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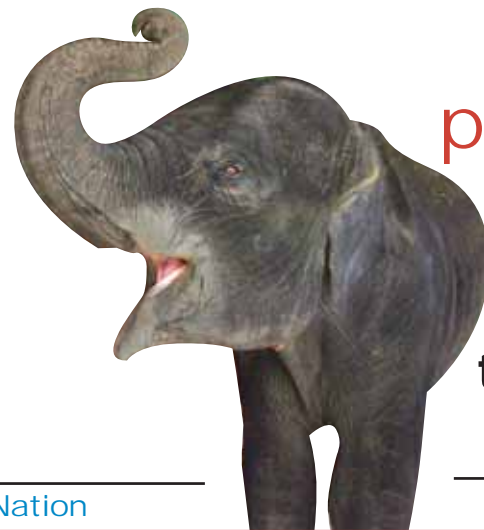
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Pachyderm pandemonium

Elephant raids return, officials deny illegal trafficking network

INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'HIS CASE TOOK A MONTH... HE LOST HIS JOB BACK HOME'

Tourist Court, holiday justice

■ Plan for tourist court garners praise, promises expedient resolution for visitors' legal troubles

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE move to establish a new series of Tourist Courts in Phuket and at other key vacation destinations in Thailand – including Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Phang Nga and Krabi – has received much support on the island.

Chanchai Duangjit, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, gave his "absolute support" for the idea.

"This is a very good thing for tourists. Most tourists who come to Phuket are here only on a short holiday. They do not have much time to deal with a court trial," he said.

"This will allow tourists to have their cases heard in court much more quickly than now," Mr Chanchai added.

Australian honorary consul to Phuket Larry Cunningham praised the idea of a Tourist Court in Phuket as a very positive development, one that...

Continued on page 3



Tourist Police Commander Roy Ingpaioj holds up a photo of a wrecked jet-ski. Disputes over insurance and cost of repairs that plague tourists would be quickly settled in the Tourist Court. Photo: Gazette file

Tour guide crackdown hits illegals

THE demand for legal action against illegal tour guides was met with results this week, as seven Thais and two Chinese nationals were put in cuffs.

All arrested were catering to Phuket's growing Chinese market.

Full story on Page 2

Rising tide of demands; lifeguard budget holds

THE Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization has requested that five new lifeguard watchtowers be established on the west coast.

However, the new contract for the Phuket Lifeguard Club offers no increase in budget to compensate for the extra manpower needed.

Full story on Page 6

Burmese, 6, dies from dengue fever

THE death of a six-year-old girl from dengue fever comes in the wake of Governor Maitri Inthusut's recently launched campaign against the disease.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



Business
New superyacht and yacht facilities ready to serve region. **Page 12**



Property
Property guru Bill Barnett takes a trip to Khao Lak. **Page 14**



Event
Fitness advice at the Phuket Health Fitness Festival. **Page 36**



Explore
Baz Daniel tests out the pedal power of pasta. **Page 40**



Event
Navy League confirms airshow for the July 4 weekend. **Page 44**



Sport
Phuket Raceweek is only a couple of months away. **Page 49**

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Police tour de force scoops illegal guides

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS continued their crackdown on illegal tour guides this week, arresting seven Thais working illegally as guides for Chinese tourists in Phuket and two Chinese nationals illegally operating tours from the heart of Phuket Town.

Of the seven illegal guides picked up by the Phuket Tourist Police on May 2, two were found in possession of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), said Phuket Tourist Police Inspector Urumporn Koondejsumrit.

"The seven people arrested were Thai. They have all been charged with working as tour guides without being properly certified," Maj Urumporn said.

"Two of the seven have also been charged with possession of a category one drug," he added.

Tourist Police arrested the Chinese nationals in Phuket Town on May 5.

Maj Urumporn named the two men as Hung Jin Tia, also known as "Mr Tawan", 34, and Cao Jiandong, 40.

