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Island officials bite back

Program launched to tackle six-fold rise in dengue fever incidence reports



INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'THE SKULL WAS BROKEN, IT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN HIT BY A HARD OBJECT'

Buried secrets

■ Unearthed skeleton thought to be missing billionaire, victim of alleged Phuket killer

By **Orawin Narabal**

POLICE this week unearthed human remains underneath the Samui home of Hungarian national Gabor Nemeth, better known by the name on his Israeli passport, Moshe David.

The decomposing skeleton is believed to be all that remains of 39-year-old Hungarian

billionaire Laszlo Csapai, who was last seen in February 2011.

The gruesome discovery has forced investigators to dig deeper into the mystery of why the billionaire was murdered, allegedly by Mr David, who already stands charged with the murder of Hungarian businessman Peter Reisz in Phuket in December last year.

Police began excavating underneath Mr David's villa in the expat-popular area of Bophut last Sunday following a tip-off from Hungarian police who were trying to locate Mr Csapai.

The bones were buried at a depth of about three meters in the villa's basement.

"The skull was broken and appeared to have been hit by a hard object," said Surat Thani Provincial Police Commander

Kiattipong Khaosum-ang.

Mr Csapai's family had reported him as missing to Hungarian police and hired a detective to find him, Maj Gen Kiattipong explained.

The detective was able to locate a Hungarian businessman who had worked with both Mr David and Mr Csapai, he added.

The man was reported to the police and brought in for questioning.

"The man told police that Mr David killed Mr Csapai and then asked him to help bury his body in the basement of his villa.

"He also claimed that Mr David threatened to kill him if he told anyone," Gen Kiattipong said.

Hungarian police then contacted police in Samui to check if the bones were buried...

Continued on Page 3

A view from inside



EXCLUSIVE: Confessed killer Lee Aldhouse picks up the receiver on the other side of the glass to give his first interview from inside the Phuket Prison since his historic extradition from England.

Full story on Pages 4-5

Polluted water sloshes across Bang Tao Beach

HOTELS and businesses located along the canal that empties onto Bang Tao Beach are to be forced to conform to wastewater-treatment standards, after residents cry foul.

Full story on Page 8

Big bikes hit the skids, three dead

A series of big bike fatalities mar the closure of Phuket's Big Bike Week.

Full story on Page 2

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This Week



Business

Airport arrivals tipped to hit record levels this year. **Page 13**



Property

AREA assures investors that there is no property bubble. **Page 17**



Food

The NINE Wine and Dining brings upscale to uptown. **Page 36**



Explore

Sophisticated and affordable tent travel to Koh Naka Yai. **Page 40**



Tech

Woody Leonhard logs off in his last official *Live Wire*. **Page 41**



Sport

Patrick Campbell looks back at the Monte Carlo Masters. **Page 47**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Three big bikers die speeding into curves

By Thawit Bilabdullar

PHUKET'S Big Bike Week closed with two reported deaths; a third followed minutes later.

All three riders lost control of their bikes when they entered curves at high speed.

Only one man was wearing a helmet.

The first death occurred on the afternoon of April 18 just south of Phattalung when Malaysian Hasal Muhammad Bin Yunus, 45, en route to Phuket with a group of friends, crashed his Harley Davidson.

"They were riding quite fast as the road was empty. Mr Hasal lost control of his motorbike as he arrived at a curve," said Lt Boonthip Wunfai of the Khao Chaison Police.

"His bike slammed into a roadside post and he was thrown off. Mr Hasal was not wearing a helmet and died at the scene," Lt Boonthip said.

The second death occurred on the last morning of Big Bike Week as another group of Malaysian bikers set off for home.

Zhi Wei Loh, 29, crashed his Kawasaki big bike at the Baan Kor En curve on Thepkasattri



Mr Loh's bike where it came to rest just past the Baan Kor En curve.

Road in Thalang.

"Mr Loh's friend said that as they arrived at the curve, Mr Loh, who was driving fast, lost control. He fell off his bike, rolled, and hit the road median," said Lt Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai police.

"Mr Loh was wearing his helmet, but suffered a broken neck and died at the scene," he said.

The third man to die was 31-year-old British national Paul Anthony Ancell, who overshot a curve and crashed his 1000cc

Yamaha R1 into a roadside post on Chao Fa East Road near Wat Ladthiwanaram shortly after midnight on April 22.

"A patrol officer saw him riding back and forth at high speed several times," said Sub Lt Kraisorn Boonprasob of the Chalong Police.

"The man was not wearing a helmet. He suffered a cracked skull, broken neck and broken arms and died at the scene," he added.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal

Phuket airport security boosted after Boston marathon bombing

SECURITY at Phuket International Airport has been boosted in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing which killed three and injured at least 180 last Monday. (See page 10).

Pongsak Semsant, caretaker president of Airports of Thailand (AOT), announced the security boost for all major AOT airports in Thailand, including Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang in Bangkok, and Chiang Mai International Airport.

Phuket Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham told the *Gazette* on April 18, "We cannot reveal the details of the security measures, but we have closed some gates and entrances to make it easier for our guards to manage



Security measures have been increased at all major airports in Thailand. Photo: Gazette File

the situation."

More officers and security guards are now on duty patrolling different areas of the airport, he said.

— Orawin Narabal

Russian teen motorcyclist still in coma

VLAD Abrashko, the Russian student who was driving the motorbike involved in the high-speed accident on the bypass road almost a month ago has been discharged from hospital with a broken leg.

His passenger Sevastian Lukashov, however, remained comatose at Phuket International Hospital, a source close to the teens confirmed to the *Gazette* on April 18.

With Mr Abrashko now out of the hospital, police can continue with their investigation into the accident, Wichit Police Sub Lt Somboon Malai told the *Gazette*.

"We are waiting for the rider of the motorbike to contact us and come to the station to give a statement," Lt Somboon said.

Opas Hutkarn, the insurance

representative for Wannakij Maneerat, the driver of the car involved in the accident, told the *Gazette* that he also needed to consult with Mr Abrashko before his firm could move ahead with providing financial assistance to the accident victims.

"At this stage, we still need someone who was involved with the motorbike to contact me to claim for damages. However, before we can do that, we have to wait for Mr Abrashko to give his statement to police," Mr Opas said.

"There is no need for both of the Russian teenagers to fully recover first; it's enough if only the driver of the motorbike gives a police statement," he added.

— Saran Mitrarat



Vlad Abrashko suffered a broken leg in the crash. Photo: Facebook



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ANANTARA SI KIAO RESORT & SPA

Police uncover bare bones of murder

From page 1

...beneath the villa, leading to the gruesome discovery.

"We have sent the bones to the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Police General Hospital in Bangkok to determine if they are Mr Csapai's," Gen Kiattipong said.

"If they are, Mr David will be brought to Samui for questioning," he added.

"If the evidence indicates that Mr David killed Mr Csapai, he will be charged with murder.

If he is found guilty of murder in Phuket, he will have to serve out his prison term there before being tried here," Maj Gen Kiattipong explained.

The Hungarian Embassy in Bangkok declined to give any details of the investigation.

However, one embassy official did confirm that Laszlo Csapai remained listed as a missing person.

"He will remain listed as a miss-

ing person until we are notified by the Thai police that they can confirm they have found him," the official said.

The unearthing of the skeleton has forced investigators to probe deeper into the land deal that led to the death of Peter Reisz, who also lived on Samui until shortly before his death.

Mr David has already confessed to police to killing Mr Reisz in a fit of rage.

During questioning by police, Mr David accused Mr Reisz of swindling him out of land and properties valued at about 15 million baht.

However, how Laszlo Csapai enters the equation remains to be seen.

The second suspect in the Peter Reisz murder, Gyorgy Lajos Kvalka, another Hungarian, denied any role in the killing of Mr Reisz.

Mr Kvalka surrendered to Samui Police on December 8.

Speaking through a translator,

'He also claimed that Mr David threatened to kill him if he told anyone'

— Pol Gen Kiattipong



If police confirm the skeleton buried under Moshe David's villa on Samui is that of Hungarian billionaire Laszlo Csapai, they will then have to unravel the motive behind his murder. Photo: Joy / Manager Samui

Mr Kvalka confessed to cleaning up the blood and repainting a blood-stained wall in the house where Mr Reisz was killed, in a quiet residential estate off Wichit

Songkram Road near Kathu.

He also helped Mr David with dumping Mr Reisz's body in a nearby rubber plantation.

However, Mr Kvalka denied

hitting Mr Reisz with a piece of wood and denied stabbing him with a knife.

He also offered no explanation for why the murder took place.



Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers tend to the young woman.

Teen masseuse tumbles from the fourth floor after argument

A 17-YEAR-OLD masseuse is in a coma after falling from the fourth floor of a building on April 22 following an argument with her boyfriend.

The young woman was discovered unconscious and severely injured on the ground behind the Phuket Town massage parlor where she worked, a Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker told the *Gazette*.

Rescue workers administered emergency first aid before rushing the masseuse to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

A friend of the woman told the *Gazette* that the 17-year-old had argued with her boyfriend outside her room. The friend heard the boyfriend leave and heard the woman enter her own room alone.

"At about 4:50am we all heard a banging noise like something hard hitting the ground in the back of the building. We looked down from the window and saw her lying unconscious on the ground," said the friend.

The police are continuing to investigate the case.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Cop faces attempted murder charges, still on active duty

A PHUKET policeman charged with attempted murder after a violent attack on Valentine's Day remains on active duty in Thalang, while police prepare their case for the prosecutor.

Sen Sgt Maj Wichit Dada of the Thalang Police was charged with attempted murder after he was accused of restraining a teenager while his son threatened the teen with his father's handgun.

Sgt Wichit's two sons, both under 18, have also been charged with attempted murder over the incident, Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri said.

The teenage couple who appealed for public help have been charged as well, Col Sirisak said— "The 17-year-old girl 'Koy' [not her real name] and her boyfriend, Benz Densiri, 18, have been charged with assault," Col Sirisak said.

Col Sirisak refuted allegations that Sgt Wichit was receiving special protection because he was a police



The young woman who accused a Thalang police officer of attempted murder. Photo: Gazette file

officer and denied reports that Sgt Wichit was his official driver.

"Sgt Wichit remains tending to his regular duties because the accusation was not of a heinous crime and the trial has yet to start," Col Sirisak said.

— Saran Mitratrat



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Hope fades for finding executioners

POLICE officers' hopes are dissipating as they once again turn to the public for help in finding the executioners of Jintana Mahattanapak, who was shot in the head on her way home from work in January.

With leads running out earlier this year, police hoped CCTV footage taken in the area would help identify the killers or provide leads.

The footage was sent to forensic experts in Bangkok, but have yet to yield any results, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti

Chavalviwat told the *Gazette*.

"Because the CCTV footage quality is very low, experts have yet to gain any new information from it," Maj Choti said.

"We are now turning back to the public for information that might lead us to the murders," he said.

Anyone with information that may lead to the killers is asked to contact Phuket Provincial Police office at 076-369140 or 076-369191, or to contact Maj Choti on his personal number at 081-8021011.

— Ifarn Jamdukor



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Lee Aldhouse, pictured here arriving at Phuket Airport after his extradition from the UK, is facing up to 20 years in a Thai prison for the killing of former US Marine Dashawn Longfellow (inset, facing page). Photo: Gazette file

Aldhouse:

CONFESSED killer Lee Aldhouse, sitting behind a glass divide that runs the length of the dingy visitor's room, gives his first interview from Phuket Prison exclusively to the *Phuket Gazette*. Andrew Scott reports.

LOOKING exhausted, Lee Aldhouse cut a lonely figure in his faded prison-issue overalls, surrounded by about 20 Thai inmates. He waited for the signal from the prison guard controlling the communication between visitors and inmates – a telephone – before picking up his receiver.

The first thing he said was, "I cannot talk about my impending court case, but we can discuss prison life."

Aldhouse faces charges of premeditated murder under Section 288 of the Thai Criminal Code for the slaying of former US Marine Dashawn Longfellow in 2010. The penalty for that charge is death or a term of imprisonment of 15 to 20 years, but the death penalty will not be considered as he has already confessed to stabbing Mr Longfellow.

Aldhouse has been in Phuket Provincial Prison since December last year, when he became the first person in over 100 years to be extradited from England to Thailand. He fled Thailand on August 17, 2010, three days after the murder of 23-year-old Longfellow, and was arrested upon his arrival at Heathrow Airport in London on an unrelated charge.

Before the one-on-one interview with Aldhouse this week, a prison official told the *Gazette* that was starting to adjust to life behind bars and had visits from friends every two weeks.

Speaking softly and calmly through the telephone with his gaze fixed forward, Aldhouse

talked about his prison life. His expression changed only when the conversation turned to prison guards. He became uncomfortable, rubbing his head, neck and face compulsively and glancing around the room before looking straight on again.

PRISON LIFE

Aldhouse entered Phuket prison in shackles and chains and admits that he felt unsafe for the first few months. The tough guy persona he had spent years cultivating during his kickboxing career as "The Pitbull" worked against him in jail. He believes that when he fell ill, he wasn't allowed to get the medical treatment he felt he needed because of his image.

"The guards saw me as a tough Muay Thai boxer," he said.

Trying to come to grips with what was happening around him, he would take notes about daily life and the incidents that occurred in prison. This constant note-taking was a poignant reminder of his new life and what came with it – causing him great stress. Once he stopped chronicling everything that happened to him, he began to feel more at ease and slowly adjusted to his new surroundings.

"I have sort of acclimatized to life in prison. It's not a good thing, but I had to do it to get by with day-to-day life."

Aldhouse, originally from Birmingham, helps to pass his time in jail by training four Thai inmates

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Barbed wire along the tops of Phuket Prison's perimeter walls now frame Lee Aldhouse's view of the outside world. Photo: Gazette file

A view from the inside

in amateur boxing.

"I was asked to do this only because of my fighting background and I have trained the boxers since day one here," he said.

The boxers don't have a gym as such, but they do have one punching bag and gloves. Training the boxers keeps Aldhouse busy and he spoke with a sense of pride about the tournament his boxers competed in on April 25 at Surat Thani Provincial Prison. Aldhouse doesn't box, but he enjoys the hands-on aspect of training the inmates.

THE BELLS

Aldhouse does his best to keep to himself in a cell that houses 33 other inmates, explaining in part why he looks so exhausted.

"I can't sleep at night because the guards ring a bell every 15 minutes, from 8pm to 6am every night."

Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon explained to the *Gazette* that the bells are standard procedure at prisons across Thailand.

"The guards ring the bells hourly from 9pm to 6am to let their supervisor know that all is well. It takes about three minutes for all guards to ring in. This system is used in every prison in Thailand," he said.

The only contact Aldhouse has with the outside world is when his girlfriend and a few friends he made before he fled the country in 2010 come to visit him.

ANXIETY

Aldhouse doesn't send any mail to friends or relatives on the outside as he believes the guards will read it. The mere mention of the guards makes him squirm in his seat, and again he begins to rub his neck and his head.

"The guards have refused to give me my medication for anxiety for the last six weeks," he said.

"Prisoners are allowed medicine only if it has been prescribed by a doctor," Prison Chief Rapin explained.

"They cannot bring their own medicine into the prison and they cannot receive any medicine brought by relatives or friends without presenting to us a prescription from a doctor in Thailand," he said.

"Mr Aldhouse does not have a doctor's prescription and friends who visited him tried to bring him some medicine a few times. They told us it was for his illness, but we did not allow this because we are not sure if it is genuine medi-

cine or drugs or other dangerous pills," he added.

Regardless, Chief Rapin called a doctor from Vachira Phuket Hospital to examine Aldhouse and confirm that medication was required.

"The doctor ordered an initial course of medication, but after that ran out Mr Aldhouse said he wanted more. The doctor, however, considers further medication unnecessary," he said.

A DIFFERENT VIEW

Seen through the glass, Aldhouse looked like a person who is starting to accept his fate and no longer sees the point in trying to cause a fuss.

He doesn't like the way the media have portrayed him and he doesn't understand why the press has chosen to show him in a

bad light. Stories surfaced of Aldhouse smashing a fly-screen, fighting with other prisoners and making unrealistic demands.

"I don't want to be portrayed as an animal in the media. The stories about food and special treatment are all lies."

He was at a loss to understand why people would make something up about him and he couldn't think of a reason when pushed on the subject. He gestured to the other Thai inmates in the room asking, "Why would I get special meals over them?"

TRIAL

Aldhouse is not due back in court again until August 10, and now that he seems to be coping with life in prison he didn't seem keen on being moved to a prison in Bangkok after his trial.

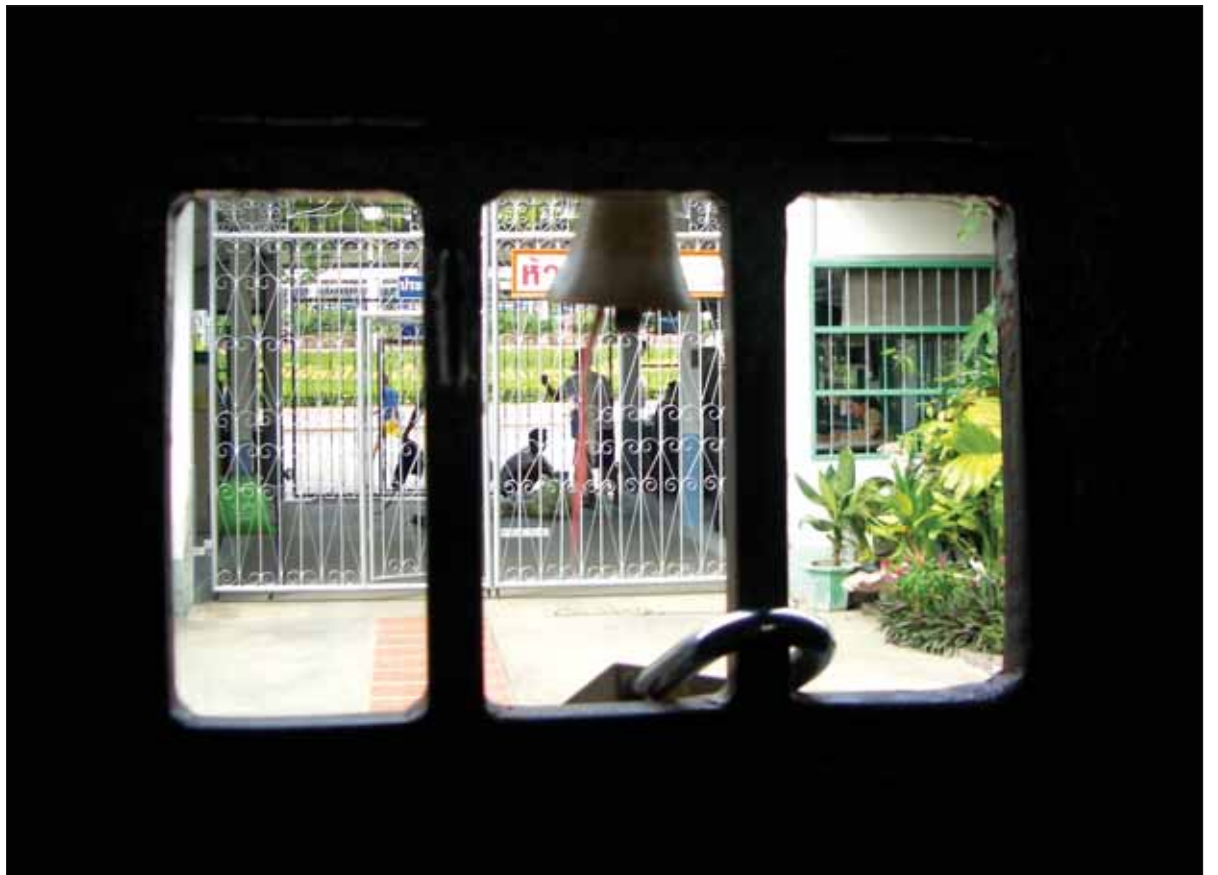
"I want to stay here... I don't want to go to a new prison and have to start from the beginning in a new prison environment," he said.

Phuket Prison was built 115 years ago and meant to house 800 prisoners, but today is home to more than 2,000 inmates.

As the allotted 15 minutes of visiting time drew to a close, Aldhouse asked if the *Gazette* would come back again and see him in a month or two, but not at 1pm on a Thursday, as that is when he holds a training session with his boxers.

And with that, the phone line was cut off and the inmates filed through the single door back into the belly of the prison.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal



A view from one of the cells into a common area at Phuket Prison. Guards ring the bells every hour through the night, constantly interrupting prisoners' sleep, but confirming all is well. Photo: Gazette file



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Officials slap down dengue

Phuket Governor launches campaign to fight increase in dengue fever

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Phuket Governor has branded his new strategy to combat the spread of dengue fever in Phuket with the lucky number 333, representing a sustained campaign of "three days, three weeks, three months".

After witnessing a sharp increase in the number of people contracting the disease in the past three months, Governor Maitri Inthasut on Monday called on communities across the island to step up the fight against dengue.

He also urged the Phuket Public Health Office and local authorities to keep an eye on the rapid spread of dengue fever in their areas.

"According to Health Office statistics, 323 people contracted dengue fever between January 1 and April 17 this year. The number is more than six times greater than the number of people who contracted dengue during the same period last year," he said.

"The infection rate [in Phuket during the period] was 93.6 per 100,000 inhabitants. One person has died so far," Gov Maitri said.

The rise in the number of dengue cases was most prevalent in Phuket's Thalang District, covering the north of the island, followed by Kathu District and Muang District, respectively, he added.

"To prevent the spread of dengue, local organizations must use the 'three days, three weeks, three months' strategy in their areas," the governor ordered.

Under the 333 campaign, local officials have three days to identify patients suspected of having dengue in their areas and have them brought to a hospital for treatment.

"If the doctor confirms the patient does indeed have dengue, then the village where the patient lives has three weeks to get rid of all possible sources of Aedes aegypti mosquito [which carries the disease]. This will continue for three months," Gov Maitri explained.

The three days of identifying possible dengue sufferers started on Wednesday and was set to



With dengue fever on the rise in Phuket, Governor Maitri has branded his new strategy '333'. The plan starts with teams visiting local residents and providing prevention information. Photos: Phuket Public Health Office

conclude on Friday.

"Public Health officers will check for people suspected of having dengue in every community," the governor said.

Phuket Public Health chief Bancha Kakong explained that symptoms of dengue fever can include severe headache, joint and

muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting and skin rash, which may appear over the body three to four days after the onset of fever.

"More serious symptoms include bleeding from the nose, mouth, gums and under the skin," he said.

"There is no specific medical

treatment and no vaccine for dengue infection. The best way to protect against dengue is to avoid mosquito bites," he added.

"See a doctor immediately if you think you may have dengue," he advised.

Dr Bancha explained that his officers will launch a dengue pub-

Still water tips to keep you dengue free

PHUKET Public Health Office Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch makes it clear that the first line of defense in preventing dengue fever is preventing standing water.

Mr Wiwat, as well as Phuket Public Health chief Bancha Kakong, offered the following advice to Phuket residents.

- Throw out or cover all sources of unused standing water to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in them.

- Change the water in all containers every seven days.

- Clean water bowls and water containers regularly.

- Release guppies or other small fish into ponds to feed on mosquito larvae.

- Clean up areas around the house and throughout the community to make sure there are no unknown sources of standing water.

- Add Temefos to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Temefos (brand name Abate) is an organophosphate larvicide used to treat water infested with disease-carrying insects, including mosquitoes, midges and black fly larvae.

lic-awareness campaign, starting with Thalang District, the hardest hit area in Phuket.

"We will explain to residents how to protect themselves from contracting dengue fever. Later, we will continue our campaign in Kathu and Muang Districts," he said.



46/169, Pra Baramee Rd, Kathu (Opposite Go-Kart Speedway) Phone: 082 803 0356 (Khun Philippe)

Underpass lanes to open in 2014

TO ALLEVIATE the ongoing traffic tailbacks at the construction site of Phuket's first underpass, on the bypass road, the project managers will open all three lanes of the underpass early next year.

"So far, the underpass is 11 per cent complete. At the beginning of next year, it will be opened for road users," Department of Highways' Bureau of Bridge Construction engineer Itthiwat Kritsanawanich announced at a meeting on April 18.

"After we finish the underpass itself, we will begin the road

works at the intersection," Mr Itthiwat said.

