learning to surf. The whole crowd is very supportive and cheers loudly whenever you do something right – even if it's just standing up for the first time. Conversely, is a spectator sport and everyone watches as you go. So, when you wipe out, you can be assured that everyone saw and the collective groan is audible as it's happening.

I felt fine immediately after wakeboarding but was so sore the next day that I found it hard to lift my arms higher than my chest.

I also experienced something I lovingly call "the walk of shame". That's what you have to do if you wipe out on the far side of the lake, where you'll need to swim to the dock, then walk a few hundred meters back around to the launch. Along the walk you're surrounded by beautiful nature and given the chance to reflect upon what went wrong (in my case it was hubris).

Rates are two hours for 400 baht, four hours for 600 baht, or an all-day-pass for 750 baht, making it much more affordable than some other parks. The owners of Anthem say it has become a

park. There are even plans to add on-site bungalows, which would extend riders' stays sometime in the next few years.

Professionals from the Philippines and the UK will be in training at the park over the next few weeks in anticipation of Anthem's official grand opening in July.

"It's a big difference [going clockwise]," says Lior, who is sponsored by Monster energy drinks. "In the US you drive on the right, here you drive on the left. It's the same thing when riding a board.

Rebecca, along with Khun Yok, the park's managing director, say having Lior and other pro riders around helps to inspire local kids to reach greater heights.

"We feel that Lior is such a great rider and he has a lot of huge events around the world and for him to come to Phuket to ride. The kids here love him. Every weekend they say 'Where's Lior? We want to see him ride'. It's kind of inspirational for them to see. They learn and see the tricks that he does and think... 'hmm OK, let's try this'."

Asked what advice he would give someone just beginning the sport Lior says: "First of all it's fun. It's not scary, you don't get injured frequently. You look at pro riders who take it to the extreme and you think it's scary, but that's just because they took it to an extreme. Anyone can do it, it's just water. It's something everybody can do, from age nine to 70."

Khun Yok adds that Anthem will be the staging ground for wakeboarding competition during the 2015 Asian Beach Games and will also help host water-slalom.

Located three kilometers from the Heroines' Monument, towards Laguna, turn left into the gate for Wat Manik. Anthem Wake Park is open daily from 9am to 6:30pm. The best time to come is late afternoon, as the weather cools.

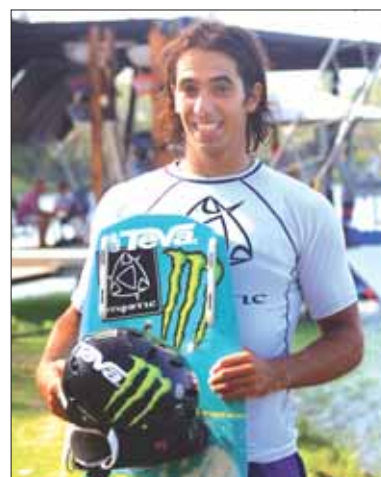
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Lior Sofer at Anthem. Photo: CMH

