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Phuket Gazette

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See What's On, Page 31

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■ 400,000 BAHT REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO CAPTURE

Killer at large after gold heist

■ Manhunt launched after thief guns down customer in robbery at busy mall

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

THE identity of the man who killed a customer while robbing a Phuket gold shop last Monday night is still unknown, but there is now a warrant for his arrest and the reward for information leading to his capture has been doubled to 400,000 baht.

The robber made off with gold jewelry valued at more than 2.32 million baht.

"We believe he is still in Phuket," Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said on Tuesday night.

"We have notified every police station in Phuket and nearby provinces of the robbery," Gen Choti added.

Apichet Chooklang, 32, went to C.P. Gold Master & Jewelry at Tesco Lotus on the bypass road on Monday night with his fiancée to exchange a necklace, and was shot in the chest after he confronted the thief. Rushed to nearby Phuket International Hospital, he was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival.

Donations for his funeral in his native Nakhorn Sri Thammarat have poured in from officials touched by his bravery...



The thief caught on CCTV after fatally shooting Apichet Chooklang during the robbery.

Zero death goal target of strict no booze rule

AUTHORITIES promise to enforce strict rules to ensure safety over the Songkran holiday Seven Days of Danger, from April 11-18.

"This year we will be strict on drunk driving, speeding, wrong lane driving, driving without a license, not using safety belts and not wearing helmets," said Sakchai Limcharoen, Phuket Provincial Deputy Commander...

Continued on Page 3

Post-war photos may validate sea gypsy land rights

Thailand's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has obtained historical aerial photographs of the Rawai beachfront dating as far back as 1950.

The treasure trove of photos may be the evidence needed to save the village from being plundered by private investors.

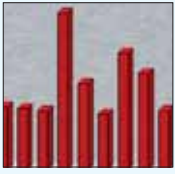
Full story on Page 4

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This Week



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A day in the life of a family-owned boiled rice shop. **Page 34**



Health
A man's quest from fighting fit to fighting to walk again. **Page 36-37**



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Pit bull victim in fight to save leg

By Irfan Jamdukor

THE Phuket resident savaged by a neighbor's pit bull terriers in February is still in hospital fighting to save his right leg, which sustained a deep wound in the attack.

Tiensak Aikpaiboon, 33, was moved to Bangkok Hospital Bangkok after going into shock following skin graft surgery in Phuket.

"He was in the ICU [in Phuket] for four days," his mother, Benjarat Aikpaiboon, explained.

"Then we moved him to Bangkok on March 20," she added.

On Wednesday, April 3, he had further surgery in Bangkok and went into shock again.

"He is okay now, resting in the hospital. However, he still needs at least two more operations," Mrs Benjarat said last Thursday.

"We are doing our best to keep his leg," Mrs Benjarat said.

Medical bills have spiralled to over one million baht, and more bills are coming, his mother said.

Mr Tiensak, speaking briefly over the phone, said in a weak voice, "My wounds still hurt."

Seeking justice is likely to take time.

"The dog owners have yet to



Tiensak Aikpaiboon, 33, underwent another operation on his leg at Bangkok Hospital in Bangkok Wednesday morning.

be charged. We are still investigating the case," explained Lt Col Sanich Nookong of the Wichit Police.

He explained that progress in the case was taking time "because both parties must come in together to settle the problem at the police station."

"We cannot make any progress in the case until both parties are free to enter negotiations at the station," Col Sanich said.

Mrs Benjarat's lawyer said the family will seek damages by civil suit against the dogs' owners, named as Prasert and Jantra Kulweeraaree, 69 and 65 years old.

"We will file for compensation, but it will be after the medical treatment has concluded because Mrs Benjarat is busy with her son at the hospital," her lawyer said.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin

Increased cases of H7N9 bird flu in China put Phuket on alert

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has set up rapid-response teams and alerted all hospitals on the island to monitor patients for any signs of the H7N9 bird flu virus.

The move follows Chinese officials finding traces of the new strain of bird flu in more areas in Shanghai and in the nearby city of Hangzhou.

"Thailand has not identified a single person with H7N9, and over the past five years Thailand has had no reported cases of anyone contracting H5N1 bird flu," said Phuket health chief Bancha Kakong.

Although Phuket has never had any reported cases of H5N1 or

H7N9 in humans or poultry, the heavy volume of international tourists arriving on the island has caused the health chief to order hospitals to be on alert.

"To be ready for H7N9, every hospital in Phuket will strictly monitor patients who have serious respiratory symptoms similar to those brought on by pneumonia and influenza. Surveillance Rapid Response Teams [SRRTs] have been ordered to be ready around the clock," Dr Bancha said.

"If you see any poultry you suspect may have the virus, call us at 076-211330, ext 305-306," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin

Russian tour company worker freed

THE Russian woman arrested for working illegally at a tour counter in Kata last week has been released after her company proved to Phuket police that she was legal.

Natalia Nikiforova, 33, was arrested at the Rus Info Tour Center in Kata on April 3 for working without a work permit and for illegally entering the country.

Karon Police, however, confirmed to the Gazette on Monday that they dropped the charges against Ms Nikiforova after they were shown the Russian's passport, complete with valid visa and permit-to-stay, and her work permit, also current and valid.

The Gazette has received copies of the original documents.



Natalia Nikiforova, 33, is back at work at the Rus Info Tour Center at Phuket's west-coast Kata Beach.

Ms Nikiforova was arrested after she was found without her passport or her work permit on her person when the officers raided the tour counter and requested to see the original documents.

"We are not going to press charges as her employer presented to us her passport and legal work permit," Lt Ratthapol Deethongon explained.

For the inconvenience, Ms Nikiforova spent a night in a police cell.

However, she may still face legal action.

"We will pass the case file to the public prosecutor, who may still press charges against her for not carrying her passport and her work permit on her person," Lt Ratthapol added.

— Orawin Narabal



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Having fun is the plan, but safely.
Photo: Gazette file

Songkran safety top priority

From page 1

...Teams of officers will be on the lookout for dangerous driving and water playing," Col Sakchai said.

"And we have increased the number of checkpoints from 10 to 15," he added.

"Road safety is our main priority. We will issue warnings for any legal but dangerous or inappropriate behaviors," he said.

"Authorities cannot act alone in preventing accidents. People should also be very careful during the holiday for their own safety. During Songkran in Phuket last year there were 44 accidents with 43 injured and three dead. I hope that we will have a zero death toll this year," he added.

Mr Sakchai also mentioned that anyone who spots illegal or dangerous incidents can report them directly by calling 911 or going to the nearest police station. The police will act immediately.

"I urge everyone to enjoy the holidays in the six main 'water play zones' where water play will be legal. There is a 100% ban on alcohol in these zones," he said.

Patong has special plans to help keep revelers safe – they will set up a "Songkran Festival Service and Assistance Center" at the Patong City sign on Patong Hill to assist residents and travelers around the town.

"We will provide water, coffee and energy booster drinks. Drunk travelers are also welcome to rest at the center before continuing their journey," said Patong Municipality Officer Prawit Rattanachot.

See also: *Origins of Songkran on page 33; Tourists splash out at Songkran on page 8.*

Police launch manhunt for gold shop heist killer

From page 1

...C.P. Gold Master & Jewelry have donated 200,000 baht to the man's family and recently doubled the reward to 400,000 baht for information leading to the arrest of the thief.

Based on CCTV images, police believe the man they are looking for is the same one who robbed a branch of Kasikornbank in Wichit on January 7.

"He walks with a limp, just like the gunman wanted for robbing the Kasikornbank Tesco Lotus Chaofa branch," Gen. Choti said.

"We suspect it is the same man. We are comparing CCTV images," he added, describing the suspect as "quite plump".

The suspect arrived at the jewelry store by motorbike and entered at about 6:10pm wearing a face mask, helmet, dark t-shirt, black jeans and shoes, and carrying a black bag and what appeared to police to be a .38 pistol, Gen Choti said.

"He was not wearing gloves when he took the gold from the display cases, so we collected his fingerprints and we will send them to the Forensic Science Region 8 office in

Surat Thani to be examined," he said.

Bullets removed from Mr Apichet's body will also be sent for forensic examination, the general added.

"We have more information about the robber from witnesses' statements. We are working to summarize all the details, collect more evidence and question more witnesses. We will try to find the robber and arrest him as soon as possible," he explained.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the nearest police station or call the Phuket Provincial Police at 076-212 046.

Death of a good man

'If he could help other people... he would die happy'

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

APICHET Chooklang, the 32-year-old bartender at Novotel Phuket Resort Patong who was killed in a gold shop robbery Monday evening, was remembered by the girlfriend he planned to marry next year as a generous man who loved to help others.

Satika Chansawat, 24, a bartender at Sea Pearl Villas Resort in Patong, told the *Gazette* in a shaking voice, "May he rest in peace. I will miss him always. He was a good person and I am proud of him and what he did. The only thing I regret is that I did not have a chance to say goodbye to him because everything happened so fast."

Recounting the events of the night before, she said, "Before going to the gold shop, we went to see a movie at Central Festival. After that we went home to Patong for awhile and then went down to the gold shop on the bypass road to exchange a gold necklace.

"As we were choosing the necklace, I heard the shop staff shout that there was a robber in the shop, so I crouched down," said Ms Satika.

"Apichet walked toward the robber. I tried to tell him not to go. I think he didn't see the robber had a gun, since he hadn't raised it yet," she added.

"He had some knowledge of martial arts and he used to serve in the military, so he might have thought he could stop the thief.



Satika Chansawat and Apichet Chooklang (inset) worked as bartenders in Patong. They were to marry next year. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"And he had actually managed to stop two other robberies.

"When the robber saw him coming, he shot him twice in the chest. I saw him fall on the floor but couldn't go to him because I was afraid of being shot," she said.

Ms Satika recalled how her fiancé often helped other people.

"Sometimes he arrived home after work with dirty clothes and I found out he had stopped on the way to help people who had been

in a car or motorcycle accident," she explained.

"Whenever he saw news on TV about a good person helping other people, he always admired them and said that those people are to be respected. If he could help other people as they did, he would die happy," Ms Satika said.

One of Mr Apichet's cousins, Ekkapol Chainuruk, explained that Mr Apichet's parents died years ago and he was an only child.

The owner of the C.P. Gold Master & Jewelry store, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette* that the gold shop is not insured, "But the gold we lost was not as important as the life of a good man... If we are lucky we will get the gold back, but he will never return to his family," he said.

"I always tell my staff to hide if the shop is robbed. I do not want anyone to be hurt," the owner said.

"I feel so sad for Mr Apichet. He was a good man who tried to stop the crime. We contacted the family to inform them that we are here if they need anything," he added.

The store owner has donated 200,000 baht to Mr Apichet's family and offered a reward of 400,000 baht for information leading to the arrest of the thief.

He was not alone in being impressed with Mr Apichet's actions. A number of Phuket officials have stepped forward with donations: Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut gave 20,000 baht; Phuket Red Cross president Pavinee Inthusut (Governor Maitri's wife) gave 10,000 baht; and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat also made contributions to Mr Apichet's funeral.

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Teacher who joined Hajj too often rehired

PARINYA Payadsub was fired after going on the Hajj three times in five years, breaking a school rule that allows staff to join the Hajj once every five years.



Parinya Payadsub
Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Following protests when Mr Parinya was fired, the school board agreed to reconsider their decision, and agreed to reinstate Mr Parinya.

"He is a teacher who has made valuable contributions to the school during his 10 years here," said Kittis Islam, Director of the Muslim Wittaya School.

The committee decided that the 10,000 baht they deducted from his salary last year was punishment enough; however, he will be on probation for the next academic year.

The school board continues to maintain its rule that staff may join the Hajj only once every five years, he added.

— *Irfarn Jamdukor*

Aerial photos may help sea gypsies

By Orawin Narabal

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has obtained historical aerial photographs of the Rawai beachfront dating as far back as 1950, which may be the evidence needed to save the village from being plundered by private investors.

Lt Col Prawuth Wongsinil, chief of the DSI's Consumer and Environment Protection Office, inspected the village on April 5 as part of an investigation to confirm how long the sea gypsy community has been living at Phuket's southernmost beach.

The inspection followed the vow of Pol Col Narat Savetanant, director-general of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, to investigate land claims to plots inside the sea gypsy village.

"The Rawai sea gypsies filed a complaint, asking us to examine evidence in their village to prove they have been living in the area for generations," Col Prawuth said.

The evidence being sought is hoped to predate land ownership documents for the area, which would invalidate ongoing claims over land plots inside the village.

The Phuket court recently upheld claims to plots within the boundaries of the village on the basis of land documents produced, a ruling that has thrown the sea gypsy community into disarray as they are now fighting court-ordered evictions.

"We have aerial photographs of the area from 1950, 1967, 1976 and 1995 until now. The aerial photographs from 1967 show the sea gypsies have been living in the area since then," Col Prawuth said.

"We are going to get more aerial photographs, taken in other years. We believe they will help us gain a clearer understanding of how long the sea gypsies have been living here," he explained.

Specialists will review the photographs to determine if any structures featured in images taken decades ago remain today, hence establishing continuous occupation of the land.



DSI investigators checking a well, one of the structures at the sea gypsy community which may prove continuous occupation of the land. Photo: Orawin Narabal

"If so, the photos could be used to prove that the land has been occupied since the date the image was taken," Col Prawuth explained.

The inspection team noted details of the village and collected samples as evidence. Among the items collected was a human arm

bone was recently found at the site.

"The age of the bone will be able to tell us the year that the land was occupied," Col Prawuth explained.

"We will take the evidence we collected today to discuss with archeologists and forensic officers in Bangkok," he added.

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Phuket joins Royal project to change cans into legs

THE chief of the Phuket Environment Office is calling for donations of aluminum to donate to a nationwide project that seeks to recycle at least 80 tons of aluminum into prosthetic legs.

The project, initiated by the Prostheses Foundation of HRH The Princess Mother, aims to reduce the volume of garbage and make prosthetic legs more affordable.

"The cost of an imported prosthetic leg is around 10,000 baht, while one made with recycled aluminum will be about 700 baht," Dr Pornsri Suthanarak said.

"Examples of the aluminum we can recycle are: cans, ring pulls, lids of power drinks and glass bottled water, mag wheels, parts of bicycles or airplanes, powder cases, crutches, canes and walkers," she said.

The national target is 80 tons this year.

"I have set a target of more than one ton in each of the five provinces in my jurisdiction: Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

"One ton can produce 1,000 prosthetic legs," Dr Pronsri said.

Donations can be made at any Phuket municipality office or any local municipality office or Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

Alternatively, donations can be dropped off at the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization or at the Regional Environmental Office 15, located at the parade of offices in front of the Katina Hotel on Sakdidee Road.



Dr Pornsri Suthanarak aims to collect one ton of aluminum in Phuket this year. Photo: Saran Mitratrat

Up to 5kg can also be sent by mail, free of charge, through any Thailand Post Office, addressed to:

Pollution Control Office
92 Sam Sen Nai, Phaya Thai
Bangkok 10400

For more information, call 076-219329 or email reo15.org@mnre.mail.go.th

— *Saran Mitratrat*

Thailand on brink of pushing same-sex marriage in Asean

AROUND THE nation

THAILAND could become the first country in Asia to legalize civil unions for gay people, if a push to get a bill through Parliament is successful later this year.

The House of Representatives is soon expected to consider a law allowing gays and lesbians to enter into civil partnerships. The law would not incorporate the rights of transgender people, leading to some campaigners to claim it does not go far enough.

Nevertheless, only three countries in Asia are currently considering such a move: Taiwan, Vietnam and Thailand.

"If we push it through first, we will become pioneers in the Asia-Pacific region," gender rights activist Chumaporn Taengkliang of



Having found each other on Facebook and dated for three years, Thongchai Rattanakaew wed Chumwit Sudsai in front of their parents and 200 guests in Trang's Huay Yot district in January last year. Photo: Nation file

the Anjaree group told *The Nation*. "The process in Vietnam is still in its inception as they are trying to petition the court, while in Taiwan it's about rewriting the marriage law. Thailand has the best chance, if it is put for debate in the House."

Mrs Chumaporn said some Members of Parliament already

supported the move and had asked activists to collect signatures to "make the push more substantial."

However, there was likely to be opposition, she said.

"No group has come out to oppose it publicly yet, but we expect there to be opposition both inside and outside the Parliament,"

she explained. "Parents may be worried that it will set a trend for their children and teachers might think they will have more work to do. In reality, the bill doesn't teach people to become homosexual, it merely guarantees their rights."

Thailand is often thought to be a tolerant country when it comes to the issue of homosexuality. But activists claim the nation still has a long way to go when it comes to genuine equality for LGBT people, who are often the victims of discrimination or even violence.

On June 28, 2011, a "tom" (lesbian) was murdered in Trat by her girlfriend's ex-boyfriend. The mother of the girlfriend engineered the murder of the tom and promised to marry off her daughter to the ex-boyfriend who committed the murder.

On January 15, 2009 in Chiang Mai, two 17-year old high-school students were found dead after having been stabbed over 60 times, most likely due to their lesbian relationship.

Prayuth cries foul over FBI terror ranking

ARMY Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha has asked the United States for "clarification" after it emerged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) ranks Thailand as the most likely country in Asia to suffer a terrorist attack.

Department of Special Investigations (DSI) chief Tharit Pengdit announced details of the FBI's assessment following a meeting with US FBI legal attache Daniel Powers last week.

Mr Tharit said the US agency believed Thailand was also the fifth-most at-risk country from terror attacks in the world.

The DSI chief said the FBI's assessment was due to Thailand's freedoms and position as regional hub of terrorist movements.

But Gen Prayuth was not convinced by the ranking. The Army chief said he sent word to a FBI-hosted meeting on the issue in Brunei, seeking clarification.

A military staffer from the US Embassy in Thailand who was present at the session explained that it was "a misunderstanding" and apologized.

Violence in Deep South continues despite talks

DEADLY violence continues in the Deep South provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat despite ongoing peace talks with an insurgent group.

On April 5, Yala Vice Governor Issara Thongthawat was killed when a 20-kilogram bomb exploded under his car.

Mr Issara was traveling with provincial civil defense chief Chaowalit Chai-ruek and a driver in a Toyota Camry, which was being escorted by a military vehicle. The explosion blew the sedan into the air and sent it tumbling for 50 meters from the blast site, according to a witness.

The body of Mr Chaowalit was thrown out of the sedan, while the two other passengers were trapped inside the vehicle.

Mr Issara was later pronounced dead in a hospital. At the time of writing, driver Stopa Jehloh re-



Officials inspect the car targeted in a roadside bomb attack that killed the Yala Vice Governor. Photo: Nation

mained in critical condition after receiving intensive emergency care.

Since an agreement to hold peace talks with the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) was signed on February 28, a Muslim marine was abducted from his home in Narathiwat and murdered on April 2.

On March 29, an Army captain was killed and 14 soldiers injured in a roadside bomb attack and ambush in Narathiwat.



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In brief...

China bird flu toll climbs to nine

THE death toll in China from a new strain of bird flu rose to nine on Tuesday. The latest victim was from Anhui province, reported state news agency Xinhua.

The H7N9 strain was confirmed in humans for the first time last month. The virus has now infected 28 people, all in eastern China.