"First, we plan to close the two lanes northbound in front of Central Festival for renovation. At that time, we will open all three lanes of the underpass so northbound traffic can continue uninterrupted," he told the *Gazette*.

"When we finish renovating the lanes in front of Central Festival, we will re-open the northbound lanes... and close the southbound lanes in front of HomeWorks.

"At that time, all southbound lanes



Tailbacks at the construction site.

will be diverted to the underpass so southbound traffic can continue uninterrupted," Mr Itthiwat said.

— Orawin Narabal

Motorbike arson continues to flare

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TWO more motorbikes and the front of a small restaurant went up in flames in Phuket on Tuesday, bringing the total number of motorbikes scorched by arson since the beginning of March to nearly 30, say police.

At 2pm, Kamala Police received three reports of fires: two were of motorbikes ablaze and the third was of flames at the front of a small restaurant.

The first motorbike had a sidecar and was parked beside the Kamala-Patong road. The motorbike was completely destroyed, but the sidecar suffered minimal damage.

The second motorbike was parked opposite the construction site where the owner of the motorbike works, on the road between Kamala and Laem Singh.

Staff at a nearby hotel noticed the fire and rushed to extinguish it. The front fairings and other plastics were destroyed by the fire, but the rear of the motorbike suffered no damage.

The third fire was at a restaurant near Phuket FantaSea. Local firefighters arrived in time to put

out the blaze and save the restaurant; only the front section of the thatched roof was destroyed.

The three fires attracted the attention of the Phuket Provincial Police, who are conducting a joint investigation into the fires with Kamala Police special investigator Lt Col Nanon Pitakkultorn.

"So far 22 motorbikes have been damaged or destroyed by fire in Kathu alone. This includes the eight motorbikes burned at the Irawadee Ketho housing estate and the three fires in Kamala yesterday [April 22]," Kathu District Chief Weera Kerdssirimongkol said.

"Right now we are working intensely on the case of the eight motorbikes. Police are investigating suspects. We believe that a love affair may be the motivation for this crime," he added.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat told the *Gazette* that the spate of motorbike arson attacks in Phuket is becoming "serious".

"Since the beginning of March, nearly 30 motorbikes have been damaged or destroyed by fire. So far two suspects have been arrested, one in relation to an attack in Kamala and the other



Eight bikes were found blazing in a housing estate near the Prince of Songkla University this week.

over an incident in Karon, but the motorbike fire in Thung Thong was an accident," Maj Gen Choti said.

Gen Choti warned that if caught, the perpetrators were

likely to face harsh punishment.

"The people who are responsible for these incidents should be aware that the penalty is high – the sentence for arson is up to seven years in prison," he said.

Although the *Gazette* has so far reported 20 of the motorbikes set on fire, police confirmed there were more reports of motorbike arson attacks that had not been reported by the press.

CEO continues to dodge Tiger Disco fire charges

THE Phuket Chief Public Prosecutor's attempt to levy a series of charges against Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd after a fatal blaze killed four people at Patong's famous Tiger Disco nightclub on August 17 have been delayed for a second time.

"The charges were originally given the green light last month," Phuket Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya said.

Simultaneously with the prosecution's decision to move forward with the case, Legal Counsel for Tiger Discotheque, Thamrongsak Boonrak, submitted a letter asking the prosecution to re-think its charges before even taking the case to court.

"I have submitted a letter to the Phuket Public Prosecutor Office appealing for a 'fair investigation' to have the authorities reconsider charging us on the allegations of wrongdoing," Mr Thamrongsak said.

The Phuket Public Prosecutor's



Officers inspect the remains of the gutted Tiger Disco. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Office now awaits word from the Office of the Regional Public Prosecutor, Region 8 in Surat Thani – again – whether or not to proceed with the charges.

Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment face a charge of causing death through negligence under Section 291 of the

Thai Criminal Code, as well as charges of causing physical and mental injury and trading after hours, Mr Chiengsean said.

"We are hoping the Regional Public Prosecution in Region 8 will drop the case, as the fire was not our fault," said Mr Thamrongsak.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Police delve into nervous men's pants in drug bust

POLICE stationed at a Thalang checkpoint discovered three packages of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) after they delved into the pants of two "nervous" men last Friday.

Officers manning a checkpoint on Thepkasattri Road in Srisoonthorn stopped Tossawat Meesukanukoon, 22 and Pasit Kittijaruensin, also 22, because they looked "suspiciously nervous" as they approached the checkpoint on their motorbike.

"We found three plastic bags of *ya ice* in the waist-

band of the driver's underwear," said Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwutthianun.

The total weight of the drug was 0.88 grams.

The two men were arrested and taken to Thalang Police station.

"The men confessed to having bought about 5,000 baht of *ya ice*," said duty officer Patiwat Yodkwa.

"They were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug," Pol Capt Patiwat added.

– *Irfan Jamdukor*

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QUEER news

Spirit demands villagers hail sporting events, attacks teens

THREE teenage female footballers recently found out that failing to pay respect to Thailand's capricious spirits can have strange and painful consequences.

On the hot afternoon of March 22, Supacharaphon Bunprachuap, Surirat Thongsin and Kanda Yingchiao had just finished playing a football match at a field in Surin Province.

Suddenly, all three girls collapsed and started convulsing, writhing backwards and forwards. Their eyes were bulging as if they had gone insane.

Villagers crowded around the three and started massaging and fanning them.

Fortunately, a local masseur and practitioner of herbal medicine was present at the incident.

Mr Chian started chanting incantations in a bid to bring the girls out of their state.

After about half an hour, Kanda's state began to improve, though the other two just got worse.

Mr Chian then gave the two girls who had yet to recover a special potion made from a mixture of water and local herbs.

After drinking the concoction, Surirat screamed at the top of her voice for two minutes before collapsing asleep.

Eventually the girls fell asleep, before waking up and recovering.

But some residents of the village wanted to know why this strange occurrence had happened. They performed a spirit medium ceremony to ask the spirits.

Came the answer: the problem stemmed from Puphothong Shrine, just next to Ban Taphram Village.

The spirit of the shrine was apparently dissatisfied that nobody had gone to announce that the village was going to hold a sports competition.

— Daily News

Dead dugong discovery prompts villagers to take action

A DEAD dugong was found floating just off the coast of Koh Pu in Krabi by a local crab fisherman yesterday morning, prompting villagers to take action.

The young marine mammal was discovered with a long gash across its snout in front of the Baan Koh Pu village port and was dragged to shore by villagers before it was reported to the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

This is the first report issued to the PMBC by the local residents, who were unaware that it was important to report such matters, explained the village Kamnan, Samran Raden.

"This is at least the third one we have found dead since October last year," Mr Samran said.

Before being notified of the possible death of at least two more dugong last year, Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who heads the PMBC Endangered Species Unit, had already voiced concern over the dramatic rise in the number of dugong deaths in the region.

"The increase in deaths is a serious issue," Dr Kongkiat said earlier this year. "It's the highest number we've seen in the past 20 years."

Dr Kongkiat believes the deaths were caused by fishing equipment and boats, as a number of the animals had wounds consistent with those inflicted by the propeller blades of fishing boats.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



The dugong suffered wounds consistent with those inflicted by boat propeller blades.

Polluted water runs amok

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

HOTELS and businesses located along the canal that empties onto Bang Tao Beach will be inspected and forced to conform to wastewater-treatment standards, Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit has announced.

The news follows the public exposure of dirty water in the canal that has caused a rash of health problems for tourists and local boatmen in the area, some of whom have been hospitalized for blood infections.

Government Spokesman Prompong and Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak inspected three sites along the canal to see the pollution firsthand on Tuesday.

At the first site, near the Dalah Resort, Mr Prompong and his entourage of environmental experts found no dirty water in the area.

"At the next site, near Billy Bridge, the water started to get dirty. At the last site, near Bang Tao Bridge, two kilometers from the second site, the water was very dirty and smelly," Mr Prompong told the press.

"There are many hotels, restaurants, bars, car wash shops and houses near the second and third locations we visited. The dirty water from these sources has caused many people to have skin problems," he said.

"The long-term solution is to set up a wastewater-treatment system in the area. We are working on it and expect it to be operational within the next two years," he added.



Local villagers point to the black water in the canal, which they say has hospitalized some of the local boatmen.

Mr Prompong ordered the Cherng Talay Administrative Organization (OrBorTor) to set up a task force to inspect businesses along the canal to ensure that they have adequate wastewater-treatment tanks installed.

"If they do not, they will be told not to release wastewater into the canal. If they do not comply, we will press charges," he warned.

Mr Prompong also called on local villagers to not discharge untreated wastewater into the public waterway.

Akkarawat Hirunphun, director of the Phuket-based Regional Environmental Office 15, said tests

conducted by his officers confirmed that the water in the canal at all three locations visited yesterday had average Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) readings well over the legal standard.

"Almost all the fish in the canal have died," he said.

In response to local residents' claims that the Cherng Talay OrBorTor had failed to take any action to redress the pollution, Mr Akkarawat explained that he had been informed that the Cherng Talay OrBorTor had held a meeting to find a solution to the problem.

"However, the Cherng Talay OrBorTor did not talk about this

with the sub-district chief or village headmen in the area, so they did not know anything about what was being done," he said.

Vice Governor Somkiet told the press that he ordered the Cherng Talay OrBorTor to dredge the canal wider so that the water would flow unimpeded into the sea, giving bacteria less opportunity to develop to dangerous levels.

"I also ordered the Thalang District Office and Cherng Talay OrBorTor officers to invite the owners of restaurants, bars and hotels along the canal to meet and discuss possible solutions to the problem," he said.

Police pursuit nets drug suspect from pond

PHUKET City Police in hot pursuit of a drug suspect on April 18 finally arrested their man after hauling him out of a pond in Rassada.

Police were alerted to the suspect when officers at a checkpoint on Palian Road in Phuket Town saw a new Toyota Vios, still bearing red license plates, pull over just short of the checkpoint.

The officer's suspicions grew when they saw the driver get out of the vehicle and run off on foot.

Officers gave chase and reported the incident to police headquarters.

Phuket City Deputy Superintendent Chao Pormna quickly rallied a team and cordoned off the area.

Failing to find the suspect, they began a sweep through the residents' yards and pockets of uncleared undergrowth in the surrounding area.

Two hours later, the officers found 27-year-old Subthawee Srisuwan hiding in a pond.

After fishing him out of the water, officers found 10 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) in the pockets of his wet shorts.

Police also searched the aban-



The man was found ya bah on him.

doned car and seized a .38mm handgun with five bullets and a bag containing 10 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Insurgents denounce talks



Security personnel inspect the site of the road bomb attack on Yala Deputy Governor Issara Thongthawat on April 5. Insurgent banners protesting the peace talks, with messages written in the local Malay dialect, were found at 66 locations across the Deep South on April 22. Photo: Reuters

INSURGENTS in the Deep South are continuing to show defiance against ongoing peace talks with the Thai state, erecting banners across the region denouncing the negotiations.

They are also continuing to sow havoc, killing four bomb-disposal officers and injuring six more in Narathiwat using a "rigged" bomb that exploded after it appeared to have been disarmed.

Anti-peace-talks cloth banners were discovered along roads in 45 locations in Narathiwat, 16 locations in Yala and five in Pattani on April 22.

The banners carried messages, in the local dialect of Malay, opposing the peace talks between the government and the Barisan

AROUND THE nation

Revolusi Nasional (BRN), under-way in Malaysia.

At one of the banner sites, a homemade gas cylinder bomb was discovered.

The cylinder, containing about 25 kilograms of explosives, was defused and taken to the barracks at the Marines Task Force 32 headquarters in Bacho district. There, an explosive ordnance disposal team attempted to open it in order to dispose of the materials inside.

"When the cover was spread apart, two live wires moved towards each other and when they made contact it activated the direct detonation of the explosives," said Colonel Thaweesak Jantharasin, who is chief of the Army's bomb disposal operations in the Deep South.

Four explosive ordnance disposal technicians were instantly killed and six wounded in the blast.

The next peace dialogue between the Thai government and the BRN is scheduled to be held in Malaysian on April 29.

National Security Council (NSC) Secretary General Lt-Gen Paradorn Pattanabut said the recent attacks and banners were

the work of other insurgent groups aiming to prove their existence and who might want to join the upcoming peace talks.

Gen Paradorn said officials were coordinating with other insurgent groups in case they wanted to be part of the peace process.

"There might be more bombings until the next peace talks are held, but these will remain in restricted areas," the NSC chief said.

The BRN representatives are now engaged in talks with the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK), another insurgent group active in Thailand's restive Deep South, over possible participation in the peace process, Gen Paradorn added.



French-Romanian lawyer Alina Miron has been hailed as a hero by many Thais. Photo: The Nation

Thailand's legal heroes return

THE Thai legal team responsible for presenting Thailand's claim to disputed land around Preah Vihear Temple has returned to The Kingdom after making its case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The team got a warm welcome from crowds of well-wishers when it arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport on April 21 following a week of presentations arguing that Thailand has sovereignty over the disputed territory, rather than Cambodia.

In particular, a French-Romanian lawyer hired by the Thai government, Alina Miron, has become a hero in many Thais' eyes for her work on behalf of the nation.

Crowds held placards for Mrs Miron and the leader of the legal team, Virachai Plasai, on their arrival at the airport.

"Alina Miron: You Are Our Hero. We Love You," one read.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra voiced her gratitude to the team in a press conference following their return.

It will be many months before the ICJ rules on the dispute, which has seen deadly skirmishes between the two countries in recent years.

Captain still on the run after Pattaya speedboat collision

FOUR South Korean tourists, a South Korean guide and a Thai guide were seriously injured in a high-speed boat crash off Pattaya last week.

The drivers of both boats fled the scene of the accident on April 21, though one of them later arranged to hand himself into police.

Around 20 tourists and guides were aboard the *Kor Nongmai 7* speedboat at the time of the collision with another speedboat, *Sor Khemthong*.

Police said evidence suggested that *Sor Khemthong* crashed into *Kor Nongmai 7*. However, witnesses said *Kor Nongmai 7* collided with *Sor Khemthong* when it was refilling its fuel tank and not moving.

Sor Khemthong sustained serious damage, including a large hole on the port side.



One of the two speedboat captains handed himself in. Photo: The Nation

Police said the driver of *Kor Nongmai 7*, Rung-arun Homlamduan, could not be located after the mishap.

The second driver, Amnuay Kladkhemthong, fled the scene, though he later contacted police to arrange for his surrender.

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In brief...

Fugitive on FBI's 10 Most Wanted list arrested

NICARAGUAN police said on Monday they had arrested a US man on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list suspected of child pornography offenses, and handed him over to US officials for extradition.

The suspect, former Washington schoolteacher Eric Justin Toth, was arrested on April 20 in Esteli, a city some 150 km north of Managua.

Up to 500 feared dead in Damascus suburb offensive

AT LEAST 109 people have been documented as killed and up to 400 more are likely to have died in an almost week-long offensive by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on a rebellious Damascus suburb, opposition activists said.

If the accounts are confirmed, the killings in the mainly Sunni Muslim suburb of Jdeidet al-Fadel would amount to one of the bloodiest episodes of the two-year-old uprising against Assad.

EU lifts Myanmar sanctions despite HRW concerns

THE European Union agreed on Monday to lift all sanctions on Myanmar, except for an arms embargo, despite a Human Rights Watch report which accused authorities of complicity in the mass killing of Muslims in the west of the country last year.

Boston bombing suspect faces charges after deadly shootout

By Scott Malone
and Aaron Pressman

PROSECUTORS formally charged Dzhokhar Tsarnaev with the bombings at the Boston Marathon in a hearing held on Monday in his hospital room, accusing him of crimes that carry the possibility of the death penalty.

The 19-year-old ethnic Chechen can be seen in video taken by security cameras placing a backpack near the finish line of the world-renowned race last Monday, the criminal complaint said, alleging he acted in concert with his older brother, who was killed during a shootout with police early Friday.

The brothers carried two backpacks containing pressure cooker bombs that ripped through the crowd near the finish line, killing three people and wounding more than 200, the complaint said.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev told investigators in his hospital room that he and his brother acted alone, without any help, according to reports by *CNN* and the *New York Times*. He said his older brother was the driving force behind the bombings, *CNN* reported. *The Times* said Tsarnaev admitted to investigators to being involved in planting the bombs.

Tsarnaev was captured late last Friday after a massive manhunt. He was hospitalized with what the criminal complaint said were gunshot wounds to his head, neck, legs and hand.

Tsarnaev was charged with using a weapon of mass destruction and with malicious destruction of property resulting in death. Each count carries the possibility of the death penalty if he is convicted.



Officers hug near the site of the explosion after the FBI officially returned jurisdiction of the area. Photo: Reuters

More charges are likely, legal experts said.

The 10-page complaint did not mention a motive, leaving that as one of the mysteries of the investigation.

According to a transcript of the bedside legal proceeding, the teenager, mostly unable to speak due to his injuries, nodded when questioned by federal Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler, who asked him if he could answer questions and could follow what was happening.

Asked by the magistrate if he could afford a lawyer, Tsarnaev said "No." Three public defenders, appointed by the court, were in the room. They did not

respond to requests seeking comment afterward.

A sworn FBI statement in support of the criminal complaint revealed the recollection of a man whose car was hijacked by the brothers while they tried to escape on Thursday night.

"Did you hear about the Boston explosion?" one of the brothers is said to have told the carjack victim. "I did that."

Tsarnaev's capture capped a tense 26 hours after the FBI released the first pictures of the two bombing suspects, still unidentified, last Thursday.

Five hours after their faces appeared on TV screens and websites

around the world, the brothers shot and killed a university policeman, carjacked a Mercedes and sought to evade police by hurling bombs during a shootout in a Boston suburb, police said.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was shot in an exchange of gunfire with police and run over by his younger brother, police said. Dzhokhar later abandoned the car and fled on foot, evading police for nearly 20 more hours until he was found bleeding, hiding in a boat.

On Monday, Boston-area hospitals were still treating at least 48 people, with at least two listed in critical condition.

— Reuters

Canadian police thwart terrorist plot to target passenger train in Toronto area

CANADIAN police said on Monday they had arrested and charged two men with plotting to derail a Toronto-area passenger train in an operation they say was backed by al Qaeda elements in Iran.

"Had this plot been carried out, it would have resulted in innocent people being killed or seriously injured," said Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) official James Malizia.

The RCMP said it had arrested Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, of Montreal, and Raed Jaser, 35, of Toronto in connection with the plot, which authorities said was not linked to last week's Boston Marathon bombings.

Neither is a Canadian citizen, and police did not reveal their nationalities. Two sources following the investigation said one of the two was Tunisian.

Canada's spy agency has long

expressed concern about the possibility that disgruntled and radicalized Canadians could attack targets at home and abroad.

Police gave few details about the alleged plotters, but said a tip from the Muslim community had helped their year-long investigation.

Mr Esseghaier has been a doctoral student at the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique near Montreal since 2010 and was about midway through his degree, the school said.

A bail hearing for the two will take place in Toronto on Tuesday morning.

Mr Malizia said there was no indication that the planned attacks, which police described as the first known al Qaeda-backed plot on Canadian soil, were state-sponsored.

US officials said the attack would have targeted a rail line between New York and Toronto.



A Via Rail Canada passenger train pulls into a station. Photo: Reuters

Canadian police said only that the plot involved a VIA train route in the Toronto area. VIA is Canada's equivalent of Amtrak and operates passenger rail services on track owned primarily by Canadian National Railway Co.

Mr Malizia said the RCMP believed the two had the capacity and intent to carry out the attack, but there was no imminent threat to the public, passengers, or infrastructure.

— Reuters

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US tax regime: comply or else...

AT A US tax seminar held last month at the Holiday Inn, Patong, by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Phuket Chapter, American income earners and business operators were given a comprehensive update about the US tax regime's reporting requirements and regulations.

Two previous articles about the seminar – published in the Business section of the *Phuket Gazette* on March 23 and 30 – covered the Foreign Earned Income (FEI) exclusion, foreign tax credits and other related reporting requirements such as the Foreign Bank Account Reporting (FBAR).

This article will cover the reporting requirements for foreign held assets, as well as investments in foreign corporations.

The seminar's keynote speaker, John Andes, a US CPA and Thai-American partner with the Bangkok-based accounting firm KMPG Phoomchai Tax Ltd, covered a number of forms that Americans living or investing abroad should be aware of.

"Form 8938 must be filed by US persons with any interest in a Specified Foreign Financial Assets (SFFA), if the aggregate value of such SFFA exceeds certain thresholds," he said.

For single persons, or those married but filing separately, the SFFA threshold is at least US\$200,000 aggregate at year's end or at least \$300,00 any time during the year.

For married persons filing jointly, the thresholds are double.

In addition to this, certain US persons who are shareholders, officers or director of a foreign corporation (any juristic entity) may be required to file form 5471, which covers 'Investment in Certain Foreign Corporations'.

He said that there are four categories required to file this form, but generally, this is required to be filed by any US citizen or resident that is a director or officer of a non-US company, which has at least one

US shareholder, who has at least 10% ownership in the value or voting rights of the company.

Form 5471 is required for any shareholder of a non-US company who acquires or disposes of a significant amounts of shares in the non-US company. Also, form 5471 is required where, under certain circumstances, American shareholders control more than 50% of a non-US company's shares, either by value or voting rights.

Failure to file forms 8938 and 5471 can carry a penalty of \$10,000 per incident, and in the case of form 5471, also pose potential loss of foreign tax credits.

FORMS, FORMS AND MORE FORMS

In addition to the 8938 and 5471 forms, American investors may also need to report other types of foreign investments such as a non-US partnership (form 8865) or disregarded entities (form 8858).

Moreover, US taxpayers must report if they are an owner of a foreign trust, as well as if they had any

'Failure to file forms 8938 and 5471 can carry a penalty of US\$10,000 per incident, and in the case of form 5471, also pose potential loss of foreign tax credits.'

– John Andes, CPA

transactions with foreign trusts, ownership of foreign trusts and gifts or bequests from foreign individuals (form 3520 or 3520-A for owners).

Even investments in non-US companies that generate passive income may be subject to additional reporting. In some cases, where an American shareholder receives a dividend from a Passive Foreign Investment Company (PFIC), the shareholder may need to report his investment and income on form 8621.

A PFIC is determined by meet-

ing one of two tests. The first test is met if at least 75% of the non-US company's gross income is passive income, (interest, dividends, rent, royalty and/or capital gain income). The second test is met if at least 50% of the company's assets have generated or are expected to generate passive income.

Cash (generating interest income), buildings and land held for lease (generating rental income), for example, would be considered passive assets.

The tax on dividends received from a PFIC, under certain circumstances, can be very costly to the shareholder. In addition to the normal income tax, there could be additional liabilities imposed on the taxpayer. The additional liabilities may be avoided by making certain elections. This is a very complex area of tax law, which may unknowingly affect many investors in Thailand, especially those who invest in companies that own and rent real estate.

BANK SANCTIONS

Starting in 2014, as a result of the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), non-US banks, brokerages, mutual funds, asset managers and insurance providers will begin required reporting of information on many of their US account holders or else face stiff US withholding taxes on US-sourced income.

Financial institutions, if they elect to comply, must disclose information about accounts held by US persons, which have an aggregate value of at least \$50,000 during the year.

Financial institutions that do not comply will be assessed a 30% withholding tax on dividend and interest income and on the proceeds from the sale of assets paid from the US.

The burden of FATCA is on the non-US financial institutions to comply. Indirectly, though, there may be a backlash to American in-



WE WANT YOU: The US government is raising the bar for its tax payers to report on all of their worldwide income, assets and investments.

vestors and depositors if the financial institutions start to reject new accounts for Americans or ask existing American customers to discontinue their accounts.

CHANGES FROM 2013

The 2013 year introduced some changes to the taxation of American individual taxpayers.

Many of the "Bush tax cuts" stayed in effect after sunset in 2012, but there is now the addition of a 39.6% tax bracket for ordinary taxable income greater than \$400,000 for single filers and \$450,000 for joint filers. A 20% tax bracket was introduced in 2013 for long-term capital gains for these high income earners also.

In addition to these new tax brackets, FATCA imposes limitations on high income taxpayers in regards to certain itemized deductions, such as mortgage interest, state income tax, property tax and charitable donations. Deductions are lost at the rate of 3% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in excess of \$250,000 for single filers and \$300,000 for joint filers. Also, medical expenses are deductible to the extent that they exceed 10% of AGI – previously 7.5%.