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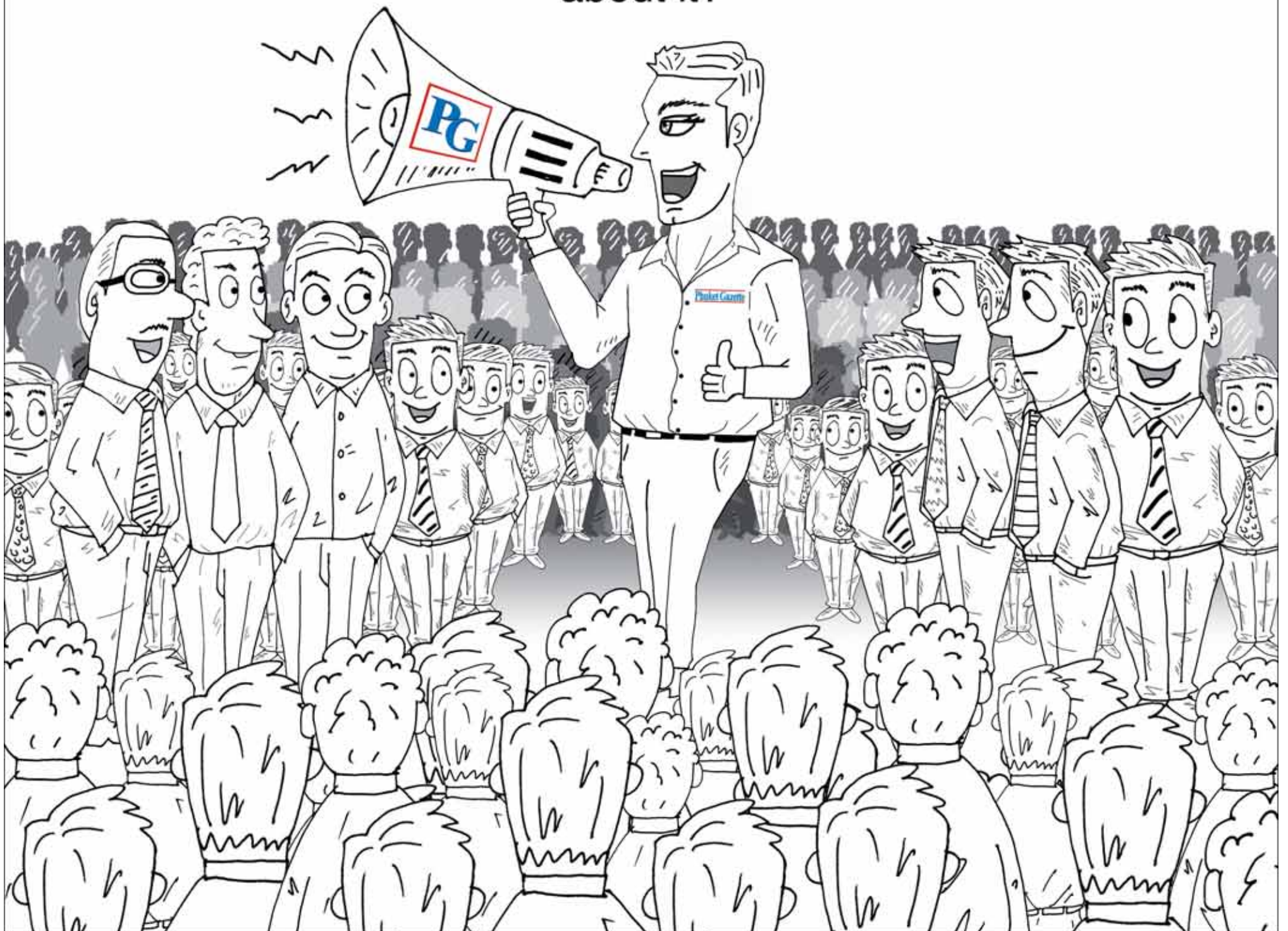
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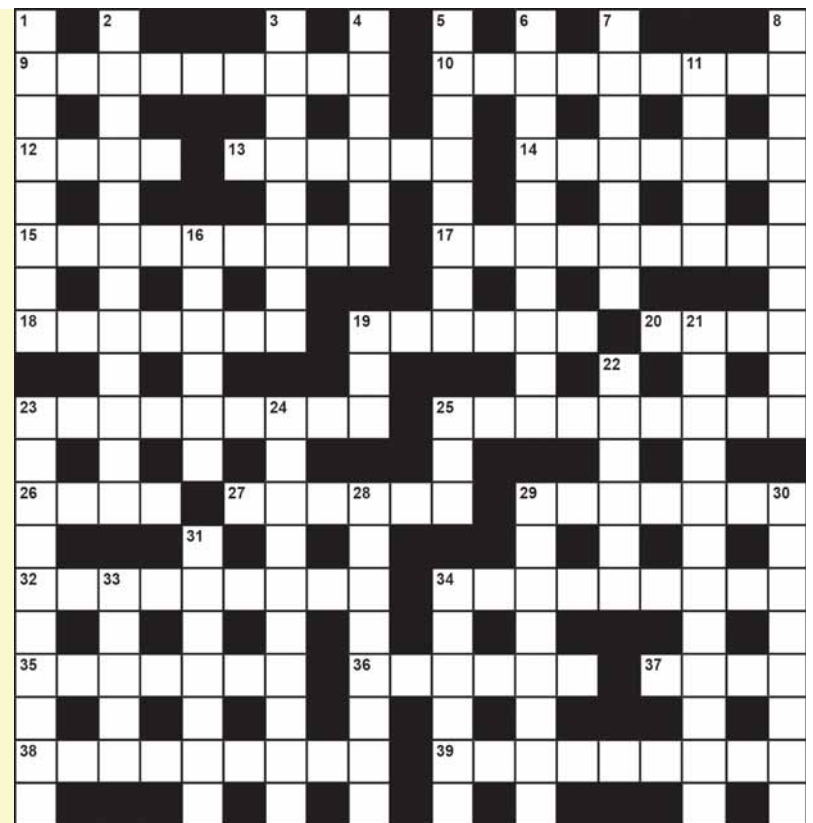
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



COFFEE break

Across:

9. Bullets coming from two directions upset. Shoot! (9)
10. Tee up late perhaps, get something for your shoulder! (9)
12. Bind broken pate (4)
13. Rascal I make a fish dish (6)
14. I hear mussels, but it's beef! (7)
15. Number account, acknowledgements of debts persistent (9)
17. Hints inn done us badly! (9)
18. Carefully teach no freehold Thai title deed (7)
19. Old lines back East (6)
20. Sword, electroplated Egyptian, note (4)
23. Ali foolish regarding sustenance! (9)
25. Clever chap I shortly established as the brightest (9)
26. Note variation of shade (4)
27. Rented out a supply vessel (6)
29. Right back, I hollow the submarine missile (7)
32. Am let stop producing fan shaped plants (9)
34. Public Relations happening, note right stopper! (9)
35. Delegate loved going back to Victory in Europe (7)
36. Equal time second in competitions (6)
37. And French turn one small case (4)
38. Assigned everybody round wild cadet (9)
39. Observed nothing vile back from the second monkey's stance (3,2,4)



Down:

1. Cite cast turning euphoric (8)
2. Mention cop as fixing recompense (12)
3. Reveal Sid turned up nearby (8)
4. That woman has me, son, as a Greek god (6)
5. Conclusion in brief, December is one number back (8)
6. Poisonous bacteria from fishwoman (10)
7. Cover thickly in bandage (7)
8. Determined Peter's isn't moving (10)
11. Thanks son for Thai market (5)
16. Not so hot in the nick (6)
19. Soprano a liberal girl (3)

21. Precautionary event in private activity (12)
22. In team in prison (6)
23. Kiwi, Pa. Detain on moving (10)
24. Therapies meant rest arranged, about time! (10)
25. Prohibit entry to pub (3)
28. Half distance finishes swells (8)
29. Rest, lest disturb supports (8)
30. Awful Brit, reel about (8)
31. Turn aside, daughter felt badly about Charlie (7)
33. Liberal First Lady left flat (5)
34. Leaps around East to make happy (6)