The *China Securities Journal* reported on Wednesday that a vaccine for H7N9 has been authorized by China Food and Drug Administration and is expected to be introduced to the market in the first half of this year.

Iraqi al Qaeda cites Syria rebel cohorts

THE Iraqi wing of al Qaeda has announced that a rebel group at the forefront of the rebellion in Syria was its branch in that country and that both groups would operate under one name, according to the US-based SITE Intelligence Group.

The leader of the Islamic State in Iraq, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, said his group and Syria's al-Nusra Front – which has been black-listed by the United States – would now jointly go under the name of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the SITE Intelligence Group reported.

Wikileaks unveils Kissinger cables

INTERNATIONAL whistleblowing organization Wikileaks on Monday released its much-publicized "Project K", a collection of 1.7 million US diplomatic messages from 1973 to 1976 when Henry Kissinger was head of the State Department under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

"The period of the 1970s in diplomacy is referred to as the 'Big Bang.' This is when the modern international order came to be," founder Julian Assange said.

North Korea warns tourists to stay out of the South

NORTH Korea intensified threats of an imminent conflict against the United States and the South on Tuesday, warning foreigners to evacuate South Korea to avoid being dragged into a "merciless, sacred, retaliatory war".

The North's latest antagonistic message belied an atmosphere free of anxiety in the South Korean capital, where the city center was bustling with traffic and offices operated normally.

Pyongyang has shown no sign of preparing its 1.2 million-strong army for war, indicating the threat could be partly intended to bolster Kim Jong-un, 30, the third in his family to lead the reclusive country.

None of the embassies in Seoul appeared to have issued any directives to their nation-

als after the warning and airlines reported no changes in their schedules. Schools catering to foreign pupils worked without interruption.

The warning, read out on North Korea's state television in a bulletin that interrupted normal programming, was the latest threat in weeks of high tension following United Nations sanctions slapped on Pyongyang for its latest nuclear arms test.

The warning to foreigners, reported by the KCNA news agency said once war broke out "it will be an all-out war, a merciless, sacred, retaliatory war to be waged by (North Korea).

"It does not want to see foreigners in South Korea fall victim to the war," the agency reported. – Reuters



A South Korean soldier on border duty keeps watch to the north. Photo: Reuters

Thatcher, 87, remembered
Britain's 'Iron Lady' mourned, but critics speak out

By Guy Faulconbridge and Kate Holton

BRITAIN and admirers worldwide are mourning Margaret Thatcher, who has died aged 87, as the "Iron Lady" who rolled back the state and faced down her enemies during 11 years as Britain's first woman prime minister.

Her impact on the 1980s was such that opponents, including Labour's Tony Blair and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, led tributes to a legacy that radically transformed the British economy along free-market lines now widely taken for granted and includes her role in the peaceful end to the Cold War.

But while U.S. President Barack Obama spoke for many in the wider world in praising the grocer's daughter with the eyes as steely as her resolve, the scars of bitter struggles left Britain itself as deeply divided now as under her leadership.

Tuesday's newspapers told the story: "The Woman Who Saved Britain", declared the *Daily Mail* from the right; "The Woman Who Divided A Nation", headlined the left's *Daily Mirror*, which questioned the grand, ceremonial



Margaret Thatcher. October 13, 1925 - April 8, 2013. Photo: Reuters

funeral planned for next week.

Still Britain's only woman prime minister, the unyielding, outspoken Thatcher led her Conservative party to three election victories, governing from 1979 to 1990, the longest continuous term in office for a British premier in over 150 years.

She was loved and loathed in equal measure as she crushed trade

unions, privatized swathes of British industry, clashed with European allies and fought a distant and improbable war to recover the Falkland Islands from Argentina.

She struck up a close relationship with US President Ronald Reagan on the Cold War, backed the first President George Bush during the 1991 Gulf War, and was

among the first to discover that Gorbachev was a man she could "do business with".

"Very few leaders get to change not only the political landscape of their country but of the world. Margaret was such a leader. Her global impact was vast," said Tony Blair, whose term as Labour prime minister from 1997-2007 he acknowledged owed a debt to the former leader of his Conservative opponents.

The former premier died peacefully on Monday morning at the Ritz Hotel after a stroke. Having retreated into seclusion after being deposed by her party, the death of her businessman husband Denis in 2003 and creeping dementia had kept her out of the public eye for years. She had been in poor health for months.

A ceremonial funeral with military honors at London's St Paul's Cathedral next week will be short of a full state funeral, in accordance with her family's wishes.

Parliament, where she deployed fearsome and forensic debating skills that drew on her training as both a research chemist and a courtroom advocate, held a special session in her honor on Wednesday. – Reuters



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Phuket gets Thailand's first Evolution Cinema Planetarium

By Saran Mittrarat

ISLAND residents and tourists alike last week welcomed the opening of the Evolution Cinema Planetarium, a new 'edutainment' attraction in Phuket Town.

Located in front of the Central Festival Phuket main entrance, the new mobile cinema planetarium is the first of its kind in Thailand.

Presiding over the grand opening ceremony on April 9, Project Director Sergei Kovalev, said that the planetarium's opening in Phuket is a precursor to planned launches in Chiang Mai, Bangkok and Pattaya in the near future.

"The Evolution Planetarium is the newest generation of visualization systems for entertainment and studying, providing 360 degree panoramic views, [as] an option for children to develop their skills and imagination," he said.

Similar mobile theaters have previously been launched in China, Hong Kong, India, Russia and Ukraine, he added.

Sergei said that Phuket, as a well-known tourist attraction around the world, was an ideal



The first of its kind in Thailand.

choice for such an investment. "No other mobile cinema in the world can display a resolution of 7.7 megapixels with an 8.1 stereo sound system 8.1 in an air-conditioned hall," he said.

There are five movies in three languages – Thai, English and Russian – as follows: Guardians of the Sea (11am and 1pm); Kingdom of the Light (11:45am, 4:55pm and 7:15pm); Natural Selection (2:25pm, 5:30pm and 9:15pm); Dawn of the Space Age (12:20am, 4:10pm, 7:50pm and 10:10pm) and A Starry Tale (1:45pm and 8:35pm). Adult tickets are 495 baht, or 520 baht for a golden seat. For a special promotion period, youth aged 12-18-years-old get in for 150 baht, while children under 12 can get in for only 50 baht.

April festivities to rake in B700mn

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office expects upcoming festivities this month to generate between 600 and 700 million baht for the local economy.

TAT Southern Region 4 Office director Chanchai Doungjit talked about the current tourist situation ahead of the upcoming two-week festive period.

He announced that the holiday period officially started with Chakri Memorial Day, which was officially celebrated nationwide from April 6-8.

The Songkran Festival, starts on Thai New Year's Day, Saturday, April 13 and will be officially celebrated until Tuesday, April 16.

Mr Chanchai said that April is already a busy month for tourism since it is during the Thai summer school break (early March to early May): "From our inquiries with hotel operators, both at the beaches and in town,

occupancy is at about 75 to 80%. It will definitely increase during the Songkran period.

"Even if the Songkran Festival in Phuket can't compare with Chiang Mai in the North, or Bangkok, here we still have a number of noteworthy Songkran events, whether in Phuket Town or in Patong, where there will be the 'Water Festival on The Beach' event on April 12 and 13. Also, there is Big Bike Week, which will feature more than 5,000 big motorcycles coming to the island from April 14 to 21.

These activities will add a lot of color and vibrancy to Phuket's Songkran celebrations," he said.

Moreover, Mr Chanchai noted that European tourist arrivals to Phuket are still strong as it is still cold in Europe, adding that their numbers are expected to start declining next month.

Nonetheless, he remains bullish about the tourism industry



Chanchai Doungjit. Photo: Gazette file

overall, thanks to an influx of mostly Asian tourists from China, South Korea and neighboring countries, as well as Russia, the Middle East and India.

"Average occupancy around the island is at 60 to 65% and this [stems] from having direct flights to Phuket from all over Asia, which has made tourism in Phuket strong year round ... There is no low season here like in other tourist destinations," he concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Tesco shopping online

LEADING domestic hypermarket chain, Tesco Lotus, last week launched online grocery shopping and home delivery services for its customers in Bangkok.

Asked if the retail giant had plans to launch such services in Phuket, Ms Salinla Seehaphan, Corporate Affairs Director revealed that: "Our plan is to offer a convenient online grocery shopping service to all of our customers in Thailand, starting in Bangkok before the service is rolled out to other big cities around the country."

Initially established as a Joint Venture between UK-based Tesco and local retailer chain Lotus, (which was founded under the CP Group, but later sold), Tesco Lotus is currently operated by Bangkok based firm, Ek-Chai Distribution System Co Ltd.

According to a report in *The Nation*, the retail giant has already invested about 300 million baht in the development of its online shopping business in the Kingdom, with such funds allocated towards upgrading its IT systems, as well as stock management and related equipment, including the purchase of 30 delivery vans.

Commenting on the challenges and opportunities for the online shopping market, Ms Salinla commented: "Tesco Lotus is committed to innovation to meet the changing needs and lifestyles of today's consumers."

"We will combine online technology with our retail expertise to provide a great online shopping experience for customers."

"In today's hectic world our

customers need more help to make their lives easier – an 'extra pair of hands' to do the shopping for them.

"Tesco Lotus is ready to do just that – have specially trained personal shoppers to pick the best products and deliver them to customers at the time customers choose."

According to Tesco Lotus, overall internet penetration in Thailand is currently about 30%, up from 27.3% last year. However, in urban cities like Bangkok, the estimated rate is as high as 50% and about 25% in Chiang Mai and other northern provinces.

Meanwhile, the company said that more than 90% of people living in Thailand's urban areas had used smart phones.

Tesco Lotus CEO John Christie said that online shopping in Thailand, however, was quite small, accounting for less than 1% of total retail sales in Thailand.

In South Korea, online shopping accounted for 10% of total retail sales, and up to 12% of total retail market in the UK.

Tesco has operated its online grocery home shopping service in the UK for 12 years and online shopping business now accounts for about 4% of its total sales in UK.

Mr Christie said that Thailand is the 7th country in the world for the

firm to launch online shopping services, after the UK, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Ireland, South Korea, and Malaysia.

He said that Tesco had applied the same IT platform used at its online shopping service in many markets around the world to Thailand. It has, however, brought something new to online shopping in Thailand.

Mr Christie said that five Tesco Lotus stores in Bangkok – Rama II, Rama IV, Min Buri, Bangkapi, and Chaeng Wattana – were promoted as hubs for the home delivery of its online shopping service.

Mr Christie said that Tesco Lotus softly launched the grocery home shopping service at its Min Buri branch to test the system and trained its 'personal shoppers', who will be professionally trained for selecting products purchased by its customers online.

He said that more than 20,000 product items had been bought in the online service, including fresh and non-food products. About 30% of them are fresh products.

Tesco Lotus currently operates about 148 hypermarkets, together with 1,100 Express stores, in Thailand.

– *The Nation and Phuket Gazette*



Grocery shopping will never be the same again. Photo: Steven Layne

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The rise of technical goods

Telecommunications to drive growth in key Southeast Asian markets

THE Technical Consumer Goods (TCG) market in Thailand last year saw positive annual growth in six out of seven sectors tracked by a recent regional market survey.

The strong growth of TCG, which includes everything from smart phones, cameras, washing machines and cooking appliances, to TVs, tablets, air coolers and office equipment, was highlighted in a recent survey and report conducted by GfK, one of the world's largest research companies.

GfK's latest TEMAX (Technical Market Index) reports tracked TCG market trends and performance in five Southeast Asian nations: Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Steadily in 3rd

Out of seven TCG sectors tracked, Thailand's largest two sectors were Telecommunications (TC) and Information Technology (IT), which registered 60.6 billion baht and 61.7bn baht in sales volume throughout 2012.

This was equal to 27.1% and 13.4% year-on-year (y-o-y) growth, respectively.

Out of these two sectors, strong performance was seen in the smart phone(+27% y-o-y) and media tablet (+70% y-o-y) segments.

The third largest sector in Thailand in terms of sales volume was Major Domestic Appliances (MDA), which saw 29.8bn baht in sales (+11.8% y-o-y). Notable segments in this sector were cooling and washing machines, which reported nearly 50% y-o-y sales growth.

Thailand's photo sector (PH) also grew by 13.9% y-o-y, to just over 12bn baht in revenue. This is largely attributed to 150% annual growth in the interchangeable lens segment, which was driven by the increasingly popular mirrorless lens segment.

The Kingdom's Small Domestic Appliances (SDA) sector grew by 9.2% y-o-y to 7.8bn baht. This was attributed to strong sales performance of food preparation appliances

which garnered about 31% y-o-y growth.

Meanwhile, the Office Equipment and Consumables (OE) sector grew by 10.5% y-o-y to 4.1bn baht in sales.

Thailand's growth exception was the Consumer Electronics (CE) sector, which although was the third largest sector in terms of overall sales volume, yielded a 5% y-o-y decline.

This sector – which includes the LCD TV segment, but not smart phones (TC) and media tablets (IT) – barely managed to maintain sales over 2011.

Total spending in Thailand's CE sector was 41bn baht, with over half attributed to purchases of LCD TVs. This segment only grew by 2% over the previous year with sales slowing down in the second half of the year compared to the first.

All in, Thailand's TCG market amassed more than 217bn baht in value last year.

In the lead

Outperforming Thailand's TCG market were the respective markets of Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Indonesia and Malaysia continue to reign as the top growth engines in the Southeast Asia region, driven by a strong adoption trend of the latest gadgets across both countries, particularly in Indonesia, where there is an ongoing phenomenon of households upgrading their major domestic appliances," noted Stanley Kee, Managing Director for GfK in Southeast Asia.

"It is worth highlighting that the highest individual country growth registered for the Consumer Electronics, Major Domestic Appliances, and Information Technology sectors across the region in 2012, all hailed from Indonesia."

Throughout the year, six of the seven sectors tracked in Indonesia, the fourth most populous country of the world, attained positive standings in the growth range of 2 to 31%.

Malaysia on the other hand,

saw five panels expanding in values between 7 to 32%.

Malaysia's final quarter 4% value expansion managed to help sustain the country's position as second highest growth market for the year, with y-o-y growth of 14.7%.

Much of this growth was attributed to its strong TC sector, which yielded nearly 8.4bn ringgits (79.9bn baht) in sales volume.

Lagging behind

Meanwhile, nearly every one of Singapore's TCG segments declined, with the exception of the TC sector, which saw a 44% y-o-y increase in sales volume to just over 1bn Singaporean dollars (23.7bn baht). Overall y-o-y growth of the island nation's TCG market leveled out at only 0.4%.

Also declining from 2011 was Vietnam's TCG market, which saw total spending of 89 trillion Vietnamese dong (124.8bn baht) in 2012 – 7.4% lower than 2011.

Future growth

Meanwhile, the TC sector continues to be the top driver of growth in Singapore (45%), Malaysia (32%) and Thailand (27%). Unrelenting demand for tablets have also propelled the IT sector to achieve good results in Indonesia (31%), Thailand (13%) and Malaysia (11%).

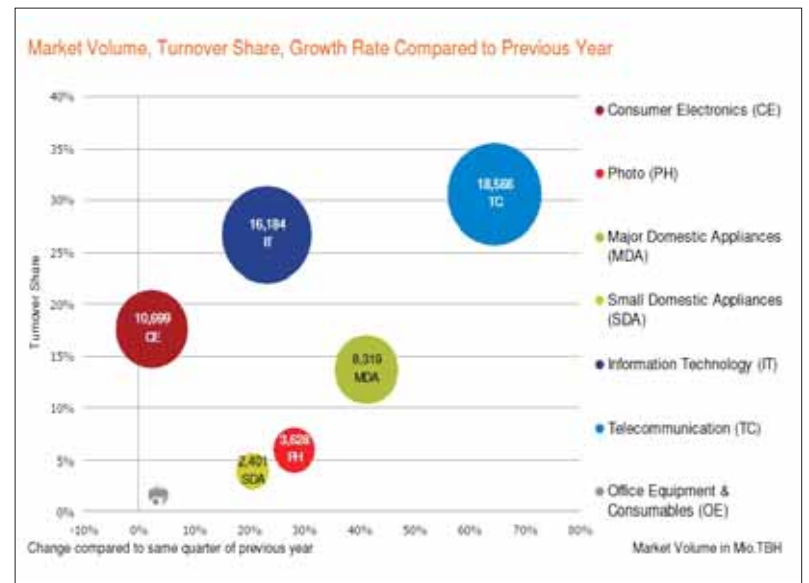
"In 2013, we predict the Telecommunications and IT sectors to continue to be key contributors to the good performance of the total technical consumer goods market, as manufacturers keep coming out with new enhancements to the popular smart gadgets that they know consumers love so much," stated Kee.

"The [increasingly convenient] process of upgrading, and the latest innovations in the TV segment such as OLED and 4G TV, will also help stimulate matured TV markets to greater heights," he concluded.

– GfK Global

	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q4 11	Q1-4 2012	Q1-4 11
	M.THB	M.THB	M.THB	M.THB	+/-%	M.THB	+/-%
Consumer Electronics (CE)	10,888	10,167	9,672	10,699	-2.4%	41,426	-5.4%
Photo (PH)	2,899	2,699	2,818	3,628	24.2%	12,044	13.9%
Major Domestic Appliances (MDA)	6,526	7,436	7,525	8,319	21.8%	29,806	11.8%
Small Domestic Appliances (SDA)	1,825	1,800	1,779	2,401	32.3%	7,805	9.2%
Information Technology (IT)	13,601	15,609	16,395	16,184	23.2%	61,790	13.4%
Telecommunication (TC)	13,127	13,802	15,198	18,566	44.3%	60,693	27.1%
Office Equipment & Consumables (OE)	1,090	1,070	1,091	946	-14%	4,197	-10.5%
GIK TEMAX® Thailand	49,956	52,583	54,477	60,744	27.1%	217,760	12.1%

DIGITAL DIVIDENDS: This table charts Thailand's TCG sales volume and annual growth from 2011 to 2012 for seven sectors.



Thai TCG market volume, turnover share and growth rate, 2012 vs 2011.



This line graph shows Thailand's TCG market's quarterly turnover charted from 2009 to 2012. Images: GfK Global.

Myanmar power cuts won't affect Phuket

PHUKET's electrical supply will remain unaffected through April 14, while Myanmar shuts down some natural gas fields to fix drilling rigs, the chief of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has assured.

"Phuket uses about 380 Mega-watts of electricity per day from the national grid. I have been approved a reserve of up to 400MW a day, which means the electrical supply for the entire island will remain unaffected," PPEA chief Somchai Kureapatinet concluded.

– Irfan Jamdukor

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Phuket's latest luxury resort

LAST week saw the opening of the new Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort. This 255-room beachfront property offers locally-sourced dining and the first club floor at Laguna Phuket, Bang Tao Beach.

Flying in for the VIP gathering, were members of the Kelley family, owners of the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort, and senior corporate executives from Hawaii, to celebrate the latest addition to the Outrigger resort portfolio in Asia.

Outrigger announced its purchase of the 52.25 rai (8.36 hectare) property in July of last year. The opening means that Outrigger, a privately held Hawaii-based company with over 65 years of hotel management

experience, now has four properties in Asia: Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort, the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, Outrigger Phi Phi Island Beach Resort, and O-CE-N Bali by Outrigger.