There will also be a phase-out of the personal exemption. Normally, the personal exemption is \$3,900, but the exemption is reduced 2% for each \$2,500 that your AGI exceeds the AGI threshold for deductions.

There is now a 3.8% surtax on unearned (investment) income ap-

plicable to those taxpayers with modified AGI greater than \$200,000 for single filers and \$250,000 for joint filers.

Medicare taxes will also increase. For those subject to Medicare tax deductions, the tax rate will increase from 1.45% to 2.35% on wages over \$200,000 for single filers and \$250,000 for joint filers. There will also be a new 0.9% Medicare tax introduced for these higher income earners.

On a positive note, the estate and gift tax law changes were welcomed by many taxpayers. The estate tax rate was reduced from 55% to 40%, and the lifetime exclusion was adjusted to \$5.12 million for 2013. The annual gift tax exclusion increased from \$13,000 to \$14,000 for 2013.

CONCLUSION

These developments, as well as those described in previous articles, only focus on US federal income tax. Some taxpayers living abroad may also be liable to state and local income taxes. Clearly, the US federal tax rules are ever-changing and as complex as ever. For most taxpayers living abroad, the reporting requirements are manageable, but for many, complex tax calculations, difficulty in reporting information and not being aware of changes to the existing tax laws will cause them to seek assistance either from professional tax advisors or from the IRS directly. – *Phuket Gazette*

For more info, see irs.gov; or call the IRS hotline on 1-800-829-1040.

CP All acquires Siam Makro

LAST week's 188.8 billion baht takeover of Siam Makro will allow CP All to open new cash-and-carry centers worldwide, except in India.

CP All is a retail arm of agri-food giant, Charoen Pokphand Group, which is also the third-largest operator of 7-Eleven convenience stores in the world.

Korsak Chairasmisak, CP All CEO said that the deal, which took only 10 days to negotiate, comes with the right for his firm to open cash-and-carry wholesale centers

under the Makro name anywhere in the world outside of India.

However, he said that the immediate focus on expanding Makro stores will be in Asean countries, especially Laos and Vietnam, as well as China.

The company will also cash in on Siam Makro's strategic growth in the local hotel, restaurant and catering industry.

"We expect economic growth and civilization to come into the region along with the AEC, which is in contrast to Europe and the US,

which are facing a recession."

Demand is strong for Thai products in many neighboring markets including Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, and Siam Makro will open up those markets, Mr Korsak said.

"For 7-Eleven, we only have a license for the Kingdom. We plan to expand from about 6,700 stores in the Kingdom to 10,000 within five to six years. However, Siam Makro will be our business arm in expanding cash-and-carry centers overseas," he said. – *The Nation*

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Replicating your life savings

THE new hot sector for technology investors is in the rapidly growing 3D printer business. 3D printing is the process of making a three-dimensional solid object of virtually any shape from a digital model. 3D printers use a 3D CAD (Computer Aided Design) file to create objects using a sequential layering process. This technology is used in jewelry; footwear; industrial design; architecture; engineering and construction, automotive, aerospace, the dental and medical industries; education; geographic information systems; civil engineering and many other fields.

My first introduction to 3D printing came in 1997, working as a mechanical engineer, while printing out of plastic the first prosthetic limb for a below-the-knee amputee. The purpose was to manufacture a cost-effective prosthetic limb from a digital scan of the patients remaining leg. At the time it was cutting edge technology but new advances have come a long way since 1997. Last month, surgeons for the first time used 3D printing to completely replace damaged bone in a patient needing a skull replacement. 75% of the patient's skull was successfully replaced with 3D-printed material. The uses of this technology are endless.

Imagine if you had a glue gun with a mixture of polyethylene and candle wax and wanted to make a toy frog for your daughter. The only way you could really do it is by building the object layer by layer. That is what 3D printing is and this is exactly what happened to S Scott Crump in Minnesota. Scott did make that toy frog for his daughter and started the company Stratasys to automate the 3D printing process.

The Process

The process begins with taking virtual blueprints from CAD and "slicing" them into digital cross-sections for the machine to use as a guideline for printing. Material is then layered until a 3D model has been "printed". These layers of material are fused together to create the final shape. What this allows for is to create an object of any shape or geometric feature. This is known as rapid prototyping.



Finance

By Don Freeman

There are several rapid prototyping techniques and companies using this technology, but they all use the basic five step process.

- 1) Create a CAD model of the design;
- 2) Convert the CAD model to STL format;
- 3) Slice the STL file into thin cross-sectional layers;
- 4) Construct the model one layer atop another;
- 5) Clean and finish the model

Stratasys Ltd. (SSYS)

Stratasys Ltd is the company that Scott Crump created in building the toy frog for his daughter. It now has a US\$2.81 billion market cap and is currently trading at \$73.25 per share. The company has a forward P/E (price/earnings ratio) of 29.42, which is quite cheap

for a company in such a fast-growing sector. Of the seven analysts that follow the stock, one has it rated a "Strong Buy", two a "Buy" and four a "Hold". The 52-week range on the stock is \$33.52 to \$92.30. The stock has had an impressive run this year,

up 200% in past 12 months. I would hold off on purchasing at current levels and wait for a market correction to buy in at a lower price.

Dassault Systemes SA (DASTY)

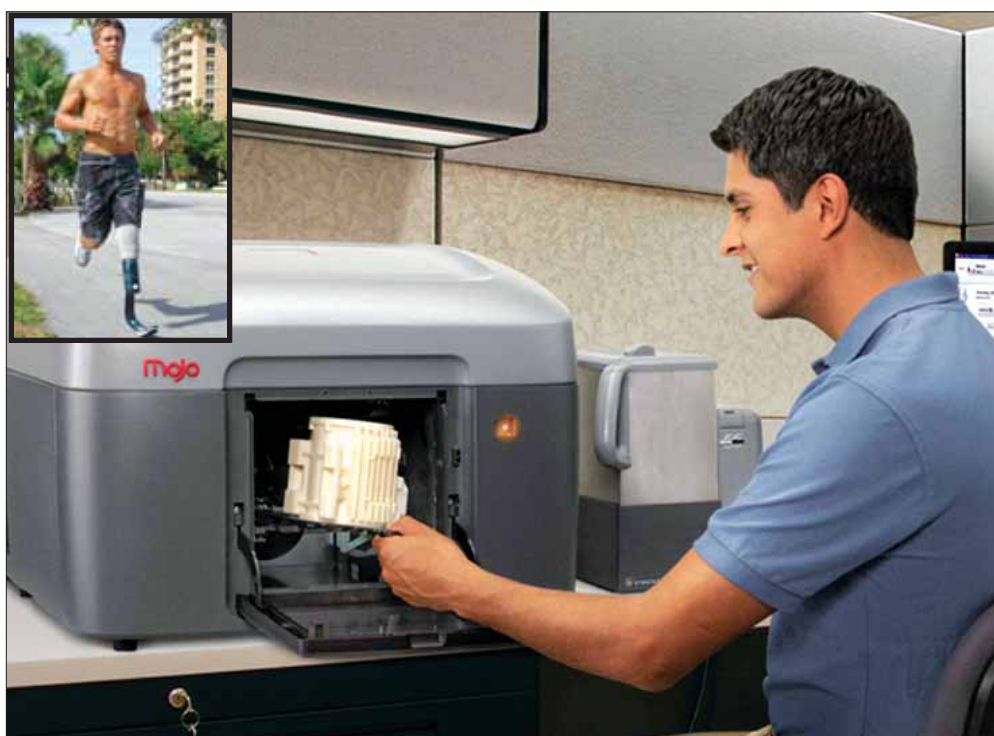
Dassault Systemes is the largest company in the sector with a market cap of \$14.32bn. The stock is currently trading at \$115.77, just shy of its 52-week high of \$117.90. Dassault is in the strongest position of the companies with 3D printing technology. The company has a forward P/E of 20.90 with a strong return on equity of 15.18% and operating margins of 24.70%. The company is sitting on \$1.71bn in cash. I do like the stock, but it has had a good run off its 52-week low of \$84.17. I advise investors to wait for a pullback, just like with Stratasys.

The ExOne Company (XONE)

The ExOne Company is a new Initial Public Offering (IPO) in the 3D printing sector. The company came public just last month and jumped over 47% on its first day of trading from its offering price of \$18. They raised \$95 million from their IPO. The stock is currently trading at \$30.74 and



3D printed skulls.



IT LOOKS SO REAL: 3D printing isn't that different from Star Trek's replicator. Inset: A man runs using a prosthetic leg after having an amputation below the knee Photos: 3ders.org

has a market cap of \$393 million.

ExOne's 3D printer is unique in that the customer can print in the material that they desire. Their competitors require that the customer print in plastic. Currently Ford, Boeing and Caterpillar are using ExOne's printers. The company has a backlog of orders for their printers and I look for growth to continue.

Even though the stock is much higher than its recent IPO price of \$18, this is one my favorite stocks in the sector. It has the lowest market cap compared to the other companies in the 3D printer business and I think it has the most room for growth and upside potential. ExOne is focusing solely on large industrial users with significant resources rather than consumers. The company will grow revenues not only from new orders for machines, but from servicing the printers and selling parts. ExOne currently is deriving 2/3 of its revenues from its services business.

Overall Assessment

Rapid prototyping technology has revolutionized the way parts are engineered and

designed. Don't expect to find 3D printers on the shelf at Power Buy in Phuket this week, however, the 3D printer is finally coming to the consumer level. 3D Systems (NYSE: DDD) has a home-based printer for a starting price of US\$1,299. But this printer can only print an object the size of a basketball and can only print in one color. Companies and universities are now the main users of 3D printing but remember the first personal computer began in the same way before hitting the consumer level. The 3D printing business has major potential for growth. The sector is volatile and is not for the risk adverse but for long-term investors, the sector holds tremendous potential.

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

The last time the markets were here

Island Investor

By David Mayes

I RECENTLY read a report that had a comparative list of statistics from the last time the stock markets were up at these levels, which was just before the crash at the start of the financial crisis. Early this month, the DOW reached a previous high level of 14164.5 and then surpassed that level. I thought it might be helpful to share this info, as it really does get you thinking about what is actually behind the market right now. These statistics deal with America but I think if you looked at the UK it would not be a very different picture. If you looked at Europe it could be even scarier.

For instance GDP growth was 2.5% as opposed to 1.6% in the US the last time the DOW was at these levels. There were about half the total number of unemployed, and the

number of Americans living on food stamps has jumped from about 27 million to 47 million. This doesn't seem like the kind of environment a stock market rally would thrive in, but then again maybe it is all about future expectations.

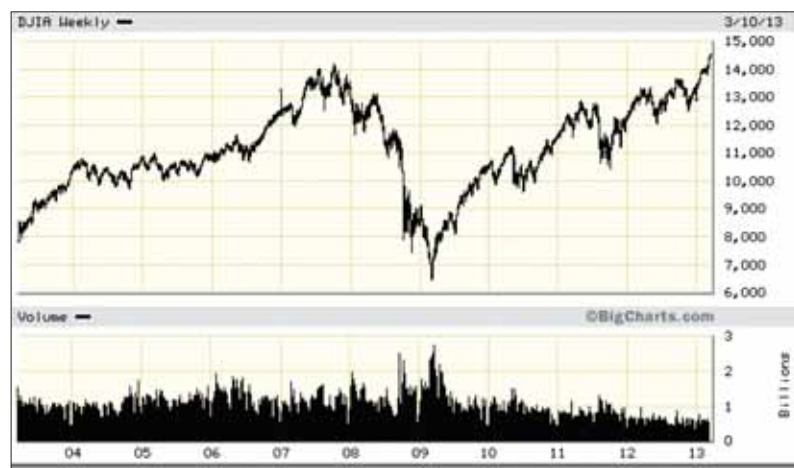
The US debt as a portion of GDP was 38%, now it has grown to 74%. The balance sheet of the Fed has grown from just under 1 trillion to over 3 trillion USD. Unless getting further into debt is practical common financial advice, it doesn't appear the current policy decisions are going to lead to much except inevitable inflation from all of that printing. The credit rating of the USA was AAA last time markets were here, now only AA+.

While all of these in my opinion are reasons to be very wary of the markets at these levels, there is one indicator that I noticed which could mean this rally still has some legs. Consumer confidence was 99.5% back then, whereas it is only at

69.6% now. This is a contrarian indicator as the market tops usually coincide with tops in confidence.

Another interesting statistic is that a ten year government bond yielded 4.64% before the last crash and today it only yields 1.89%. This could be a big part of the reason why markets are rising, as investors are searching for alternatives to such low yields. Unfortunately my big fear is that they will all get stung with money that most likely belongs in the lower risk assets. It is a damned if you, damned if you don't kind of situation for many. This is especially true if you live in Thailand and have seen the triple whammy effects of low yields, a strengthening Thai Baht and high local inflation.

One method of attempting to mitigate the risk of the current market without completely sitting on the sidelines is to counterbalance any stock market holdings with asset classes which performed



A chart of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a selection of key stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, in both points and trade volume over 10 years.

positively during the last crashes. CTAs did extremely well, and there other alternatives as well. I would be very careful about being over exposed on the downside of the stock market given the ugly pictures the economic numbers still paint. Thanks to David Conway from Jupiter for compiling these.

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.

Head of airport expects arrivals to exceed 10.5mn

THE director of Phuket International Airport (HKT) expects passenger arrivals to exceed 10.5 million by the end of this year, with related profits expected to be no less than two billion baht.

HKT director Prathuang Sornkham said that the airport is fully prepared to provide increased conveniences for passengers ahead of the its 5 billion baht expansion project, due for completion by 2015.

A number of upgrades currently underway will enable the airport to comfortably handle the target of 12.5mn passengers per year.

Mr Prathuang said that passengers coming to Phuket during this period, just ahead of the rainy season (which up until only recently, was traditionally considered tourism's 'dry season') have increased by 12% over the same period last year.

He noted that the average arrival rate is now around 34,000 to 35,000 passengers a day,

compared to this time last year, when there were about 28,000 arrivals per day.

He added that HKT's profit in 2012 was about 1.85bn baht, up 300mn baht from 2011.

Meanwhile, he expects the airport's profit by the end of 2013 to be around 2bn baht, most of which will be generated by passengers and airlines.

Mr Prathuang explained that such profit derives from rental fees and taxes paid by airlines and other retailers based at the airport, but does not factor in the spending or expenditures of tourists once they leave the airport.

In response to the increasing passenger load ahead of 2015, HKT has already added a new x-ray machine at the check-in counters, bringing the total now to four machines.

Also, the airport has doubled the amount of x-ray machines in the airplane boarding area, up to eight from four, previously.

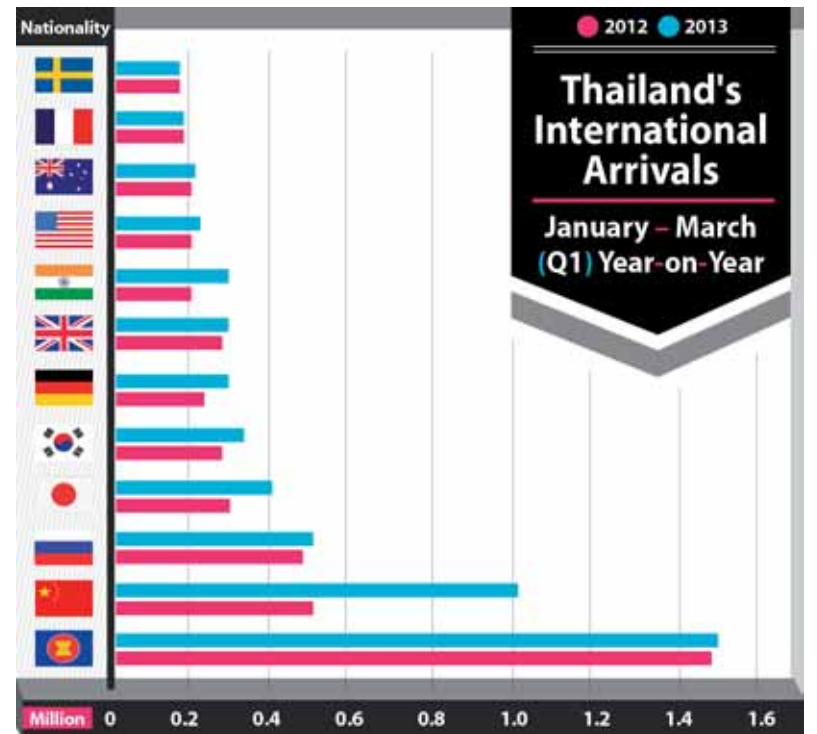


HKT director Prathuang Sornkham

He went on to confirm that a new warehouse is currently under construction and will be completed in about eight to ten months.

The construction of five new airplane stands is also underway, which will increase the total from 15 to 20 stands. These are expected to be ready for use by the end of 2014, he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Phuket airport recently got five new x-ray machines. Photo: K Mueanhawong



Discover Luxury in a Rare Location

Bluepoint offers a touch of serenity in one of the last available sea view plots on Phuket's desirable west coast. The multi award-winning condos are surrounded by five stunning beaches and overlook the glittering Andaman Sea. Bluepoint is comprised of just 20 spacious homes all sophisticated in style and designed

with environmental preservation in mind. Bluepoint offers an unrivalled lifestyle choice in a truly magical location.

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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Show-unit now open.

Chinese anti-aging meeting held at Laguna

THE island's renowned destination resort, Laguna Phuket, played a major role in a record-breaking annual incentive program that was staged over six days, from Sunday April 21, for 4,000 delegates and staff of anti-aging products company NU SKIN Greater China.

The delegation is expected to generate a business boom for Phuket and Thailand.

NU SKIN delegates from seven cities in mainland China, as well as Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, arrived in a succession of 160 flights operated by 11 different airlines.

More than 85% of the complete delegation stayed at Laguna Phuket hotels, and the resort's XANA Beach Club at Angsana Laguna Phuket was the venue of a grand Welcome Theme Party on Tuesday, April 23.

The event came a year after Laguna Phuket hosted the island's biggest-ever corporate gathering, a month-long incentive program involving some 15,000 delegates of Amway China.

For the NU SKIN event, the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), with the cooperation of Phuket Province under its

MICE city committee, organized welcoming parties for the delegates at Phuket International Airport and also co-sponsored the XANA Welcome Theme Party.

During their stay, NU SKIN delegates were split into two groups, and took part in a series of daily programs that included events at Laguna Phuket hotels, team-building, local sightseeing, shopping, and Thai cultural activities.

This year was the first time NU SKIN chose to base its annual incentive event in one location.

"Our event is called 'Nu Skin Exclusive Fantastic Trip to Phuket' and is record-breaking in all aspects," said Vincent Cheng, Regional Vice President of West & North Mainland, NU SKIN Greater China.

"Previously we held annual incentives in other Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and also Pattaya in Thailand – but those were just for short stays and this is the first time we have booked a whole resort.

"We wanted a venue that was world-famous and unique that would attract our



BENCH-MARQUEE: Laguna Phuket has shown once again that it is capable of, and ideal for hosting large incentive meetings for international companies. Photo: Laguna Phuket.

business partners. Phuket, with its climate, beautiful scenery, fascinating culture and great food, meets all our needs.

"Asia is a key market for NU SKIN and has seen a great increase in the anti-aging products industry. We believe our Phuket event will build our brand image and create business opportunities to stimulate the local economy," he said.

Ziya Birkan, Deputy Managing Director of Laguna Phuket, said: "We're delighted to have been chosen to play a major role in this prestigious business gathering.

"This is the latest in a series of corporate events we've staged that underlines our credentials as a unique and top-class venue

for large business incentive groups," he said.

Thailand has a particular focus for NU SKIN, as the company launched its "Force for Good" charity program in the Kingdom to help poor children with congenital heart problems.

Regional President of NU SKIN Greater China Andrew Fan received the Thailand Red Cross Gold Medal from Princess Sirindhorn for his work in setting up the charity, and is one of few Chinese people to get the award.

Andrew Fan attended the Laguna Phuket event to meet Julyana, a young Thai girl whose life was saved by the NU SKIN Southeast Asia Children's Heart Fund.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Small appliances see big growth in SE Asia

THE Small Domestic Appliances (SDA) markets in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand grew by nearly 6% in value over a recent 12-month period, when compared to the same period the previous year.

SDA sales in the five markets, tracked from February 2012 to March 2013, had a combined value of more than US\$804 million.

The survey by GfK, one of the world's largest research companies, compared sales figures for SDA units including food preparation appliances, irons, rice cookers and vacuum cleaners.

According to GfK retail audit findings, the growth in overall value was a result of consumers buying nearly 1.6 million more SDAs compared to the previous year.

All five markets registered incremental value growth in the range of 1 to 12%, with Thailand exhibiting the strongest jump, followed by Indonesia at 8%.

According to the study, Thailand is also the country with the highest consumption level as

consumers spent more than \$235 mn on over 9mn units of these appliances, contributing to nearly a third (30%) in value and volume of the combined SDA market in the region.

"The increasing affluence of households, on top of the rising need for convenience, has brought about an upgrading phenomenon which we are witnessing especially in developing countries," noted Jasmine Lim, Account Director for Home & Lifestyle in GfK Asia.

"In recent times, our findings have shown escalating sales of higher-end appliances – an indication that consumers have greater purchasing power and are switching from buying basic models to the more sophisticated product ranges."

European brands are registering a rising presence in four of the five countries with one in every three food preparation appliances, vacuum cleaners and irons sold in the region being of continental origin.

This has made European manufacturers the dominant

contributors to the total sales value in the respective categories.

Among all the SDAs tracked, rice cookers were the region's most purchased appliances by consumers.

Over 13.8mn units were sold in the last 12 months, 860,000 units more than a year ago.

Generating more than \$355 mn in sales, this appliance is also biggest in terms of market worth. It is however the vacuum cleaner segment which experienced the greatest volume growth of 8%, driven by Indonesia and Thailand whose respective markets saw intensified volume sales by 23 and 17%, respectively.

"Thanks to the Chinese New Year celebrations across the region, performance of the small domestic appliances sector soared in the first two months of this year as more rice cookers, food preparation appliances and vacuum cleaners were purchased to help households with their cooking and spring cleaning during this period," highlighted Lim.



INSTANT RELIEF: It's increasingly difficult to imagine our lives before small domestic appliances were readily available. Photo: Steven Layne

"The uptrend for SDA products is likely to continue, driven especially by strong demand in the region's developing markets," said Lim. "A generally positive performance throughout last year and the sustained growth

momentum reflected in the first two months of this year present an optimistic outlook for this sector, which is anticipated to remain in healthy territory in the months ahead," Lim concluded.

– *GfK and Phuket Gazette*

10% of businesses could shut down if baht strengthens

ONE tenth of enterprises could close down this year if the baht strengthens to 27 to 27.9 against the US dollar, according to a survey released last week by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC).

Based on the UTCC survey of 600 business respondents, under its worst-case scenario of the baht appreciating to 27-27.9 to the

greenback, 12.4/5 of enterprises would lay off laborers.

If the baht strengthened to 28-28.9, 4.8% of enterprises said they would shut down operations, while 9.3% would lay off employees.

Thanavath Phonvichai, director to the UTCC's Economic and Business Forecasting Centre, said continued appreciation of the baht would hurt not only the export sec-

tor, but also the overall economy.

Meanwhile, the Federation of the Thai Industries (FTI) submitted to the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand its proposed relief measures for exporters and small and medium-sized enterprises in light of the baht's appreciation.

The federation will be requesting them to manage the currency's stability, put in place capital-

management measures and promote exchange-rate risk management among business operators.

The FTI is also asking the central bank to slash the policy interest rate to at least 2% to help discourage capital inflows. The policy rate currently stands at 2.75%, compared with a maximum of 0.25% in the US and 0.1% in Japan.

Last week, the dean of Tham-

masat University's Economics Faculty, Bhanupong Nidhiprabha, urged the Monetary Policy Committee to call an urgent meeting on the baht.

The UTCC has estimated that 99,776 businesses, mostly small and micro-sized, had already closed down because of the rise in the minimum wage to 300 baht a day.

– *The Nation*

Cleat condos add to Krabi

THE Cleat condominium, a residence in the Krabi Boat Lagoon, recently announced the exciting launch of a new phase of the project. Phase 1 was first launched in March of this year, with 15 units set to be complete by June.