Cryptic crossword by Patong Bill.
Answers on page 31

Your weekly pith: "Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you'll understand what little chance you have in trying to change others." - *Jacob M Braude*
These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes for prosperity'

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Your social zone falls under the spotlight, with fair weather friends showing their true colors this week. Another fire sign you thought you could count on is forecast to backpedal and a water sign's reluctance to help can be disappointing. Those celebrating a birthday this week find their lives going in unexpected, but exciting directions during the coming year. The temptation to splash your cash is strong this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

The cosmic climate encourages a slow pace for those born under the sign of Taurus towards the end of March. In the world of work, pressure to make an important decision lifts and you should have no problem seeing what has to be done. The stars suggest that contact from a long lost friend will brighten your weekend. Romance with another earth sign blossoms, but an air sign's unreliability becomes all too obvious.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Preparation is the key to success this week, particularly for those Geminis who are investigating new work possibilities. A demanding social scene this weekend can

leave you drained of energy – the stars recommend taking time out on Sunday to recharge your batteries. Where a fire sign romantic partner is concerned, your individual ambitions can be a cause for conflict towards the end of March. Financial gain is highlighted midweek.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Much can be accomplished under your own steam this week, but the stars suggest that working with others can be complicated. A fire sign is forecast to show their stubborn streak on Monday or Tuesday; giving this person a wide berth is the best course of action. Where money matters are concerned, it would not be wise to ignore a mistake made in your favor midweek. Lucky days for love are Sunday and Monday.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

You have what it takes to make the right impression this week. The stars indicate that this is an auspicious period to search for different employment or a new place to live. Romance can also benefit from the cosmic conditions; single Leos can expect a positive response from a water sign who has caught their eye. Those already committed finally accept their partner's point of view where joint finances are concerned.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The last week of March promises to be the busiest of the month and Virgoans' usual steady approach to life can be compromised by sudden changes to plans. A financial offer comes with more strings attached than you are first aware of. The stars advise consulting an experienced third party before accepting. Romance continues to bring happiness, with an air sign ready to show how much they care this weekend.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

A second wind gives Librans an advantage during the last week of March. You will be more open to new ideas and different ways of living your life, with dreams providing possible inspiration. The stars suggest that personal finances will be affected by more promising astral conditions towards the end of the month; this will be auspicious for those in the sellers' market. Lucky days for love are Tuesday and Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Life gradually becomes easier to understand this week after confusion that has colored the month of March so far, with a more settled atmosphere at work encouraging productivity. A lukewarm romantic relationship with another water sign is forecast to end abruptly. Scorpions who have become interested in a fire sign will have to work hard to get close to this person and may decide that's more trouble than it's worth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Community projects are well-starred for those born under the sign of Sagittarius this week. The stars suggest that getting involved with those less fortunate helps you appreciate your own good fortune more. People are keen to listen to your point of view and there are hints that this can result in a rewarding work opportunity. Your upbeat mood is infectious and there is fun to be had on the social scene this weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The stars advise treading softly where other earth signs are concerned. A work colleague is predicted to be defensive where a misguided decision is concerned. Your only course of action is to allow this

person to take the consequences. This is a lucky week to focus on investments. Capricorns who have been dissatisfied with how their money is working for them should see more lucrative opportunities opening up.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Aquarians who have been dealing with problems in the world of work are forecast to have a breakthrough this week. The stars are ready to back your attempts to put unwanted situations in the past, with another air sign forecast to provide welcome support. An impulsive mood this weekend can enhance a romantic relationship that has been turning sour. A water sign partner in particular will appreciate your spontaneous gesture.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Certain Pisceans could find themselves pushed into a corner this week. There are hints that an overbearing fire sign will take your agreement for granted where work is concerned. In the social zone, another water sign's jealousy can dampen your enjoyment this weekend. Your romantic outlook is steady – those who have found it hard to relate to an earth sign partner see new lines of communication opening up.

International Sport

Scores, storms and Sepang

WELL, Melbourne was a great Grand Prix, and we now have some answers to those intriguing questions from the off-season. Last week I put my neck on the block and made some predictions about the Australian GP that were against conventional wisdom. How well did I do?

I said slower teams have had a better chance to copy and catch-up than have faster teams to increase their lead with innovations. So I expected the smaller teams to show this season. Force India looked awesome at Melbourne, with Sutil leading for two long periods and finishing 7th. He was unlucky not to beat Webber and Hamilton.

I think that throughout this season we shall see blazes of surprise from Force India, Williams, Mercedes and Sauber.

I also said the management of the new Pirelli tyres was going to be a decider.

It was. Pirelli included supersoft tyres to spice up the ozzy barbie. It worked, providing varied success for two and three stop strategies and seven different leaders. Might they do the same in Sepang?

I thought Vettel would be lucky to make the podium in Melbourne. But McLaren could not compete at the top, so Vettel took



Formula 1
By The Digby

third fairly easily, but conspicuously 22 seconds off the pace.

Despite the great support for Red Bull, I thought Ferrari would be the team to beat. It was. They now lead the Constructors' Championship. I said Alonso would be on the podium. He was. But Ferrari ran a three-stop sprint strategy, and Lotus' deliberate two-stopper was a race winner.

I said that if McLaren could sort their tyres, I would not be surprised to see Jenson Button on the Melbourne podium alongside Alonso.

Actually he was never a contender. McLaren has not got its package working, and are unlikely to fare better in Sepang.

But don't write them off; they are the only team to go for a new package this

season instead of upgrading the 2012 car.

They have time to come back, and if they do, their new car could dominate the rest of the season, because other teams may not be able to compete by tweaking. But McLaren needs to be turning around by Catalunya in May. There's a lot to do.