Outrigger Enterprises Group President and CEO, David Carey, in Phuket to attend the opening, said: "The acquisition and opening of the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort gives Outrigger a wonderful and iconic resort property in Phuket, a remarkable holiday destination that goes from strength to strength.

Early indications are that our new property will do very well in the family, couples and active lifestyle segments of the global holiday market."

Darren Edmonstone, managing director, Asia-Pacific for Outrigger Enterprises Group, told media arriving for the opening party that the property had unique features that were already distinguishing the resort from its competitors. He said that the property's exclusive Club Lounge privileges, large water slide and kids' club, 'Activate' sports facilities and fully rejuvenated rooms, suites and villas, all with sea or lagoon views, made the property a "world class product."

"We are particularly proud of our five



innovative food and beverage outlets, especially Locavore, which will set new benchmarks in ethical dining by sourcing the freshest locally-produced food from farmers and fishermen in the Phuket area," said Edmonstone.

The aim of Locavore is to emphasize seasonality, sustainability and traceability through education and a close relationship with local farmers, fishermen and suppliers. Carbon emissions getting the food to the table will be minimized as well.

Mr Edmonstone went on to say that "outstanding" dining options were also available at Edgewater, the resort's unique all-day beachside bistro, Metzo's Mediterranean restaurant, and in the delightful Club Lounge, which is designed like a Thai pier house.

Guests can also enjoy the ICON Lounge, a chill-out bar with modern Asian sounds and mixologists serving molecular cocktails.

The design for the completely revamped rooms and hotel landscaping was carried out by P49, an acclaimed Bangkok-based design company. One of the main features of the property is its very Thai-ness immediately on arrival in the lobby with a wooden Thai house theme and traditional Thai images and artifacts.

The lobby offers breathtaking views out over the Andaman Sea.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Bookings and further information is available at: outriggerthailand.com; or by email: dosm.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th.



Outrigger Phuket Beach Resort's lobby. Photos: Outrigger



The new resort features 255 rooms on beachfront property and serves locally-sourced food.



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Outrigger spreads out

OUTRIGGER Enterprises Group, the Hawaii-based operator of Outrigger hotels and resorts, is raising its profile in Southeast Asia, and considers Thailand one of its important markets.

Two other potentially lucrative markets in the region are Vietnam and Indonesia. However, Thailand offers clearer regulations and a better tourism outlook than neighboring nations, says David Carey, the group's president and chief executive officer.

Outrigger plans to expand in Asia and the Pacific, believing this area offers big growth potential for the company, thanks to the economic, property and tourism boom across the region. India is one example of a country that will provide great potential in the next decade.

Carey said that the company would look for opportunities in every nation, but would go step by step, with an initial focus on beach destinations.

He accepts that doing business

in this region is not easy. Therefore, the business strategy will be flexible to adjust to local environments, and local partners will play a key role in helping the firm set up a foundation in each market.

In the Philippines, for example, the firm is still evaluating the market, especially the stability of the government. Each government has its own different rules. It is tough sometimes for a US-based company to do business in the Philippines. However, investment will take place if the company finds the right local partner.

Currently, the 65-year-old company has 45 properties in operation or under development, with 11,000 rooms in Hawaii, Australia, Guam, Fiji, Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, and China's Hainan Island.

The group has expanded its network into Asia in recent years. In 2015, it will officially open hotels in Quy Nhon, Vietnam, and Hainan. Meanwhile, the firm is looking for more properties in Vietnam

and Bali to add to its portfolio.

When the company decides to make a foray into a country, it begins with management contracts with local property owners. Once it understands the market better, the next move is to form a joint venture or make its own investment. However, the strategy is flexible, varying from country to country.

Thailand is the first nation in Southeast Asia where the company has operated a property. The firm commenced with management contracts and later made its own investments.

At present, it has three properties in the South, two in Phuket and one on Phi Phi Don Island.

The firm entered Phuket in August 2009 by managing Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas as its first property there.

The new opening of a 255-room beachfront hotel is marked as a flagship property in Asia, showing its long-term commitment in Phuket and the region. — *The Nation*



A computer generated image of a bedroom.



The living area, dining space and kitchen in one of the show units at Kathu.

Viva la Tri Trang

THE Viva Patong is located in the exclusive Tri Trang beach area, south of Patong. Tri Trang is home to luxury brands such as The Rosewood, Avista Hideaway and Amari Coral Resorts.

The Viva Patong will overlook Tri Trang and Freedom Beach, and you can walk to Paradise Beach and bustle of Patong in only five minutes.

The development will incorporate a hotel style of living with a modern tropical concept.

The idea is to offer a new sense of living and change the perception of living in Patong. The project will have two 7-storey

low-rise condominium buildings with ceiling heights around three meters.

The project will have 83 'Deluxe' units, seven two-bedroom units and one Penthouse apartment.

The Deluxe apartments will range in size from 40 to 56.36 square meters, two-bedroom apartments from 63.3 to 96.3sqm and the Penthouse will be 167sqm. Prices start at 2.4 million baht and go up to 16.77mn baht.

The price is inclusive of a pantry and wardrobe by Ikea; sanitary wears by Hafele; tempered glass shower room; real wood bed, headboard and mattress and a real rattan sofa set.

The design of the balconies will allow for easy pool access and sea views in some units.

Viva Patong encompasses 1,320sqm of land and will include a 9x20 meter salt water swimming pool, pool bar, fitness center, restaurant, grand lobby, free WiFi at the lobby, CCTV, key card access to lifts, 24-hour security and parking.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information please visit the office and show unit at Kathu Municipal intersection, next to Moom Muang Loong's restaurant. Email: khanitha@kiratiproperties.com. Mobile: 081 958 3421.



The dining area and kitchen in one of the show units at Kathu.



Interior of how a bedroom will look at one of the show units in Kathu. Photos: Viva Patong



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



SEGREGATED: Patong Tower Condominium dominates Patong's skyline, amid up-scale housing. Photo: Thorfinn Stainforth



WEIGHING YOUR OPTIONS: Pricing points have come down on many Phuket properties. Photo: Images of Money

Property prices 'under the gun'



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

I THOUGHT not once, but twice about putting the word gun into the title of this article, but why not? Live vicariously. Guns and real estate, now that's an entirely different story altogether.

Slowly stirring brown sugar into my inaugural morning café latte, the sound of small talk is in the air. Forget that toxic mock sweet stuff, I need the real thing. But going back to flying bullets, deals gone bad always rank in

the top-10 lists of Phuket's unsolved murders.

Yet somehow, somehow we have strayed from the subject at hand – that being the volatile market value of property. Boxing things up in neat little packages is an ugly necessity of the biz. You can't have a table littered with all manner of junk, now can you?

There are typically two segments of Phuket housing. Domestic grade, and what is often times referred to as 'resort grade'. In technical terms, a tier system is applied – much like a hotel rating standard: grade A, B and C.

Beyond that, it becomes a scary business, leading you out the back door on a journey of no return.

Once upon a time, a decade or so back, domestic properties lined the highways and byways of town, attracting local residents, with some exceptions. Upscale expatriate-oriented properties hugged the shoreline. It wasn't property apartheid, more a matter of living preferences.

Gradually, projects stuck their toes into both camps, Land & Houses and the multi-numbered Villa branded estates spring to mind. Slowly the tribes merged, though for the most part, domestic grade was the domain of Thai-led businesses and the most expensive resort grade was tapped into by foreign entrepreneurs. At the top of the market boom, Laguna Village was a leading example of mass housing aimed at overseas buyers.

These days the lines have merged and the past seems so distant that you'd have to undergo hypnotherapy just to recall the idiosyncrasies of just what exactly is long gone. After years of firmly being off the radar of mammoth Thai-listed property

developers, the tables have turned. The boys from Bangkok have arrived with a vengeance and an insatiable appetite for more.

Don't get me wrong; this is not entirely a bad thing, as the island needed a reality check toward value offerings and affordable housing. Bangkok developers who have economies of scale, integrated teams offering design, construction and sales, can offer a cradle to the grave experience. More so western prefabricated building techniques now mean faster and cheaper properties.

Unfortunately, for past purchasers of resort grade real estate who have viewed their homes as long-term capital appreciation machines, the trend is not favorable. Pricing points and sizing have without a doubt come down and the supply of new estates is again soaring.

Yes, the world changed during sub-prime, and the age old rule that a house was like an ever-growing Jack in the Beanstalk bank account. Negative equity in western properties is so often the case in the US or markets like Spain, that it's hard to do anything but yawn when talk turns to distress.

Many investors who bought

when demand far outpaced supply, are facing the ugly reality of depreciated property values. Hopeful optimists often wax poetically about a return to the good old days but a permanently changed world has created a disconnect.

As in all things, looking deeper into the state of play, an unlikely hero has emerged in the Thai baht. For buyers who bought years ago when the exchange rate was well above US\$1 to 40 baht and higher, today's sub 30 baht rate means if a property is sold they can claw back profit on the exchange gain.

Of course this is an anomaly of foreign exchange and you only gain if and when you sell. For those intent on holding, the future of market values holding is more hazy than a Beijing morning.

Cyclical market maturity and more institutional-scale development is rapidly changing Phuket's property market forever. While the hooded apparition holding a gun to the head of pricing is likely going to stay the course, it's still too early to tell if the firearm is loaded or not.

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

Laguna

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Property bond issues jump in Q1

BONDS issued in the first quarter by seven listed property companies rose 38 per cent year-on-year to 12 billion baht.

"Property is one of the business sectors that have enjoyed great benefits from bond issuance. However, their bonds are small because of the specific requirements made by the developers to invest properly in their projects, said Ariya Tiranaprakij, executive vice president of the Thai Bond Market Association.

"Those firms have also issued bonds quite frequently, in contrast to the overall bond market, which is slowing down," she said.



A man stands on the floor of the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Photo: The Nation

In the first quarter of last year, five property firms issued bonds worth 8.7bn baht.

The 12bn baht mobilized by property firms in the first quarter of this year accounts for 30 per cent of the 43bn baht total, which was raised

by private companies.

This was down significantly from the same quarter of last year, which saw 140bn baht in proceeds from the sale of bonds, as commercial banks increased their reserves for risk assets.

– The Nation

Note the contrarian investor

Island Investor

David Mayes

CONTRARIAN investors are those who generally do the opposite of what the majority do. There are many forms, but basically they can all be summed up by the old Wall Street adage, "Buy Low, Sell High." As simple and as logical as this advice sounds, in practice the majority of investors in fact do the opposite. The lonely contrarians are the ones buying in the midst of stock market crashes, while everyone else is bailing for the doors and losing their shirts in the process.

The reason people are usually panicking is simple. They waited for confirmation that the world was as it should be and the stock markets have usually already risen by that point. They have essentially bought near the top, by which time the contrarian is already busy slowly liquidating the holdings he bought in the last bear market.

I have read and heard a lot about investors feeling now is a safer time to go back into the stock markets, and it has me wondering if we aren't due for another big downward stretch of the market.

There have been many studies



STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD: Investing when the market's down takes courage, but presents high potential for profit. Photos: 401 (k); contrarianinvestor.com

about the headlines on the covers of leading financial media sources at major turning points in markets. At the top, they are always rosy predictions about how this time is different and a new era of never ending growth is beginning, or something similar. Near the bottom, when companies are usually trading at valuations that finally make sense, the news is usually so horrible that investors are terrified of putting money into the markets. Crashes are the absolute best time to invest for the long term, yet it is very difficult to go against the popular sentiment at the time.

Also, trying to pick an absolute bottom is a fool's game.

The same approach is not limited to stock market investment. There are a multitude of investment strategies out there, and usually the best time to invest is after a period of poor performance and when they have fallen out of favor. If you had invested in gold during the early 2000s when nobody except a few crazy gold bugs were talking about it, you would be extremely pleased with yourself today.

However, many are just getting into this market now, after it has risen over 300% already. What

goes up will always come back down; of course it may go up much further from here still if the world economy enters another round of the financial crisis.

The big difference contrarian investing brings is how safe your investment is. The more an asset rises the greater the potential downside becomes. The best investors aren't trying to pick the tops and bottoms, they simply buy in somewhere after a given market has fallen substantially and they get out after they have had a reasonable run. There is usually a nice safe chunk in the middle of every big market move

which can be had if fear and greed are overcome.

Sometimes it can pay big time to be the odd man out. Warren Buffet, the most successful investor of our times, is famous for making huge stock market investments in the midst of crashes.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FSA and advises on pensions and taxation.

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Songkran sanity

AS THIS edition arrives at newsstands across the island, readers can judge for themselves whether the Royal Thai Police have adequately enforced the controversial nationwide ban on using pickups and other conveyances to fuel roadside water fights over the Songkran holidays.

We sincerely hope that the ban will have had a significant impact on the number of deaths and injuries related to the annual revelry, but fear that a lack of enforcement by authorities will prove otherwise.

Songkran, the traditional Thai “new year”, is far and away the most important holiday on the Thai calendar. Like Christmas and New Year in many Western countries, it is meant to be a time of family reunion, feasting and fun – with important religious aspects for many people. Unfortunately, too much emphasis on the word “fun” in recent decades has caused not only a deterioration in the important spiritual aspects of Songkran, but also resulted in the needless loss of far too many lives.

The sad fact is that across a large swath of our society, Songkran “celebrations” have descended into little more than mindless, alcohol-fueled water fights that are typically conducted in the worst of all locations: our already dangerous public roads. This wildly careless, not to mention illegal, behavior not only makes a mockery of our road laws, but also highlights our authorities’ lack of ability or desire to enforce them.

Images of Songkran revelry in places such as Bangkok’s Khaosarn Road that are disseminated around the globe in the international media also help to reinforce Thailand’s well-entrenched reputation as a frolicsome, free-for-all tourist destination, where silly behavior is not only acceptable, but tacitly encouraged.

Indeed, many foreign visitors who come here on vacation can be seen engaging in dangerous, wanton acts they would not dream of committing at home, whether it be riding a motorbike without a helmet, drunk driving or this week’s special: throwing slugs of water at fellow motorists, whether they have agreed to be doused or not.

We view the pursuit of happiness as an inalienable right. What is not and can never be a right, however, is endangering the safety and well-being of fellow members of society while engaged in this pursuit.

Efforts by authorities to minimize the death toll over the Songkran and Western New Year periods through their Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaigns may have a minor impact on the carnage, but the actual figures remain unacceptably high, with well over 1,000 deaths nationwide and many thousands more injured during Songkran over the past four years.

We hope the ban on using pickups to conduct water fights on our roads and any other measures to preserve human safety will be enforced by police, as this is the perfect starting point to returning some sanity to Songkran revelry.



Protect brave Teerayut from threats

Re: Gazette online, Battle lines drawn over new Phuket bus service, April 6

“My job is to get public transportation for the people. I must get it done. There are a lot of things to do to get this service running, and although I cannot yet confirm when it will begin, I will now push for it even harder,” Mr Teerayut said.”

This man is brave, and he deserves as much support as he can get.

I wish him success and hope his safety will not be threatened too badly.

Bob
Gazette Forum

...by sending in the riot police...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police stage riot control drills, April 2

One can but hope this is practice for the new Airport-Patong bus system.

My money is on the tuk-tuk drivers; they have had years of practice and are more determined and better organized.

Anon
Gazette Forum

...hold on, don't rush to blame the tuk-tuks

Re: Gazette online, Battlegrounds drawn over new Phuket bus service, April 6

Maybe we can have the full facts, like how much money the tuk-tuk groups are paying to local government in fees to be allowed to operate.

I suspect they are paying large fees, and now a bus service is going to take their business while still lining the pockets of local government officials.

Let's have the facts. I know we

Letters to the Editor

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

all think these tuk-tuk drivers are rip-off merchants but I think there is a lot more to this story.

M Smith
Gazette Facebook

...too late for me, I'm outta here...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Forever at the mafia's mercy, April 7

I fully support every word of this editorial. I love Phuket and have stayed in Patong many times.

Sadly, I will not return until the thugs in the tuk-tuks are banished forever.

I now base myself in Jomtien, south of Pattaya. A bus between Jomtien and Pattaya costs a fixed price of 10 baht. Never any need to haggle or negotiate the price.

What a contrast. Wake up, local government and bureaucrats.

Danny
Gazette Forum

Expats gone wild at Songkran

Re: Gazette online, Phuket booze ban dampens Songkran revelry, April 3

I was in Patong last year at Songkran. My only previous Songkran visit was more than 10 years ago and that seemed a bit crazy, with much action from pickup trucks by local people.

Last year, it seemed like it was only expats who were going mad with oversized water pistols and huge containers of water.

It just seemed like a good excuse to go over the top and annoy people. Never again at Songkran!

Ga
Gazette Forum

Paying shouldn't be a way out

Re: Gazette online, Phuket British school issues statement over Russian motorbike crash victims, April 2

“We will question [the youths] when they are better, and will then start negotiations with Mrs Wannakij,” Lt Somboon added.”

This is part of the reason why there are so many accidents – it is very rare for criminal action to be taken. Negotiate, pay and carry on to have another accident. More lives lost.

How Much Can You Pay
Gazette Forum

Get well soon

Re: Gazette online, Victim of vicious Phuket pit bull attack in fight to save leg, April 5

The owners should be paying the hospital bills for now and why are the police waiting to charge the owners of the dog? I don't see why.

This seems a clean cut case. All the best with the operations.

Tonton
Gazette Forum

Go sea gypsies

Re: Gazette online, DSI: Aerial photos may save Phuket sea gypsy village, April 7

Great! The aerial photos should show the reality that the indigenous people have been there all along. I am glad to see justice forming...

Pnong
Gazette Forum

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Taking responsibility for Phuket's garbage

FIRST PERSON

I AM concerned that our garbage may become unmanageable in the near future. Estimates by the Phuket Office of Natural Resources and Environment project that the volume of trash produced in Phuket could reach as much as 1,000 tons per day by 2015.

Our incinerator can only burn 700 tons of garbage per day, and this is the amount we are producing now. We have to find a way to reduce the volume of garbage.

My feeling is: if you generate garbage, you must be responsible for it. I want Phuket residents to know about the state of the environment in Phuket.

They should know that the landfill is already full and the only method we have to dispose of garbage is our incinerator.

I want to teach everyone that there are different types of garbage, how to separate and process it and how to benefit from it.

About 50% to 60% of garbage is organic matter, which tends to be damp and causes pollution when it is burned.

Instead of burning it, we can compost it to produce fertilizer. By composting it, we reduce the volume of garbage and pollution and produce a useful product.

Actually you can make a lot of products from organic garbage, not just fertilizer.

You can make fabric softener, floor cleaner and dish-washing liquid. Making these products can save money.

Royal Phuket City Hotel saves



Here he talks about how to manage organic waste to reduce garbage and also create useful products.

Environmental specialist **Nutthakrit Polpetch**, 45, is a director at the Phuket office of Natural Resources and Environment. He has a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Kasetsart University. A native of Phattalung, he has lived in Phuket for 20 years.

about one million baht each year with products like these and also has a learning center at the hotel to educate people.

We started our Organic Garbage Management project last February. I chose to begin the project at a temple. If we start with monks, we will always get support from the people, and since people visit temples regularly to make merit, they can easily see our project there.