The Cleat offers low-rise waterfront condos, has four buildings with a total of 62 units, and is located inside Krabi Boat Lagoon in a small cluster, designed to enhance the concept of green living. Each unit is available either for sale or long-term lease.

Foreigners can only own up to 49% of the units.

Ground floor units are reserved for retail space and those interested in setting up business services. Living units are on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. Single bedroom mangrove sea view units range in size from 37-45 square meters and marina view 2-bedroom, duplex and triplex suites, range in size from 72-160sqm.

According to the developer, this condominium represents a rare opportunity for both property investment and the support of green living.

The Cleat condominium will soon



become one of the recognizable fixtures of the exclusive marina and the development has been designed with a nautical theme, in a location likely to see steady demand from the marine community.

Developers say they are dedicated to providing customers with good benefits and facilities for boat owners – all in the choice location of Krabi Boat Lagoon. If you would like to find out more about the lifestyle opportunities presented by the development, visit and see for yourself. Units have been available for rent since March 2013, with rental price determined upon request.

For more info contact Khun Thidarat Cherdchom at: marketing@phuketpropertytrip.com or by phone on: +66 (0) 76 238 948.

– *Phuket Gazette*



BOATER'S PARADISE: A panoramic view of the complex (above) and ships docked at the Krabi Boat Lagoon (below). Inset: The Cleat condominium casts its shadow over the lagoon.



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

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Bare walls and other real life catastrophes

MANY of my early childhood memories are of my great Aunt Louise. She was the black sheep of the family and no one could quite figure out the exact connection, whether it was on my mother or father's side, but nonetheless, she was on our family role call.

She was a hard drinker and you would rarely find her anytime after lunch without a cocktail by her side. Perhaps the most amazing thing about Aunt Louise was that she smoked ultra-long Virginia Slims, "lady" cigarettes, and would let ash build up to the limit before taking a drag and starting all over again.

My kid sister and I would sit on the edge of our seats in raw anticipation, waiting for the ash fall that never quite came. Aunt Louise lived in one of those old California Victorian-style mansions in Pasadena. I can't quite make out if she was divorced but apparently her husband had gone out for a newspaper and never came back some twenty years before.

Like all children who somehow have this exaggerated reality growing up, everything in the world seemed big. My Aunt's house was no exception and the opulent tower, which contained more rooms than a hotel, was a train wreck inside.



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

Elaborate Velveteen paintings of Spanish bullfighters donned the walls, with pastel pink flamingos bathing in a pond in the entry foyer. Even the billiard room had that



CM Coolidge's 'A Friend in Need' has epitomized bad decor throughout the Western world for decades. Photo: PD-US

famous picture of dogs playing cards. She was loaded but her interior design bordered on an episode from the *Beverly Hillbillies*.

Aunt Louise has long since departed but she apparently didn't take her bad taste with her. As of late, in the ultra-villa lairs of the 'almost famous' here in glitzy Phuket there is a decided creep of bad taste, and even worse, lack of anything even remotely called interior design.

Call in the style police, damn the torpedoes, we are in for a direct hit. After a decade or so on the island, the strange attitude towards penny-pinching never ceases to amaze. I've seen high-profile, rich, worldly businessmen shell out tens of millions on awesome architecture, stunning infinity pools and expensive land; but it seems that at

the end of the process there is a decided lack of will to finish off the job correctly. I've been to completed and lived-in homes that look like bare skeletons ready to house a family from the witness protection program. Or they feature 'fine art' off the wall of the copy art place in Patong by the 7-Eleven – boy monks holding hands – you know the one I am talking about. If I have to see one more desecrated Buddha image or carving from Chatuchak, take me out back and shoot me.

My heart bleeds for the island's toiling interior artisans, landscape designers and other specialists who should be rewarded handsomely instead of viewed as second-class citizens. I love great architecture but with those great flat roofs facing west you can't even use most of the house all afternoon. How to get any sense of privacy at night as no curtains would possibly cover those 6-



FASHION FAUX PAS: Infinity pools and beach views can't save a house from decorating atrocities at the hands of its owner. Photo: Robert Brown

meter high feature windows.

I'm not just talking million dollar homes but townhouses, condos and apartments where little thought or budget is given to fitting out the house to make it into a livable home, or just taking it up a notch. How about feature walls instead of drab white walls that could well span the entire Great Wall of China? What about some color? For God's sake anything but white, off-white or the ubiquitous eggshell color please.

So that's it, my dearly departed Aunt Louise is turning in her grave at the very upscale Forest Lawn Cemetery. One of my last memories of that magnificent

house is driving down the street after her funeral and looking out the back of the family station wagon. My eyes caught the bright tail of a ceramic Bambi in her garden and the Stonehenge colors of those seven dwarfs scattered about the front yard.

That's it, I've said enough. But please, if you have enough money to build a really great house here in paradise, finish it off with just a shred of style, design and perhaps even a little art to top off the complete package.

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

A hotel-managed resort home

THE trend we have seen since the beginning of this year is the growth in outbound investments to provincial cities and key resort markets. As many have already heavily invested in Bangkok and options are becoming exhausted, it is only reasonable to look to other markets.

The first resort market that comes to mind for Thai investors has always been Hua Hin, but demand has been primarily for own-use.

Purchasing a resort home and using it less than 30 days a year, while having to pay common area fees that can be comparable to the cost of staying in a hotel, make many people reconsider their purchase and whether it is actually worth it.

There was an increasing demand from average buyers for holiday-home investment products whereby they receive an ongoing rental yield and can also enjoy complimentary usage of their unit for a certain period of

time during the year. This type of investment product meets the market needs for people who want to own a resort home as

will enjoy freedom from hassles and enhanced capital appreciation, as well as a high level of service and extensive facilities.

Investors can be assured that the rental program can be effectively run to maximize yields given the chain's extensive marketing network and sales platform.

There are several hotel-branded residences on the market designed as pure investments, such as Amari Residences Phuket and Banyan Tree Residences.

These projects offer what investors need – a fully managed turn-key investment where

the management and property rental, are fully taken care of by the hotel chain on the owners' behalf.

With tourist arrivals at a record high and poised for further growth, particularly in Phuket, the resort-home market for investment is expected to have positive spin-off effect.

– The Nation



Phuket's Banyan Tree Residences have proved a popular choice for investors seeking hotel-managed residences.

well as generate long-term yield and capital appreciation.

The concept that has grown in popularity is hotel-managed residences or branded resort residences. An association with a widely recognized hotel chain ensures a consistently high standard of property management. Although maintenance costs are comparatively higher, owners

LaGuna

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AREA punctures bubble scare

RECENT speculation that Thailand's real estate market is on the verge of collapsing, is far from the current reality, the head of a major real estate services firm has insisted.

The President of the Agency for Real Estate Affairs Company Limited (AREA), Dr Sapon Pornchokchai, PhD, has once again shunned news report warnings of an imminent property bubble burst.

Dr Sapon said that such reports, which have been circulating in the media over the last few weeks, may wrongly influence and affect decisions of potential home buyers, investors, developers, financial institutions and even policy makers in the government.

He insisted that not only are such reports invalidated, but on the contrary, he said that the Kingdom's real estate outlook is quite good. He went on to outline the following three points:

- In the Bangkok real estate market, the total number of accommodation units (including condominiums, town-homes and other common house formats) sold last year was 107,412, which was more than the amount of brand new units sold (102,080). Dr Sapon added that there are currently 128,934 units still on the market in the capital and that such units should be off the market within 12 months.

- Likewise, of the above number, 65,215 of the total units sold were condominium units, 62,548 of which were brand new. Dr Sapon said that there are still 40,853 condo units on the market, which should be sold within seven months.

- As reported in the *Phuket Gazette* property section last week, Thailand's up-



THE OUTLOOK IS GOOD: Construction cranes are a common sight around the bustling Pratumnam district of Bangkok. Photo: Steven Layne.

country condominium market has also seen strong sales. In Phuket, there are currently 15,500 units in total, of which only 25% are still on the market and are expected to be sold within only 2.3 months. Likewise, a quarter of Pattaya's 122,500 condos, as well as Hua Hin's/Cha-ahm's 17,600 condos are still on the market, but are expected to be off of it within a little over five months and 2.7 months, respectively. About 29% of Chiang Mai's 10,700 condos are for sale, with an expected 'sale-by' window of 1.5 months, and of Khon Kaen's 5,500 units, 22% have yet to be sold, but should be sold in less than a month.

Dr Sapon added that AREA has spoken with about 100 real estate agencies and

consultancies from throughout the Asean region, and that the general perception of the real estate market is optimistic ahead of the 2015 Asean Economic Community (AEC).

And while he was adamant that buyers, speculators and investors need not worry about a bubble, he warned that banks and other financial institutions should be careful about issuing loans in the amount equal to, nearly equal to, or more than the value of the property, explaining that such 'easy financing' policies could make banks vulnerable.

Dr Sapon also echoed his previous suggestions, as reported in the *Gazette* last week, for the government to draft and enforce mandatory regulations on developers accepting down payments for unbuilt property.

Thailand's Escrow Act of 2551 (2008 CE) doesn't require a contract be drafted specifically about the down payment.

Dr Sapon argued that since it is up to the parties whether they wanted to be bound by contract, most developers didn't offer such a contract, and instead used their reputation or track record in lieu of such a guarantee.

"Down payment protection guarantees should be mandatory and not left up to the will of developers," he said.

Operating since 1994, AREA is one of the Kingdom's first real estate services and information firms to research, survey and index property data to such a comprehensive degree.

— *Phuket Gazette* / AREA

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Home on the range

PARTICIPANTS in popular online forums indicate that long-time expatriate residents of Phuket tend to decry the changes that have transformed the island over the past two decades, yet fail to appreciate many of the positive developments that have taken place over the same period.

In this space since 1994, we have chronicled, criticized and editorialized – often in futility – about the ongoing, poorly-regulated “development” of the island.

While we are committed to keeping our esteemed readers informed about issues that continue to degrade the island’s increasingly urban landscape, we would also be remiss not to recognize some of the positive aspects associated with these changes.

Perhaps one of the best “reality checks” in this regard is when the time comes to answer first-time visitors to the island who ask the simple, yet loaded, question: “So what is there to do here?”

Twenty years ago the answer would have been simple: hang out by the beach, enjoy a cold beer and the scenery, perhaps take part in the nascent nightlife scene at the time.

Fast forward to 2013 and the same question is of almost the same complexity as the query: “What is the meaning of life?”

Apart from Winter Olympic sports, there is very little that is not “on the menu” in Phuket these days.

Gastronomes can enjoy not only the best Thai cuisine, but a range of authentic international cuisines unrivaled in any resort destination in the world: Russian, Korean, Japanese, Italian... the list is virtually endless.

“Range” is the operative word here, and it applies to far more than food and beverage. In terms of accommodation, Phuket has everything to meet the needs of visitors ranging from backpackers to criminals on the lam all the way to international celebrities seeking a private getaway retreat.

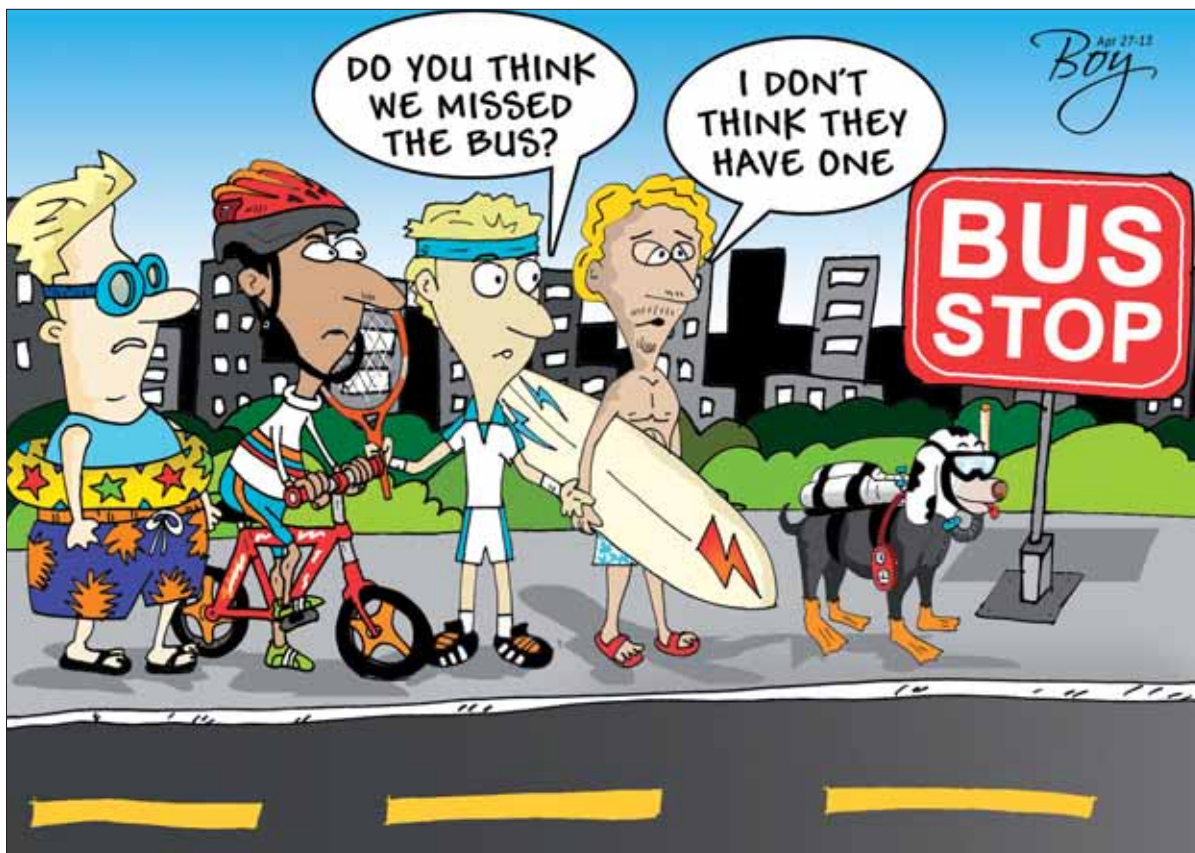
If there is another resort destination that can host a Gay Pride Week back-to-back with a Big Bike Week, all coming off the world-renowned Songkran Festival, we would like to know about it.

Where else can US servicemen come for “shore leave” and walk side-by-side with Muslim families from the Middle East and busloads of Chinese package tourists, with no known reports of hostility there among?

Apart from the nightlife possibilities, which are too diverse to mention in this space, the recreational attractions are almost endless. From golfing to go-carting, bungee jumping to boogie boarding, there are few pursuits Phuket cannot accommodate.

The opening of the Thanyapura resort complex in Thalung has also established Phuket as one of the few locations in the world where world-class athletes and national sports teams can come and focus on training with first-class accommodations.

Yes, Phuket has it all – with one notable exception. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, all the island needs is a safe, reasonably-priced public transport system to tie the whole thing together as a perfect tourist destination package. Authorities: please take note – and take action.



Expert rescue in Similans

Re: Gazette online, Tourists offer high praise for rescue efforts after storm sinks dive boat north of Phuket, April 17

Excellent news – well done to our navy and kudos for wonderful and willing help from all the fishing boats and others.

And we should thank the tourists for their part in getting everyone ashore safely.

I truly hope those involved get the official recognition they well deserve for such a heroic effort.

Greer
Gazette Forum

Overtaken bus not surprising

Re: Gazette online, Eight injured as Phuket bus overturns in Krabi, April 16

Looks to me like this vehicle was a wreck long before it wound up on its roof in a ditch.

Hard to fathom why anyone would climb into such a contraption, quite apart from the high-grade professional in the cockpit, who is predictably quick to blame the road conditions rather than his own skills and judgment.

The fact that most of the tyres are bald probably didn't make the wet road any less slippery.

topcat_hkt
Gazette Forum

No point in large scale composting

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Taking responsibility for Phuket's garbage, April 21

Waste treatment, including composting, needs to create revenue in order to be effective.

There is no money in compost derived from municipal solid waste.

This model works well for small-scale projects; for example,

Letters to the Editor

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

a temple. However, on a larger scale it will never work.

The compost is highly contaminated and it smells. Nobody wants even well-refined compost, so just use it at the landfill site.

Waste Professional
Gazette Forum

We need to compost

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Taking responsibility for Phuket's garbage, April 21

I composted in Chalong in 1995. It made sense and in those conditions – high humidity and fertile earth, it was incredibly quick and easy.

It's an island, for cryin' out loud! There is only so much room.

Composting is not only reasonable, but essential.

Bethany
Gazette Forum

Not much hope for Tiger Disco justice

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Tiger Disco fire charges parried, delayed, April 19

I thought this case had gone the way of many and had been put on a dusty shelf until the sands of time had erased it from public memory.

Let's hope this lawyer doesn't succeed in getting his client off the hook and just paying a pittance to these Thai families who lost members to this case of neglect.

Sadly, I doubt this well connected businessman will ever see

the inside of a jail cell for these preventable deaths.

Randolph
Gazette Forum

Outdated sewage

Re: Gazette online, Raw sewage leaves Phuket residents retching, April 20

There is simply no excuse. While Phuket advertises itself as a world-class tourist destination, both locals, residents and tourists are subjected to these Third World type of problems.

This is 2013, not 1913. It's time that basic sewage facilities were provided by the local government.

Public Health Professional
Gazette Forum

Police erred with gold shop video

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police release graphic YouTube video of gold shop robbery Phuket Gazette, April 16

Given the quality of the video and how small the images are, I cannot see how this will help identify the robber and can only cause huge grief to the victim's family.

To watch a loved one die is terrible – bad choice by police, and I think they should remove it.

Fiesty Farang
Gazette Forum

The natural result

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's first fatality of Songkran Seven Days of Danger hits on day six, April 17

It's impossible to control death. People tend to die – some call it the “natural result of life”.

We should call a year “365 days of danger” instead to make sure that nobody dies on the road...

Toby W
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

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Partners for life

FIRST PERSON

EVERYONE with a romantic partner wants to live together and be recognized as a couple. A marriage license ensures that recognition. It says that a couple have chosen each other as partners joined in marriage. For same-sex couples, it would show that we are not different from other couples.

The marriage license bestows societal respect and it is important for official processes.

Everyone wants the same rights as everyone else under Thai law; however, there are several rights that rank as most important that same-sex couples should be granted.

For example, if I am incapacitated in an accident and I have to undergo a critical operation, my partner would be able to make decisions for me and authorize the surgery. I have heard of many cases where a partner has been unable to do this because they didn't have the legal right, they didn't have a license proving they were the patient's life partner.

Another aspect is communal rights conferred to man and wife. Government officers can claim medical expenses for their spouses and family. They can also claim child-education expenses and other benefits. If same-sex couples could be legally married, they would have these rights too.

Marriage licenses also help when couples separate. When different-sex couples divorce, the law guarantees certain rights to each partner. Without this, the entire process is relegated to negotiation.

The institution of marriage symbolizes two people choosing to live together, to share their ideas and rights with each other, and mar-



Jeerattakarn Nuannum, 30, was born in Phuket and graduated from Phuket Rajabhat University. After joining Phuket's renowned Simon Cabaret Show as a performer in 2002, the Phuket native became a fashion model at Phuket Pop Top Model in 2008. Here, Jeerattakarn explains what rights the LGBT community expect to be granted if Thailand moves ahead with approving same-sex marriage.

riage is a symbol of the beginning of a new life.

This is true for all couples, including same-sex partners. They too want a partner to love, cherish and care for. We have the same minds, the same feelings and the same attitudes towards our chosen partners as other couples.

Marriage is very important to me.

There is growing momentum in Thailand for same-sex couples to be married, especially in Phuket, but there are no rules or laws that legally uphold a gay wedding ceremony.

The move in Thailand to consider making same-sex marriage legal is very good news and should be introduced as quickly as possible. We are waiting to have the same rights as everyone else in the country.

The law can help everyone understand that we are not different from other people. We can all work and live together in harmony.

I think that everyone in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community and the LGBT support associations have a critical role to play in making

same-sex marriages a reality.

There are associations in many cities across the country to help same-sex couples cope with difficulties in living in society, such as Andaman Power, located in Phuket, and the Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, which is based in Bangkok.

In the past, it was very difficult to make Phuket people understand who I am. People would not even give me the chance to have a normal job. But Phuket has now transformed into a more open society because Phuket is now more multicultural and more international in its outlook.

People now understand who I am and they are ready to accept that people in the LGBT community can work and do everything else just as well as anyone else.

Having the legal support of same-sex marriages would help people to reach a new level of acceptance and understanding.

I would like people to open their minds and accept us and give us a chance just like other people because we are "same same, not different."



We shouldn't need checkpoints to drive safely. Photo: Gazette file

Year-long road safety

Island View

By Winston Gunn

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

THE nationwide Songkran Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign was deemed to be a raging success on Phuket, with only one fatality on the island's roads during that period. The strong police presence and abundance of police checkpoints definitely made a difference.

But the checkpoints have vanished along with the police. Is that their work for the year done? Do they no longer care about road safety? Sadly, it does look that way. Issued with a directive to do a certain job for a certain period of time, they do it. But what now?

Now they have no directive and Phuket goes back to sporadic checkpoints and road safety will no longer be the main issue. The death toll on the roads will rise to its normal level and people will carry on, safe in the knowledge that for seven days of the year, Phuket's roads were nearly death-free.

It doesn't have to be this way. Police clearly have the manpower to set up manned checkpoints, and there should be more on Phuket. The police should kick on from this successful week and continue the road-safety campaign. Don't stop because the rest of the country has.

Phuket's roads are extremely dangerous and over the Songkran period the men in brown made the

roads safer. The police presence made people think twice about drunk driving, driving dangerously and riding a bike with no helmet – all things that people should do to begin with, but were actually made to do for seven days.

Road safety is not just down to the police.

Parents, schools, businesses, friends and the Phuket community as a whole need to get behind it. Helmet campaigns have worked to a degree but there needs to be more emphasis on all aspects of road safety for all ages in all areas of Phuket.

Emphasis on road safety should not be limited to a couple of weeks a year. It's a life-saving education that needs to be passed on year round and once one generation has it ingrained in their heads it can be passed on a lot easier.

It's a wonderful thing that the road-safety campaign was a success but it's extremely disappointing that road users will have to wait until the end of December for the next Seven Days of Danger to feel that little bit safer on the roads.

Issues & Answers...

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

Paying for freedom

My Thai fiancé was recently jailed for the intent to sell 800 milligrams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

I was told that if I came up with 350,000 baht, she would be let go and not have to serve her prison sentence. Is this correct?

Chris
Phuket

Sermphan Sirikong, Phuket City Police Superintendent, replies:

This is not true. You cannot pay 350,000 baht to ensure that your fiancé will be released from jail and will not have to serve a prison sentence.

The person who told you about this is probably trying to take advantage of you.

You need to be very careful in a

situation like this, because we have had fraudsters take advantage of other people in situations similar to yours.

The only way your fiancé can possibly be acquitted of the sentence is to go through the legal process.

She can leave the jail if bail is negotiated with the judge. But even if she is granted bail, she will still have to serve any sentence passed down by the judge.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Safety checks on motor vehicles

I remember when private outlets were first established to help customers expedite the process of renewing licenses for motor vehicles.

These outlets saved people from having to make the drive to the Land Transport Department office in Phuket Town.

These establishments also went through the process of checking the vehicle, lights, exhaust and so on.

I have noticed that within the past year or so, these private outlets are no longer bothering with checking the vehicles. Is this check not required any more?

Guenter
Baan Lipon

Jaturong Kaewkasi, Safety of-

ficer, Phuket Land Transport Office, replies:

These companies should still be completing a motor vehicle check before bringing a customer's paperwork to us.

However, there is no need for the check to be completed if the motorbike is less than five years old or if the car is less than seven years old.

If you believe one of these companies is not conducting the vehicle safety checks, please let us know by calling the PLTO hotline 1584 or our office number 076-211019



Private companies can renew licenses but must do an inspection first. Photo: Gazette Files

so we can investigate.

If a company is found not performing the safety checks, we will revoke its permit to be able to offer this service.

YOUR

Phuket

Medicare host ‘Beauty Secret’ party

Medicare Health Group hosted a ‘Thank You’ party for their customers at Royal Phuket City, Phuket Town



In the center are Kamolrat Prakopporn, vice president of Medicare Health Group and to her right Dr Rawan Koykiettikol, Medicare Phuket branch.