VITAL: Ferrari's Fernando Alonso performs a pit stop. Photo: Reuters



MIXED EMOTIONS: Lotus Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland (center) celebrates next to Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain and Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany (right). Photo: Reuters

Despite being fastest in testing, I said I would be surprised if Mercedes managed a podium finish in Australia. Hamilton finished 5th, well off the pace, particularly in straight line speed, and Nico Rosberg DNF. They are likely to stay mediocre in Sepang.

I tipped Kimi Räikkönen for a podium position. He won of course. Lotus demonstrated perfect tyre management, and made a two-stop strategy work when others, notably Mercedes, failed.

The Iceman's penultimate lap was pointedly the fastest lap of the race, on tyres that were 22 laps old. On this showing, I would tip Kimi to revisit the podium in Sepang. I understand that Kimi griped at having to rise early for Q2 and Q3, delayed from Saturday by the stormy weather in Melbourne. If so, he had clearly recovered his good humor by the time he won.

The Constructors' Championship scoreboard shows Ferrari top with 30 points, Lotus 26, Red Bull 23, Mercedes

and Force India 10 and McLaren 2.

There were five rookies in Melbourne and no bad incidents. Max Chilton, who finished 17th for Marussia, looks like he belongs in F1. He's a classic driver to watch in the future. He had to stop for a wing change after a kiss with Van der Garde early in the race. Look to him to make midfield in Sepang.

Sepang will be hotter than Melbourne and better suited to the tyres. There is always a likelihood of rain to add spice to strategy which may help the best drivers. So it would be no surprise to see a podium of Kimi, Alonso and a wild card. Vettel, Massa, Webber and Sutil may all be in with a shout. Last year a rank outsider made the podium, and might have won, so who knows?

Qualifying for the Malaysian GP starts at 3pm on Saturday, and the race is at the same time on Sunday. Watch both with me!

Lampard defends Rio

FRANK Lampard understands Rio Ferdinand's reasons for pulling out of the squad for England's forthcoming World Cup qualifiers and said his former West Ham United teammate remains one of the best defenders in the Premier League.

Ferdinand's withdrawal from the squad on medical grounds on Monday has provided the main talking point ahead of Friday's match in San Marino, with British newspapers labeling the situation a "farce" and a "humiliation" for coach Roy Hodgson.

Premier League chairman Dave Richards joined the debate, saying Ferdinand's pull-out, a couple of days after saying he would join the squad, brought the game into "disrepute".

Lampard said he still relished turning out for his country but respected Ferdinand's decision to opt out because of the need to manage a long-term back complaint.

"I was sorry for him and the team. He's been in fantastic form but the important thing is now we're here, we get the results we need," Lampard told a news conference on Tuesday.

"There are no personal issues, it's about results now. When you're 30 or more you have to maintain yourself differently," Lampard said at the team's headquarters in Burton.

"Rio has picked up a couple of injuries earlier in his career and he's kept on top of himself."

With Lampard's Chelsea team mate John Terry no longer available for England and several pull-outs on top of Ferdinand's U-turn, England are lacking experienced personnel in the center of their defense.

England, who are second in Group H and face leaders Montenegro on March 20, could do with Ferdinand's experience for the tough trip.

Lampard believes Ferdinand, who has 81 caps, could still appear for England again but insists the absence of several players through injury would allow others to step up.

"[Rio's] a top drawer player, he is not finished, you could see that with his performances against Madrid, he is a top performer and at the minute is one of the top defenders in the Premier League," Lampard said.

"These are moments you need a strong squad. You lose two, three or four in the same position and that would test any country, but this is a time for those young players to stand up. I believe in the squad and the players we've got in there.

"Sometimes little things like this make the squad focus even more."



Rio Ferdinand. Photo: Reuters

While Ferdinand's international future is under a cloud, Lampard, with 94 caps, has set his sights on joining Steven Gerrard and Ashley Cole in England's 100-club.

"You know it won't go on forever and I appreciate playing for my country more than ever," he said. "If I get to 100, I will be very proud."

"I really don't know if Rio will play for England again. I know he is a very determined and professional lad...but I've known great England players to retire from international football at 29 or 30 if it benefits their career."

— Reuters

FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil	
FIFA World Cup 2014 Qualifying - European Region	
WEDNESDAY 27 th MARCH 2013	
Group A	Group B
Serbia vs Scotland 02.30	Armenia vs Czech 23.00
Belgium vs Macedonia 02.45	Denmark vs Bulgaria 02.15
Wales vs Croatia 02.45	Malta vs Italy 02.45
Group D	Group F
Estonia vs Andorra 00.00	Azerbaijan vs Portugal 00.00
Turkey vs Hungary 01.30	N. Ireland vs Israel 02.45
Hollands vs Romania 02.30	
Group C	Group H
Germany vs Kazakhstan 02.45	Ukraine vs Moldova 02.00
R. of Ireland vs Austria 02.45	Poland vs San Marino 02.45
	Montenegro vs England 03.00
Group I	
FRANCE vs SPAIN	
03.00	

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International Sport

England hit the buffers

By Patrick Campbell

THE most unpredictable Six Nations Championship of recent years ended with yet more surprises: Wales as champions and France, tipped at the start as possible winners, holders of the 'wooden spoon'.

On the final, decisive Saturday, the shocks continued as Italy, this year's surprise packet, beat a lack-luster Ireland, clearly hampered by an appalling run of injuries and three yellow cards on the day. At a vociferous Stadio Olimpico, Italy experienced a brief hiccup while their talismanic captain Parisse was dispatched to the sin-bin, but stormed back to record a convincing victory. Declan Kidney's role as Irish coach will come under intense scrutiny.