Also, there tends to be a lot of food waste at temples and leaves scattered around the temple grounds.

Now we have 17 temples in our project and good feedback – about 70% of people who see our program are interested in taking part.

Everybody has heard about making fertilizer from organic garbage, but few know how to do it. Our project has professionals with lots of experience teaching the participants.

We are supported by a 400,000-baht budget from the provincial government. My department works together with many local government offices

on the island, and especially the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Volunteer Network, who follow up and give support.

The Organic Management Project is a solution to a problem; but what we need to do is address the cause of the problem, which is lack of social responsibility.

I want everyone to feel that after benefiting from Phuket, it is their turn to take care of Phuket's environment.

An easy way to take part is by separating your trash. If you put your recyclables in front of your house with a sign saying "Please take", someone who can benefit from your trash will pick it up.

Everyone is free to join our temple projects. Or, if you set up a group of 20-30 people, we can come and teach you about composting. You can call me directly at 089-6524642 Monday-Saturday, 8am-4pm, or call Thiti Sawisai at 089-7244616.

I want to see Phuket clean and civilized, and I will continue this project until it is.



Looking for treasures at Racha Yai Island. Photo: Soranan Ananchotikul

Paradise found

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

I LIVED on Racha Yai Island for five years, teaching English to the staff at the luxury resort there, and I support the local conservation group that wants to ensure that restaurants and hotels deal properly with their wastewater and garbage, and allow streams to flow freely to the sea.

I love nature, but I'm no environmental activist. I don't have fecal counts for you or stats about the cuttlefish population going down.

I just love Racha Island.

I never minded the day-trippers who created a commotion every day from 10am to 3pm, crowding the beach and sea, snapping photos against all the pretty backdrops. Why shouldn't everyone enjoy this special place?

In fact, stay overnight so you can see the grass in the buffalo field turned silvery-green in the slanted morning light.

Then have a coffee overlooking Batok Bay while it's calm and quiet, with just a few boats nodding in the waves. There's always someone there gazing silently at the scene, being filled by the loveliness.

Stay longer and you'll realize that the sea has as many moods as a friend – one day clear and sparkling, another cloudy and lukewarm; rough then calm. Sometimes it offers precious sights: of an eel rippling across the

seabed, a shy squid rushing off with his buddies, a sea snake making a beeline for the surface right in front of you.

Sometimes it gives up other treasures somewhat less Jacques Cousteau, like a baseball cap and pair of shorts, a cleaver and two 1,000-baht notes floating on the surface.

If you stay longer still, the memories pile up – bush walking up the mountain in the rain, swimming down to the sunken boat, jumping off kayaks, playing tennis 'til past dark. There were the pythons Khun Suk caught, Nhum's arm burned by cashew-tree sap, the time a squall overtook the boat as we came from mainland and everyone fell instantly silent. There were the 40 whales that beached themselves, Lung Chai selling his sugar cane juice and Aran, starting a surfing craze.

The island, after a while, stops being a backdrop and becomes as precious as all the other players in the action.

Go. Enjoy it, fall in love with it, and help keep it healthy.

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

Volunteering

Does the Kusoldharm Foundation employ foreigners? My partner is a fully qualified and experienced firefighter.

Would like to help
Kamala

Supachai Limpakornkul, Personnel chief at Kusoldharm Phuket, replies:

We do not hire foreigners as staff, but many foreigners work with us as unpaid volunteers.

You may apply at our head office in Phuket Town with your passport (plus one copy), four one-inch photos and proof of your address.

For more information call us at 076-246301 or visit us in Phun Phol Soi 9, Talad Nua, Phuket Town.

An officer at Phuket Provincial

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Employment Office replies:

Any foreigner performing work, even unpaid work, in Thailand must have a work permit.

To be issued one, you need an appropriate visa, such as a non-immigrant B or O visa. The Kusoldharm Foundation Phuket office should be able to provide the correct documents to support your application

Once you have the visa, the Kusoldharm Foundation can apply for a work permit on your behalf.

Crazy longtail drivers at Kata Reef

I dive several times a week on Kata House Reef at the north end of the beach. This is where longtail boats pick up and drop off passengers, and anchor.

The longtail drivers routinely pass within two or three meters of my diver down float, even when I am on the surface, and they often drive over roped off reef areas at full speed when divers and snorkelers are nearby.

I was nearly hit once, and earlier this year, a swimmer off Patong Beach was killed apparently after being stuck by a propeller blade.

First, is there a law requiring boats to keep a minimum distance from divers or swimmers, or to maintain a certain speed when close to shore?

Second, we recently found a gill net laid across coral. Isn't it

illegal to lay nets over coral?

Still Alive
Kata

Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut replies:

There are no laws in Thailand specifying a minimum distance between a boat and a diver.

However, Thai law does stipulate that boat captains must operate their vessels with caution and not cause accidents. I have introduced a regulation limiting the speed of any boats operating near the shore in Phuket to no more than five knots.

As for the net on the coral, there are serious penalties for net fishing in coral areas because the nets catch all the fish in the area, thus harming the marine ecosystem, and the net contributes to the destruction of coral. Offenders



Let the swimmer beware. Photo: Gazette File

face a fine of up to 100,000 baht or five years in prison, or both.

You can report dangerous boat drivers to the Phuket Marine Office (Tel: 076-391173-4, Email: piolt5@md.go.th).

Net fishing on coral reefs, report to the Department of Fisheries Phuket office (Tel: 076-212460) or the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Tel: 076-211067).

YOUR Phuket

Grand party marks the opening of Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort

All photos by Marc Mulloy



From left, Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa; Prapa Hemmin, Assistant director of Destination Marketing, Laguna Resorts & Hotels; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut; Oranee Hildebrand, MD, Phuket Gazette; and Kristi Matzenberger, Advertising Manager, PGTV.



OUTRIGGER FAMILY PORTRAIT: From left: Greg Shaw; Bitsy Kelley; Linda Jane Kelley; Dr Chuck Kelley, Chairman; Dr Richard Kelley, Chairman Emeritus; Kathy Carey, and David Carey, President and CEO of Outrigger Enterprises Group.



RPM Director of Sales Kanittha Prasopsirikul makes friends with Phuket artist Romadon.



Heather Cornish, Area Director, Sales & Marketing Banyan Tree Phuket, and Debbie Dionysius, Director of Destination Marketing, Laguna Resorts & Hotels.



GMs Marc Landgraf, Outrigger Phi Phi Island Resort & Spa; Christoph Berger, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort; and Chris Adams, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas.



Sean Power of Siam Supper Club, with three Canadian imports.



Kanjana 'Jane' Sriboonsom, Events Manager, Phuket Gazette.



Outrigger Architect Albert Chang, Principal at CAC Architects, with his wife Kylie Chang.

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BOAT of the week



See page 27

PROPERTY of the week



JONES LANG
LASALLE

Real value in a changing world

AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

See page 19

JOB of the week



See page 23

INVESTMENT of the week

Farangs: Unique Investment
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See page 24

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POOL VILLA NEAR BIS



And Tesco Lotus Thalang, airport. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large fully equipped Western-style kitchen, 10x4m infinity pool and pond, plenty of outdoor and indoor living spaces. Price: 15.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: 084-141 7170.

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



Prime beachfront land for sale on Koh Mak Noi, Phang Nga. Ideal for resort/villa development. Over 400 meters of beachfront. Up to 18 rai available at 10 million baht per rai. Contact 087-058 4001, 089-904 0266 or panan.titapura@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://redsunset.wix.com/kohmaknoi

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

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SALE HOUSE 192SQM

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CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



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

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1-3 rai plot, center of Nai Harn, please call for details. Tel: 080-521 0701 (English & Thai). Email: jonyhirst@gmail.com

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2 storey American-style townhouse with 3 beds, 2 baths, parking lot, garden. Furnished. Sale 3.2 million baht or rent 18,000 baht. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

Live in Cherng Talay?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Na: (076-325586)
or (081-3977307)

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

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

All classifieds in these pages are

PAID!

— your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Properties For Rent

PRIVATE PATONG HOUSE



Large enclosed yard with waterfall, swim jet pool, very quiet, clean water, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, furnished. Must see! Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Thalang. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

KATABEACH LOW SEASON

1-bedroom apartment, WiFi, kitchen, jacuzzi. Soi Kok Ta Nod. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

PATONG APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Western style 1-3 bedroom apartments. For long-term rental. From 20,000 baht per month. Call for showing. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English & Thai). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

PLUS CONDO KATHU FOR RENT

30sqm, 5th floor, fitness room, parking, furnished with kitchenette. 5,500 baht per month plus utilities. Tel: 086-332 2638 (English). Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.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

RAWAI RENTAL STUDIO

28sqm, aircon, cable TV, fridge, kitchen. 6,500 baht. Negotiable long stays. Tel: 085-757 3240.

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.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

VILLA AND POOL

Soi NaYa, Nai Harn. Luxury 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Long-term rent: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Big saving 6 months lease, only 25,000 baht per month, has all, near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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



Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

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

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

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@ladolcevitare.com.au

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

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

RENTAL APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, studio, 46sqm, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

2 BEDROOMS - BANG TAO BEACH

Fully furnished, free swimming pool. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

URGENT RENT/SALE



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

3 BEDROOMS - THALANG

Pruksa Ville, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT IN TOWN

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, very good location, close to Central Festival and Makro, entrance is in front of Headstart International School. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

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

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!**

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

HAIRCUT STAFF
WANTED

Must Speak English skills in Rawai. Tel: 085-757 3240.

REAL ESTATE RENTAL
AGENT

Thai national, must have car, be professional. 20,000 baht. Salary + commission. Tel: 088-4138122 (English). Email: phkrealstate@aol.com

ADMIN &
COORDINATOR STAFF

Small dynamic real estate agency based in Chalong seeking Thai female staff. Good command of both spoken and written English. Computer literacy. start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com For further details, please see our website at 18excelsior-property.com

AUTOCAD / 3D
/ ADMIN STAFF

Due to an increase in Lighting Design Projects we require AutoCAD people who have experience in producing architectural / ID / lighting / electrical drawings, 3D renderings and office admin of the same. We are interested to talk with potential employees, freelance individuals or companies who can offer these services. Tel: 081-893 7027 (English). Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

ACG Cricket Ground



wanted
F & B manager for clubhouse

In first instance expressions
of interest only to
alan@acgphuket.com

www.AbsoluteWorld.net

Absolute
WORLD
Share in the dream

Absolute Sales Co.LTD, is an established global force in Luxury Leisure and Boutique Resort development. We are currently looking for:

Chinese Reservation Officer

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Tourist Industry or related fields
- Male/Female, Thai National
- Experience in travel agencies and thorough background knowledge of tourist destinations / hotels in Thailand will be a great advantage
- Good Command of written and spoken Chinese
- Fast Learner, Service-Minded, Team Worker
- Ability to work well under pressure and handle workload

Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documents to:
rinky@absoluteworld.net

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakit is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For info please contact Clarke.

MARKETING
MANAGER

Thai, age above 30 years, related experience. Salary: 30,000 baht + commission. Tel: 087-026 1362. Fax: 076-381717. Email: chalongmarket@hotmail.com Please send CV to e-mail, or call for info.

Stage Operations Manager

Can you manage our stars & rockers?
We need an outgoing operations professional to ensure the party runs without a hitch! bar & restaurant operations experience will help a lot. You need to work the floor and solve the problems with creativity and fun. Crazy event planning experience and ideas essential.
Have you got the rythm to manage a beach club day & night?

Sales & Marketing Guru

Can you sing with passion about what you are selling? Do beach clubs rock your world?
Are you one of those creative types?
If your friends say you are the life of the party and know your stuff when it comes to sales and marketing then come join our beach club on Surin.

Send us your impressive resume with photo now!
starsearch@zazadabeachclub.com

AUDITION NOW



ZAZADA

THAI STAFF
WANTED

Bayshore Projects Co Ltd is looking for Thai staff that can work both in bar and front office (receptionist). Tel: 076-345670, 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to manuela@bayshoreprojects.com

MAINTENANCE
MANAGER NEEDED

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

CUSTOMER
RELATIONS @
RESORT

Health Resort Customer Relations & Sales Rep. Fluent English Speaker & Experience Required. (Good Salary & Benefits). Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

HOUSEKEEPER

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

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
iTree Complete Printing Service



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

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

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

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

**GIGONG / TAICHI
TEACHER**

To facilitate classes in Kata.
Tel: 086-281 9311. Email:
bao200@gmail.com

DJ NEEDED

Full-time or part-time, weekend
negotiable. Enjoy sounds like
Leomeo, Tiesto, and Guetta.
Call Adrian. Tel: 081-561 9114
(English & Thai). Email: oat.
pada@gmail.com

**RENTAL MANAGER
NEEDED**

Thai national, responsible,
spoken English, experience
with hospitality. Salary + com-
mission. Tel: 081-165 1797
(English). Email: phkrealestate
@aol.com

**SUPER YACHT CHIEF
HOSTESS**

Chief Hostess required for a
37m superyacht. Experience
in similar role or 5-star hotel is
essential. Tel: 086-278 6905
(English). Please contact:
captain@motoryachtado.com

**PILATES & YOGA
TEACHER**

Wanted qualified pilates &
yoga instructor to teach
classes at Studio 3 Fitness,
Chalong. Thai or foreigner,
must speak good English.
Tel: 084-985 8161. Email:
studio3@fitness.co.th

**AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION**

Aviation company Thalang
needs experienced Thai female
working as assistant to Manag-
ing Director. English, well orga-
nized with computer skills and
maintain different Thai govern-
ment documents. Requires own
transportation and deal profes-
sionally with Thai and foreign
customers. Submit your CV
with recent photo to pat@
aeroprom.gr.com

**HEADLINE THAI
STAFF WANTED**

Bayshore Projects Co Ltd is
looking for Thai staff that can
work both in bar and front office
(receptionist). Tel: 076-345670,
081-968 5963 (English). Send
CV to manuela@bayshore
projects.com

**ACCOUNTANT FOR
REAL ESTATE**

We are looking for an experi-
enced accountant that can
handle government officials and
tax related issues. A high salary
will be given. Tel: 076-341045.
081-459 0152 (English). Con-
tact us at the number above or
send your CV to info@phuket-
condos-homes.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Japanese wedding company
Sa-mer Wedding at Boat La-
goon. is seeking an experi-
enced account. Qualification:
over 3 years Experience in ac-
count. Good command both
spoken and written English.
Good salary based on experi-
ence. Please contact us by
email fumiko@sa-mer.com

**COFFEE & ICE
CREAM**

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

www.divesupply.com

Challenging position at our head office in Phuket:

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Foreign national, 30+
- Managerial experience
- Proven Sales & Marketing record
- Excellent English Communication Skills
- Experience with Thai staff
- Experienced SCUBA Diver

We offer excellent salary & benefits, permanent position.
Send CV, photo, availability, expected salary to

gm@divesupply.com

STAFF WANTED

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

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
RECEPTIONIST**

Female for villa resort in
Rawai. Both of part time and
full time. Computer skills are
essential. For more information
please call 089-289 1502.
Email: jitttraming@gmail.com



**Do you want to take your career to
a higher level?**

We are looking for passionate service people who want more than just a job,
people who want to develop their hotel careers and be the best that they can be.

**Weddings & Events Sales Manager
Sales Executive
Assistant Chief Engineer
Bell Captain
Duty Technician
Demi Chef de Partie**

Please send your outstanding resume to us now!
Email: recruit@paresaresorts.com Fax: 076 302001
www.paresaresorts.com

STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written
and spoken English is a
must. Word and accounting
experience is a plus. Must
have a friendly outgoing per-
sonality. 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 a month
depending on experience.

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

THAI DRIVER WANTED

Driver for resort. Thai national
only. Must speak English.
Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info
@thailandcamp.com

**ELT PHUKET:
TEACHERS**

Native English speaking
teachers wanted to work full
time in and around Phuket.
Very competitive salary, bo-
nuses and insurance. Please
call 076-221940. 084-847
3033 (English & Thai). Email:
maxbeardsly@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Native Thai with good com-
mand of English, computer
and administrative skills.
Please send CV to forsale.
phuket@gmail.com



Horizon Resorts & Hotels operate two 4-star resorts at
Patong Beach and at Karon Beach with 160 guest rooms
each. The hotels offer a friendly & relaxed atmosphere and
a wide range of facilities, and are very popular among
Australian & European travelers.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic candidates to join
our team:

1. Asst. Operations Manager
2. Asst. Front Office Manager
3. Asst. Reservation Manager
4. F&B Manager
5. Executive Housekeeper/ Asst. Exe.
Housekeeper
6. Chief Accountant/ Asst. Chief Accountant
7. Asst. HR Manager/ Training Manager

We are offering attractive benefits to the right candidate:
Competitive Salary, Service Charge, Annual Bonus,
Life Insurance, Training & Career Development, Uniforms, Duty
Meals, Accommodation at Kathu, Transportation. Interested
candidates can apply by submitting their application letter,
resume with a recent photograph and expected salary
by email to: **hm@horizonbeach.com**

Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa
3 Soi Karon, Soi 2, Karon Beach, 83100 Phuket Tel: 076-284 555
www.horizonbeach.com

**RECEPTIONIST
PATONG**

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

LIVE-IN COMPANION

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

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

**ESTATE / RENTAL
MANAGER**

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

**SWEDISH / FINNISH
TOUR GUIDE**

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

Phuket Gazette

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the
following position:*

WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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

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

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/!

Articles For Sale

MINI LATHE SALE

Sale: 42,000 baht. For more information please send email to Maxphuket@hotmail.de

Business Opportunities

RENT GUESTHOUSE PATONG

12 guest rooms, cheap rent, good profit and location, Nanai Road. 1 million baht. For more information please call 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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

MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

Patong, Nanai. Near Royal Crown Hotel and the new Park Condo. 500,000 baht. Tel: 088-009 9585 (English & Thai), 081-970 5145 (English & Thai). Email: leelawadee@massage@hotmail.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE



2 minutes from beach, 5 storeys, 7 rooms. Price: 13 million baht. For more information please call 081-171 9705.

INBOUND COMPANY FOR SALE

Direct contract with hotels, transfer, and excursions. Contracts for holidays packages in Thailand. Contact Peter. Tel: 081-495 4761.

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

At Sapam, Phuket. Size: 130-300sqm with crew room. Price: 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Quiet and secure. Tel: 086-689 3289.

DJ PLAZA BAR

For sale: 110,000 baht. Or 150,000 baht with brand-new furniture, 3 tables, 12 chairs. Tel: 084-839 9325.

Business Opportunities

Farangs: Unique Investment Opportunity, First Time Offered.

- 15% net annual return, paid 3 months in arrears on a one year investment plan.
- 230,000 THB: capital and interest of 15% secured via debenture over land and buildings, to the value of over 420,000 THB.
- 22 only, individual investment plans available absolutely independent of each other.
- All investment plans are completely controlled by the investors themselves via an independent appointed solicitor.
- Irrevocable option will be granted to every investor to re-invest after their one year plan expires on a one year, one year extension.
- Register your expressions of interest via email to bernster77@gmail.com or contact Bernard. Tel: 082-203 5177 (local), +66 82 203 5177 (international).