Accompanying Tourist Police in the raid on the men's tour kiosk on Phun Pol Road was Jakrit Janjit, Registrar of the Bureau of



Six of the seven Thais caught working illegally as tour guides are pictured here seated at Phuket City Police Station. Two were held on drugs charges.

Tourism Business and Guide Registration Phuket office.

"We seized a list of tour programs, a list of tourist customers and brochures of tourist attractions in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga that they organized tours to," Maj Urumporn said.

The men were promptly taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with working illegally as guides.

"They each face a fine of up to 100,000 baht or up to four years in prison," Maj Urumporn said.

After justice has been served,

they will be deported, he added.

"We are working together with other police officers to crack down on illegal guides in Phuket because they give Phuket a bad image," Maj Urumporn said.

The arrests follow a mass protest by legitimate, registered tour guides demanding the government take action against their illegal counterparts on April 29.

By law, only Thai nationals certified by the Professional Guide Association may be employed as tour guides in Thailand.

Shotgun blast ends beach party

A MAN enjoying a laid-back beach party with friends at Kalim, north of Patong Beach, on Monday night managed to push away a shotgun that was pointed at his head just before it went off.

K h a t a w u t Sangnam, 23, was with friends when three men rode by on motorbikes, looked them over, and rode on.

"Five minutes later, they came back," Mr Khatawut told police.

"They said 'Who hurt my *nong* [younger brother/sister]?"

"Then one of them pointed a



Police question Mr Khutawat at Patong Hospital.

shotgun at my head. I pushed the barrel away just before it went off," Mr Khatawut said.

"Then the man turned the gun around and used the stock to hit me in the face. When people started to

gather, the men left," he added.

Police questioned Mr Khatawut at the hospital, where he was being treated for a broken nose.

"We will continue questioning the witnesses. We suspect there is a dispute between the two groups," Lt Pattapee said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Russians arrested in wakeboard park raid

Following the arrest of 35 Russians found allegedly working illegally in Patong nightclubs last week, three more Russians have been arrested at the tourist-popular Phuket Wake Park in Kathu.

Cherdsak Wisutthikul, from the Department of Employment in Bangkok, led a team of 20 officers to raid the wakeboard park at about 5:30pm on May 2.

Following a chaotic scene, allegedly including foreigners leaving the premises in a rush, the officers arrested and charged Russian national Oleg Lysinov, 47, with illegally hiring foreign workers.

Section 54 of the Alien Workers Act stipulates that any person found illegally hiring foreign workers is



Russian nationals Julie Solovyeva, 27, and Elena Bonkarenko, 29, were arrested in the raid.

liable to a fine of not more than 10,000 baht, in addition to a fine between 10,000 baht and 100,000 baht per illegal worker.

During the raids two Russian nationals, 27-year-old receptionist Julie Solovyeva and 29-year-old cashier Elena Bonkarenko, were arrested alongside marketing officer Dmitry Lee, who is originally from Kurdistan.

All three confessed to working without work permits. They each face a fine of between 2,000 baht and 100,000 baht, up to five years in prison, or both.

All four suspects were taken to Thung Thong Police Station for further investigation.

Mr Cherdsak, who is the director of the "Inspection and Job Seekers Protection Division", returned to Bangkok after the raid had concluded.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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American Brett Bean spent six months of the year surfing in Phuket. Photo: US embassy handout

Brett Bean calls home

BRETT Bean, the American expat whose disappearance last November gained extensive press coverage, has contacted his family after 155 days of silence.

"It was a very brief call," his mother, Lynne Bean, told the *Gazette* this week.

"We still do not know where he is, but it was very good to hear his voice," she added.

"At least we know he is alive. There is still hope after 155 days," his father, Wayne Bean, said.

His parents reported Brett missing after he failed to make a flight home, leading to an island-wide manhunt.

Karon Police inspector Chana Suttimard confirmed that police had not removed any of Mr Bean's belongings from his rented bungalow. "If Brett Bean contacted his parents, the case is closed," Lt Col Chana said.