But the England vs Wales game was the one everyone was talking up, with England needing a win to achieve the coveted Grand Slam and Wales requiring victory by seven points to deprive them of the championship. It was also the ultimate audition for places on the Lions tour to Australia. The pre-match hype, with George North the Welsh wing, calling for a "blood bath" was predictably frenetic, with more sober critics just favoring Wales. And so it turned out, though the manner of the Welsh victory, by thirty points to three, was more than the most passionate Welshman could have hoped for.

From the first scrum, England were under the cosh, penalized at almost every put-in by the Australian referee. It was a significant omen. The team, for once



UNSTOPPABLE: Wales' Sam Warburton (center) runs with the ball during their Six Nations international rugby union match against England. Photos: Reuters

exposed for what they are – a courageous but callow side with fewer than half the caps of their opponents, could establish no continuity or composure, were forced to tackle all afternoon, and eventually succumbed to two well-taken Cuthbert tries.

What few English opportunities presented themselves were squandered by poor decision-making. Every high ball they put up was impeccably fielded by the ever-reliable Halfpenny. Tuilagi, expected to make a huge impact, was tackled out of the game, Farrell lacked direction with his kicking, and England

were outplayed in the wide areas of the pitch.

Brown stopped a certain try from the juggernaut George North with a trip tackle, but soon the flood gates opened and the much vaunted English substitutes could do nothing to stem the tide. Lancaster, the new coach observed succinctly that we "didn't match their physicality". Backs coach Farrell declared that "momentum is a great thing and we couldn't get any, especially in the first half." Lancaster has earned his plaudits, but he needs to pick in-form wingers.

On the other hand, Phillipe Saint-Andre,

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PS
1	Wales	5	4	0	1	55	8
2	England	5	4	0	1	15	8
3	Scotland	5	2	0	3	-8	4
4	Italy	5	3	0	2	-26	4
5	Ireland	5	1	1	3	-8	3
6	France	5	1	1	3	-18	3

Wales	
-------	--

Wales celebrate winning the Six Nations.

the French coach cannot be sure of his position. Though "Les Blues" finally broke down a gallant Scottish side in a cold and wet Paris, the score after an hour was still 9-9. It took tries from the mercurial Wesley Fofana and Maxime Medard to complete a 23-16 win. Scotland's interim coach Scott Johnson opined: "I was really proud of the defense. But we let ourselves down with our kick return stuff."

Nonetheless, it was Scotland's best season since 2006. For France there was only the ignominy of a first wooden spoon.

Now speculation about the composition of the Lions team can begin in earnest. One thing is sure, Wales will have the largest complement of players. Indeed their whole back line, apart from fly-half, is likely to make the trip. Wales lost their first game. But how things can change in one short championship.

Nadal, Sharapova win Indian Wells

RAFA Nadal added another triumphant chapter to his remarkable comeback when he came from a set and 0-2 down to beat Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina 4-6 6-3 6-4 in the BNP Paribas Open final on March 17.

The Spanish left-hander, who was sidelined for seven months last year with a left knee injury, overcame a gritty challenge from the hard-hitting Argentine to win a record 22nd ATP Masters title, and a third at Indian Wells.

Fifth seed Nadal broke Del Potro in the third game of the final set and, after his opponent had saved three match points in the ninth, served out to seal victory after an absorbing final that lasted two hours 29 minutes.

"I started the match playing fantastic, then Del Potro started playing a little more aggressive," 11-time grand slam champion Nadal, who moved fluently during the match, said courtside after hugging his opponent at the net.

"In my opinion, I tried to change too early against his forehand. I was playing much too aggressive for my game. When I was able to calm myself, I began to play better. I started to play a little bit slower. My movement was unbelievable.

It was Nadal's 53rd ATP singles title, his third of the year after appearing in four successive finals, and his first on a hard-court surface since Tokyo in 2010.

The Spaniard made an impressive start, holding serve after a



COMEBACK KING: Nadal poses with trophy after winning Indian Wells.

marathon first game where he controlled a series of protracted baseline rallies, then breaking Del Potro in the second, though it took him four break points.

Nadal surprisingly failed to hold in the fifth after dictating almost every rally, losing the game when 2009 US Open champion Del Potro blasted a backhand crosscourt winner with his service return.

Growing in confidence and continually attacking with his forehand, the towering Argentine again broke Nadal in the ninth when his opponent blasted a forehand long.

Del Potro then held serve to take the first set in 54 minutes.

An out-of-sorts Nadal failed to hold in the first game of the second set, trailing 30-40 after a blistering forehand pass by the Argentine and then netting a fore-

hand to give Del Potro the break.

The next four games went with serve before Nadal, urged on by roars of "Rafa, Rafa, Rafa" that echoed around the Stadium Court, broke Del Potro in the sixth when the Argentine hit a forehand long.

The Argentine survived three breaks points before holding serve in an energy-sapping first game in the final set but he failed to hold in the third as the Spaniard crunched a forehand winner down the line to lead 2-1.

There was no way back from there for Del Potro, who had upset world number three Andy Murray in the quarter-finals and top-ranked Novak Djokovic in the last four.

He did well to save three match points after going 0-40 down on serve in the ninth before holding, but Nadal served out for victory



Sharapova lunges for the ball during a match at Indian Wells. Photos: Reuters

in the 10th, needing only one more match point to add a third Indian Wells title to his previous wins in 2007 and 2009.

Maria Sharapova played aggressively from the start to win her first title since last year's French Open with a 6-2 6-2 demolition of Caroline Wozniacki in the BNP Paribas Open final on March 17.