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

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

FIRST AID / CPR COURSE

Sports and life injuries care. 1 day training with international certification. For more information please call 076-341774, 088-443 3451. Email: info@shelldiving.com

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

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. Tel: 080-690 8978.

RESORT FOR LEASE



In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 10 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

RENT GUESTHOUSE PATONG

12 guest rooms, cheap rent, good profit and location, Nanai Road. 1 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

DIVE COMPANY LTD. FOR SALE

Price: 50,000 baht, 2 work permits available. For more information please call 087-892 7565.

BAR FOR SALE (OTOP)

Very successful bar, over 6 years old. Huge customer base. Fully paid for 2-year lease. Must see. Tel: 081-087 6114 (English). Email: slicky@micky@hotmail.com

PROJECTS FOR SALE

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

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Please contact info@luxurypuketholidays.com

LAUNDRY COMPANY SALE

Laundry capacity 6-700 hotel rooms. Professional machines only 1-1.5 years old. Building with 4 rooms, 2 with aircon. Sold without clients. Monthly rent 22,000 baht. Price: 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English). Email: peter@conceptfeel.com

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

RESTAURANT

For sale. 6 years on contract, great location, Patong Beach Road, fully furnished and equipment. Tel: 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omalarquraini@hotmail.com

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.sederholm@gmail.com

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

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!

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Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full membership, transfer fee and 2013 maintenance fee included. 650,000 baht. Contact David. Tel: 087-881 7545.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full membership, transfer and fees. Price: 595,000 baht. Quick sale. No offers. For more information please call 081-676 0740 (English & Thai). Email: dconbeer@hotmail.com

CORPORATE GOLF MEMBERSHIP

For sale: Corporate golf membership at Loch Palm golf course. Price: 400,000 baht includes transfer fee. Please call 076-521746, 081-691 2446 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367317. Or email to wuttartara@gmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full family membership. Price: 560,000 baht (includes membership, transfer fee, and 2013 maintenance fees) For more information please call 087-895 8160, 087-890 3685. Email: faserio@gogo.ltd.hk

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Life membership. 580,000 baht. Must sell. For more information please call 081-089 1407.

Surfboards

SURFBOARDS NEW AND CHEAP

Get Ready For Surfing Season! I have several new surfboards for sale. Sizes are 9' longboard down to 6' shortboard. Price: 9,000 baht for longboard styles and 7,500 baht for shortboard. Email: pcompere@gmail.com

BLUE CANYON GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime membership. Good savings. 895,000 baht. Tel: 084-052 2277 (Thai). Email: samverow@gmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Full membership 640,000 baht (included transfer). Contact Mary. Tel: 087-266 7140. Email: mary9543@hotmail.com

Pool Tables

1/2 PRICE 9FT POOL TABLE

Professional size pool table for sale. 1.5 years old. Brand new: 140,000 baht. Now sale: 70,000 baht with new felt+transport+installation+light box and all accessories. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

BISS FLAPPER

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

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

Education

LEARN THAI COOKING AT HOME

Want to learn how to cook Thai food and no time for school? I will come to teach at your home from market to finished dish. Professional and reliable. Please call 081-728 8269. Email: thaicooking@phuket.com

SNUFFLERS

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

Pets



I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME!

At Doggie Heaven we have several rescue dogs who are looking for loving homes. All are healthy, well behaved and groomed. For more photos view at www.doggieheaven.net or contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com All vaccinated & sterilised

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

My name is Tiger and I am a young Ridgeback puppy, lovely, energetic and looking for a new home. My owner loves me but is just too busy at work. Please call 080-040 9706 (English). Email: eam@serenityphuket.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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

Personals

COMPANION

Male, 50 years old, coming to phuket, looking for female, age: 25-45 years old, as tour guide. Email: markjive@cox.net

BACKGAMMON

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

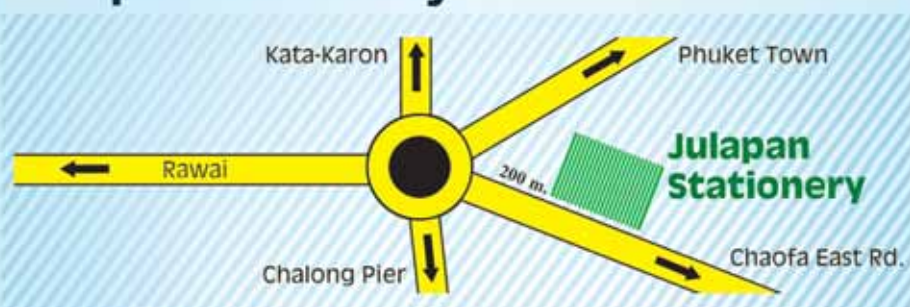


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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong: (076-342275)**

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<p>Yapiluka 53 (2001) 449,000 Euro</p> <p>OFF SHORE CATAMARAN</p> 	<p>Northshore 46 (1987) \$125,000 AUD</p> 	<p>Super Marama 2000 (2001) \$359,000 USD</p> 	<p>Bougainvillea 62 (2004) \$590,000 USD</p> 
<p>Seahorse 52 (2002) \$315,000 AUD</p> 	<p>Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013) 2,390,000 GBP</p> <p>PRICE REDUCTION</p> 	<p>Gulf Craft 36 (2001) \$125,000 USD</p> 	<p>Imago 48 (2007) 445,000 Euro</p> <p>SURFACE DRIVES AND FAST</p> 

Martin Holmes
Mobile: 081 891 7057
Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 968 1437
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
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FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR 25+3PAX

Fiberglass passenger speed boat, manufactured in Pattaya, registered for 25 customers + 3 staff, registered 2007, located in Phuket/Khao Lak, length 13.3m, beam 2.7m, draft 1.35m, 2 x Yamaha 6V 200HP, estimated usage 2,000h (serviced), fuel capacity 600L, insured. Modified for scuba diving, ready to use. Quick sale asking 1.6 million baht. Tel: 076-280748. Fax: 076-280074. Email: info@rayadivers.com

HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT

1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray Marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidrwarburton@hotmail.com

MOONSOON FOR SALE



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

SY TOSCA 36

Blue Cruiser, excellent condition. Based in Yacht Haven. Antifouling this month (March 2013). Tel: 085-880 1968 (English). Email: salulami04@yahoo.fr Website: http://sy-tosca36.blogspot.com

MERCURY 225 OUTBOARD ENGINE

2 stroke-carburetor model. Checked and serviced. Runs well. 90,000 baht. Tel: 080-038 4916.

NEW KARNIC 1851

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

KAYAK WANTED

Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

JET-SKI FOR SALE



2006. Yamaha 1,200cc YLT with only 50hrs. Kept in garage. Also has ski wakeboard, rope and life vest with trailer. 200,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 0136. Email: jrp@loxinfo.co.th

BOAT SHARE

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

HOBIE 16 + EXTRAS

Hobie 16 with masthead float, two trapeze harnesses, 2 paddles, trolley-road/ launching. New sheets and halyards. For sale at 175,000 baht. Quick sale. Tel: 081-560 4390 (English). Email: jacksonrosemary99@gmail.com

TEAK BOAT VERY RARE

Hard to find 80-year-old solid teak barge. 1,500,000 baht. Perfect Phang Nga cruise or house boat, 16X5 meters can finish with over 120 meters floor space. Tel: 090-798 5605. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.facebook.com/teak.boat.50

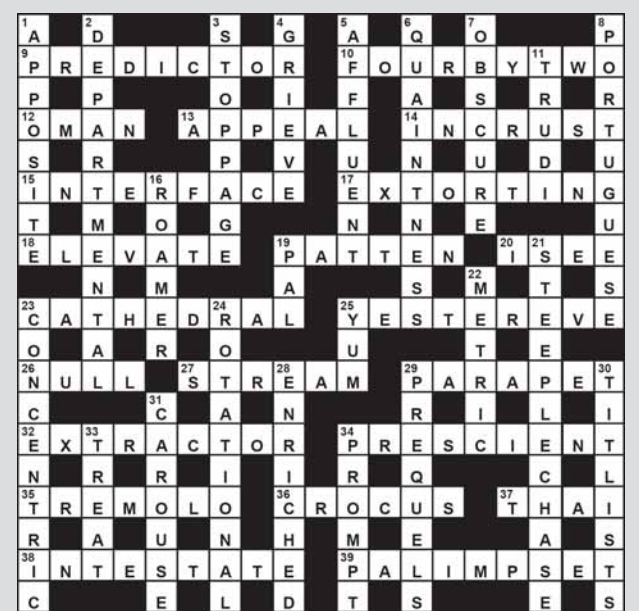
RIVA HULL

10 meters long, marine plywood hull (not completed) for sale. Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword

COFFEE break



Aircraft Sharing

AIRCRAFT TIMESHARE

Piper Lance available limited to four pilots or companies purchasing 50-hour block times: Based Phuket Airpark. Tel: 085-258 0006. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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



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

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

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

TFCNAM P-92

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

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



Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

Built: 1976

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



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

Specs:

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

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

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

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



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Life in the Nature

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 13-15: 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 13, 12 to 9:30pm: Songkran at Angsana Laguna & XANA with Attica

Angsana Laguna and XANA with Attica invites guests to celebrate Songkran. Starting at Angsana's Poolside Garden at 12pm, guests will join a celebratory religious session, watch Thai dancing and then join the procession from the hotel to XANA beach club for a pool party at 1:30pm. Here there will be 'water wars' for the kids, a Miss Songkran competition, a Muay Thai performance, a Thai beach BBQ and DJs. For more info contact Kamoloux Israngkul Ayuthaya on: +66-76-324101.

April 14, 12 to 3pm: Go Live!!! Sunday Brunch at Watercourt Restaurant, inside Banyan Tree Phuket

Enjoy live Jazz band, Kids Club, live seafood such as Canadian lobsters, oysters, Manila clams, Tiger Prawns and much more . . . Only 3,200++ baht per person. One bottle of Champagne per couple. For reservations or more information contact the FB Concierge on: +66 (0)76 372 400 ext. 5463 or email: fb-phuket@banyantree.com.

April 15-19, Sport Excel Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:

Realize your ambitions! Sport camps for those who are interested to learn or improve their skills in Tennis, Football, Swimming and Triathlon, for ages 5-18.



Learn with professional coaches in cutting edge facilities at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 email: sportcamp@thanyapura.com or visit: thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps

April 15-19: Songkran Multi Sport Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:

Get active and learn multi-sports skills, camps are designed to be fun for kids of all ages at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Half day pass at 800 baht and full-day-pass at 1,300 baht. Special price for 5 day package. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 email: tslc@thanyapura.com or visit: thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps.

April 15, 29; 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach

Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boathouse), we are setting up a big BBQ-Buffer, 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 information or to make a reservation please visit: twochefs.com.

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 you can also email info@phuketiwc.com

April 20-21, 3pm to 1am: XANA at Attica presents DJ Celeste Siam

Thailand's very own and Ibiza favorite *Celeste Siam* will be delivering her unique style of Balearic, soulful and funky house at XANA with *Attica*. The *Celeste* event will kick off at 9pm and follow EssentialIbiza.com's Iain Thomson and other local poolside DJs in the day from 3pm. There will also be a beach BBQ, 2-for-1 happy hour from 5-6pm and kids activities to keep the little ones entertained.

April 20-May 4, 7am to 6pm: Chang ITF Pro Circuit 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

The ITF Womens Circuit is a series of professional tennis tournaments run by the Interna-

tional Tennis Federation for female professional tennis players. The ITF professional tennis tournament, with prize money of US\$25,000, is a high standard tournament which will allow spectators to watch top female athletes from many countries compete. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the "Phuket Today" show. For more information please email: virapol.c@thanyapura.com.

April 30, 8 to 9:30am: Twinkle Tales Story Time

Every Tuesday the British International School Phuket

hosts a Twinkle Tales reading time in their Primary Library for Toddlers. Come along, listen to a story and read one of the many great books. All welcome. For more info contact Donna Stephens at: dstephens@bisphuket.ac.th

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.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates King Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery.

THE SPONSORSHIP EXPERTS
WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH

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.

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What, exactly, is a Bitcoin?

IN THE past week, three of my friends in Phuket – all of whom are reasonably savvy with their investments – have asked me about Bitcoin. There's a lot of misinformation floating around, so I figured it'd be worthwhile to bring you all up to speed on the topic.

I'll get into the technical details momentarily, but the main things you need to know about Bitcoin are: although Bitcoins are completely electronic, they're more than a little bit like cash; Bitcoin transactions are completely untraceable to individuals; and the value of a Bitcoin is set by the open market, not by any government.

If that sounds like a truly remarkable development, it is. A hundred years ago you could take a Maria Theresa Dollar or Pound Sterling – silver coins of known quality and easily measured weight – to the far corners of the earth and receive fair exchange.

Now, we have paper currencies backed by the “full faith and credit” of the issuing nation, with values that frequently fluctuate day-to-day, influenced not only by open trade, but also by governmental intervention. And if you want to transfer more than a little bit of money, it takes a wheelbarrow or a bank account, and an intermediary bank or two or three, with all the ensuing paper trails.

Not so with Bitcoin. By employing some cryptographic magic and extreme redundancy, there's no central bank for Bitcoins, no list of Bitcoin holders, nothing that can trace a person to a specific transaction. If that sounds like an ideal setup for money launderers, drug dealers, or fugitive ex-Prime Ministers, well, you're on your way to understanding the brilliance of Bitcoins.

Back in the day (four years



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

ago), Bitcoins came to prominence as the preferred way of transferring money on a web site called Silk Road – and the majority of financial transactions on Silk Road involved drugs. But the future of Bitcoins now seems to be considerably less sordid.

Why all the interest in Bitcoins, all of a sudden? Consider that the value of one, single Bitcoin, grew from US\$5 at the beginning of 2012 to about \$13 at the end of 2012. Since then, in just three months, the value of a single Bitcoin has skyrocketed to more than \$150. While there are many reasons for the increase, Bitcoin saw its largest boosts around the time the banking crisis in Cyprus hit the newspapers. Many people speculate that Europeans who are afraid of getting Cypriot-style “haircuts” on their bank accounts are more willing to bet on non-traditional vehicles for saving money.

The ones who jumped to Bitcoins early this year have been rewarded with a 10-fold increase in the value of their bets. Er, purchases.

At its heart, a Bitcoin is a number, not unlike a serial number on a banknote. In order to use the Bitcoin, you have to log in to a program – either a program that runs on your computer, called a wallet, or an online service – with your account number and pass-

word. To transfer money, you tell the program or online service which account you want to transfer the Bitcoins to, and how much. In some respects it's like a normal online bank transfer, but in other respects it's completely different.

The biggest difference? Bitcoin doesn't have any central clearing house – there's no big bank looming in the background. Nobody has a list of account numbers and owners. There is, however, an ongoing list of transfers: which accounts transferred how much to which other accounts. That list of transfers is stored in hundreds of different locations, by hundreds of different computers.

The technical details of how the transfers are implemented – how “ownership” of a Bitcoin gets transferred, and how people are prevented from transferring the same Bitcoin twice – involves public key cryptography and some very fancy computing techniques, but the bottom line is that it's entirely anonymous.

No central lists of account numbers.

Also, no email addresses. The only username and password you need are to access your own Bitcoins – the Bitcoin network doesn't keep track of them.

There's a time delay on the transactions. Typically it takes 10 minutes for Bitcoin transfers to take effect. The reasons are complex, but they're associated with tracking down “double spends” – people who try to spend the same Bitcoin twice, either intentionally or inadvertently. Since there's no central repository of accounts and balances, the delay is basically the price you pay for having a whole bunch of computers simultaneously verifying the transactions. If you're accustomed to bank wire transfers taking an hour, or a day or a week, to complete, ten minutes doesn't seem like much of a penalty. And the Bitcoin verification runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on hundreds of computers.

When you ask somebody to send you money, you have to give them a public key (somewhat analogous to an “account number”). The Bitcoin software actually encourages you to generate a new account number for each transaction.

So if you get money from one person, and send some of the received money to another person, new “account numbers” in each direction make it basically impossible to trace where the money came from or went to.

The system's entirely open. If you want, you can see the transactions going by in real time: just go to blockchain.info.

If you want to keep your Bitcoin transactions private, there



VIRTUAL MONEY: Tempting as it may sound, Bitcoin is still a risky investment and may not be for everyone. Photo: ohkylet@twitter

are two vulnerable points: the point where you buy Bitcoins using some other currency, and the point where you sell them. If you just use Bitcoins to pay for your purchases (one person recently sold his house with Bitcoins; another sold a Porsche), there's no traceable record.

Every law enforcement agency on earth recognizes the threat that the Bitcoin system entails. They're leaning hard – sometimes with sanctions, sometimes with legislation – on the Bitcoin clearing houses to provide information about transactions. The largest Bitcoin clearing house, a Japanese firm called Mt Gox (mtgox.com), warns that if you try to access your account using the Tor network or public proxy servers (two common means of disguising your location), they may suspend your account and force you to submit Anti-Money-Laundering documents.

The first widely recognized Bitcoin transaction involved two pizzas, for which the buyer paid 10,000 Bitcoins. Right now there are approximately 11 million Bitcoins in circulation, with an approximate value of \$1.6 billion, in circulation. Oops, I just checked preev.com. The value of a Bitcoin just went over \$160, so there's almost \$1.8 billion in circulation.

Bitcoins have a fascinating history. The originator(s) of the concept, who went by the handle “Satoshi Nakamoto,” has never been identified. I say “went” because he appeared out of the blue in 2008, published a few papers, never made a public appearance, and stopped answering emails in December 2010 – although I found one post purporting to be from him, dated April 2011. If you know the story of Laozi and the *Tao Te Ching*, you know Nakamoto's story. The importance of Bitcoins (as in the *Tao Te Ching*, for that matter) isn't in the person(s) who created it. The creation itself holds the answers to many pressing problems.

There's a mechanism in place for generating new Bitcoins: the computers that keep track of the transactions are basically

rewarded, very slowly, by being granted new Bitcoins. By the year 2140 there will be about 21 million Bitcoins in circulation – and that's it, there won't be any more new ones. If you want to learn more about Bitcoins, take a look at the Bitcoin FAQ (bitcoin.org/en/how-it-works).

Bitcoins have a tumultuous history, as of late. A software problem last month caused many people to lose confidence in the project, and the value of the Bitcoin dropped 27%. Just last week there was a sustained attack on the Mt Gox website, apparently in another attempt to undermine confidence in the concept. An online Bitcoin wallet service called Instawallet was hacked, with an undisclosed amount of Bitcoins stolen.

Rumors are flying that organized crime elements are trying to knock down the price of Bitcoins, so the bad guys can pick them up.

Here's the question everyone asks me: “Would you buy Bitcoins right now?” My answer is a resounding “Hell no.” It's a great concept – appealing on many levels – but the recent spate of attention and run-up of price gives me nosebleeds. You may be able to make enough to retire off of Bitcoins in the next year. Or you may lose 90% of your gamble... er, investment. It would take a stronger stomach than mine to ride this one out.