"We tried every way we could to find him," he said. "I would like to know why he disappeared."

Mr Bean, 43, lived and surfed in Phuket for six months of the year and was a ski instructor in the United States for six months.

Police found nothing suspicious in his rented bungalow at the time of his disappearance. Mr Bean's surfboard and passport were found inside, along with his driver's license, motorbike registration book and his bankbook.

His motorbike was missing, as were his helmet, laptop computer and cell phone, as if he had just stepped out. — *Saran Mitrarat*

Island goes on dengue alert after Burmese girl, 6, dies

By Chutharat Plerin

IN THE wake of a six-year-old Burmese girl dying from dengue fever after arriving on the island in April, the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) is urging everyone to bolster efforts to remove breeding grounds of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

The young girl was in Phuket for less than two weeks before she was admitted to Vachira Phuket Hospital on April 16, explained PPHO Deputy Chief Krit Sakulpat.

"She had been suffering from a fever for four days before she was admitted. She was kept in the Intensive Care Unit for two days before she died," Dr Krit said.

"The girl was living with her parents on the rubber plantation where they worked in Chalong," he added.

Dr Krit asked the press to help inform the public of dengue-prevention measures, such as the "333" dengue awareness campaign Governor Maitri Inthasut launched in Phuket last month.

"Under the campaign, villagers inspect areas around their homes,



Local officials and volunteers inspect a village in Thalang to ensure no local residents are suffering from symptoms of dengue and no pools of water are left standing to become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

check on residents who are showing symptoms of dengue fever, and remove water containers that can function as mosquito breeding grounds," Mr Krit said.

The PPHO is also cooperating with other government offices to ensure that the news of the death of the Burmese girl and ways to prevent further deaths is spread

across the island.

"With students returning to school, it is especially important they are well informed about dengue prevention," he added.

Move to set up Tourist Court garners widespread support

From page 1

...has been a long time coming.

"I think it would be an excellent idea for Phuket. I raised the idea with the Phuket Governor and the Chief of the Court four years ago. We were told at that time that Thai law would not allow a Tourist Court to be set up...

"I am pleased to see my idea from four years ago being acted on," he said.

"Having a Tourist Court in Phuket is very necessary because tourists who do even a small thing wrong have to stay such a long time," Mr Cunningham explained.

Among his most memorable examples, Mr Cunningham said, was a young Australian who was drunk and involved in a scuffle while on a night out.

"When the police arrived, he thought it would be funny to take the policeman's hat, put it on his head and dance around a bit. He was arrested and charged with theft at night.

"In the end he had to pay a 2,000-baht fine, but he had to wait one month for his case to be heard. While he was forced to stay here, he had to post bail, surrender his passport, pay peak-season rates to stay at a hotel and all his other living expenses. He lost his job back home and his air ticket became unusable," Mr Cunningham said.

"In total, extending his stay cost him more than AUSD\$20,000," he noted.

Phuket Tourist Police Superintendent Yotsavee Pornperaparn said plainly, "Having the Tourist Court will be good for Phuket. If it does happen, tourists will save a lot of time

during the court trial.

"In Phuket, there are a lot of cases that involve tourists, including jet-ski incidents and other tourist scams," Col Yotsavee pointed out.

"The shorter the trial is, the better it would be for tourists," he said.

The high praise for the pursuit of the new courts follows the announcement by Tourism Minister Somsak Pureesrisak earlier this week.

Mr Somsak said he had discussed the problem with Court of Justice officials and found that hearings involving tourists could be expedited by setting up a tourism litigation division and extending office hours.

The ministry agreed to reimburse overtime pay for judges and legal officials, he added.

Additional reporting by The Nation

Kuala Lumpur hits the brakes on 12-month non-immigrant B visas

THE Royal Thai Embassy of Kuala Lumpur, a popular visa run destination for Phuket expats, has confirmed that it is no longer issuing 12-month non-immigrant B visas.