Saharat Sangkapreecha, a famous Thai singer.

Music, food and love with Guo Yue at Boathouse on Kata Beach



Musician and Chef Guo Yue from Beijing, China.



Jirayut Wattanasilp, another famous Thai singer.



Praewprawlin Inchumchuen, sales and marketing manager of IMAGE asia.

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BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY of the week



JONES LANG
LASALLE

Real value in a changing world

AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

See page 22

JOB of the week



British
International School, Phuket



See page 26

INVESTMENT of the week

Siam Spa
at Chalong



See page 28

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PHUKET ULTIMATE
SEAVIEW

3-bedroom house with private entrance. Master bedroom guesthouse, pool. 5 minutes to beach and Jungceylon. Tel: 085-237 1007 (English). Email: patrickconnor2929@gmail.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

PHUKET VILLA 5
VILLAGE

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

1-BED APARTMENT
FOR RENT

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

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

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

RAWAI 3-BED POOL
HOUSE 28,000 BAHT

2 storeys, 2 baths, 3 aircon units. Fully equipped, nice and quiet. May - Oct: 28,000 baht per month + bills, internet. Tel: 085-478 8010, 085-478 8216. Email: c9000@gmx.de

NICE 3-BED,
2-BATH HOUSE

Modern, clean and quiet 3-bed, 2-bath house on 320sqm in Thalung, near Heroines Monument. Cable TV, internet. Tel: 081-895 1009. Email: eljefe3@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

RENT ROOMS OR
APARTMENT

Patong. Price: 9,000-15,000 baht per month, furnished, pool. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

FOR RENT

2-floor house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. In Permsap Villa. Long term only. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

KATA HOLIDAY RENTAL
2-BED

Sea view, large terrace, shared pool, free WiFi, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PROPERTY FOR
RENT

3-bed en suite, furnished, with pool, immaculate. Located in Rawai. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-524 2289 (English & Thai). Email: johngriффphoto52@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.griффpromedia.com click on search, then enter rawai villa

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HOUSEKEEPER

Young lady, good English, intelligent, cheerful. Top salary. Please contact Tiffany. Tel: 089-850 1622. Email: tcdeportes@gmail.com

**HOUSEKEEPER
SURIN VILLA**

Must speak English, 6 days a week, must have happy personality and like cats. Previous work experience in hotel or villa is an advantage. References needed. Tel: 083-103 1330.

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

**CHINESE
SPEAKING STAFF**

Chinese/Thai-to-English translators and sales people needed. Must have excellent spoken and written Chinese skills. Apply with CV and expected salary. Email: dreams holdings@yahoo.com

SALESMAN WANTED

We are selling a state-of-the-art pipe system for hot and cold water applications and for A/C systems. Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Able to communicate in English: speaking, reading and writing
- Energetic and enthusiastic with a positive attitude
- Highly motivated, disciplined and hard working
- Experience in working with architects for specifying products The work can be full time or freelance. Tel: 081-374 0494. Email: klaus.bauer@pimatec.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

**ACCOUNTING
BOOKKEEPER**

Full time. Start immediately. Accounting degree or equivalent. Drivers License. Experience. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

STAFF WANTED

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

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht a month depending on experience.
- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

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

**ACCOUNTANT FOR
REAL ESTATE**

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

**ESTATE / RENTAL
MANAGER**

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

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

• Human Resources Officer**Qualifications**

- Thai Nationality, age not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Administrative, Business laws or related fields
- Some experience in HR, Recruitment and Training are preferred
- Proficient in using computers and ability to read, speak and understand English
- Cooperative team member, maintain good staff relations and service minded person

• A/R Accountant**Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting / Finance / Business Administration or related field
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential

Interested candidate please submit your cv and recent photo to sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th or pattamar@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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

**SWEDISH / FINNISH
TOUR GUIDE**

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

**RECEPTIONIST
PATONG**

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

THAI STAFF

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

STAFF WANTED

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

LIVE-IN COMPANION

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

**FOOD STORE
MANAGER**

Food importer and distributor based in the south is seeking a branch manager. Ideal candidate has minimum 5 years experience in F&B industry and proven management skills. High salary and profit sharing scheme. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION

- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

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

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

GIGONG / TAICHI TEACHER

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

BRANCH MANAGER & ASSISTANT

Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a branch manager and assistant- branch manager. Salary 20,000 THB + excellent commission. Call us now. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

SECRETARY/ ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Thai secretary wanted for Swedish Siam Co LTD, located at Surin beach. Must speak and write English. Basic windows office skills. Good if you have driver's licence. Salary from 15,000/m Tel: 084-6894658 (English), 087-290 1019 (Thai). Email: Malin@vertigophuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.vertigo-phuket.com

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

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced account. Qualification: over 3 years experience in accounts. Good command of spoken and written English. Good salary based on experience. Please contact us by email: fumiko@sa-mer.com

MAINTENANCE MANAGER NEEDED

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

HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters requires 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.

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



Experience Russian Sales Reps.

needed to live & work in Bali for the Karma Royal Group.

Sounds interesting??

Email CV to: ekayanti@royalperspective.com

YACHT DELIVERY CREW WANTED

From Miri / North Borneo to Phuket in April / May; 19m MY. Only licensed and experienced crew. please! Tel: +60-14-257 5485. Email: boatjob1234@gmail.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

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

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakiat 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.

SALES MANAGER

Food importer seeks passionate, dynamic Sales Manager. Candidate has strong experience in sales and will be responsible for the supervision and motivation of sales team. Salary and commission scheme. Foreigners applying must have their own company and work permit. Tel: 076-384273. Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

VILLA MANAGER

Property Management Company based in Rawai is seeking Villa Manager. Ideal candidate has minimum 3/5 years experience in same position and proven management skills. The position is open for foreigner. Perfect is required English spoken and written. Additional languages will be considered as a plus. Tel: 076-383435. Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

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 email, or call for info.

RENTAL MANAGER NEEDED

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

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR



We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-6190380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

COFFEE & ICE CREAM



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

www.AbsoluteWorld.net

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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:

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- 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

SALES & SERVICE MANAGER

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

DIVE AND SURF SHOP

Needs Thai female staff with basic English skills. Tel: 089-874 9147.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

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

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking candidates for the following positions:

▶ Guest Relation Officer

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net

www.sunwingphuket.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

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

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

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A. Muang, Phuket 83000
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Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Articles For Sale

BOXING MACHINE

Dragon Punch, 2 players. 10 baht per punch. Sale: 85,000 baht. Please call 086-283 9100.

KAYAKS, SEA CANOES

Brand-new kayaks for sale - still in shipping wrapper. FeelFree - Gemini 2-person kayaks include paddles and seats. 25,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 089-044 0623. Email: kayak@worldwidealo.com

MINI LATHE SALE

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

INVESTOR NEEDED URGENTLY

Investor urgently needed for beachfront development. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

NEW HOTEL FOR LEASE

40 rooms, fully furnished, swimming pool, restaurant and spa. Located in Soi Nanai Villa, Patong. Ready to make money. Tel: 086-300 9406 (English & Thai).

HOTEL BEACHFRONT IN PATONG FOR SALE / RENT

20m from the beach, 38 rooms, well-furnished, swimming pool, restaurant, parking, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. Opportunity. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

4-room guesthouse with restaurant, fully furnished, 3 year contract. 650,000 baht negotiable. Tel: 082-270 6385, 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

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

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

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

DIVING COMPANY FOR SALE

4 year old Company Limited. (2 million baht) with 1 work permit. Price: 50,000 baht. Tel: 085-785 7036 (English), 085-792 3736 (English & Thai). Email: marcello_auf_reisen@hotmail.de

OTOP BAR FOR SALE

Bar at OTO in great location. Contract until Jan 2014. Please call 084-185 8719 (English). Email: charlie@paddy malones.com.au

DJ PLAZA BAR

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

SIAM SPA AT CHALONG



Day Spa in Chalong urgently awaits new owner. 24 rooms, 2 saunas, swimming pool, locker room, lobby, parking, etc. Come to see and check it. Running now. Deposit: 450,000 baht. Rent: 150,000 baht. Key money: 1 million baht. Negotiable. Contact David Jee. Tel: 086-283 0001, 090-405 6901 (English & Thai).

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

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@phuketiwc.com

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Google AA Phuket

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

INBOUND COMPANY FOR SALE

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

PATONG BEACHFRONT HOTEL

For rent. 2 shophouses, 8x20m, 12 guestrooms and sundeck, Taweewong Road, in front of Holiday Inn Express Hotel. Please contact Chuchard. Tel: 076-340191.

HOTEL BEACHFRONT IN PATONG FOR RENT



The best location on Patong Beach. There are 16 rooms, seaview and fully furnished, very good occupancy rates. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

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

TOUR SHOP PATONG

Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. For more information please call 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 6 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

KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

NAIL SPA

Great business opportunity. Central Patong. Fully equipped nail spa for sale at 1.2 million baht. For more information please email to forsale.phuket@gmail.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.se derholm@gmail.com

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

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

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- Outdoor activities.
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Computers, etc

DESKTOP PC

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MACBOOK 2GHZ

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Works perfectly, comes with mouse and brand new power supply. Price: 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-590 1087. Email: cyberwalkie@hotmail.com

Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

BLUE CANYON GOLF MEMBERSHIP

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

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

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Pets

GREAT DOG NEEDS NEW HOME



We are looking to find a new home for our lovely female dog Milo. She is a 7 year old Baan Kaew Thai breed. Well trained. Tel: 092-074 4023, 089-866 2809 (English & Thai). Email: alex@divetravelasia.com Please watch our video of Milo in action on Youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0CLeAh3bhc



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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

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

COMPANION

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

Education

LEARN THAI

From an experienced Thai teacher. For more information please call 084-447 5257. Email: mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

Personal Services

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Want to get exercising? Know what to do but lack the motivation? Contact pri-mos.com Get Up - Get Out - Get Fit. Tel: 087-265 4431 (English). Email: getgregdick@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.pri-mos.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

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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

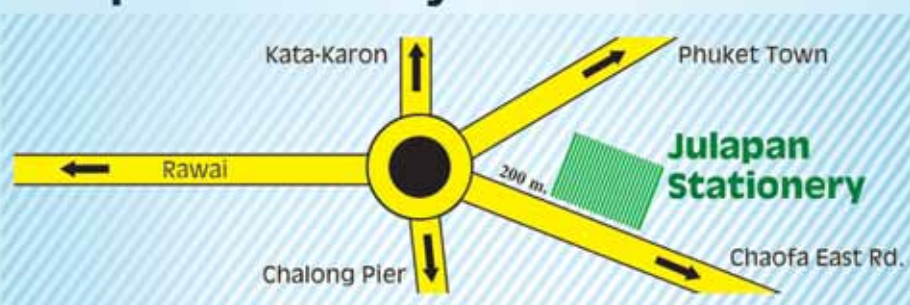


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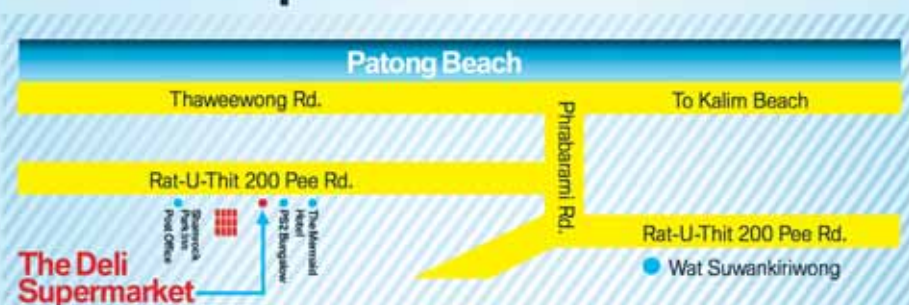


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► Privilege 585 (2003) 649,000 Euro BLUE WATER LUXURY	► Northshore 46 (1987) \$125,000 AUD	► Yachtuka 53 (2000) 449,000 Euro	► Riviera 33 Flybridge (1996) \$135,000 USD
► Integrity 360 (2011) 11,750,000 THB	► Sunseeker 63 (2011) 1,090,000 Euro PRICE REDUCED - IMMACULATE	► Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013) 2,599,000 GBP	► Gulf Craft Oryx 36 (2008) \$125,000 USD THAI REGISTERED

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

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

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EUR 150,000



1999 Lagoon 470
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2012 Lagoon 450
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sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

Максим Волков
+66 (0) 84 745 9900
maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com

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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

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

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

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

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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

HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT
1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray Marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidwarburton@hotmail.com

NEW KARNIC 1851
Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat.com

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13 METER WOODEN HULL CRUISE
This boat is registered for 17 people. It is wooden hull, 3.5m wide, draws 1.5m and has a diesel engine that generates 123KW. It is set up for fishing or day tours and fits with Fish Finder and GPS. I wanted 1.5 million baht but have reduced now to 1 million baht but still haven't been able to sell it for now it is going for the bargain price of 500,000 baht. Tel: 082-414 6931 (English), 087-382 9163 (Thai). Email: phil@krabikonnnect.com

THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword





Aircraft For Sale

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

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: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com



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

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

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

TECNAM P-92

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

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

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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



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

Specs:

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

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

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

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



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

Plawan's Birthday Party



Plawan and Palawee Issara.

ITF attend welcome dinner

Thanyapura management welcomed Chang-SAT ITF event organizers with an evening dinner held at DiVine Restaurant.



From left: Roger Cochrane, director of tennis; Amorn Duangpinkum, bronze badge referee; Vijja Vajaranant, tournament director and managing director of the Sports Society; Craig Johns, director of sports academies; Sheetal Lyer, ITF supervisor; Virapol Cholvibul, director of sales and sport marketing.

Phanason Group

The Phanason Marketing team receive a good luck blessing for Thai New Year from Chatchanee Ittinanthawan, (left) the managing director of Phanason Group.



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Tel: **076 367095**, Fax **076 367076**
Email: info@phuketbotanicgarden.com, www.phuketbotanicgarden.com

OPEN DAILY **08:30 - 18:00 hrs**

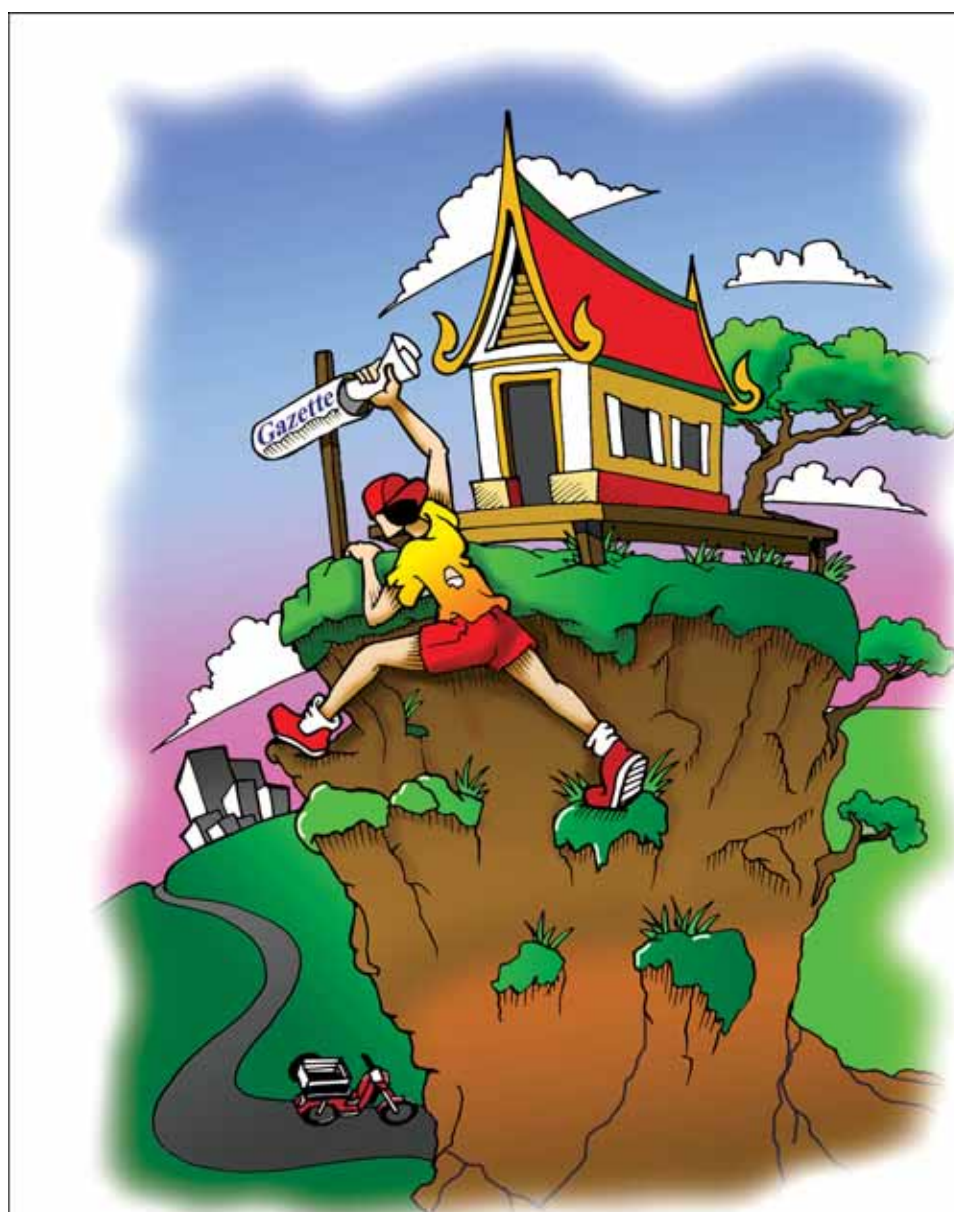


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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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 International 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 27-28, Tennis Clinic for Kids at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club Tennis Courts

Saturday from 4-5pm, and Sunday from 10-11am. The clinics will be led by Mr Roger Cochrane, director of tennis academy and a coach from Peter Burwash International. We will invite some ITF players who can help this clinic in order to inspire and give some useful tennis tips to those kids who will be attending both sessions. For more information call: 076 336 000.

April 28, 7pm to 1am: XANA with Attica: Paul Oakenfold hits Phuket

Oakenfold is one of the true superstars of dance music. From selling five million LPs to working with *Madonna* and *U2*. A buzz grows across Asia as this incredible act prepares to take to the decks at XANA with Attica. Playing from 9:30pm, Oakenfold will be supported by *DJ Jon White* and Essential Ibiza's *Iain Thomson*. Entry is 900 baht at the door, which includes 500-



baht in drinks tokens. There is a special local and residents' price of 700 baht (also includes 500 baht drinks). Proof of residency should be shown at the door. For more information, please contact Annabel Fox on 66-76-324101 or you can email: annabel@xanabeachclub.com

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

Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ-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 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 information, please contact Donna Stephens at: dstephens@bisp Phuket.ac.th

May 3, 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at the Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

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

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.

June 9, 4:30am to 12pm: 8th Laguna Phuket International

Marathon at Laguna Grove, Laguna Phuket

Thousands of runners from around the world will "Run Paradise" in this, the eighth edition of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon to reaffirm its status as Asia's most popular family-friendly destination marathon. In addition to the full 42km marathon there's a 21.1km half marathon and 10.5km run. Plus families catered for with the 91.5FM 5km community walk and 2km children's race. "Run Paradise" is an apt description, with runners of all ages and abili-

ties on a mainly flat course that takes in rubber and pineapple plantations, beach views, local villages and the tropical lagoons of Laguna Phuket – all in a family-friendly carnival atmosphere. For more information visit phuketmarathon.com

June 20, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The June lunch will be held at 2 Chefs Bistro in Karon. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information, please contact: info@phuketiwcc.com.

July 6-7, 10am to 8pm: Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic at Phuket Airpark

Two full days of entertainment for local area charities. Support this great non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. For more details please visit navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, and the 'Phuket Today' show.

July 18, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The July lunch will be at a new venue. Salt at Surin. All are welcome but registration essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information contact: info@phuketiwcc.com

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. I'm very happy to announce that we've found a new owner for Sandwich Shoppe Patong, and it will continue just as it is, for years to come. Look for Patong computer clinic announcements in the near future.

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.

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And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Fine dining at NINE

By Bruce Stanley

IN THE three months since it opened, the NINE Wine Bar and Bistro, tucked away in a cozy corner at the Royal Place, has brought a fresh new dining treat to Phuket.

For those of you who fly past the Tesco Lotus intersection to enter the bypass road speedway, try and slow down a bit and you'll see the entrance to the Royal Place, a high end condo and commercial project, which is quickly becoming the center of Phuket City's uptown.

The NINE is the type of restaurant you'll find in Bangkok's better upscale hotels.

Chic interiors mixed with a big cocktail and wine list and an international assortment of cuisine. It's a great place for the island's emerging sophisticated smart casual set. It opens at 10am and closes late at night.

The menu has been created by a team of Thai food experts, including Chef Songwut "Sean" Sumala who was named Thailand's top chef in the Thai IRON Chef competition at the end of January, where he was featured on Thai television Channel 7.

Chef Sean trained in Sydney and worked at the notable Salt Restaurant for a number of years, before returning to Thailand to act as executive chef for Centre Hotel in the capital's Chinatown district.

"For NINE, I have designed a menu that has many influences. I call the cuisine, contemporary, modern food, with influences from my kitchen experience in Australia. There are many cultures in Sydney, each bringing their own influence to the dining table. I have brought these to NINE for Phuket residents and visitors to enjoy."

In addition to a full menu that is evenly divided between Thai and European tastes, Chef Sean, creates a NINE degustation menu each month, a five-course culinary experience, which shows off his talents in the kitchen. This degustation menu changes and is modestly priced at just 999 baht.

To give a sample of how he mixes flavors and concepts, the recent special menu started with the freshest *fine de Claire* oysters, flown from France and still alive when they arrive at the NINE kitchen. My dining partner said he could taste the Atlantic Ocean as the oyster slid around his mouth.

Chef Sean then offered a tuna tartar with soy glaze and two varieties of luscious caviar highlighted with real gold leaf as a starter. He also provided grilled calamari, which resembled a small young octopus garnished with cherry tomato and a garlic crumb.

The menu got off to a roaring start and was calmed by a soft and sensuous broad bean puree with tasty bits of real crab meat for added flavor. The pace of the meal again raced ahead with a delectable duck confit salad, which once more showed off the chef's talent for creating impeccable French cuisine.

Portions were modest but generous and prepared the diner for a choice of main course. On offer were either succulent grilled lamb loin or large pieces of mixed seafood marinated in Provencal sauce. Strawberry gelato for dessert left the palate fresh.

"Our menu is broad and international but we prefer to give a focus to fresh seafood as we are on an island surrounded by a great wealth of choice of tastes from the sea," said Visut Rattanukul, one of NINE's owners.

There's a substantial wine list logically ordered by price. A diner can decide on their wine budget for a meal and then find an international selection in that section.

The main European menu features grilled snow fish, roasted rack of lamb, grilled rock lobster and grilled sea bass with mango salsa, each for under 400 baht. There's a wide choice of pizza and pasta for 219 baht and a nice menu of intriguing paninis and sandwiches. Most of the traditional Thai dishes are priced at 99 baht making NINE an affordable stop for lunch.

While the dining experience exceeds what is normally available around Phuket Town, just sitting in the comfort and beauty of NINE's designer interior is a treat. Black and orange colors with Sino-Portuguese tiles and design motifs, give this restaurant a real Phuket feeling. Even the bathrooms provide for a happy surprise.

I asked Jiragun Wongtunsi, NINE's manager how they chose the name.

"Well", he said, "Nine is a lucky number for Thais. But more importantly, we wanted to honor our King, who is the ninth King of the Chakri dynasty."



IRONMAN: Chef Songwut 'Sean' Sumala who was named Thailand's top chef in the Thai IRON Chef competition in January.



Visut Rattanukul, one of NINE's owners.



A GREAT PLACE TO MEAT: Succulent grilled lamb loin (above) and delectable duck confit salad (below). Photos: Marc Mulloy



Tuna tartar with soy glaze and two varieties of caviar, highlighted with real gold leaf.



Prapa Hemmin

AT THE photo session prior to our interview, Prapa Hemmin looks dazzling in an electric blue dress and matching necklace. Still, she apologizes, "Sorry if I don't look my best today. I am in the middle of an important project, the nature of which keeps me awake at night and the fatigue is ruining my complexion."