In a showdown between two former world number ones, the second-seeded Russian overpowered the Dane with a ruthless display, breaking her twice in each set to seal victory in one hour 21 minutes.

Sharapova was in attack mode throughout with an array of deep ground strokes and superb serving to claim her second title at Indian Wells after winning for the first time in 2006.

The 25-year-old Russian ended

the match in champion style with a 109 mph service winner before raising both arms skywards in celebration.

"What makes it so special is when you end up as the champion, that's why I am smiling," a beaming Sharapova said courtside after extending her run of at least one WTA title each year since 2003.

"It was a tough match, a tough battle, and there were a lot of games that went to deuce and a lot of long games.

"They could have easily swung the other way, especially some opportunities she had in that second set. But I always felt like I was a foot ahead, especially with the breaks. I was able to serve well today, and that helped me."

— Reuters



Thailand Open champion Prayad Marksaeng teeing off.

Prayad finally wins the Thailand Open

HUA Hin resident Prayad Marksaeng ended a five-year title drought in great style, firing a superb 64 in the final round to beat Australia's Scott Strange by two strokes to capture the US\$1 million (29mn baht) Thailand Open at Thana City Golf & Sports Club on March 17.

The 47-year-old said at the beginning of the tournament that the par 72, 6,966-yard layout, designed by Greg Norman, isn't very challenging. But, he was nowhere near the leaders in the last three days until making his move on the final day. Starting three shots behind leader Lucas Lee, the Thai sprinkled his round with nine birdies against just one bogey on the fifth and signed off in style with a winning 24-under 264.

"I had no pressure going into the final day as I was not the leader. I started well with three birdies and I kept the momentum going. I was pretty relaxed playing alongside Simon Yates [who is also based in Hua Hin]," said Prayad, who received a winner's cheque of US\$180,000 (5.2mn baht).

Prayad savoured the taste of an international trophy after a gap of five years. His last triumph came in the JGTO series, the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament in Japan in November 2008. By winning the Thailand Open, he became the third Thai to win the trophy, presented on behalf of His Majesty the King, after Suthep Meesawat in 1991 and Boonchu Ruangkit twice in 1992 and 2004.

"After I birdied on the 16th I knew I had the chance. I'm so proud to win this trophy of His Majesty the King. I would like to dedicate this victory to all the Thai people and I'm happy it belongs to a Thai," said Prayad, who has 10 international victories, six on the Asian Tour and four on the Japan Tour.

When asked how he felt, an emotional Prayad just said, "I'm happy." With his voice trembling, the Thai was simply too

overwhelmed to continue the post match interview. He later celebrated his long awaited international victory by jumping into the pond on the 18th hole. His 24-under equalled the tournament's record set by defending champion Chris Wood at the Suwan Golf Club last year.

"My goal from now is to have better results on the Japan Tour," said Prayad whose three previous Japan Tour victories came in 2008. He flew to Kuala Lumpur on March 18 to enter the European Tour sanctioned Maybank Malaysian Open.

While Prayad was hot on his heels, overnight leader Lee and strong contenders Mu Hu of China and defending champion Wood were pretty poor. Lee hit a 73 and had to settle with 18-under-par 270, Hu and Wood carded a 70 each for a 268 which placed them at tied fourth along with South Korea's Jung-gon Hwang, Min-gyu Cho, David McKenzie of Australia and Scotland's Simon Yates.

Prayad's only main rival at the later stage of the final round was Australian Strange who was trailing him by just one stroke going into the final hole. But the 2009 OneAsia No 1 hit his second shot into the bunker and had to finish with a bogey and a 67 for a total 22-under 266 for second, one ahead of compatriot Nick Cullen, with a 267.

Last year's Asian Tour No 1 Thaworn Wiratchant saved the best for last as he carded a 63 for a four-day total of 18-under 270 to land at joint 12th along with Lucas Lee, South Korea's Kyoung-hoon Lee and Do-hoon Kim, Japan's Daisuke Maruyama, Kazuhiro Yamashita and Australia's Brad Kennedy and David Smail.

"I was putting very well today. 18 under is quite a good score and I think this week's field gives me some idea about how competitive the Japan Tour is," said Thaworn, who will play the next OneAsia series in Indonesia next week.

— *The Nation*

FIVB returns to Phuket



Xi Zhang goes down to keep the ball alive in an FIVB event in 2011. Photo: Gazette File

THE Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Beach Volleyball World Tour event, the 'Thailand Open' powered by PTT, is set to return to Karon Beach, Phuket, this year.

After staging the event in Phuket for six years, the tournament was moved to Bang Saen, near Pattaya, last year but changes to the regulations by the FIVB have allowed the organizers to reconsider using Phuket to stage the tournament.

Mr Geoffrey Rowe, managing director of Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd, the license-holders for the tournament, told the *Phuket Gazette* last week that "the move away from Phuket to Bang Saen was made on financial grounds.

"However the FIVB has amended the regulations to encourage more promoters to stage events. The result is that the overall cost structure has been reduced making it viable to return to Karon Beach.

"Prior to selecting Phuket, we considered other venues interested in hosting the event, [including] Hua-hin, Pattaya and Samui.

"However, Phuket was considered the most suitable venue as Karon Beach has the best quality sand and the most picturesque setting. At the same time, the local sponsors in Phuket who previously supported the event are all keen to continue. "Now, we need the provincial authorities

to agree to us using the venue. Once this is done we can start preparations," he said.

The 2013 tournament will be part of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Open series and is expected to draw leading teams from around the globe to Karon Beach, which, as one of the few natural beaches on which the FIVB beach volleyball tour is played, has always been popular with the teams.