Embassy official Orawan Heemmamhad confirmed that the embassy in the Malaysian capital stopped issuing 12-month business visas late last year.

"We issue only three-month non-immigrant B visas," she said.

The Royal Thai Consulate in Penang, however, has not changed their policy.

"We are still issuing 12-month non-immigrant B visas for applicants who have previously been issued a 12-month non-imm B visa and are applying for a new



Year-long non-imm B visas are no longer available from Kuala Lumpur.

one," said an official there.

"However, we will not grant a person a 12-month B visa if the person is applying for their first-ever 12-month non-imm B visa and there is less than six months left on their work permit.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Full-scale tsunami drill set for May 29

RESCUE services from Krabi, Phang Nga and Trang will join Phuket emergency first-responders for three days of intensive training that will conclude with a full-scale tsunami response drill on May 29.

The rescue crews will draw up response plans on May 27-28 and stage a full-scale tsunami evacuation drill on May 29, starting at 8:30am, Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada said.

"The exercise will simulate a large earthquake striking off the coast of Sumatra, off western Indonesia," he explained, adding that the simulation will be held in the Chong Pak Pra channel, the narrow strip of water at the north end of the island separating Phuket from the mainland.

The rescue teams will also draw up and rehearse evacuation drills simulating an earthquake directly affecting Phuket.

V/Gov Chamroen pointed out that the 4.3 Richter earthquake that rattled central Phuket on April 16 last year highlighted Phuket's vulnerability to earthquakes.

"The most recent earthquakes along our West Coast have happened along the Klong Marui fault off Phuket, and last year was the first time the coast was the epicenter of an earthquake," he said.

"The exercise will make Phuket safer and reduce anxiety over what would happen if we were struck by such disasters," he added.

— **Kritsada Meuanhawong**

Bright solution to dark water

Governor's strategy offers breath of fresh air to raw sewage woes

By Kritsada Meuanhawong

AFTER inspecting the site in Rassada where highly polluted wastewater is pumped directly into the Bang Yai Canal in Phuket Town (reported as the *Phuket Gazette's* page one story on April 20), Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut has drawn up a plan to solve the problem.

Before doing so, Governor Maitri broadened his scope of appraisal and inspected drainage ditches behind the Radio of Thailand official residences near Phuket Rajabhat University.

"We found water in the area released by local residents. It was dirty and smelly and pumped directly into the Bang Yai Canal," Governor Maitri said.

The Governor's two-step solution starts with dredging the drainage ditches and lining them with cement.

"We also need to oxygenate the water by aerating it – to create the right environment for the microorganisms in the water that consume bacteria and help to clean the water," he said.

"To deal with the bad smell, we will put EM balls [Effective Microorganism balls] and EM water into the ditches," he said.

In addition, to alleviate flooding problems, Rassada Municipality will increase the



Bang Yai Canal in Rassada, where the water literally runs black. Photo: Rassada Municipality

size of their sewer pipes from 1.2 to 1.5 meters to improve water flow, he added.

The second phase of the project is a campaign to convince the restaurants, companies and residents in the area to install their own wastewater treatment tanks to help reduce the average biological oxygen demand (BOD) in the water, he said.

The BOD, a key indicator of water quality, was recently measured at 54 in the Bang Yai Canal; the standard average is about 34.

"Officials will check up on wastewater treatment at factories, housing estates and other sites in the area in order to help solve this environmental issue," he added.

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PPAO President Paiboon Upatising pledged to spend 60 million baht on flood-defense projects across the island. Photo: PPAO

Local government to splash out B60mn on flood defense

PHUKET Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising has pledged to spend 60 million baht on flood-defense projects across the island.

The news comes as the annual monsoon winds from the northeast swing around to start bringing rain from the southwest.

"We will support all projects from every local administration," said Mr Paiboon.

"The budget is ready to be allocated to finalized projects in each local area. Patong Municipality has already prepared its plan and will be the first to receive financial support," he added.