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 Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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



Physical bitcoins. Photo: Zach Copley

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Origins of Songkran

Photo: Tevaprapas Makklay

The Songkran Maidens

THE stone inscriptions in Wat Mahathat, Bangkok, refer to Songkran Maidens, or *Nang Songkran*, as “celestial beings whose job is to save the world from eternal flame”. They are seven daughters of the ill-fated but powerful deity called Kabilaprom, who faced punishment by way of beheading. But such is his power that if his fallen head were allowed to touch the ground, the whole earth would be aflame. It then falls to the seven daughters to take it in turn carrying their father’s head on a tray, and circumnavigate the mythical Mount Kailash for twelve months.

This year’s *Nang Songkran* is called Mahothorn Devi. Wearing just a jet stone necklace with a lowly water hyacinth flower pinned in her hair, she carries a ‘Chakra Wheel’ and a trident and feasts on deer meat. Her apparition is made on a peacock and she is in the state of a blissful sleep.

Predictions for 2013: there will be droughts and food will be scarce. The country will experience “incendiary type of upheavals” instigated by bandits. However, all is very well with the King.

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

THAT time of year is upon us again. Songkran, the Thai New Year popularly known as the ‘Water Festival’, is a welcome relief from many long and sultry April days. What better way to cool down than to throw water at each other? Congenially that is.

For most of us, the festival means water fights, beauty pageants, giving food to monks and long trips home to reunite with relatives. But digging a little deeper, Songkran reveals a more complex origin, combining Hindu traditions with animistic belief of this centuries-old land that used to be known as Suvarnabhumi.

Living in the kingdoms of Ayutthaya, Sukhothai, Dvaravati, Khmer, Lanna, Lan Xang, and Champa, people of Suvarnabhumi celebrated their own New Year, usually after harvesting crops, by honoring various elemental spirits and conducting lively festivities.

Then, around 700 years ago, Hinduism from India spread its wings across the region, and holding sway in the courts, introduced some of its traditions. One of these traditions was the observance of the New Year at the time when the sun moves into Aries, the first sign of the zodiac. Songkran is in fact a Sanskrit word meaning “to pass into,” referring to the movement of the sun into each of the twelve planetary signs. Effectively, Songkran happens every month, but marking the new solar cycle is called *Maha Songkran* – or the grand Songkran.

Although the principle of Songkran was accepted by the courts, their New Year rituals headed as usual by the Hindu Brahmins, folks in the countryside still practiced spirit worship. Some of the

traditions are still carried out today in Thailand’s rural areas where people “bless” their farming tools with holy water and stage elaborate rituals to honor the rice goddess.

Considering its uniqueness, Songkran celebrations take many forms and revolve around families, temples and the land. Its central theme is respect to all things, known and unknown. This is the time to give and receive blessings, and to mark a fresh beginning with all the good deeds, like giving alms to monks, releasing birds or fish and paying respect to one’s elders.

Water has always been considered a symbol of purification and growth by many cultures and Southeast Asia is no different. It is customary during Songkran to pour scented water over the hands or shoulders of one’s elders, who in turn dispense blessings to younger generations. In many provinces, the town guardian Buddha images will be paraded along the streets, giving the faithful the chance to sprinkle water over them in an act of symbolic merit making.

With young people though, the act of lightly sprinkling water over someone’s shoulders unfortunately does not apply anymore. They have taken the festivity to a new level and engage in fun-filled, thrill-seeking water battles. Lately, some colors have been added to the water, making it similar in style to *Holi*, the color festival of India. All very well, if it stays within the accepted rules and etiquettes. And no ice water, please.

Songkran also features elaborately dressed girls on floats. They represent Songkran maidens or *Nang Songkran*, mythical figures whose traits and characteristics – what they wear, ride on or eat – provide an all-important omen of things to come.



Nang Songkran 2013



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Boiling down a life of rice



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: The shop ready to receive its first customers at daybreak.

By Leslie Porterfield

IT'S not easy to find staff for a boiled rice shop. Sometimes new employees run away after just one day. It might have something to do with the starting time... 4am; or the regular days off... none.

But Nalinee "Ann" Sukjaroen has been working at the Boiled Rice Shop on Dibuk Road for the past 25 years, first washing glasses and wiping tables, then taking orders and now cooking.

Her parents opened the shop when Ann was just a child.

"At first, my parents worked really hard," Ann said. "They did everything themselves. My mother went to the market at 2am and then cooked. When the shop closed, they did all the clean up by themselves."

Now the shop has five staff who prep and clean up, but there is still plenty for Ann to do.



Ann busy cooking. Photo: Niramorn Sukjaroen

A recent morning found her navigating the dark and quiet streets of Phuket before dawn. She was headed to the market, where she goes every other day to buy vegetables. The air was cool, which made Ann happy. "My customers will want to eat hot soup," she said.

Back at the shop, her staff – two of whom have worked there since Ann was a child – go about their duties in focused silence, julienning ginger, slicing pork liver, de-stemming cilantro, cutting chilies, preparing the two soups and the two styles of rice.

Ann's mother, 72, still works every day, and this morning is snipping off the ends of spring onions. Ann's sister, Aom, appears to take the orders and act as cashier.

Ann readies her kitchen, a metal structure with three burners that is pushed to the entrance of the shop each morning. Here she mixes boiled rice, or congee, with soup, then adds pieces of pork intestine and liver as well as minced pork.

Deng, her assistant, prepares the empty bowls, adding small spoonfuls of MSG, soy



A table full of plates for the fried dough.



The finished product with fried dough, julienned ginger and cilantro.

sauce, preserved vegetables, dried seaweed, and a soft boiled egg – the eggs are sourced from Phang Nga.

"They're more expensive, but the yolk has a nice color and looks good in the bowl," Ann says. Deng garnishes each bowl with chopped green onion and golden fried garlic bits, then it's whisked to the table.

The first customer appears at 5:30am, a man who leaves his truck parked askew and running in front of the shop. He arrives before the delivery of ice and sticky-rice snacks – "We make a good profit on those", Ann says – and before the monk who comes at six o'clock to accept an offering and give back a prayer.

School children brought by their parents, civil servants in uniform, and working people fill the shop by 7am. Ann compares the current customers to the ones from the old days.

"Back then, they were local people. They grumbled if we charged 45 baht," she said. "The customers now are 'office people' and don't blink an eye at paying 80 baht for special orders."

During the rush, Ann and Deng focus on the orders. There's a decision tree, like choosing ingredients for a sandwich: boiled rice or congee? Pork stock or rib soup? Everyone likes it their way: two eggs, not much rice, double the seaweed, ribs but no soup, a little minced pork but lots of liver. Not to mention that customers can order three different kinds of noodles instead of rice.

Deng chooses bowls that reflect the order – the more expensive, the bigger the bowl – and lays them out for Ann, who is silent, remembering.

The dish is surprisingly bland, given Thailand's reputation for highly flavored food, that explains the army of condiments on the table: two kinds of soy sauce, black pepper, julienned ginger, cilantro leaves, sugar, chili powder, chopped chilies in vinegar. Pieces of fried dough can be ordered for five baht, and add a rich mouthfeel to the soup.

Running a breakfast shop means getting up early, and napping is a must: "Three afternoons in a row without sleeping is my maximum," Ann says. Late afternoons she exercises at a nearby fitness club, and occasionally meets friends for an early dinner. If there's a good series on TV, she'll stay up late to watch it, but is "a blur" the next day.

The shop closes during the local vegetarian festival, for weddings or other ceremonies, for yearly vacations, and every once in a while, when everyone is worn out. Aom estimates they take about 20 days off per year.

Ann, who likes to travel abroad and spent a summer as a university student working in Yosemite, dreams of adding new dishes. "Other shops have already added fish," she says. "I want to add mushrooms and cheese."

With Ann, the Boiled Rice shop on Dibuk Road – which is on Phang Nga Road, as the shop moved years ago but kept the name – is entering a new era.

The Boiled Rice Shop is located at: 185/11 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town. Telephone: 076 215 731.



Ann's mother and Kaew preparing green onions. Photos: Leslie Porterfield

Siriporn Tantipanyathep

THE reception area of the Phuket Passport Office is teeming with people waiting to apply for their travel documents. Officers dressed smartly in *Nyonya* style – women in sarongs and *Kebaya* blouses and men wearing *Batik* print shirts – give an air of friendly efficiency.

“It’s part of the governor’s initiative to promote local culture,” says Passport Chief Siriporn Tantipanyathep. “Thursday is *Nyonya* day. Friday is island theme, when we all wear bright batik tops.”

For a career diplomat like Siriporn, whose job has taken her across continents, working in Phuket must seem like a holiday. “Providing passport services is part of the Foreign Ministry’s public diplomacy, but as the only Foreign Ministry representative in Phuket, I also assist the governor in dealing with foreign delegations and foreign affairs,” says Siriporn, who took up the position in November of last year.

She says that the job is made easy with close cooperation from the heads of other government offices, who have become good friends.

“Thanks to the governor’s drive and commitment to streamline cooperation through weekly meetings both formally and informally.”

Siriporn has a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Thammasat University and a master’s in Commerce from University of New South Wales, Australia. She started working for the Foreign Ministry in

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

the mid-1990s, having impressed examiners by earning a top score on the Ministry’s entrance test.

Siriporn’s first posting was with the Thai Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which also handled Bhutan as well. After two years in Dhaka, she was transferred to Belgium. There for four years, as First Secretary to the Thai Embassy in Brussels, Siriporn had a chance to put her knowledge and skills in economics to good use.

“It was a tough job, but it gave me valuable experience,” she says.

“I was part of the Mission of Thailand to the European Union, responsible for economic issues, including lobbying to EU authorities for Thailand’s interests.”

After a few years back working at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Bangkok, Siriporn was assigned a posting in the Bollywood town of Mumbai, whose energy and exuberance made a lasting impression on her.

“Initially, I had some reservations about India, but after two years there I was truly enamored with the town and its people who are genuinely friendly. Both my 3-year-old daughter and I felt welcome there. This is not to mention the

unique Indian culture and heritage. India’s economy is very up-and-coming.”

After India, Siriporn cross-posted to peaceful Wellington, New Zealand for three years. “The pace there is different from India, understandably. But then again, every place is unique in its own way. New Zealanders are casual and friendly. The nature is wonderful – a paradise on Earth.”

Consular work in a provincial town like Phuket may seem uninspiring compared to a rich and multifarious diplomatic career abroad, but as Siriporn will have you know, the job here is anything but dull.

“Phuket is a cosmopolitan town and there’s a rich mixture of cultures and people. This is not to mention the strong local culture. It’s a great place to be. I’m here by choice and won’t hesitate to contribute anything in any form to the sustainable development and prosperity of Phuket.”

This posting also gives a chance for her now 8-year-old daughter to be closer to her beloved father whose job as top architect and owner of Phuket Garden Hotel here has kept him from joining the family abroad.

“Family affairs aside, I love it here in Phuket. The job is interesting, people are fantastic, and their ways of life and culture are fascinating. I’m happy to call Phuket my home,” she said.



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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What's happening to all my power?

"I CANNOT sleep!" That is frequently what I hear in my consultations. Nearly all of us have experienced difficulty sleeping, be it falling asleep or other sleep worries such as frequent awakening, sleep apnea, nightmares, narcolepsy, sleep paralysis or even jet lag.

Sleep is the sweet balm that soothes and restores us after a long day of work. It seems to be the protector of our metabolism. In the mid-brain, there is a small organ called the hypothalamus, where our personal memories are accounted and stored, controlled by a genetically-designed mechanism, the circadian rhythm. If it's dark, we fall asleep with the support of a hormone, Melatonin, which only is secreted in darkness. This hormone not only controls our sleep, but our metabolism as well. Melatonin is an active immune stimulator, protecting us from infectious diseases and cancer. People who work night shifts, thereby decreasing their melatonin output, are at increased risk for cancer. Melatonin is also efficient in preventing sepsis, asphyxia in newborns and metabolic and neuro-degenerative diseases, inflammation and aging. The beneficial effects of melatonin can be explained by its properties as a potent antioxidant and antioxidant enzyme inducer. These effects support the use of melatonin in viral infections.

Another important factor affecting our sleep is the protection of our powerhouse, mitochondria. Melatonin acts as anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory hormone helping to burn off calories and turn them into energy. Therefore, a long sleep in dark rooms increase your melatonin and makes you more resistant against infections, builds up your energy and will help you in controlling weight gain, even without reducing the intake of food. Melatonin also improves your blood lipid profile, as it reduces triglycerides, and also increases the "good" HDL cholesterol and reduces the "bad" LDL cholesterol. Melatonin is found in some fruits and vegetables such as mustard, Goji berries, almonds, sunflower seeds, cardamom, fennel, coriander and cherries. Additional melatonin as a supplement should be taken. Sleep in dark and cool rooms for a minimum of eight hours. Measure your melatonin levels before you get your melatonin supplement.

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Prof Dr Michael Kientze of Germany heads the Kientze Medical Faculty and serves as the Chief Scientific and Medical Officer at Thanyapura Integrative Health Clinic.

Relearning

How one man gains the upper hand in his fight with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), thanks to a series of acupuncture and rehabilitation sessions in Phuket. Steven Layne reports:

FRENCH national Roland Fabre, 34, was an up-and-coming Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter, up until about five years ago, when his life changed forever – seemingly for the worse.

Approaching the height of his career, he was just starting to make waves in professional MMA rings in both the US and Japan.

Then, during one particular fight in Japan, something (or perhaps everything) caught up with him.

"I was about 29 then," he recalls what was the to be the last fight of his career: "I got into the ring but couldn't even keep my balance, let alone stay in the fight."

Something was unusually wrong. I collapsed, but not directly from the fight."

Shortly after that episode, at the suggestion of a friend, Roland decided to take a journey to Thailand.

Although this was his first trip to the Kingdom, Roland didn't get the rest and recovery that he was hoping for.

"As soon as I got to Bangkok, my condition rapidly got worse. The extreme temperature transition from Japan to Thailand must have been a trigger. I ended up checking into a private hospital, which is when I finally found out what was happening to me."

Roland was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a condition in which the immune system attacks the central nervous system in sporadic, unpredictable and even uncontrollable episodes.

He returned to Japan and started to learn about his condition.

"It was frustrating because no one really knows the cause, and thus cure. All we know about are the symptoms and how to temporarily treat them."

Roland was injected with steroids after each attack, which initially occurred about every two to three months.

Although his physical fighting career was over from that point, a new fight – a mental one – had just begun.

Eventually, he returned to his home in France, where he started interferon treatment.

"This treatment is supposed to make the attacks less frequent, but not in my case."

Over a period of about one and a half years, Roland continued interferon treatment, but his attacks did not subside, and he still had to get injected with steroids after every relapse.

Roland describes the downsides of this dangerous and yet ineffective treatment: "My temper got shorter, I started eating a lot, became real aggressive, anxious and started going crazy. Even as a

specialist, and Roland was willing to give it a try.

So, he made the move to Bangkok about a year ago and started seeing Dr Kingston CH Ooi, a Traditional Chinese Medicine expert, who runs a clinic on Sukhumvit, Soi 48 in the Thai capital.

"When I first met Roland about a year ago, he was still in his wheelchair and was unable to stand on his own,"

said Dr Kingston, a Malaysian national who played a fundamental role in the drafting and enacting of Thai legislation related to traditional Chinese medicine.

Leaving behind the hustle of Bangkok, Roland moved to Phuket, where he continued his acupuncture treatments with Dr Kingston and his Thai partner, Dr Jeiranai – also a traditional Chinese Medicine specialist – at the rehabilitation ward of Phuket International Hospital.

Dr Kingston splits his time between his Bangkok clinic and PIH, making trips between the two cities on a weekly basis.

"We found that Roland's MS condition caused him to lose a lot of neural function. His brain could not communicate normally with his legs due to an imbalance of chi energy."

After some initial tests, Dr Kingston was able to pinpoint the specific affected meridians, and had Roland come in for about four acupuncture sessions a week.

"Our strategy for the first six months was to reactivate the neural functions that he had lost."

While acupuncture won't provide a permanent fix for MS patients, it can bring an improved prognosis, as it did in Roland's case.

"The level of recovery depends on a number of factors, including the age of the patient and how long they've been affected by the condition. We usually start with the head to attempt to reactivate lost neural functions and try to restore balance of Yin and Yang energy," said Dr Kingston.

Initially, Roland couldn't even feel the acupuncture needles that were put in his legs.

Dr Kingston explained that this was because there wasn't



A PATIENT PATIENT: Roland lies in a hospital bed receiving acupuncture and electrical pulse treatment therapy.

'We usually start with the head to attempt to reactivate lost neural functions and try to restore balance of Yin and Yang energy.'

– Dr Kingston

fighter, I never took steroids and was never this aggressive."

Having his fill of the ineffective, conventional treatments, he yearned for a more natural path.

Roland moved back to Japan, where he started a small business selling MMA shirts.

"I started frequenting Thailand more, mostly for business. I would get shirts made in Thailand and sell them in Japan."

Back in Japan, his condition didn't improve. His attacks worsened, until one day he wasn't able to even walk on his own, and was forced to use a wheelchair.

At this point, about three years ago, Roland had to move back to France again so his parents could take care of him. It was his lowest point. "My mental state was really unstable, and as an adult, it was hard to have to become dependent on my parents."

Around this time, Roland's then-girlfriend Benz, whom he had met during one of his business trips to Thailand, had suggested he move to Southeast Asia.

After all, warm, tropical weather is supposed to be better than cold climates for MS patients. Besides, Benz's parents happened to be friends with a well-known acupuncture

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the balance of life



FIGHT OF HIS LIFE: Up until four years ago, Roland used to fight external opponents. Then, after he was diagnosed with MS, and lost the ability to balance and even walk, his new battle has become an internal one.

sufficient chi flowing through certain 'meridians' (chi channels) as a result of his previous MS attacks. By targeting specific meridians, the acupuncture restored some Yin and Yang balance so that chi was able to flow to the point that Roland eventually could feel surges of pain when the needles were inserted.

"This kind of pain is a good thing. It means that the nerves are starting to communicate with the brain," Dr Kingston said.

While Roland admits that the acupuncture helped to reactivate nerve endings in his legs, he stresses that the ultimate catalyst for his recovery was, and is, his mental will power. Dr Kingston agrees: "After treating Roland for about six months, the next step was to let him do actions – step by step – starting with basic functions such as standing up, taking steps, balancing and eventually walking.

"It has been painful and difficult, but all worth it," says

Roland, who hasn't had an MS attack since he started the treatments just over a year ago.

Both Dr Kingston and Roland agree that the optimal recovery and rehabilitation strategy should apply a holistic approach.

Roland has given up all of his unhealthy habits. He doesn't smoke or drink, and consume junk foods, and he tries to avoid sweets and commercial farm produce (such as non-organic vegetables and meats contaminated with preservatives and pesticides).

Dr Kingston concurs that a lot of commercially produced foods, especially Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) are a primary cause for an increasing occurrence of chromosomal disorders and diseases, including cancer.

"A lot more younger people are getting cancer these days, which is related to the increase of GMO foods," he said, going

on to cite a recent study that assessed immunity of GMO chicks over multiple generations.

"With each new [genetically modified] generation, the chicken offspring's immune system became weaker and the chic had a shortened life span.

"Although GMO enables farmers to produce a higher quantity of food, such as protein for example, the quality of the food is drastically reduced, and it has a direct and negative impact on consumers' health."