Past winners of the tournament include the current Olympic Champions, Kerry Walsh and Misty May-Treanor and former World Champions Jennifer Kessy and April Ross. A big draw of the tournament will include the participation this year of at least three Thai teams.

To create local interest in the sport, beach volleyball clinics and an inter-schools tournament will be held alongside the main event.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For further information, please contact Pentangle Promotions Co, Ltd on 02-311 3414/5 or see this website: pentanglepromotions.com

The *Phuket Gazette* is a proud, charter sponsor of this world-class event, as are PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show — now aired eight times a week on UBC/True Visions (channels 99 and 58).

Fair Play League finished

THE final round of the Fair Play League (FPL) was held at British International School (BIS) on March 17. The under-11 division kicked off proceedings with each team wanting a strong finish to the season.

In the final group of matches, Brazil claimed 2nd place with a 1-1 tie with Spain, who were crowned champions. Thailand got their only win of the day with a 4-0 victory over England. At the close of the final game, each under-11 player received a FPL 2013 medal.

The under-14 division players took to the pitch with all to play for in the final

set of games for each team, Brazil proved too strong for Thailand Green winning 5-1.

Thailand Blue finished the season well with a 2-1 win over 2nd placed Spain, and Argentina finished as under-14 champions with a 5-2 win over England. At the final whistle each player received a FPL 2013 medal.

Next up for Phuket Soccer Schools will be the popular weekly camp program that runs from April 8 to April 19 and is suitable for boys and girls of all ability, aged 4-12.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Young stallion

PHUKET-based racing driver Dylan Young, who is sponsored by the Indigo Pearl Phuket and KU DE TA Singapore, was back in Australia recently as a guest of the Ferrari Formula 1 team.

Dylan attended a cocktail party for the opening round of the Formula 1 World Championship in Melbourne last weekend.

At the party he met with the boss of the most famous team in Formula 1, Ferrari F1 team

principal Stefano Domenicali, to discuss his future and hopes of breaking into Formula 1 in the coming seasons.

Young is looking at undertaking another season in the MRF Formula 2000 Championship across Asia in 2013, which kicks off later this year and some of the MRF races will take place before certain Formula 1 World Championship races in Asia.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Dylan Young (right) with Ferrari team principal Stefano Domenicali

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An archer gets in some practice before the Phuket Archery Open.

Archers set their sights on Phuket

By Andrew Scott

THE front lawn of the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town hosted a press conference held by the Phuket Archery Club on March 16, to announce the 3rd Phuket Archery Open, to be held April 6.

The organizer of the competition, Montree Thammakij, outlined the event saying: "We have 11 types of competition and 57 trophies, along with medals and certificates, which will be handed out by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

"The object of this project is to improve [archers] skills through actual experience," he said.

The competition will have three categories; Recurve Bow, Compound Bow and Traditional Bow, over distances of 10, 18 and 30 meters. Each category will be split into three age groups: under-12 years, under-18 years and 18 and over. There will also be a team competition.

President of Phuket Archery Club, Bandit Santikul, noted that the club has some very skilled members in its ranks.

"We were founded about three years ago and [have since] sent our archers to participate in competitions around Thailand."

Narin Tantangtrong [boy's junior], won 3rd place using a Recurve Bow at an archery

competition in the capital in September of 2012.

A Phuket Archery Club team finished 4th (Compound Bow men's general) at the 41st National Games held in Chiang Mai in December 2012, which was the first time archery was included in that competition.

Pann Tantangtrong won 2nd place (boy's under-12 years old) using a Recurve Bow at the recent Kasetsart Archery Competition, in January 2013.

The registration deadline for the Phuket Archery Open is March 31. The competition will be held at the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town on April 6.

The 3rd Phuket Archery Open schedule is below:

9-9:45am: 1st round

10:30-11am: 2nd round

1-5pm: Team competition and the final round

5-6pm: Prize giving and closing ceremony by Saroj Angkanapilas, president of the Sport Association of Phuket

The Phuket Archery Club will together with the Phuket Municipality Summer Camp to offer a special course for students and youngsters from March 25 to April 25.

For information on the Phuket Archery Open, visit: [facebook.com/phuket.archery](https://www.facebook.com/phuket.archery) or call 081 979 5680.

Patong pull clear at the top



Patong's Kishor Jhagta bowling to Danny Taylor at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG). Photo: Phuket Cricket Group

AFTER securing a first win of the season in their last match, the Village were confident of another successful outing against the current league leaders, Patong, who went down in their last match to Jabudays.

With only 3 points separating the top four teams, a win for the Village, last season's runners up, would put them back in contention, whereas a win for Patong would advance them one step closer to securing a finals berth. The Village posted a good score of 193-6 batting first. However, Patong eventually ran out comfortable winners, reaching their target scoring 196-7 in the 28th over.

After winning the toss, Patong put the Village into bat. The Village looked very determined to survive the initial 10 overs without loss, with Mark Roberts (25) and Craig Murphy (24) putting on a decent opening stand, until Roberts fell just two balls before drinks with the score on 38.

Martin Platts (11) then joined Murphy advancing the scoreboard to 54 runs before he was dismissed. However, Murphy and Martin Foster (32) then put on a useful 46 run partnership before Murphy lost his wicket in the 23rd over. Foster was joined by Danny

Taylor (39), who combined for a 48 run partnership to take the score to 148, until Foster was bowled shortly before the 30 over drinks break.

Mark Whetton (15) and Mark Ashman (12 not out) also provided valuable contributions to enable the Village to reach their highest innings total this season with 193 runs after 35 overs. Pick of the bowlers for Patong were Kishor Jhagta (0 for 13 from 7 overs) and Dave Watson (2 for 37).