As Director of Sales of MICE & Corporate Events for Laguna Phuket, the island's premier resort on Bang Tao Beach, Prapa has reason to be anxious about her work.

MICE – short for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions – forms the core of the tourism industry's corporate sector and brings thousands of travelers to Phuket each year.

Last year alone, Prapa remembers, Laguna Phuket was host to no less than 15,000 such tourists.

Holding an MBA from Ramkhamhaeng University, Prapa has been with Laguna Phuket for 19 years of its 25-year lifespan. She laments the fact that Phuket is sorely lacking a suitably large and purpose-built conference hall to meet a rising demand from MICE subscribers.

"Phuket is a veritable MICE city. We have all available facilities, such as great hotels, an international airport, beautiful scenery. Alas, we still don't have a large exhibition hall like in Bangkok (Muangthong Thani) and

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Pattaya (PEACH Exhibition Hall at the Royal Cliff Hotel).

The government should rethink the plan to build such a space in Phuket because it will only help benefit the town," says Prapa, referring to the government proposed, but eventually shelved, plan to build a conference hall here.

So while still waiting for that to happen, Prapa enjoys her multifaceted work experience at Laguna. Talking about the Phuket Triathlon, the most famous sporting event organized yearly by Laguna, sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, her eyes light up in excitement. She was there during its inception ten years ago when participants numbered around 300. Last year, the number of athletes taking part rose to 1,200.

"I am very proud to be part of Laguna Triathlon," says Prapa. "Not only is the job exciting but I also get to rub shoulders with top sports personalities worldwide. I remember well the Triathlon champion Belinda Granger who's always friendly. Local athletes too have made an impression and some have become good friends. Every year, I look forward to

these 'reunions'."

As a hard-working professional, Prapa admits to having one flaw; she cannot let go of work and at times brings her worries home. This is when her husband steps in. His happy-go-lucky attitude and advice help her put things into perspective. "He's my confidant without whom I'd feel quite lost," says Prapa of her husband, who works as a bank manager in Kamala.

Family is important to Prapa, who is a proud mother of two sons (16 and 13). She spends a good amount of her free time supporting them at their weekend football matches. "I am decidedly a football mum. My younger son is in the Phuket Youth Football Team and they came top at the southern regional league last year. My eldest son is also in his school's football team," she says proudly.

As the whole family are Manchester United fans, Prapa and her husband will be taking their the boys to see their favorite club playing a Singha All Star XI in Bangkok this coming July.

When she's not working, Prapa loves spa treatments, shopping for clothes and accessories. "I am a very *sabai* (relaxed) sort of person but I must look my best whenever I am out or at work. A good image gives me confidence and also instills it in my clients."



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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The ABC's of plant names



PERENNIAL PLEASURE: Globe amaranth is a popular herbaceous plant, widely used in Thai floral displays, above. Right: Sunflower, a 'moulin rouge' cultivar. Photos: beautifulcataya and Jean Mottershead



"A" IS for arbitrary – which is what the articles that follow will inevitably be. How else to describe in the same breath, an array of plants as different as *acalypha* (also known as the red cat's tail) and the golden *allamanda*. "A" also represents excellence, so I hope the ensuing choice of plants will reflect that principle. In fact one is instantly spoilt for choice: there are so many plants whose names begin with "A" that they will certainly exceed the scope of one article. And that is without taking account of annuals, a class of plant often under-represented in books on tropical gardening.

The reason for this lack is not hard to find: in temperate climes, many plants only last one year because of the harsh winters, or are taken up and cosseted after flowering to be re-planted the following spring. Clearly, in a climate where the mean temperature rarely drops below the mid-twenties, annuals are often classified as perennials, since they can last several years.

For instance, if you are lucky enough to cultivate geraniums



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

(*pelargoniums*) successfully in Phuket, they will grow for years and produce large bushy clumps. On the other hand, the globe amaranth or *gomphrena globosa*, really is an herbaceous annual, even in the tropics, and will sprawl and look messy as it goes past its sell-by date. Better to get rid of the plant and sow again from seed. Nonetheless, with its dense magenta blooms, which last a long time and are often used in Thai floral displays, it is an annual I would not be without.

Other annuals you will encounter here include the *helianthus* brigade. Perhaps the largest and certainly the most spectacular of annuals, the seeds of sunflowers have long been used as a source of oil and as a delectable snack. It is occasionally grown here commercially, but its chief virtue for the gardener resides in its massive golden flower heads, which sit atop stalks that may be anything up to 14 feet in height. Sunflowers

need a rich soil and plenty of water to give their considerable best. But they look dramatic at the back of flower beds or placed along a wall. And nowadays, there are cultivars in shades of red (*moulin rouge*) and other varieties with many-headed stems. Again easy to grow from seed.

The African marigold (*tagetes*) is another showy herbaceous annual. Again best grown from readily available packeted seed, *tagetes* comes in shades of gold, yellow, orange or even white. It has an upright habit, attractive, pinnate (herb-like leaves) and is an ideal bedding plant, since its crimped double blooms are produced more-or-less continually. The smaller French marigold was developed in France, but in fact all *tagetes* hail from the Americas. An additional bonus: they are said to deter insect pests including parasitic worms.

Like the African marigold, *impatiens* (or 'busy lizzie') is an annual that can straddle both temperate conditions and the hot-house environment of the tropics. Specimens grew happily in a sheltered spot in my London



FIELD OF DREAMS: A patch of sunflowers. Photo: Dwight Sipler

garden; suitably cosseted, they will thrive here too. At present, most garden centers have them on display in hanging baskets or pots, where their multicolored, daisy-like flowers – pink, white, purple and red – look very appealing. But the containers should not be allowed to dry out, for the plants will quickly wilt, nor should they be exposed to the full glare of the tropical sun. A naturalized variety, *balsamina*,

with very fleshy stems, grows wild in Phuket. More upright than the cultivated *safari* varieties, it has purplish-pink or less commonly scarlet flowers.

Ah! We are still on the letter "A". Next week will be the turn of the shrubs and small trees.

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



ABUNDANCE: Potted *impatiens* (busy lizzie). Photo: Mark Sardella

Tip of the Week

Leafy logic: The survival stakes

LEAVES come in many shapes, forms and sizes. They are normally made up of a flat, ribbed blade, either narrow (*ixora*, bamboo) through to very broad versions (fan palm, *alocasia*), though there are many variations on this theme. Most conventional leaves are broadly oval in shape (mango, *allamanda*) but some trees have needle-like leaves (*casuarina*, Norfolk island pine); others have frond-like foliage



Photo: Harshad Sharma

(foxtail palm) or fern-like leaves arranged as two rows of small leaflets along a central axis (*cassia*, *delonix regia*).

Leaves offer important clues to a plant's needs. They are the means whereby a plant transpires (a process akin to sweating), and loses water through its pores or *stomata*. This process is essential for the plant's growth and survival. These pores are mainly on the undersides of leaves.



US marines and Afghan soldiers during anti-Taliban operations in Afghanistan, above. Right: President Barack Obama with General David Petraeus. Photos: isafmedia and US Air Force

The new wave general

GENERAL David Petraeus is justly famous for introducing a sophisticated counter-insurgency strategy in Iraq that averted a catastrophic civil war and led to an orderly American withdrawal. Previously, American troops had been stationed in huge forts from which they would venture forth in under-armored vehicles, which fell prey again and again to roadside bombs. Petraeus introduced a badly needed surge of troops, stationed them among the local populace, bought off Sunni tribes that had become disaffected by the excesses of Al-Qaeda, and introduced vital community services that flourished in a new atmosphere of security. Moving on to a one-year assignment in Afghanistan, Petraeus became the leading exemplar of a new wave of generals, highly educated, creative and focused on protecting civilian populations from fanatical insurgents.

Paula Broadwell's hagiography of the general *All In: The Education of General David Petraeus* (Penguin Books, New York, 2012, 394pp) began as a PhD thesis. Like Petraeus, Broadwell graduated from West Point, specialized in counter-insurgency theory and excelled as a physical fitness devotee.

Their relationship was cemented by their first six mile run together. She was encouraged by her publisher to "go big" with her book: turning it into a best seller with the

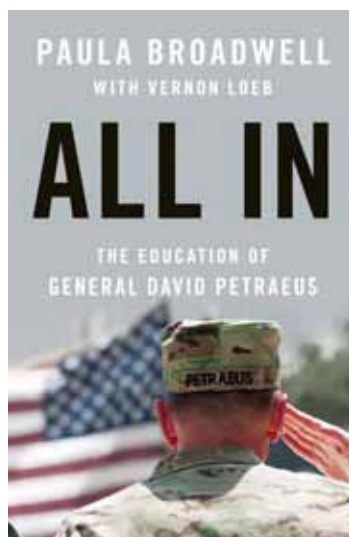
help of her co-author Vernon Loeb, a Washington Post editor who had been embedded with Petraeus' 101st Airborne division during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The result is a non-academic tome that still manages to be boring: leaden, repetitious and replete with military boilerplate. There are huge chunks of in-house hyperventilated praise for the ambitious soldier, long-winded congressional testimony and complex theoretical screeds.

The structure of the narrative does make a stab at liveliness. The book opens with Petraeus taking over the Afghan command from his talented and driven protégé Stanley McChrystal in the wake of a Rolling Stone profile that revealed McChrystal's contempt for the Obama administration. The story then moves backwards and forwards through the events of Petraeus' career. Son of a Dutch merchant marine captain, Petraeus grew up in a small town near West

Books

By James Eckardt



Point and excelled at the academy, graduating in the top five per cent of his class and marrying the daughter of the school's superintendent. Later, he would receive a PhD from Princeton for his thesis on counter-insurgency operations in Vietnam. He served as aide-de-camp for a trio of military mentors, rising rapidly through the ranks until his first combat command of the 101st "Screaming Eagles", where he distinguished himself in rapidly rehabilitating the Kurdish capital of Mosul. He generously mentored junior officers and journalists alike. Broadwell alludes to envi-

ous comments about Petraeus as a "self-promoter", but offers no specific negative quotes from any sources.

Petraeus was next tasked in 2004 to train and equip the Iraqi military and police forces from scratch, a monumental task which he compared to "building the world's largest aircraft, while in flight, while it's being designed, and while it's

being shot at".

So successful was he at this task that President George W Bush eventually appointed him to overall command in Iraq. At a meeting in the White House, Bush described the "surge" as a "double down strategy". Petraeus replied: "This isn't double down, Mr President. It's all in."

Despite skeptics, the strategy succeeded and led to President Obama appointing him to the next big challenge of Afghanistan. Broadwell spent a year in Afghanistan and enjoyed unparalleled access, following closely the anti-Taliban campaigns of three of the general's top subordinates. Her descriptions of individual firefights and overall strategy are superb.

The book ends with Petraeus taking the oath as CIA Director in 2011. Ironically, he lasted only a year in the job, forced to resign when emails came to light that revealed an extramarital affair with none other than Paula Broadwell.

Nonetheless, Petraeus has forever changed the thinking of the American military. Broadwell may be biased, but it's difficult to dispute her assertion: "Far beyond his influence on the institutions and commands in Iraq and Afghanistan, Petraeus left an indelible mark on the next generation of military leaders as a role model of a soldier-scholar-statesman."

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BACK TO BASICS: Tents at Naka Camp, above, and children from a nearby fishing village, right.

Low-tech heaven

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

IT IS perhaps a little known fact that residents of Phuket, the island renowned for its sandy beaches and crystal clear water, are always on the lookout for a holiday getaway somewhere else. The reasons? Increasingly crowded beaches and expensive hotels that offer little value for money.

So when a friend told us about a tent-hotel on an isolated beach on a small island off the east coast of Phuket, we decided to give it a try.

A 30-minute, blustery long-tail boat ride from Ao Po took us to Naka Yai Island. It may sound like a cliché, but the empty beach and the sight of a few basic tents tucked only yards away from the sea, made it feel like we were in for a kind of Robinson Crusoe-style adventure.

The canvas tents, each measuring 3x3 meters, are cool and airy thanks to the mosquito-net openings. Two single mattresses occupy each side of the room, with a space left in the middle serving as a night table of sorts. And that's it. You hang your clothes on the two chairs in front of the tent and there's a bucket of water to wash your sandy feet before entering the tent.

The bathrooms, situated behind the tents and far enough away for privacy, are a similar affair and take the shape of small sheds equipped with Asian-style dip-and-splash facilities.

We spent the afternoon exploring the beach and swam in the warm and sheltered sea, which is perfect for families with young children. Late afternoon we went exploring and crossed a verdant path to the other

side of the island, where a contrasting landscape awaited us: a rocky and windy shore with a ghostly glimpse of the limestone karsts of Pang Nga Bay behind.

Having admired the sunset with a few pre-dinner drinks (we made a note to bring some wine with us next time as the establishment only serves beer), we proceeded to a long table decked out in simple but carefully chosen dinnerware and illuminated with oil lamps and lit candles.

The food itself was a revelation: fresh local crabs and grilled prawns with Thai lemon sauce, lightly steamed whole fish, a mixed salad of fresh leaves and seeds laced with real vinaigrette (a rare commodity among Thai establishments), served with fried rice and sautéed pumpkin pieces. At night when the generator goes off at 9pm, oil lamps illuminated the path back to the tents.

Naka Camp Resort, which opened only two months ago, is managed by husband and wife team Nopporn and Ubolwan Muangnoi, who told us, "Everything here is low-tech – no electricity nor running water. We try to be as green as possible by managing and reusing our resources.

"Guests are encouraged to help by using less water, preserving torchlight batteries and taking back their recyclable garbage."

The morning stroll to the right of the beach revealed a small Muslim village housing thirty families. There's a tiny and modest mosque and a quaint little school. People here used to fish for a living but increasingly give that up to work in tourism – operating ferry boats or staffing in nearby hotels.

A stay at Naka Camp will cost 850 baht



A lone swing reinforces the Robinson Crusoe-esque atmosphere of Naka Camp.



NATURE'S CALL: For your ablutions.



Owners Nopporn and Ubolwan Muangnoi.

per person per night. This includes breakfast and a seafood dinner. But hurry. This is a promotional rate and will inevitably go up soon.

A man from the village told us of a plush resort situated just round the corner, which is disconnected from this beach by a

wooded promontory. It costs, he said, around 18,000 baht a night. This is just so that you know you have a choice.

Naka Camp Resort can be contacted at: [facebook.com/NakaCamp](https://www.facebook.com/NakaCamp) or by phone on: 084 656 7337, 089 473 0230.



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AL FRESCO: Seafood dinner at Naka Camp. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

Woody is to retire but not Live Wire

THIS week's column marks the end of my eleventh year as a *Phuket Gazette* columnist and, as of the end of this month, I'm retiring in Thailand – something I probably should've done years ago. Just too many irons in the fire, and my family has had to put up with a lot. Although I'm hanging up my keyboard here in Thailand, the *Live Wire* spirit lives on. Let me explain.

Although I'm officially retiring as a newspaper columnist, my interest in most things computer-related remains much alive and I'm happy to answer questions whenever I can. I will continue to monitor computer forums, including *thephuketforum.net*, and look forward to remaining in contact with *Gazette* readers there. Just post questions under "Start a Topic" in the TECH category and I'll do my best to join the conversation and throw my views into the mix.

More than that, I've convinced a friend of mine, who lives overseas but visits Phuket frequently, that it's in his best interests to keep the *Live Wire* concept going. How else will people in Phuket be able to stay informed about the considerable computer shenanigans going on in our favorite desert isle?

Here's the deal: you ask questions and he'll answer them. He'll spread his wisdom and experience on *thephuketforum.net*, so you can come up with comments, contrary opinions, and brilliant insights, using your real name, or a handle if you'd prefer to remain anonymous. I'll chime in as time permits. Then, every week, the editors at the *Gazette* will scrape together the very best questions



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

and answers on the forum, and publish them here in the *Gazette*, in the new, improved – and decidedly plugged-in – *Live Wire* column.

If you're accustomed to emailing me with your questions – I get at least a couple of inquiries a day from Phuket computer folks – you can go straight to the TECH forum on *thephuketforum.net*, post your questions, and get answers from the assembled cognoscenti far faster than I can keep up. More than that, you can get opinions from people who have different perspectives from mine.

Yes, I'm adamant about using "genuine" software; I like Windows 7, hate Windows 8 and XP; wouldn't use anything but Microsoft Security Essentials for Windows' antivirus; I use Gmail and Google Apps; love my iPad, Kindle and Samsung Note II, and covet my wife's iPhone 4. Other folks on the forum won't agree. That's a good sign!

Moreover, I don't know anything about Mac OS X, and precious little about iOS. But, "Mr *Live Wire*" knows a little bit more. Opening up a wide-ranging forum, where you can post your own questions, and folks can chime in with answers, expands *Live Wire's* reach tremendously.

So watch for posts from me, and watch for posts from "Mr *Live Wire*."

I moved to Phuket more than

twelve years ago (expecting to retire!) and was more than a little excited about the websites I saw that explained how Phuket was transforming itself into an "IT City". A funny thing happened along the way. We never got an official IT City but, Phuket now has an enormous number of highly talented, very experienced computer people, with all sorts of backgrounds, from corporate security to social media to open source. Phuketians cover every branch of hardware, software, and hucksterware you can imagine. We really do have an IT City here, it's just that almost all of it operates under the radar.

It's been interesting, informative – and entertaining – getting to know you folks.

I started writing for the *Gazette* in no small part because I was convinced that somebody, somewhere, knew everything there was to know about getting a decent internet connection in Phuket. I never did find that guru. Through many fits and starts, several failed companies, and technologies that fell over just like stunned elephants, we've emerged with pretty decent internet capabilities. Nothing worth writing home about, perhaps, but usable. I think of all the changes I've seen here in Phuket, improved internet access is the most important, most widely beneficial one – with more and better hospitals and schools pulling a close second.

Don't get me started about traffic or pollution, overdevelopment, selectively enforced laws, corruption and personal safety.



ANOTHER LIVE WIRE: Khun Woody plans to spend more time with his family from now on. Inset the TECH forum. Photo: Woody Leonhard

If you stick to looking at the internet, the story's been a good one.

The computer industry itself has changed so much since I moved here that I hardly recognize it. Twelve years ago we were all struggling with Windows XP, and only the real bleeding edge mavericks used Macs. Now, Microsoft seems hell-bent on burying Windows, and enormously capable tablets and phones are filling in the gaps. We get all of that technology here (well, except for 4G) and it makes a big difference in my life – I bet it does in yours, too.

Several of you have asked about the bakery, the Sandwich Shoppes, and the future of our Sunday morning computer clinics. Here's the abbreviated version.

My retiring in Thailand won't bring any changes at all to Khun Woody's Bakery. My wife, Khun Add, and her ace manager Khun Khan took over operation of the bakery in 2009. This official retirement only publicly reflects what happened, in fact, years ago. Add and Khan are starting a retail bakery shop directly across the street from the new Krung Thai Bank in Kathu. They'll probably

have a few computer clinics to kick it off, once the shop's ready.

We've found a new owner for the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, and they assure me that they'll keep the Sunday morning computer clinics going. In fact, they're adamant that nothing's changed – same products, same prices, same staff, same atmosphere.

We're looking for a new owner for the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong. I anticipate the new owner will take the same approach – no changes at all, turnkey operation – and the Sunday morning computer clinics should continue there as they have for years.

See ya around!

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. Don't be bashful! Click "Start a Topic" in the TECH section of *thephuketforum.net*.

Cyber-crime law being revised

THE Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) has launched the process of reforming the country's computer crime law and expects new legislation to be announced within the next three years.

Surangkana Wayuparb, chief executive officer of the ETDA, said the law, which was implemented five years ago, still leaves problems about cyber-crime and the cyber-environment, and people are concerned about the balance between freedom of speech and the exercise of authority to maintain the right to privacy.

The ETDA expects its draft revision of the computer crime law to be completed in the next six months. The agency will then conduct a further public hearing before submitting the draft for the Cabinet's approval.

The CEO added that the agency had established focus groups covering five areas: freedom of speech; law enforcement; consumers and victims; hard-core

security versus professional security; and evaluation and revision of computer crime law in order to balance and develop the law to protect against threats.

Information security in Thailand is at a worrying level, she added, as Thai organisations also have less understanding than their regional peers about the need to invest in this area.

"The agency has developed a lab to provide knowledge to the police to improve their understanding of digital evidence and solve the problem of law enforcement," said CEO Surangkana.

The overall revision of computer crime law will include the development of best practice and a code of conduct in order to create the right balance between public liberty and the right to protection and privacy, she said.

The agency will announce an authentication framework to protect users by asking them to provide their ID number when entering a public domain on the

Internet.

The cyber-crime law, officially called the Computer-Related Crime Act BE 2550, aims to support business operations and people's life style when it comes to using technology, especially computers, to facilitate their activities.

However, since the enforcement of the law five years ago, there have been requests from several sectors for a review of the principles and the addition of issues not covered in the original legislation.

The ETDA was established as an academic agency with the key mission of enhancing the value of electronic transactions to drive the economy and to improve people's quality of life.

Thailand has three laws – the computer crime law, the e-transaction law and the data protection law – related to information technology and cyber security. They are variously under amendment and/or subject to approval for implementation and enforcement.

– *The Nation*

JUST LIKE HOME...

Sandwich Shoppe

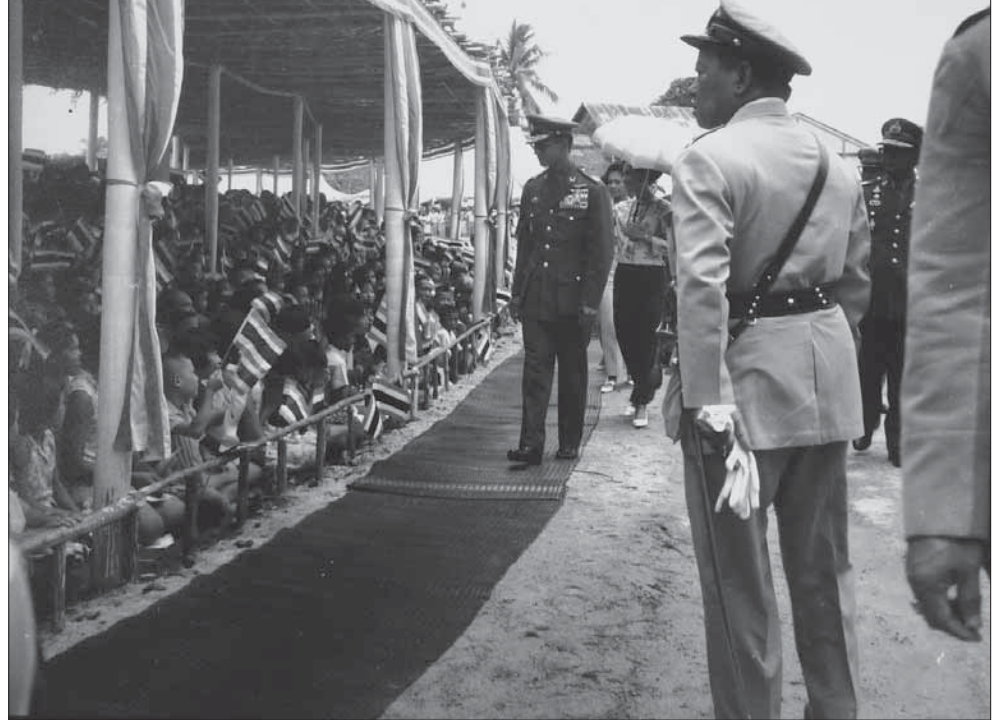
...BUT WITH STAY-ALL-DAY COZY CHAIRS

www.FaceBook.com/SandwichShophe
www.KhunWoody.com

Dreaming in black and white



Members of the PDC pose for a black and white photo to memorialize the club.



Their majesties the King and Queen visiting Phuket in 1959. Inset: Phuket boats. Photos: PDC

MEMBERS of the Phuket Darkroom Club (PDC) will have their first exhibition of black and white photography at the Chaleramraja Cultural Centre, Phuket Town from May 1-14. The works on display are portraits of heritage and culture that capture the love Phuketians have for their home, through the lens of a black and white camera.

Audiences will enjoy rare beauties and the charms of more than 50 selective and refined works from PDC members.