In addition to MS, Dr Kingston and Dr Jeiranai have used acupuncture to treat thousands of cases, ranging from motor-accident trauma, Parkinson disease and cerebral palsy to chromosomal disorders, stroke and all types of conditions that affect the central and peripheral nervous systems.

Altogether, he estimates that the PIH ward sees about 350 cases a month.



STANDING TALL: Roland Fabre stands with Dr Kingston at Phuket International Hospital's rehabilitation ward. Photo: Steven Layne

Acupuncture may be a viable treatment option for one of the conditions listed in this article. Moreover, it may be effective in treating other short and long term conditions and ailments, including migraines, heel pain and general pain management. Dr Kingston is available by appointment at Phuket International Hospital on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. His partner, Dr Jeiranai is also available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. To make an appointment, or for general inquiries, please contact Phuket International Hospital by calling 076-249 400.

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Wallflowers and blushing violets



SHRINKING VIOLETS WE AIN'T: *Euphorbia cotonifolia*, above, stands it own against the more showy *brugmansia*, or 'Frosty Pink', left. Photos: Mauricio Mercadante and James Gaither

THE ENGLISH language has a wealth of expressions for reticent or modest behavior. "Take a back seat" is one, another, with a biblical provenance, talks of "hiding your light under a bushel". Brought up as children on AA Milne's tales, older readers may recall Winnie the Pooh saying: "it's not much of a tail, but I'm sort of attached to it." Endearing.

Oddly, a number of these expressions for self-effacement use floral metaphors. For example, we may refer to a "blushing or (shrinking) violet", or "a wallflower".

The literal source of the violet trope is a small flower related to the pansy.

It grows unobtrusively in secluded, shady and often marshy spots, and hides its small but fragrant blooms behind large heart-shaped leaves. Hence the phrase's aptness as a description of shy, withdrawn people.

The wallflower survives in taxing conditions in the wild, perched on cracked rocks and old



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

walls. A member of the mustard genus (*cheiranthus*), it produces clusters of dull bronze or orange flowers. However, the metaphor "wallflower" has a later origin: it was first used by an eighteenth century novelist to refer to sad girls left to fret on the sidelines at 'posh' balls. Like the flower, the expression has survived the test of time.

Both these unassuming plants hail from temperate climates. In the tropics, the floral emphasis is more often on bold, even brash colors, on plants such as orchids, chalice vines, *allamandas*, or *brugmansias* that say "look at me, aren't I stunning! I'm not going to be a wallflower." But even in these hot-house conditions, there are unpretentious species that perform a serviceable job in the

garden with the minimum of fuss and attention.

One of the most useful of these shrubs is *euphorbia cotonifolia*. While it pales in significance alongside its cousins – the crown of thorns, or the showy white sprays of *euphorbia leucocephala* – it will grow almost anywhere, and even in shady conditions.

Multi-branched from the base, it forms a large bush with its green and lightly purple-mottled or crimson leaves, and reddish stems. Known in Thailand as *thon-po-daeng*, the name alludes to the color of its foliage, which in the case of some recent cultivars, or when given enough sun, will produce leaves of a brilliant magenta.

That this plant has become

naturalized on waste land around Phuket, is an indication of its capacity, like the violet and the wallflower, to survive in unhelpful conditions. It will happily co-exist with other trees and shrubs, will plug gaps in your garden, and can be used to accompany other container plants. Three things to note: The

flowers, small, round and cream, are pretty but take second place to the foliage.

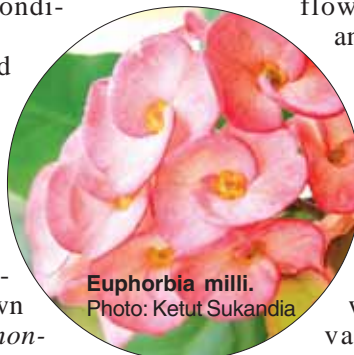
Moreover, the stems are jointed and therefore quite brittle. And if deprived of water, *cotonifolia* will wilt. But it invariably recovers, once moisture gets to its roots. And if you do not want to go looking for it around the island's waste lots, cultivars are available in plant nurseries.

Phyllanthus myrtifolius belongs to the same vast *euphorbia*

family. Another attractive foliage shrub, this one has a low growing habit, and is especially useful for raised beds or planted along the edges of a fish pond, where it will soften or hide the margins of the pool. It has long, slender branches which arch over, and dark, evergreen, fern-like leaflets. These may sprout roots when they come in contact with the ground.

Like *cotonifolia*, it makes an effective and unobtrusive cover when planted among larger or more vibrant shrubs. And similarly, *phyllanthus* will tolerate most conditions including poor soil. But it is essentially a sun-lover: this makes it a good choice for a rockery, where it may rub shoulders with cacti, *pandanus pygmaeus* and *tradescantias*.

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



Euphorbia millii.
Photo: Ketut Sukandia

Tip of the Week

Fighting the elements



Stilt palms: Photo: Drew Avery

BEING a small tropical island, Phuket has a salty atmosphere, which particularly affects gardens near the sea. Some plants – milkweed, sea lettuce, stilt palms, sea-almond and *casuarina* trees seem to thrive in such conditions. But most are vulnerable to the combination of gusting winds and saline air.

Trees with tender, lush foliage such as *ashokas* (*polyalthia*) or trees with delicate fronds such as bananas are easily damaged: the result – shredded fronds or

foliage and in some cases loss of leaves.

I recently visited a mature garden near Karon Beach encircled by tall buildings, which had created a kind of wind tunnel. A long row of *ashokas* had been planted to form a wind-break – a common choice for this purpose in Thailand – but years of buffeting winds had caused them to lean in one direction and, in the worst affected area, to lose most of their foliage.



Phyllanthus myrtifolius: Photo: Ahmad Fuad Morad



HEADY DAYS: The Full Moon Party in Koh Phangan is popular among backpackers from haunts all over Thailand, who come to drink buckets of vodka/redbull and dance on the beach. Photos: Erik Jaeger and Scott Hadfield



Portrait of a modern day backpacker

JUST as Americans are fond of saying, "We were all immigrants once," so old expats in Thailand say: "We were all backpackers once." Though some first came with the military or on teaching contracts, it's true that most of us first stepped foot in Thailand as backpackers.

Technically, I was never a backpacker. In 1976, I carried my kit in a shoulder satchel. I avoided youth hostels and ingratiated myself with Malaysian friends in Malacca and Thai friends in Songkhla, as a prelude to marriage, family and a long assortment of jobs here. Still, I wonder about the lives of backpackers nowadays.

Thus, I was intrigued by Richard Arthur's *I of the Sun* (Matador, Leicester, 2012, 356pp), which is supposedly the chronicle of one year in the life of a 22-year-old backpacker in Thailand. He is coy about his background: "I grew up in a regular place, a life as normal as the next," he writes, though it becomes obvious by his slang that he is British. In a quest for authenticity, he nobly forgoes the use of his cell phone, though he avidly keeps in touch with family and friends through email. Four decades ago, our only contact were letters in Post Restante mailboxes.

I do believe completely that the author is 22-years-old. This is obvious by the philosophical sections that periodically interrupt

Books

By James Eckardt

the narrative – "philosophical" in the sense of dorm room bull session musings on good and evil, free will and predestination, and a plodding history of mankind starting from the Big Bang. Only a 22-year-old would inflict these musings on his reader.

They, like the whale sections of Moby Dick, can be profitably skipped. This comes to sixty pages of blather which, trust me, will not be missed.

What's left is a dutiful tour, told with no humor and scarcely any dialogue, of every backpacker haunt in Thailand – Krabi, Koh Phi Phi, Koh Phangan, Khao San Road, Chiang Mai – as well as Hue, Hanoi, Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng and even the remote Lao village of Muang Noi, where after an all day journey by *songtaew* (local bus) and river boat, his party of 15 backpackers "suddenly found ourselves in yet another backpacker ghetto, here in the middle of nowhere. Guesthouses, bad restaurants, banana pancake stalls and the rest. We obviously weren't the first people to find this place."

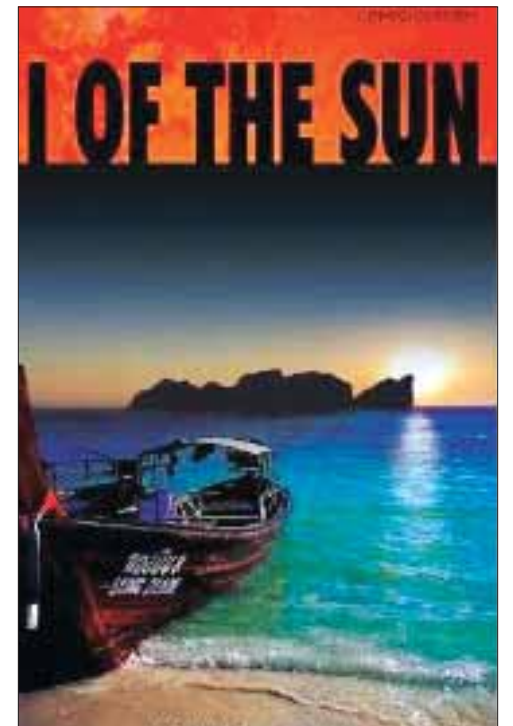
So it goes everywhere, the author moving on a conveyor belt of tour buses and

ferryboats chock full of backpackers trundling along to yet another scene swarming with fellow stoned white kids: Full Moon Party on Koh Phangan, Songkran in Chiang Mai . . . "Funny how all us backpackers came to this huge country but ended up going to the same ten or so places," the author observes. "Everywhere I went I saw people I'd met previously in another part of the country."

He is not unaware of the effects of his huge, roving, foreign tribe. Of a Lahu village, he observes: "It was the poorest place I'd ever seen in my life, cut off from the modern world, a simple way of life that all civilizations had emerged from – people living off the land, sustenance farmers of the forests. And yet their way of life seemed to have such an intrinsic beauty, untouched and unburdened by the madness of modernity, the people happy and strong, a good life, people of the earth, pure and simple. Then I remembered there were groups like us coming through the village every few days. Were we destroying the very way of life we'd come to visit?"

The author has a healthy appetite for booze, drugs and sex. Evidently, he is handsome enough to have fleeting romances with Thai women in Krabi and Chiang Mai, but he settles eventually as a shill on Koh Phi Phi, handing out flyers for a nightclub,

drinking for free at night – buckets of Saeng Som and Krating Daeng – and stirring up the dance floor in return for a dingy room and a daily 400 baht for food. He settles into a cycle of woozy highs and horrendous hangovers. The only question in the end is: will he escape paradise?



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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

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5									2
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COFFEE break

- Across:
- 9. Direct pro to become a prophet (9)
 - 10. Sawn wood, buy for new couple (4,2,3)
 - 12. Nothing male in the country (4)
 - 13. Plead for a new apple (6)
 - 14. Right, maybe cuts in around to apply hard coat (7)
 - 15. Losing net, Internet Cafe rearranged area where things come together (9)
 - 17. Texting or possibly demanding with threats (9)
 - 18. Maybe leave you time, note, to lift (7)
 - 19. Father messes up tent to find overshoe (6)
 - 20. Is Eastern echo, I understand (1,3)
 - 23. Almost a dearth disturbed Latin diocesan church (9)
 - 25. Ye ever set out last night, poetically! (9)
 - 26. New turn left fifty invalid (4)
 - 27. Continuous flow disturbed, rest a minute (6)
 - 29. Trap ape shifting low barrier (7)
 - 32. Something that pulls out no longer a farm vehicle (9)
 - 34. Knowing before, caught one in the present (9)
 - 35. Lot more moving and shaking in music (7)
 - 36. Shortly, dangerous aquatic creatures turn in flower (6)
 - 37. Possibly a hit for local carrier (4)
 - 38. Lacking will to take right from interstate (9)
 - 39. Map I spelt out in recycled manuscript (9)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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38				39			

- Down:
- 1. Fitting out, I stop ape (8)
 - 2. Meant led part out belonging to an organization (12)
 - 3. Put an end to long time discontinuation (8)
 - 4. Mourn G.I., ever upset (6)
 - 5. Loaded, left a fun grouping (8)
 - 6. Sin quest, an aberration in old-fashioned oddness (10)
 - 7. Cure sob, arrange mask (7)
 - 8. Lusitanians put grouse out East (10)
 - 11. Dirt stirred around socially acceptable little Gretrude (5)
 - 16. Me, roar about a wanderer? (6)
 - 19. Father left a friend (3)
 - 21. Arrange the 'sec', please, for the point-to-point (12)
 - 22. Got together, right, in charge of type of measurement (6)
 - 23. Almost in concert, maybe, about having a common center (10)
 - 24. Turning, rational to back in (10)
 - 25. An apposite exclamation for a Thai salad! (3)
 - 28. Need rich become enhanced? (8)
 - 29. Preceding stories page queer, oddly fifty second (8)
 - 30. Bird tables champions (8)
 - 31. Almost wake up and make merry (7)
 - 33. Deal with a nice surprise (5)
 - 34. Inspire reminder (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 27

Your weekly pith: "A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him or her." - David Brinkley
This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes for Prosperity'

ARIES (March 21-April 20):
There is an air of uncertainty in the world of work this week for Arians. The stars suggest that you could be skating on thin ice if investments are made too quickly, whether this applies to money or energy. Those with a birthday in the coming week should see things more clearly in the realm of romance during the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is one.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):
The stars forecast a brighter outlook for Taureans where money matters are concerned. The stars show unexpected gain during the second half of April and hint of a particular financial commitment lessening. Your reluctance to party this weekend is overcome by pressure from close friends – another earth sign knows exactly how to tempt you to get out and about. The number six can bring good fortune this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):
Geminis will have reason to reflect on what is really important in their lives during the second half of April. This may be caused by a sudden opportunity to move forward at work, with the stars indicating that

a water sign partner's feelings could clash with yours. Those who are single should have no doubts about whether to follow up contact with a fire sign. Number four can open a lucky door this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):
Too many unanswered questions can dampen Cancerians' spirits this week. Where bureaucratic affairs are concerned, the stars indicate that information will flow more quickly later this month. In the realm of romance, another water sign's constant excuses can make you give an ultimatum. Those who are single and shy should find it easy to make new connections during the socially charged atmosphere this weekend. Number seven can be important this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):
Setting deadlines is recommended for Leos as a backlog of work could mean that the second half of April is busier than you would like. There's no need to miss out on fun this weekend, but make Monday the day to start as you mean to go on. Where romance with an air sign is concerned, moving forward too quickly can result in regret. The number three is forecast to be lucky this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):
People will be hard to pin down around the middle of the month and Virgoans are advised to match this mood, rather than try to force anything. The astral atmosphere becomes less hazy towards the end of April; in the meantime, this is an auspicious time to focus on family and domestic life. A change of surroundings this weekend will refresh close relationships. Number five comes alive this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):
Money can slip through your fingers too readily around the middle of this month. There are signs that a fire sign friend or family member expects too much generosity from you – Librans should put a foot down now before this gets out of hand. Love is in the air this weekend; an earth sign could make an offer that is hard to refuse. Your lucky number this week is two.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):
Keeping your feet firmly on the ground will be important this week. The stars suggest that too many ideas could send Scorpions scuttling around in circles without achieving much. Remaining cautious where finances are concerned is recommended; bills should be carefully examined before you settle them. Romance goes your way this weekend – another water sign seems especially keen to pursue a relationship. Number one stands out this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):
Financial dealings can be tricky around the middle of the month. Another fire sign may get the wrong impression when you make an offer – the stars advise double checking agreements, especially regarding property matters. Those Sagittarians involved in the break-up of a relationship will find that consulting a third party eases complications. Support from friends this weekend takes your mind off personal problems. Number two has good luck written on it.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):
The stars suggest that it may be necessary to give up something you are used to having in order to get where you want to be. However, money can be saved

in ways previously unconsidered and another earth sign's passing remarks can be the key to seeing this. Creative Capricorns will benefit from auspicious cosmic conditions during the second half of April. Your lucky number this week is six.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):
The stars show that your natural charm can encourage doors to be opened during the second half of April. Aquarians who recently failed in trying to impress people in the world of work should have more success now. A second wind after some action packed days allows you to enjoy the party atmosphere this weekend. Sizzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The number nine can be fortunate.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):
Those Pisceans who have become romantically involved with someone in the world of work could see this become problematic. There are hints that another water sign's jealousy may cause a bad atmosphere and the stars advise clearer separation of your private life. Your luck in money matters improves during the second half of April, with promising investment opportunities highlighted. The number eight is forecast to attract good luck.

International Sport

The Formula 1 soap opera

IN THE lead up to Shanghai, Formula 1 is full of questions. Can McLaren possibly get it together? The news says "no", but I think they could surprise us. We are all hoping that Force India will be a force to reckon with, after they sort out the problem with their nuts. Lotus will be intending to get back to form, and Kimi Räikkönen will be looking for a podium finish.

Ferrari team news has been focussed on the relationship between Alonso and Massa, but we should expect a professional performance from the 'Prancing Horse'. In other news, Ferrari's special position in F1 has been revealed in the IPO Prospectus. Ferrari may veto any regulations agreed by the FIA. Ferrari, McLaren and Red Bull all get bonuses from F1. Ferrari's guaranteed pay-out each race is equivalent to Malussia's entire annual budget, and Ferrari's Chairman has an option to a stake in the new F1.

But buzz is still being generated by Red Bull. When Sebastian Vettel scornfully ignored team orders and riskily overtook his teammate Mark Webber, and when the Team Principal did not order him to surrender the place, several hares started running, and numerous coursing hounds gave chase.

First they were enemies; then they made-up; Mark is leaving; Mark is staying; Red Bull is considering Kimi Räikkönen. The messages are confusing.

Red Bull has a stated aim to make F1 'fun' again. Their satirical magazine released four times per race weekend is distributed from behind the grandstand at each track. In the 2005 Monaco Grand Prix, the pit crew dressed as Stormtroopers.

In 2006, David Coulthard donned a Superman cape for the podium, and Christian Horner jumped into a swimming pool wearing nothing but that cape. Until someone retires and "tells all", we will never know the facts, but to the outside observer, Red Bull is looking like an entertaining soap opera. So here is the cast of my soap "Milton Keynes" (It does not sound as catchy as Dallas, but never mind):



UNLOVED: Red Bull Formula One driver Mark Webber of Australia drives during the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix. Photo: Reuters



Formula 1
By The Digby

As the 'reclusive billionaire patriarch': Austrian team owner Dietrich Mateschitz, tycoon and sports team owner. Mateschitz watches F1 on TV despite owning two teams, and listens to those he trusts. Like all family businesses, in Red Bull, anyone's real place in the team is defined not by his position in the organization chart, but by his influence with the patriarch.

As the 'diplomatic leader': British Team Principal Christian Horner, talented enough to win a Formula Renault scholarship. He finished the 1992 British Formula Renault Championship as the highest placed rookie. In 2005, Red Bull brought Horner to F1, as the youngest team principal at the time. He is a diplomatic ego smoother, a much needed skill in Red Bull.

As the 'éminence grise': Team Advisor, Austrian Helmut Marko. During the 1972 French GP he was blinded in one eye, ending his driving career. He owns hotels and was manager for Gerhard Berger, another friend of the patriarch, before setting up the Red Bull Junior Team.

Since 1999, he has overseen the Red Bull driver development program, which nurtured Sebastian Vettel. Since 2005, he has been advisor to the Red Bull Team, is a great Vettel supporter and has Mateschitz's ear.