After the lunch break, Patong set out to chase down the Village total. However, they got off to a shaky start, losing three early wickets for only 28 runs and the Village had their tails up, hopeful of an upset. However, Patrick Morton (78) and Neil Quail (32) combined for a match winning 94 run partnership before Quail fell shortly before the 20 over drinks break with the score on 122.

Patong captain, Anthony Van Blerk (15) then joined Morton to advance the score to 151 runs for the loss of five wickets before he was dismissed. The Village desperately needed to take wickets as Patong were speeding along at a run rate of seven runs per over. They eventually claimed the prized scalp of Morton in the

25th over with the score on 171. However, Manish Sadarangani (21 not out) brought Patong home to victory in the 28th over. Pick of the bowlers for the Village were Craig Patterson (3 for 51), Tom Gordon (2 for 31) and Craig Murphy (2 for 45).

Patong have now extended their lead at the top of the table.

On Sunday, March 24, Patong take on the undefeated Laguna, who, with two matches in hand, will be looking to advance up the table.

— *Phuket Gazette*

JLL HOTELS LEAGUE 2012-2013				
Team	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Patong	6	4	2	27
ICC	6	3	3	21
TNT	6	2	4	20
Laguna	4	3	0	19
Village	6	1	4	12



THE second round of Phuket Cricket Group's Junior Sawasdee League took place at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Saturday March 16, with the PCG Youth Academy teams taking on HeadStart International School.

In match 1, PCG A (226) played PCG B (200). Kimon and Hue top scored for the PCG A team with 68 runs. For PCG B team, Ryan and Harry top scored with 61 runs.

In match 2, HeadStart A (199) played HeadStart B (160). Tin and Josh top scored for HeadStart A team with 74 runs. For the HeadStart B team, Ferry

and JH scored 61.

In the playoff final, HeadStart A (255) played PCG A (232). PCG A put up a good fight with Harry and Bonnie scoring 67. However, HeadStart A proved too strong with JH and Josh scoring 75.

The PCG youth academy training sessions take place every Saturday morning at the ACG. All children are welcome.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Please contact Mark Ashman chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com for further details.

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MAN OF THE MATCH: Phuket's Geoffrey Doumeng (right), defends Suzuki Si Racha's Pornsak Pongthong in last Saturday's match. Photos: Steven Layne

By Andrew Scott and Steven Layne

THE Southern Sea Warriors won their first Thailand Yamaha One League (YL1) game of the season, beating Suzuki Si Racha FC 3-1 in front of about 4,200 fans at Surakul Stadium last Saturday.

Last season, Phuket lost both of its YL1 league matches – home and away – against the Suzuki Si Racha 'Blue Marlins', but this year, the tide seems to have turned.

Phuket FC attacked Si Racha from the kickoff and their early pressure paid off in the 8th minute when Geoffrey Doumeng capitalized on a blocked shot by Sakareya Kolae to loft the ball over the keeper and into the goal from 10 yards out.

Phuket looked to be playing a 4-4-1-1 formation with the tireless Luiz "Dudu" Purcino chasing every pass in the final third, with Geoffrey Doumeng playing just behind him.

This blossoming partnership was a constant threat to Si Racha and in the 18th minute Dudu used his blistering pace to latch onto a through pass on the right and slip the ball under the advancing keeper from the just inside the box.

After the second goal, Phuket FC sat back and took the pressure off Si Racha, who capitalized on this by pulling a goal back when Sutjarit Chantakol rose the highest to win a header from a corner in the 43rd minute.



Dudu, left, and Si Racha's Tanet Penypat.

The half time team talk revitalized Phuket and they started the second half in the same manner they started the first.

Geoffrey Doumeng, who was the game's man of the match, was at the heart of every attack for Phuket and his composure on the ball and eye for a pass caused Si Racha a lot of problems.

Phuket's third goal was scored by Dudu converting a misplaced shot by Doumeng past Si Racha's goal keeper.

The Southern Sea Warriors first win of the season moved them up to third in the league on five points. Si Racha are bottom of the league with only one point from three games.

Phuket FC's next match is a Toyota Cup match against a strong YL1 team, PTT Rayong FC, on Saturday, March 23, at Surakul Stadium at 6:30pm. The team then hit the road to play their next YL1 fixture away to TTM Lopburi on March 31, before returning home to play Royal Navy on April 7.

TOYOTA LEAGUE CUP
ROUND 1
PHUKET FC
VS
PTT RAYONG

KICKOFF 18.30 @ SURAKUL STADIUM, MARCH 23

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE 2013			
TOP SCORERS			
1	PICHAD INBANG | BBCU	4	
2	LUIZ PURCINO | PHUKE FC	3	
3	LEE TUCK | BANGKOK FC	3	
4	PROMPHONG | KORAT FC	3	
5	LEANDRO | PORT LIONS	3	



YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Port Lions	3	+4	9
2	Bangkok	3	+3	7
3	Air Force Utd.	2	+2	6
4	Phuket	3	+1	6
5	BBCU	3	+2	5
6	PTT Rayong	3	+2	5
7	Krabi	2	+3	4
8	Rayong Utd.	3	+2	4
9	Korat FC	3	+1	4
10	Trat	3	0	4
11	Saraburi	3	0	4
12	Royal Navy	3	0	4
13	Nakhon Pathom	3	-1	2
14	Khonkaen	3	-2	1
15	Rayong	3	-2	1
16	Sriracha	3	-4	1
17	TTM Lopburi	3	-5	1
18	Ayutthaya FC	3	-5	1

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