Among the displays are old and rare photos of Phuket taken by admiring local photographers. Some of these pictures have not yet been published anywhere else before. Photos include their majesties the King and Queen visiting Phuket in 1959, aerial views of the island, slice of life portraits, historic architecture and old tin mining photos. All of the featured photos have been made using an authentic darkroom process, which is hard to find in the modern era. Participants will have the opportunity to see brilliant black and white film photos from masters who have honed their craft and refined their works exclusively to join the event.

The PDC was founded in March 2012 by a small but devoted group of black and white film photography enthusiasts, who use a small darkroom in the back office of Rijira's kitchen supplier as a rendezvous point for members' gatherings. There they exchange experiences and passions about the monochrome world, and sometimes carry on conversations late into the night in the tiny darkroom, while developing and exposing film.

The club was unofficially started in Phuket back in 2010 by two gentlemen who share a passion for black and white photography – Kettepon Rijiranuwat (Sak) and Achitrawit Churmung (Loong). The two men shared a dream of building a top quality darkroom in Phuket, which could be used for black and white film and print development, to enjoy as a hobby.

Unlike digital photography, whose popularity has rapidly increased, black and white film photography is gradually disappearing.

Not even one black and white film development shop can be found in Phuket Town. Sak and Loong found that having the chance to use a proper darkroom is inspiring and a huge encouragement for anyone, particularly, black and white film beginners. This was the start of the PDC.

It wouldn't be a perfect picture for the PDC until Jose joined. Jose Louise Gay, a former Spanish consular official in Phuket shared the same passion. He had crossed paths with Sak and Loong during his years of service and they became good friends. Jose bought a small shop-house in Soi Soon-Uthi and converted it into his residence, using part of the space to store a sizeable archive of glass plate negatives he purchased at auction from Liang-Eiw studio, before it was shut down several years ago. With the patronage of Jose, a corner of his shop-house was given to Sak and Loong to build their first darkroom and to fulfill their dreams. When Jose relocated to New Zealand a year later,

the darkroom moved to a new home, which is attached to Rijira's office nowadays.

In March 2012, a third member, Prapas Kianpotiramared AKA 'Tard' joined the group and they decided to officially form the PDC. They use Facebook as a channel for communicating with members and regularly post quotes from famous black and white film photographers, useful techniques, tips and photos shot by members. The club has also conducted a basic black and white film photography course after which more members joined the group.

To date, PDC has more than a dozen active members in Phuket who meet regularly to go out on photo shoots and return to the PDC office to develop film and make prints. Several black and white photography courses were organized for members over the past year to explore black and white film photography and darkroom knowledge. The PDC currently has more than 200 friends and members on Facebook and numbers are increasing.

For more information, follow PDC at: [facebook.com/groups/355969014457391/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/355969014457391/)

Child Watch Phuket receives an award



The award reads "On the occasion of National Social Day and Thai Volunteer Day, the committee of The National Commission on Social Welfare and The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security together with The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, would like to give this honorary shield to the Child-Watch Phuket Association, Phuket Province, as an organization which has performed honorable acts of social welfare."



The Child Watch Phuket Association, represented by Sam Fauma, receives the award from Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali. Photos: San Fauma.

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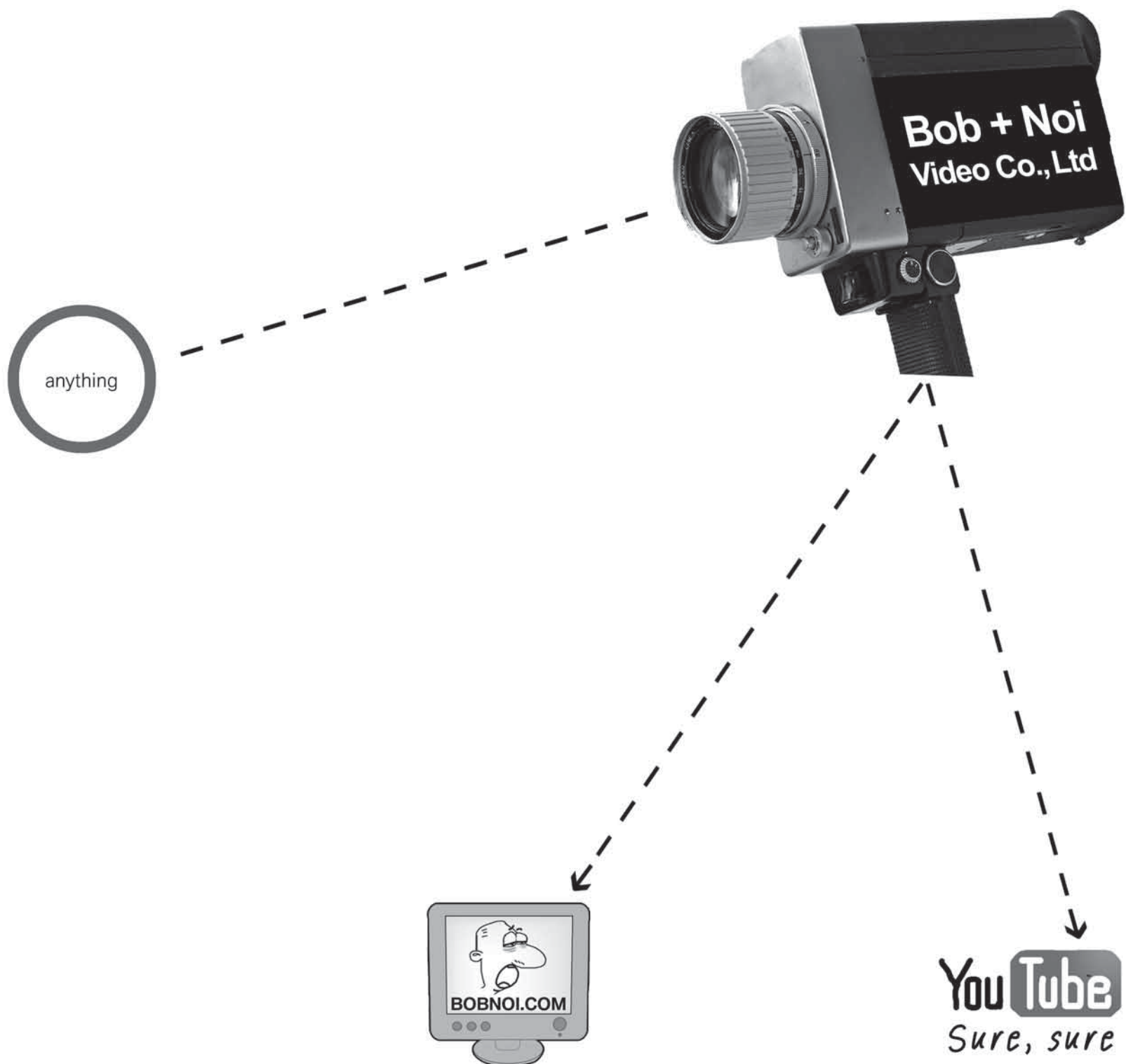
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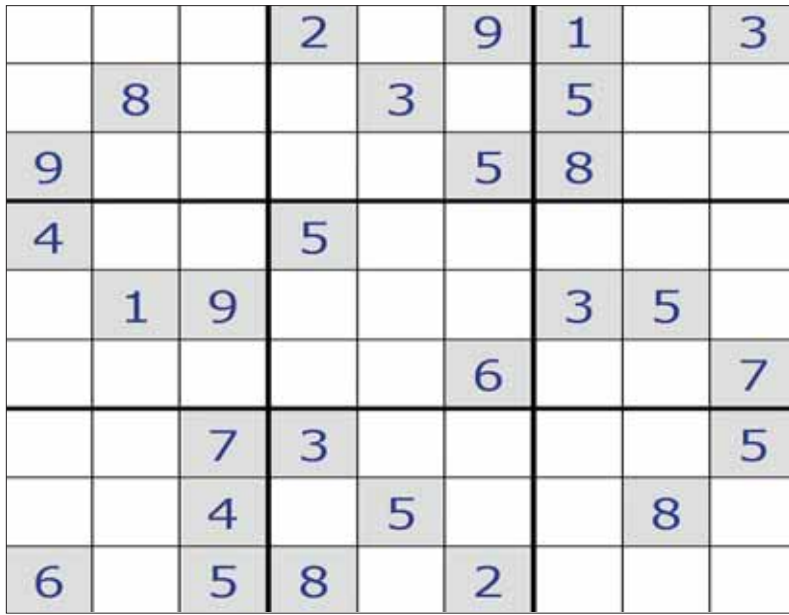
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Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

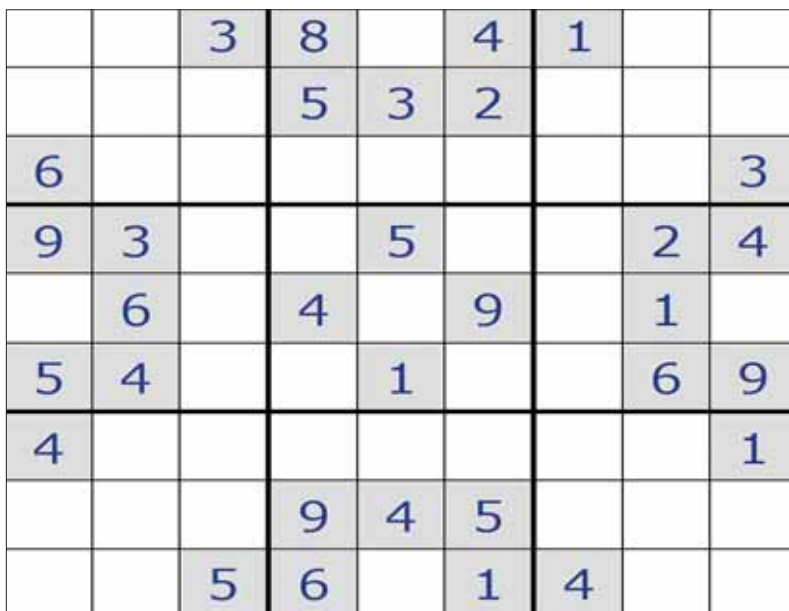
MCOT
WORLD

true
visions

Phuket Gazette



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



Your weekly pith: "At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all."

- Ann Landers

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

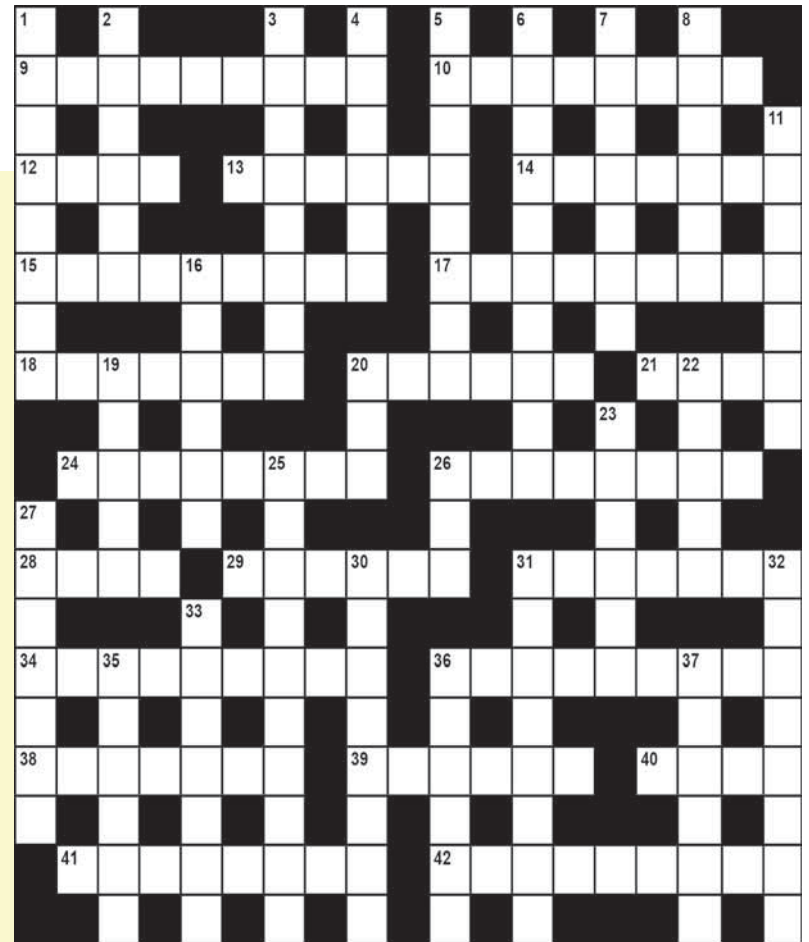
COFFEE break

Across:

9. Test may be poor about right objector (9)
10. Shoaled, so carefully directed (8)
12. About fashionable check (4)
13. One against one in art, backing petty details (6)
14. Cent like laid out for a cravat (7)
15. Work, note allowance for transaction (9)
17. Antagonism against way unknown (9)
18. German fruit cake left out, thieved (7)
20. Time right, maybe more thrill (6)
21. Plain I leave scheme (4)
24. Trend to deny cent exchange (8)
26. Runaway from tug, if I've arranged (8)
28. Or it could be chapati (4)
29. Possible malaise out East for pepperoni, for example (6)
31. Company, torn badly, left supervision (7)
34. Predicated no article forecast (9)
36. Lad done in destroying weed (9)
38. Surround clones out East (7)
39. Picture taker shows me a car (6)
40. Me at food! (4)
41. Long fish trap I sent out around East North East (5,3)
42. Note next out, Son, I've found sizable (9)

Down:

1. Misleading to stimulate one round us (8)
2. Civil work turned up, I let out (6)
3. Second ratings arranged for astrological symbol (4,4)
4. Public Relations range shown beyond doubt (6)
5. Become greater in case
6. Shirt sort of hung over minimal swimming costume at Kathu police checkpoint! (5,5)
7. Against Church of England Physical Training idea (7)
8. Composition for short month, note time (6)
11. Depending about telling untruths (7)
16. Refer to a Latin duel being arranged (6)
19. Not right, Trevor can be plain to see (5)
20. Plaything to an unknown (3)
22. Admirer left, finished (5)
23. Different ascent to a position (6)
25. Navigator, heartened about being close to the finish (4,3,3)



arranged afterwards (8)
 6. Shirt sort of hung over minimal swimming costume at Kathu police checkpoint! (5,5)
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 20. Plaything to an unknown (3)
 22. Admirer left, finished (5)
 23. Different ascent to a position (6)
 25. Navigator, heartened about being close to the finish (4,3,3)

26. If a different electricity in Thailand (3)
 27. Snare for each animal catcher (7)
 30. Sailor cadet I order to stand down (8)
 31. Solid concert out East (8)
 32. Extend in the glen, moving then (8)
 33. Refuses to recognize Sid's won out (7)
 35. Best be over (6)
 36. Young lady departs with males, perhaps (6)
 37. I exist on air up in Spain and Portugal (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Relationships become better starred during the final days of April. Those Taureans who had trouble communicating with others lately should find a way to smooth any remaining ruffled feathers – another earth sign friend will appreciate being reached out to this weekend. Those with a birthday during the coming week are forecast to feel less stress in the year ahead. Number three can bring good luck this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The stars advise you to stop sweating the small stuff. There are hints that April will end on a more motivating note than it began, but you could miss out on a big opportunity by focusing on insignificant details. The most promising days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. Single Geminis could see a fire sign becoming the light of their life. The number two can be fortunate this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Some Cancerians can be tempted to be economical with the truth during the coming days, but the stars indicate that honesty will be the best policy in the long run.

If this relates to a mistake you made in the world of work lately, there are hints that things aren't as bad as you suspect. This weekend, reconnecting with your roots can help re-balance your energy. Number six appears important this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos who have had enough of running with the crowd are forecast to find more peace in their own company as April draws to a close. Some quiet time for introspection will help you to see what needs to be accomplished in May. The stars indicate that making last minute changes to plans will work in your favor. Romance is hot on Sunday and Monday. Number nine shines this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

This is an ideal time to put your practical approach on hold and seek more imaginative ways of solving problems. A work related issue can be laid to rest by giving free rein to your creativity – Virgoans are forecast to discover qualities that they never knew they possessed. In the realm of romance, actions speak louder than words this weekend. Number three can be the key to good luck this week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Learning new skills and polishing up existing ones is highlighted for Librans as April draws to a close. An invitation you took a raincheck on earlier this month should not be rejected a second time if you want to stay on good terms with this person. Those who have been off color could be inspired by a friend who has embraced natural healing. The number four could open a lucky door.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Where work is concerned, you could be persuaded to do something that is not in your best interest at the end of April; the stars suggest that another water sign's words have hidden meaning. Earth and water signs should be more trustworthy. Recapturing romance is well-starred this weekend for those Scorpios who would like a second chance with a fire sign. Your lucky number this week is eight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Work and business are well starred this week, particularly where new projects are concerned. Your perspective deepens and many Sagittarians will have a very different outlook on certain situations at the end of April. As May commences, the stars indicate that you will be moving in a more productive direction. Your light-hearted mood encourages flirtation with another fire sign this weekend. Number six stands out this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Dealing with those in authority can be draining for many Capricorns this week. The stars suggest enlisting support from people who have experience in similar matters; a water sign is ready to share what they have learned. In the world of work, connecting with colleagues on a social level helps to improve the atmosphere. Romance with a fire sign can be sparked off this weekend. Number four can bring good fortune.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

It would be advisable for Aquarians to draw clearer lines where personal relationships are concerned. There are hints that your easy-going nature

can be taken advantage of this week, particularly if another air sign is involved. Life will be smoother once everyone knows where they stand. Where work is concerned, the stars suggest that reaching a special goal will be easier than you think. Number one seems special this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Your need for relaxation is strong and this is an ideal week to take a break from the daily grind. Pisceans who have been faced with a series of challenges so far this month will benefit from having some down time. The stars advise being selective about who you socialize with – other water signs and air signs can provide the calm company you need. The number five comes alive this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

After a successful month, celebrations will be on the agenda this weekend for many Arians. Your good mood makes it possible to be more sympathetic towards those less fortunate – an earth sign friend who has had a run of bad luck appreciates your understanding. In the realm of romance, splashing out on something special can make the right impression on a partner you may have been neglecting lately. The number seven is fortunate.

International Sport

New Monte Carlo master

By Patrick Campbell

THE arrival of the clay court season always throws up some surprises. Many players have taken an extended break from the game, others are adjusting to the vagaries of the slower surface.

No such problems for a renaissance Rafael Nadal who defeated an in-form Juan del Potro in the Paribas Open final at Indian Wells. Apparently it did not matter which kind of ball he was hitting. He even broke par on millionaire owner Larry Ellison's private golf course. Remarkable for a man who had spent nearly eight months out with a career-threatening knee injury.

Unsurprisingly, he came to the Monte Carlo Masters as the book-makers' favorite. Having won the title on eight occasions and, in the process, won 47 successive matches, Rafa had always proved invincible on the red clay of the Principality. It was his kingdom.

But Monte Carlo's show court, framed by an azure Mediterranean, and adorned by the glitterati of fashion and film, has a habit of throwing up surprises. Andy Murray, fresh from a victory over David Ferrer at Miami, and newly elevated to the position of number two player in the world, abjectly



DETHRONED: Rafael Nadal's eight-year reign on the Monte Carlo clay was ended by Novak Djokovic. Photo: Reuters

surrendered to Stanislas Wawrinka (1-6 2-6) after a performance littered with mistakes – 28 in all. As he ruefully admitted:

“I started making some errors and ... hitting the ball shorter. There are things I need to work on [on] this surface ... that I need to get better at.”

He has two weeks to address his problems – including an erratic serve – before the next joust in Madrid.

Novak Djokovic, the world number one, fared much better: his only taxing encounter on his way to the Monaco final a three set af-

majestic. Only Jo-Wilfred Tsonga came close to taking a set off a man whose ground strokes, especially his clubbing, top-spin forehand, were back to their remorseless best.

Thus, the dramatic stage was set for yet another encounter between the two preeminent players of the younger generation. Nadal's record on clay, his new lease of life, above all his historic Monte Carlo domination, suggested he would win.

But the tournament had one more surprise in store. Djokovic started the final like a man on a mission, striking the ball flat and early and with such authority that even the arch retriever Nadal could only watch as the winners sped past him. The first five games went to Djokovic before the persevering Nadal managed to claw back two games. Too little, too late.

The second set was much closer as Djokovic's erstwhile flawless backhand coughed up a few unforced errors, but the tie break was won conclusively (7-1) by the Serb. Game, set and match (6-2, 7-6). Novak had broken Nadal's cherished record at his favorite tournament.

Provided he stays fit and focused, Djokovic will take some beating this year.

Premier League roundup

MANCHESTER United claimed their 20th top-flight league title last weekend with their 3-0 win over Aston Villa at Old Trafford. A first half Robin Van Persie hat trick sealed the win for United and ensured that the Premier League title went back to Old Trafford with four games of the season left.

Last season's champions, Manchester City, lost 3-1 away to Tottenham Hotspur, meaning that United only needed three points to be crowned champions.

Van Persie opened the scoring in the second minute to ease the nerves and increase the level of expectation at Old Trafford. The Dutch striker then added two more goals before halftime, including running on to meet a searching 30-yard pass from Wayne Rooney that he volleyed from the edge of the box on his left foot past a helpless Guzan in the Villa goal.

Manchester United have won the Premier League 13 times and Ryan Giggs has featured in all of those campaigns. Ominously, Alex Ferguson claims that Giggs may have a few more years left at the top level. Claiming this season's Premier League title makes up for the heartache Ferguson and his team suffered on the last day of last season, when Sergio Aguero latched on to a pass from Mario Balotelli – the only assist of Balotelli's eventful City career – to score the winner against QPR, with the last kick of the game to win the Premier League. Ferguson made sure this season's title race did not go down to the wire when he purchased Van Persie for 24 million pounds sterling from Arsenal last summer. The Dutch striker's goals have been key to their success. His 24 league goals this season are more than strikers Wayne Rooney (12), Javier Hernandez (8) and Danny Welbeck (1) combined.

Luis Suarez was the center of attention again in Liverpool's game against Chelsea. The Uruguayan striker conceded a penalty that Eden Hazard converted to put Chelsea 2-1 in front, Suarez then scored a 97th-minute headed equalizer to claim a draw for Liverpool. In between these incidents, Suarez was involved in a tussle with Branislav Ivanovic in the Chelsea box that resulted in Suarez biting Ivanovic's arm. The referee missed the incident but the FA have charged Suarez with violent conduct which he has accepted, but he doesn't feel that he should get a ban longer than three games as the match officials missed the incident.

Arsenal's push for third place continued with a 1-0 win at Fulham. Defender Per Mertesacker was the unlikely scorer in an unconvincing win that finished with both teams down to 10 men. Steve Sidwell was sent off for Fulham in the first half for a dangerous tackle and Giroud was dismissed in the last minute of the game.

Paolo Di Canio continued Sunderland's resurrection with a 1-0 win over Everton that pretty much ended David Moye's team's hopes for European qualification.

Stoke's 2-0 away win at QPR helped move them away from the bottom three and all but doomed QPR to relegation. Peter Crouch, who Harry Redknapp has signed for two of his previous clubs, put Stoke in the lead just before halftime and a Jon Walter's penalty in the 77th minute sealed the victory.

Other results.
West Ham 2 – 0 Wigan
West Brom 1 – 1 Newcastle
Swansea 0 – 0 Southampton
Norwich 2 – 1 Reading
Tottenham 3 – 1 Manchester City

– Andrew Scott



ANIMAL: Luis Suarez rescued a point for Liverpool with a 97th minute header. Photo: Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013 18:45		
Man City vs West Ham		
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013 21:00		
Everton vs Fulham		
Southampton vs West Brom		
Stoke vs Norwich		
Wigan vs Tottenham		
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013 23:30		
Newcastle vs Liverpool		
SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2013 19:30		
Reading vs QPR		
SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2013 21:00		
Chelsea vs Swansea		
Arsenal vs Man Utd		
SUN, 28 APRIL 22:00		
TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2013 02:00		
Aston Villa vs Sunderland		

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Man Utd	34	84
2	Man City	33	68
3	Arsenal	34	63
4	Chelsea	33	62
5	Tottenham	33	61
6	Everton	34	56
7	Liverpool	34	51
8	WBA	33	45
9	Swansea	33	42
10	West Ham	34	42
11	Fulham	34	40
12	Southampton	34	39
13	Norwich	34	38
14	Sunderland	34	37
15	Stoke	34	37
16	Newcastle	34	37
17	Aston Villa	34	34
18	Wigan	33	31
19	QPR	34	24
20	Reading	34	24

International Sport

In with the old for Australia

By Stuart McDill

THE shallow depth of Australia's cricketing stocks were exposed on Wednesday with selectors forced to recall two 35-year-olds in an attempt to wrest back the Ashes from England in July.