As the 'brains': Chief Technical Officer, genius Briton, Adrian Newey. From 1992-1998, a Newey designed Williams or McLaren won every Constructor's Championship. Since 2010 he has consistently won again, for Red Bull. He is one of the most important men in F1.

As the 'spoilt twin': Driver, German Sebastian Vettel, with the worst haircuts in F1. By first urging management to order Webber aside and then flaunting team orders, he demonstrated power in Red Bull. But Vettel needs a teammate on the track to help him win, and maybe he lost that when he started to believe his own PR handouts.

As the 'unloved efficient twin': Driver, dour and dapper, Australian Mark Webber, who's now at war with his younger twin.

As 'the sharks': all the other teams who fancy seducing Mark Webber to their team, or at least undermining Red Bull's success.

As the 'mercurial commentator': combative and controversial octogenarian Bernie Ecclestone, who delights in spectacles of avarice. It was apparently

Bernie who suggested Mercedes as a new home to Lewis Hamilton.

As 'the troublemaker': Webber's manager, flamboyant Italian Flavio Briatore, who started as an insurance salesman, was convicted in Italy on fraud charges, which were later extinguished by an amnesty. He created several successful Benetton franchises as a fugitive in the Virgin Islands and the USA.

In 1990, he became manager of Benetton F1, which morphed into Renault F1 in 2002. The driver of his wedding car was Fernando Alonso. Briatore was forced to resign from the Renault team because of the 2008 Singapore GP race fixing scandal. He was banned indefinitely from any events sanctioned by the FIA, but got this ban overturned by the French courts. He is constantly attacked in the media, and makes for delicious quotes.

As the 'glamor interests': wives and girlfriends of the principal actors, many successful celebrities in their own right.

As the 'media interest': 18-year-old Dutch driver Beitske Visser, the first woman to join Red Bull's Junior Team.

The plot can roll; lights, camera, action!

Qualifying for the Chinese Grand Prix starts at 1pm on Saturday, and the race starts at 2pm on Sunday. Watch both with me!

English Premier League roundup

MANCHESTER United suffered a 2-1 defeat against Manchester City at Old Trafford, on April 8. The loss reduced United's lead at the top of the table to 12 points, with seven games left for both teams.

An own goal by Vincent Kompany canceled out James Milner's opener for City. Substitute Sergio Aguero scored the winner for City with 12 minutes left. The defeat shouldn't affect United's title charge, but the win will be a confidence boost for Mancini's team.

Aston Villa's hopes of survival were helped on Saturday thanks to a Mathew Lowton wonder goal, helping the Villains to a 3-1 win against Stoke at the Britannia Stadium. Gabby Agbonlahor gave Villa the lead in the 9th minute, and they should have taken a 2-0 lead but for the post denying Anders Weimann. Villa's pressure and control of the game looked to count for nothing when Stoke equalized in the 80th minute through Michael Kightly. But seven minutes later, Lowton chested down a clearance 30 yards

out and volleyed the ball into the top corner past the outstretched Bogovic in the Stoke goal. Benteke, Villa's standout player, completed the victory with his 15th league goal of the season in the 90th minute.

Reading, managed by former Southampton manager Nigel Adkins, suffered a blow in their fight against relegation, losing at home 2-0 to Southampton. The Saints were the stronger side throughout and they deserved their victory. Jay Rodriguez opened the scoring for the Saints in the 34th minute, beating goalkeeper Federeci to the ball to slide it into the net. Substitute Llana finished off a crisp Southampton move, playing a one-two with Jay Rodriguez before slotting the ball into the net in the 72nd minute.

Wigan visited QPR knowing that a win would take them out of the relegation zone. QPR needed a win to help them try to claw back some points on the teams above them. The game moved in Wigan's favor with the sending off of QPR striker Bobby Zamora after 10

minutes. Wigan struggled to make their extra man count and Loic Remy scored what he, and Harry Redknapp, thought was the match-winning goal in the 85th minute. Wigan's Shaun Maloney scored a free kick in the 94th minute to deny QPR a vital three points.

Chelsea's 2-1 victory over Sunderland moved them up to 3rd in the league and heaped more relegation pressure on Sunderland. Paolo Di Canio's first match in charge started in the best possible way when his Sunderland team took the lead after Azpilicueta's attempted clearance from a corner ended up in his own net just before halftime. Chelsea equalized minutes after the restart through a Kilgallon own goal and the win was sealed when Ivanovic scored in the 55th minute.

Other results:

West Brom 1 - 2 Arsenal
Norwich 2 - 2 Swansea
Liverpool 0 - West Ham
Tottenham 2 - 2 Everton
Newcastle 1 - 0 Fulham

- Andrew Scott

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	GD	PTS
1	Man Utd	38	77
2	Man City	30	65
3	Chelsea	26	58
4	Tottenham	15	58
5	Arsenal	27	56
6	Everton	12	52
7	Liverpool	19	49
8	WBA	-1	44
9	Swansea	1	41
10	Fulham	-4	39
11	Southampton	-7	37
12	West Ham	-9	37
13	Newcastle	-14	36
14	Norwich	-19	35
15	Stoke	-11	34
16	Aston Villa	-24	33
17	Sunderland	-11	31
18	Wigan	-20	31
19	QPR	-23	24
20	Reading	-27	23

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 13 APRIL 2013 21:00	
Arsenal	VS Norwich
Aston Villa	VS Fulham
Everton	VS QPR
Reading	VS Liverpool
Southampton	VS West Ham
SUNDAY, 14 APRIL 2013 18:00	
Newcastle	VS Sunderland
SUNDAY, 14 APRIL 2013 20:05	
Stoke	VS Man Utd

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RESTAURANT Off Course



CHEAT: Armstrong awaits the start of a race in 2010. Photos: Reuters



Oscar "Blade Runner" Pistorius at a race meet before he was accused of murdering Reeva Steenkamp.

The fall of sporting idols

By Andrew Scott

SPORTS stars are among some of the most revered men and women on the planet. Those who excel at their chosen sport are seen as gods among us mere mortals and they are rewarded accordingly.

But, a fall from grace for someone at the top of their game is viewed with as much, if not more, interest than any sporting endeavor they participated in.

The media circus that followed Lance Armstrong's admission of doping during each of his seven *Tour de France* title campaigns, was more intense than any coverage he gained on his bicycle.

The downfall of a sports star grips fans and non-fans alike. Below the *Gazette* recaps some of the major scandals that have made news headlines the world over during the last six months.

Shock from South Africa

Oscar Pistorius put on his artificial legs and walked across his bedroom before firing four handgun rounds into a locked bathroom door, killing his cowering girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in cold blood,

prosecutors said in February.

Pistorius secured his place in sporting history by becoming the first double amputee to compete at the Olympics and was an inspirational figure to many.

Standing alone in a courtroom in Pretoria, South Africa, the severity of his actions etched over his face, "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius was a million miles away from the worship and adulation he received for his efforts at the London Olympics in July, 2012.

The South African was eliminated from the 400-meters and finished last in his semifinal, but his presence was always likely to be more significant than his achievements on the track.

A high court ruling recently eased Pistorius' bail restrictions on appeal and has allowed him to travel to compete, which means he could race at the World Championships in Moscow in August.

His next court appearance is set for June 4. The fact that he is awaiting trial for the premeditated murder of his girlfriend – a charge which he denies, saying he thought she was an intruder – and the fact that the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) spokesman

Yannis Nikolau backs his return to the track, means that Blade Runner could be competing at race meets across Europe, while at the same time fighting to clear his name in a courtroom in South Africa.

"It is up to the meeting organizers to invite him for the one-day meetings. If he qualifies for Moscow, and then on the basis of innocent until proven guilty, he will be free to run," Nikolau said.

The Brazilian OJ Simpson

Bruno Fernandes was tipped to represent Brazil at the 2014 World Cup, however, instead the ex-Flamengo goalkeeper will be serving a 22-year prison sentence for ordering the kidnap and murder of his former lover, Eliza Samudio, who was dismembered and fed to his pet dogs.

The prosecutors alleged that she was murdered after demanding that Bruno pay child maintenance for their baby son.

Bruno was a fan favorite who had played for Brazil's biggest club, Flamengo, since 2006. On the pitch, he helped his team win the national championship in 2009, and before his arrest in 2010 he was

tipped to make a lucrative move to Europe, with AC Milan the possible destination. The court case, which started in 2010 and ended with his conviction in March 2013, gripped the soap opera-obsessed nation and gained huge media coverage, with the Brazilian press comparing it to the OJ Simpson trial.

Cycling's dope

Lance Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1996. By 1999, he had beaten the cancer and claimed his first of seven *Tour de France* titles. All of this was to come crashing down around him in spectacular fashion after he was banned for life and stripped of his race wins, including those seven *Tour de France* victories, after a US Anti-Doping Agency report last year described him as the ring master of the "most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen."

It wasn't until Lance Armstrong was interviewed by Oprah Winfrey on her TV show, in January of this year, that he admitted to cheating. On the prime time show, he admitted to using testosterone and human growth hormone, as well as EPO (Erythropoietin). In addition to using drugs, Lance also admitted that he took blood transfusions to help him excel in the increasingly competitive sport. Armstrong was denied the chance to compete at the recent Masters swimming competition in Texas, after the world swimming governing body FINA ruled that he could not compete.

Generation Y

It isn't just professional players who have run-ins with the law. Two high school American football players from Ohio were found guilty last month of raping a 16-year-old girl at a party last summer while she was passed out drunk. Because the victim did not

remember what had happened, scores of text messages and cellphone pictures provided most of the evidence.

The use of third party evidence was seen to highlight the power a high school American football team held over other teenagers, who documented and traded pictures of the assault while doing nothing to protect the girl.

The 17-year-old quarterback was sentenced to serve at least two years in the state juvenile system, and the 16-year-old wide receiver was sentenced to serve at least one year.

Performance enhanced match fixing

Members of Australia's 4x100 meter freestyle team recently admitted using a banned sedative in a "bonding session" prior to last year's London Olympics. The relay team were expected to claim a medal at the Olympics, but they finished a disappointing fourth in the event.

Last month in Australia, anti-doping investigators interviewed 30 National Rugby League (NRL) players as part of an ongoing probe into the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs.

The Cronulla Sharks fired their head coach and four other club officials in response to the enquiry, including their team doctor. A global betting scam which was run out of Singapore fixed hundreds of football matches across the globe from 2008 to 2011, Europol alleged in February.

The Europol report claimed that about 680 suspicious matches, including qualifying games for the World Cup and European Championships, and the Champions League for top European club sides, have been identified in an inquiry by European police forces, according to the European anti-crime agency Europol and national prosecutors.



Disgraced 4x100m Australian swimmers. Photo: Reuters

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Sport

Talk of rivalry premature

GOLF fans have drooled in anticipation of a one-two rivalry between Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, but the mop-topped Northern Irishman said on April 9 that talk was premature.

"I don't see myself a rival to Tiger or to anyone," McIlroy said on Tuesday before a practice round at Augusta National ahead of Thursday's opening round of the Masters.

McIlroy, proclaiming himself 100 per cent comfortable with his golf swing and new clubs, could overtake a resurgent Woods and reclaim the world number one ranking at the Masters, but the 23-year-old Northern Irishman reminded everyone he is still early in his golf journey.

"When you speak of rivals, you tend to put rivals who have had similar success," said McIlroy. "He's got 77 PGA Tour events. I've got six. He's got 14

majors. I've got two.

"If I saw myself a rival to Tiger, I wouldn't really be doing him much justice."

However, McIlroy made it plain he was eager to work on bridging the numbers gap starting this week at the first major championship of the year.

"Every time you come here to Augusta, you're wanting to win that green jacket, and every time you don't it's another chance missed," said McIlroy, who admitted that anything less than a win would be a disappointment.

McIlroy started the year with an equipment change, a struggle to find his swing and a roundly criticized walk-off the course in frustration at the Honda Classic.

Determined to turn his season around in time for the Masters, McIlroy made a difficult decision to cancel a scheduled philan-

thropic trip to Haiti in order to work on his game at last week's Texas Open and suddenly it all came together for him.

A final-round 66 and a second place finish in San Antonio bolstered his confidence coming into the Masters.

McIlroy yearns for another chance as good as he had at the 2011 Masters, when he carried a four-stroke lead into the final round before soaring to an 80 finish to tie for 15th.

"I had a chance to win in 2011 and obviously that didn't go too well, but it still doesn't change the fact that it's my favorite golf tournament," he said. "Growing up watching this on TV ... it's a place that's very special to me.

"I don't know if I can explain it. Every time you drive in the gates here is a big thrill.

The season starts now, as far



Rory McIlroy (left) shares a joke with Tiger Woods. Photo: Reuters

as McIlroy is concerned.

"I've always said the main golf season is from the start of April to the end of August, so that's when I want to play my best golf," he added, describing the span of months that comprise golf's four majors.

But first will come some fun, and McIlroy said he plans to share the thrill with his girlfriend, former world women's tennis number one Caroline Wozniacki, who will caddy for him at Wednesday's Par-3 contest.

— Reuters

Straight to the point



THE 3rd Phuket Archery Open was held on April 6 at the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town. The event was a great success with archers from across Thailand and Asia participating. Phuket Archery Club claimed six 1st place finishes, including a 1st in the team event not listed here

The results of the competition are below:

TOAC: Thailand Outdoor Archery Club
 ATAS: Archery Thai Archery School
 Phuket AC: Phuket Archery Club

Youth under-12-years old

1st: Master Pann Tantangtrong (Phuket AC)

Youth under-18-years old

1st: Mr Narin Tantangtrong (Phuket AC)

Recurve Open Male

1st: Kathayuth Weerapornkarn (Phuket AC)

Recurve Open Female

1st: Anchaleeporn Dittapongpich (Nakomping Archery Club)

Compound Open Male:

1st: Traipat Maneesombatkul (TOAC)

Compound Open Female:

1st: Kanyawee Maneesombatkul (TOAC)

Traditional bow

1st: Thammaluck Niamhorm (TOAC)

Duel, youth under-12-years old:

1st: Master Chanok Waraporn (ATAS)

Duel, youth under-18-years old:

1st: Narin Tangtrong (Phuket AC)

Duel, Recurve open male:

1st: Kathayuth Weerapornkarn (Phuket AC)

Duel, Compound bow open:

1st: Traipat Maneesombatkul (TOAC)

Duel, Traditional bow:

1st: Thammaluck Niamhorm (TOAC)

— Andrew Scott

Ao Chalong Yacht Club notice of race

THE AO Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced the 2013 ACYC Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship Race Series 1 – FCI Watermaker Series.

The fourth race is this Sunday, April 14.

Eligibility and entry: The series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with an overall length greater than six meters.

Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form on each race day and by paying the racing nomination fee to the Race Officer or appointed ACYC representative.

Fees: There is no entry fee for boats. Crew fees are 100 baht per person for ACYC members, 200 baht for non-members. Crew fees no longer include food.

PLEASE NOTE: Crew fees are applicable to ALL participating crew.

Classes: Racing monohulls, cruising monohulls, racing multihulls, cruising multihulls.

Course: Ao Chalong Bay and surrounding area, details announced at race briefing pending prevailing conditions.

Rules: The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012.

Handicap system: Performance handi-

cap system as managed and monitored by the ACYC.

Prizes: Overall series prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class.

Individual race prizes will be awarded to podium finishers on race day pending the number of entries.

Course: To be announced, pending conditions on the day.

Insurance: Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance to a minimum cover of twenty million baht, or the equivalent, for all races entered.

Disclaimer of liability: Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, "Decision to Race". The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

— Phuket Gazette

For more information, call Scott Duncanson on 081-958 6879. To see the complete 2013 racing program, visit the Club's website: acyc-phuket.com.

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SPORT

Phuket FC sink Navy

By Steven Layne
and Andrew Scott

SURAKUL Stadium erupted in celebration on April 7 after Phuket FC's "super sub" Chana Sonwiset scored in added time to secure his side three points, in a Yamaha League One (YL1) match against the Royal Navy football club (Rajnavy football club).

Phuket's Brazilian striker Eduardo "Dudu" Purcino missed the match and Phuket sorely needed his cutting edge in attack.

Nenebi squandered Phuket's best chance in the first half, reacting quickest after Royal Navy's keeper parried a free kick from Kritsada Sakaew into his path, but he put his free header from two yards out wide of the goal.

The game was all square at 0-0 going into half time.

Royal Navy looked the fresher of the two teams after the break, and Woogeun Jeong sent a 20 yard effort just wide. Moments later, Jeong missed another chance inside the box.

This scare jolted Phuket into action and Chana Sonwiset really should have done a lot better after he was played through one-on-one with the keeper only



MATCH WINNER: Chana Sonwiset scored the deciding goal. Photo: S Layne

to waste a glorious chance.

The match was evenly poised at 0-0 going into the final minutes of added time, until Chana – whose name literally means "win" – scored the only goal of the game, beating a defender on the left side of the box and slotting the ball past Navy's keeper.

With more than 5,540 spectators, the turnout for the match – the third at home and fifth of 34 overall – was Phuket FC's largest

so far in the YL1 2013 season.

Parking near the stadium was also limited due to large crowds celebrating the traditional *Cheng Meng* ancestor veneration rites at the Chinese cemetery on the north side of Surakul Stadium.

The Southern Sea Warrior's latest victory brings their YL1 points tally to 11 points after five games, ensuring they retained their second placed standing in the 18-team league.

	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Port Lions	5	4	12
2	Phuket	5	4	11
3	BBCU	5	4	11
4	Krabi	5	4	8
5	PTT Rayong	4	4	8
6	Bangkok	5	2	8
7	Air Force Utd.	4	2	8
8	Korat FC	5	1	8
9	Nakhon Pathom	5	1	8
10	Rayong Utd.	5	2	7
11	Saraburi	5	0	6
12	Khon kaen	5	-1	5
13	Trat	5	-3	4
14	Royal Navy	5	-3	4
15	Si Racha	5	-4	4
16	Rayong FC	5	-4	2
17	Ayutthaya FC	5	-6	2
18	TTM FC	5	-7	1

1	LEANDRO PORT LIONS	6
2	PICHAD INBANG BBCU	5
3	VALCI TEIXEIRA JUNIOR RAYONG UTD.	4
4	LUIZ PURCINO PHUKET FC	3
5	LEE TUCK BANGKOK FC	3

Meanwhile Navy, still with only four points from their first five games, linger in 14th place.

Other YL1 results from last weekend's games:

Khon Kaen 2 – 0 Si Racha Suzuki
Trat 1 – 2 PTT Rayong
Bangkok 0 – 0 Airforce Utd
Krabi 0 – 0 Gulf Saraburi
TTM FC 0 – 1 Nakhon Pathom
Port Lions 1 – 2 BBCU
Korat 1 – 0 Ayutthaya FC
Rayong FC 1 – 3 Rayong Utd

Phuket will now break for Songkran, with their next fixture scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, away to Nakhon Pathom United. That match will be played at Nakhon Pathom Municipality Sports School Stadium with a 4pm kick off.

The Southern Sea Warrior's next home match at Surakul Stadium will be on Sunday, April 21 vs Khon Kaen football club with a 6:30pm kickoff.

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