Veteran wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, who was dumped last year, and top-order batsman Chris Rogers, who had played just one test in 2008, were named in a 16-man squad for the first of back-to-back Ashes series against England.

Haddin will reclaim the vice-captaincy from Shane Watson, who relinquished the post earlier this week but still made the Ashes squad as a batting all-rounder, while the uncapped James Faulkner was named the bowling all-rounder.

"The most impressive thing about Brad is that he ... continues to put form on the board," Australia captain Michael Clarke told a news conference in Sydney on April 24.

"His leadership and his experience will play a large part in this group ... the best teams in the world have a good mix of youth and experience and I think this squad of 16 has that mix.

"I'm confident that we have a

good group of players that can learn from each other."

Australia's planning and confidence to regain the Ashes from Alastair Cook's side when the first game begins at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on July 10 suffered a massive dent last month when they were hammered 4-0 in the test series in India.

Australia's lack of experience was ruthlessly exposed in India last month, a result that forced Clarke to defend the team on Wednesday when asked if it was the weakest Ashes side ever selected.

"Since I've taken over the captaincy of the Australian cricket team I think I've heard that every tour so this will be no different," Clarke added.

"I think we will always pay our respects to the English team.

"They are a very strong team, playing in their own back yard they are even stronger so there's no doubt about that but I think with this squad we have the talent, the experience and the youth to go over there and have success.

"Now, our goal playing for Australia every time we walk out onto the field is to win every game you play and this tour will be no different."

Chairman of selectors John Inverarity conceded earlier this month the Australian side were lacking in batting depth, which had probably tipped the selectors in Rogers' favor.

The 35-year-old, who made 19 runs on debut against India in 2008, had produced strong domestic form while playing first-class cricket in England over the last few seasons.

"We believed that Chris Rogers was very deserving of selection ... but with Michael and Ricky going there is a gap in experience and Chris fills that," Inverarity said.

"He has scored, I think, nearly 20,000 first class runs ... and he has performed in (English) conditions."

Haddin's recall was less of a surprise and had been widely predicted by local media earlier on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old had been dumped from the test team last year when he returned from a tour of West Indies because his daughter had fallen ill.

Matthew Wade was promoted in his stead and had seemingly sealed the berth for the long term as the selectors looked to focus on younger players in an effort to



VETERAN: Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin named in 16-man squad. Photo: Reuters

regain the Ashes.

A poor run with the bat and behind the stumps on turning wickets in India, however, put pressure on the 25-year-old Wade, which was not helped when he suffered a leg injury and was replaced by Haddin in the third test in Mohali.

Inverarity said Haddin's experience against England – his career average is 35.50 in 44 tests but 45.57 against England in nine matches – had swung the selection as the first choice wicketkeeper-batsman on the Ashes tour "about a week ago", though Wade was still

very much in their future planning.

"Matthew Wade remains very highly regarded by the selection panel," Inverarity said. "Brad is the man for the Ashes, but Matthew remains very highly regarded."

Squad: Michael Clarke (captain), Brad Haddin (vice captain), Ed Cowan, David Warner, Phillip Hughes, Shane Watson, Usman Khawaja, Chris Rogers, Matthew Wade, Nathan Lyon, James Faulkner, Peter Siddie, Ryan Harris, James Pattinson, Mitchell Starc, Jackson Bird

– Reuters

An equal Rugby World Cup

TOP-tier rugby nations will not play all of their 2015 World Cup pool matches on weekends in order to give smaller nations a more balanced program, the International Rugby Board has said.

"Yes, that does mean that," IRB chief executive Brett Gosper told reporters in Wellington when asked if the top-tier nations like New Zealand, England and France would face a similar schedule as teams like Samoa, Fiji and Japan.

"We think in the next World Cup schedule, that will be announced very soon in late April or early May, there is a very strong fairness in terms of the times of rest periods.

"It will be the same for all teams. Far more equal. Completely equal," he added.

Second-tier nations have been forced to have a condensed schedule at previous World Cup tournaments, with broadcasters requiring the top-tier nations to play at the weekends, thus ensuring bumper television viewing figures.

Japan were required to play all four of their Pool A games at the 2011 World Cup in 17 days.

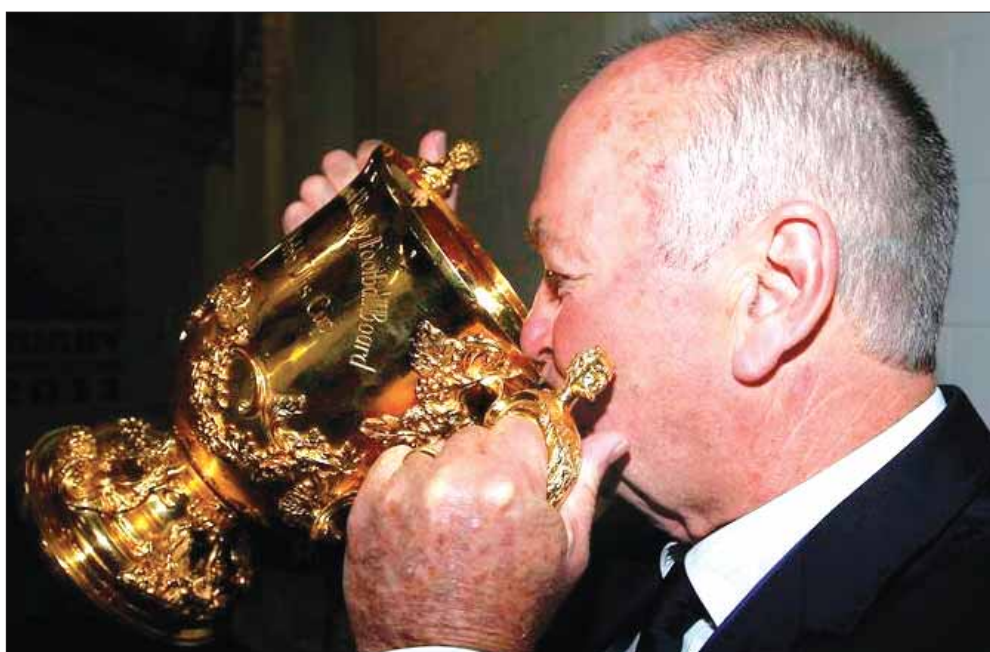
Hosts New Zealand and beaten finalists France, both in the same pool, had a week between each of their group games.

The scheduling, however, created greater controversy for Samoa, who played Wales in Hamilton just four days after their first game of the tournament.

Wales, by contrast, had a week to prepare and beat the Pacific Island side 17-10.

Samoa also played 2007 World Cup winners South Africa just five days after their match against Fiji, losing 13-5 to the Springboks and falling out of quarter-finals contention.

Samoa center Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu took to the social media network Twitter to



New Zealand All Black Coach Graham Henry drinks from the Webb Ellis Cup. Photo: Reuters

vent his frustration at the scheduling, labeling it as "unjust" and akin to "apartheid" and "slavery".

Fuimaono-Sapolu later apologized for his outburst but stood by his assertion that the schedule was unfair.

New Zealand Rugby Union (NZRU) chief executive Steve Tew said his organization was in full support of the schedule as the top-tier nations had requested a more equitable draw.

"We asked for it after the last World Cup," Tew said.

"We thought it was unjust that the small unions play in a pinnacle event with a shorter rest period than we played our games."

Several of the smaller nations were also hampered by players being unavailable for the 2011 World Cup, with reports later

surfacing that their clubs, particularly in France and England, had put indirect pressure on them not to play at the tournament.

Gosper, however, said a meeting had been held with club representatives to ensure that 'regulation nine' – governing the release of players for international duty – would be upheld.

"We take it very seriously, both for the integrity of the international game but also for the individual player to represent his country," Gosper added.

"We had a meeting very recently to make sure that regulation nine would be enforced in a very robust way.

"They (the clubs) stated that they feel it is very important and they will operate in that way in the future."

– Reuters

In brief...

Philadelphia Olympic bid

PHILADELPHIA is exploring a bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games, Mayor Michael Nutter said on Monday.

Nutter was responding to a letter from the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) sent to 35 cities across the country seeking potential host cities for the international sporting event.

"The Philadelphia region has enthusiastically embraced the prospect of bidding on and hosting a future Olympic Games, and we look forward with great anticipation to the opportunity to work with the USOC on this project," Nutter said in a statement.

The last time the United States hosted the Olympics was in 1996 in Atlanta.

Ryder Cup stars reunited

EUROPE'S triumphant Ryder Cup team will be reunited on home soil for the first time when all 12 players and captain Jose Maria Olazabal compete in next month's PGA Championship at Wentworth.

"It will be great to have the team back together," world number two Rory McIlroy said in a news release on recently.

"It was such a special Ryder Cup, one that will have a special place in history, and I don't think anyone associated with that team will ever get tired of celebrating it."

United States were 10-6 up going into the last day of the biennial event at the Medinah Country Club in Illinois in September but the Europeans staged a remarkable comeback to win by 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2.

Australian triathletes win Samui Triathlon

AUSTRALIAN triathletes Atkinson Courtney and Melissa Hauschildt won the men's and women's titles in the 4 million baht Samui Triathlon on April 21.

More than 200 competitors from 22 countries took part in the grueling 4 kilometer swim, 122.65km cycle ride and 30km run. The total distance of 156.65km was reportedly the longest ever in an Asia Pacific triathlon meet.

A duathlon featuring a 40km bike ride and a 10km run was also held on the day. Both races kicked off at the Hansa Hotel beachfront and culminated at Ban Thon in Samui Island.

Atkinson, who was 18th in the 2012 London Olympics, took an even six hours for his victory and earned 800,000 baht in prize money.

"The competition route here is very difficult," said Atkinson, who was making his debut in the event.

Second and third in the men's race went to Allen Ben of Australia and Spanish Marcel Zamora Perez respectively.

Hauschildt led the women across the finish line in six hours, 10 minutes, followed by Australian Liz Blatchford and last year's champion Caroline Steffen of Switzerland.

"I never thought I could win [here] but finally I did it," said the 2011 Ironman 70.3 World Champion. Hauschildt claimed 500,000 baht in prize money.

Koh Samui Mayor Ramnet Jaikwang said he was keen on raising the profile of the



Atkinson Courtney and Melissa Hauschildt.

race to international standards to help promote tourism in the province. He said that in the future the island may have to divert traffic to facilitate the competition.

Vijit Sithinavin, president of Triathlon Association, said he was eyeing an expansion of the competition on two levels – in Asia and global, "We may have to shut down the island [for bigger competitions]" he said.

The triathlon was organized by Koh Samui, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Thai Airways, Singha Corporation and Bangkok Airways, and was followed by a global TV audience via *Euro Sport*, *Sports Plus* and *TV5 Monde*, with local channels also covering the action.

– *The Nation*



HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha. Photo: Thaipoloclub



CHARGE: Thailand, in blue, battle Macau.

Thailand ride to victory

THAILAND beat Macau to win the 4th Asian Beach Polo Championship InterContinental-B Grimm, last Saturday.

The event was held at Hua Hin and with Thai-bred ponies making their competition debut. A home team led by Harald Link, chairman of B Grimm Group and president of the Thailand Equestrian Federation, surged to a 5-0 win for the Princess PA's Cup.

The beach polo tournament raises funds for the Kamlangjai Project, initiated by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha to reach out to women in prison, including pregnant inmates and their babies.

Thai rider Verachai Ngao-Osa said he was proud that the Thai-bred ponies had proved more than a match for their

imported counterparts.

Supachai Sukhampha, at 16 the youngest team member, said the popularity of the international competition had grown since his debut last year.

Third place went to Hong Kong, with India taking the final place in the standings.

The event also raised 770,000 baht from the auction of two oil paintings of Hua Hin beach polo matches.

Former deputy prime minister Suwat Liptapanlop, an advisory chairman of the tournament's Organizing Committee, said "Hua Hin is an ideal location for the 'Game of Kings'". He cited the long, wide beach, and the town's long association with horses.

– *The Nation*

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Revelations, rumors and rivalry

BEFORE Bahrain, I said that I believed that, barring accidents, three-time winner Alonso would triumph, followed by The Iceman. Well Alonso did not triumph, thwarted by a jammed DRS wing flap, hammered closed by Ferrari's mechanics during an emergency pit stop. It jammed open again, Alonso was forced into yet another pit stop and that was the end of his podium chances. He was reduced to battling in midfield and took a limp eighth. Massa suffered two flat tyres, which squashed Ferrari's hopes for the race. Kimi Räikkönen did get second as predicted. Despite poor qualifying, Kimi planned a two stop strategy, and just persevered until the race came to him.

Before the race, I was looking for a third man on the podium. I mentioned Vettel who of course won, and Paul di Resta who came fourth. I considered Hamilton who came fifth and Webber who came seventh. I did not even think of Romain Grosjean who came from eleventh on the grid to be the third man. Romain is the skinny Swiss



Formula 1 By The Digby

lad with the student look, including the scraggly proto-beard. Despite that he is actually 26, with significant racing experience. Last year he was dubbed the "First Lap Nutcase" by Mark Webber. He caused a multi-car pile-up at the start of the Spa race, and received a one race ban, becoming the first man to be banned since Michael Schumacher in 1994.

In his next GP he crashed into Mark Webber at the first corner and was involved in another first lap incident in Abu Dhabi. Last December, Grosjean won the

Race of Champions at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok. He had not had a good 2013, so Lotus brought him a new chassis for Abu Dhabi. That seems to have done him well. He drove a solid race despite an extra pit stop to remove pieces of McLaren from his Lotus. Without that, could he have



Vettel kisses trophy.



TEAM ORDER: McLaren Formula One driver Jenson Button (right) of Britain drives in front of McLaren Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico during the Bahrain F1 Grand Prix. Photos: Reuters

challenged Kimi and Vettel?

Down the field there were exciting battles everywhere. The two McLaren drivers duelled rather too hard. Sergio Perez does not seem to understand that he is second fiddle to Jenson Button, and even managed an unsporting clip on his teammate. The team was unimpressed. Button was most unimpressed.

Lacking track success, Hamilton was busy with revelations. It seems he has pleaded with Mercedes not to ditch Ross Brawn in favor of

McLaren's technical director Paddy Lowe, who is on gardening leave, presumably in preparation for the move.

Lewis also revealed that when he tried to visit his old team during pre-season testing in Jerez, McLaren sporting director Sam Michael threw him out of the garage. What a surprise!

In the Constructors' Championship, it's Red Bull at the top on 109 points, Lotus 93, Ferrari 77, Mercedes 64, Force India 26, and McLaren 23. So Lotus is looking

good, and Ferrari is smarting.

In the Drivers' Championship it's Vettel 77, Kimi 67, Hamilton 50, Alonso 47, Webber 32, Massa 30, Grosjean 26, and Paul di Resta 20. So Kimi is sniffing Vettel's exhaust pipe, and there's a pack on his heels. A great season is on.

On to Spain next, for the start of the European season. But there is plenty of time for that.

Join me by the big screen at The Green Man on May 12 at 7pm for the race, and on May 11 at 7pm for the Qualifiers.

Melbourne Super Kings win cricket sixes

THE Melbourne Super Kings were crowned Cup champions at the 10th annual Asia Escape Phuket International Cricket Sixes. The Super Kings demolished defending champions MG7 from Kuwait in the Cup final.

In other tournament divisions, MG Warriors won the Bowl, Phuket Cricket Group won the Plate and Lamma CC won the Spoon.

Eighteen teams from around the world have been competing in glorious sunshine over the last four days at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), in the ICC award winning, Asia Escape Phuket International Cricket Sixes. All teams played on finals day of the six-a-side cricket competition, and some incredible cricket skills were on show at the picturesque venue.

The Spoon final was an all Hong Kong duel between experienced sixes campaigners, Lamma CC, and the hot shot team of the Hong Kong Cricket Festival, the Hong Kong Blues. Batting first, despite a ferociously quick first over, Lamma put on a score of 68 without loss. They drew on their experience to defend their total and the Blues fell short of the target, Lamma taking the Spoon in Phuket for the first time. Mark "Monty" Burns was presented with the Player of the Final award for his 25 not out and one wicket for seven runs.

The Plate final proved a popular win for the local players of the Phuket Cricket Group who had played hard competitive cricket throughout the tournament and defeated Pinjarra from Australia in the Plate final. David Watson was Player of the Final for his 33 not out and one wicket for five runs from his over.

Mahmood Abdullah again arranged for



Action from the 10th annual Asia Escape Phuket International Cricket Sixes at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG). Photo: friends of asian cricket sixes

two teams from Kuwait to fly to Phuket and compete at the Sixes, and both sides reached finals. Up first were the MG Warriors who played Southern Stars from Victoria, Australia in the Bowl final. Both teams had been going great guns throughout the tournament and featured match winning players. In the end, the Kuwaitis deservedly triumphed after a controlled bowling display restricted the Aussies to a modest 57 runs, which MG Warriors knocked off relatively comfortably, led by some breezy shots from Johnny, for a popular victory. Mitch Younger of the Stars picked up the Player of the Final award for his performance of 23 not out and 11 runs from his over.

The other Kuwaiti side in the tournament, defending champions MG7, scored a fantastic victory over the CBB Wolfpack in the Cup semifinal when they bludgeoned and defended 98 off the fancied Australian side, featuring Aussie international indoor cricketer, Will 'Alter Boy' Badger, to send them into the Cup final.

They were up against the Melbourne Super Kings making their debut at the Phuket Sixes.

The Aussie outfit batted first and devastated the Kuwaiti bowling attack, racking up 98 runs which they then capably defended despite the best efforts of MG7.

It was a classy match full of top drawer shots and power bowling, and Melbourne were good for their Cup victory. Player of the Final was awarded to Ramesh of the Super Kings.

Mark Stirling of the Wild Men From Borneo, who featured two sides in the tournament and the largest shot box ever seen, was awarded the prestigious Spirit of Cricket Award.

A fantastic awards dinner 'under the stars' was held for all teams and officials at the fabulous Kata Beach Resort.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For further tournament information see: phuketsixes.com

Roll of Honor

Asia Escape Phuket International Cricket Sixes at the ACG

Spoon

Champions – Lamma CC
Runners Up – Hong Kong Blues
Player of the Final – Mark Burns

Plate

Champions – Phuket Cricket Group
Runners Up – Pinjarra
Player of the Final – David Watson

Bowl

Champions – MG Warriors
Runners Up – Southern Stars
Player of the Final – Mitch Younger

Cup

Champions – Melbourne Super Kings
Runners Up – MG7
Player of the Final – Ramesh

Player of the Tournament – Cess Newey (CBB Wolfpack)

Spirit of Cricket Award – Mark Stirling

ACST Players of the Day:

Thursday – Nuwan (Melbourne Super Kings)
Friday – Faisal (MG7)
Saturday – Jacob Latter (Lamma CC)
Sunday – Naveed (Corner Tigers) and Jay (PCG Youth Team)

Sport



VOLATILE: Dudu challenged by Khon Kaen's Chok Sukkaew.



Phuket FC starting 11, plus two mascots, vs Khon Kaen. Photos: Steven Layne



	TEAM	P	W	PTS
1	PTT Rayong	7	4	15
2	BBCU	7	4	15
3	Phuket	7	4	15
4	Port Lions	7	5	15
5	Air Force Utd.	7	3	13
6	Krabi	7	3	12
7	Bangkok	7	3	12
8	Nakhon Pathom	7	2	9
9	Korat FC	7	2	9
10	Trat	7	2	8
11	Sriracha	7	2	8
12	Rayong Utd.	7	2	7
13	Royal Navy	7	2	7
14	Saraburi	7	1	7
15	Khonkaen	7	1	5
16	Rayong	7	0	4
17	Ayutthaya FC	7	0	3
18	TTM Lopburi	7	0	3

Phuket dig deep to topple T-Rex

By Andrew Scott

A LATE winner by Brazilian striker Luiz "Dudu" Purcino secured all three points for Phuket FC in their home against Yamaha League One rivals, Khon Kaen FC – nicknamed "T-Rex" – on April 21.

Phuket wasted a number of chances throughout the game and the match looked destined for a 0-0 end, until Dudu scored his last gasp winner with one of the last kicks of the game.

Phuket dominated large portions of this match but were struggling to make their possessions count. Geoffrey Doumeng was instrumental in midfield, setting up the majority of Phuket's chances.

Eakartit Somjit was guilty of missing a couple of opportunities for Phuket. In the first half, Doumeng did well to take the ball past two players on the edge of the box before slipping the ball to Somjit, who glided past two defenders but was denied by a great save from goalkeeper Amr Shaaban Mohamed.

A floodlight failure in the 25th minute stopped the game for 10 minutes and gave Khon Kaen the chance to regroup, but Phuket continued to dominate after the restart.

Geoffrey Doumeng had a



Geoffrey Doumeng once again pulled the strings from midfield.

chance for Phuket after the floodlights came back on, but he scuffed his shot wide of the goal, much to the irritation of Dudu who was unmarked in the box.

Khon Kaen's first chance of the game came from a corner just before halftime, but Phuket's defenders were able to clear.

Dudu's frustration was clear to see as Phuket wasted chance after chance, and his teammates chose to go for goal rather than pass to him.

The Brazilian's first chance of the game didn't come until the second half. Controlling a pass just inside Khon Kaen's box, Dudu had

time to place his shot but he scuffed it wide of the near post. He didn't waste his next chance.

Khon Kaen's fullback received a second yellow card moments after Dudu's winner to seal a miserable end to the game for the away team.

The Southern Sea Warriors are joint top of Yamaha League One on 15 points after seven games, but their inferior goal difference compared to PTT Rayong FC and BBCU FC keeps the team in third place.

Khon Kaen FC dropped down to 15th place after the defeat.

Phuket's next game is a tough away match at 5th place Airforce United on April 27. The Islanders return to Surakul Stadium to play current 4th place team Singhtarua FC on May 4 at 6:30pm.

Both of these games will be an early indicator of how realistic Phuket FC's push for promotion this season will be.

Other results from last weekend:
 Rayong FC 1 - 1 Sriracha FC
 Singhtarua FC 2 - 1 Siam Navy
 Nakhon Pathom Utd 0- 2 Air Force Utd
 Bangkok FC 1- 1 Trat FC
 TTM FC 1-1 Ayutthaya FC
 PTT Rayong 1- 0 Rayong United
 Korat FC 1- 1 Saraburi FC
 Krabi FC 0- 1 BBCU FC



SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013		16:00
Rayong Utd	vs	Korat FC
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013		17:00
Trat FC	vs	TTM FC
SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2013		18:00
Ayutthaya FC	vs	Nakhon Pathom
Khon Kaen FC	vs	Singhtarua FC
SAT, 27 APRIL		
AIR FORCE UTD		
VS		
PHUKET FC		
		18:00
SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2013		18:00
Sriracha FC	vs	Krabi FC
BBCU FC	vs	PTT Rayong
Saraburi FC	vs	Bangkok FC
SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 2013		18:30
Siam Navy FC	vs	Rayong FC

ITF serves up a surprise

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) is hosting a round of the prestigious International Tennis Federation (ITF) pro tennis circuit.

The 2013 ITF round consists of two consecutive women's tournaments from April 20 to April 27 and April 27 to May 4.

Wildcard entry Kamonwan Buayam from Thailand caused the biggest shock of the third day's action on April 17, defeating number two seed, Australian Olivia Rogowska. Olivia won the first set 6:2 but Kamonwan fought back to claim the second set 7:6, winning the tie breaker 7:2. The unknown Kamonwan then won the third and final set 6:2.

The Thai player, who has no ITF ranking, played in her quarterfinal match on April 18.



Kamonwan Buayam. Photo: TSLC

The event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show.

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Fergie's time

MANCHESTER United claimed their 20th top-tier league title and their 13th Premier League title last weekend, with a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa at Old Trafford. United's 20th league title is more than any other side in England, with Liverpool (18) and Arsenal (13) their nearest rivals.

For a full roundup of last weekend's Premier League action turn to [page 47](#).

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