Mr Paiboon explained that the Patong project was to install a floodgate along the Pak Bang Canal to prevent floods at high tide.

Other projects included widening and reinforcing the banks of the Bang Yai Canal in Phuket City;

dredging canals in Koh Kaew; and upgrading the storm drains from the Chao Fa Thani housing estate in Chalong.

In the north of the island, work will begin on upgrading the canals in the Baan Don area in Thepkasattri subdistrict, Mr Paiboon added.

"We will never ignore these problems. We will set a meeting at a later date to follow up on the results of the projects," he said.

The news came days before Phuket was soaked by an overnight deluge on Monday and heavy rains flooded parts of Ao Nang and Krabi Town.

Officers at the Meteorological Department in Phuket forecast that although the rains on Monday were heavy, there was no need to fear floods or landslides in Phuket until at least the end of the month.

— **Saran Mittrarat**

Minister pledges to push port plan

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Minister of Tourism and Sports, in Phuket to inspect the Deep Sea Port last Saturday, has pledged to push forward the 100-million-baht plan to expand Phuket's key port facility.

"I will raise the issue with the Minister of Transportation," Somsak Pureesrisak said.

Joining Mr Somsak in his visit to Phuket was Tourism of Thailand (TAT) Governor Suraphon Svetasreni.

The plans to expand the port so it can berth two large cruise liners simultaneously have been mired for two years for failing to pass the required environmental impact assessment (EIA) evaluation.

Sophon Muangprathub, Director of Chaophaya Terminal International Co Ltd, which has the government concession to operate Songkhla and Phuket Ports, explained to Minister Somsak the history of the Deep Sea Port expansion project.

"We've been working on passing the EIA for two years, but every time we submit the redrafted plans we are asked to fix another problem," Mr Sophon said.

"Please help us push forward the plan," he urged.

Mr Sophon explained that the project includes extending the dock by 60 meters so two large ships can berth at the same time,



Tourism Minister Somsak said he would raise the stalled Phuket Port plan with the Minister of Transportation.

as well as building new facilities to receive tourists disembarking and expanding the parking lots at the site.

The project would take no more than 13 months to complete once it passed its EIA requirements, he said.

Mr Sophon explained that the Deep Sea Port was originally designed to serve cargo ships only.

"The dock is 360m long, which can accommodate only two ships, each not longer than 173m long, at the same time.

"The problem is that bigger ships are now coming to the port,

especially cruise liners. So far the biggest one has been 270m long, which does not leave enough room for another ship," Mr Sophon explained.

"Cruise liners are given priority to dock at the port, even if it means forcing a cargo ship that is halfway through loading or unloading to move offshore," he added.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut voiced his support for the expansion plan.

"The port is currently not able to support Phuket tourism as well as it could.

"The facility needs to be developed," he explained.

Minister Somsak agreed with the plan presented to him.

"Phuket needs to be able to support more cruise liners so more of them can dock here and stay for more than just a day trip," he said.

"We have to identify which departments we must discuss this with so we can push forward the plan.

"On May 10, I have a meeting with the Minister of Transportation, and this plan will be raised," Minister Somsak vowed.

Standard licenses to bolster drive for tourist safety

TOURISTS will need to have a valid international driver's license to rent cars and motorbikes, the Minister of Tourism and Sports announced last Saturday.


The news came as Minister Somsak Pureesrisak sifted through a slew of issues facing the tourism industry in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi at a meeting at the Radisson Blu Plaza Resort Phuket at Panwa Beach.

"I have discussed the situation with the Phuket Land Transportation Office and they will take charge from here," Mr Somsak said.



"This is for tourists' own good, because they will be protected by law if they are in a road accident," he explained.


At the meeting, Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr called for Phuket to have better-developed infrastructure.

"Phuket still needs to develop a mass-transportation system and sufficient public utilities as well as adjust much of its infrastructure to support the growing number of tourists visiting the island," MP Anchalee said. - *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



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Mr Suphachok and some of his coral wares. Coral may not be sold without a license. Photo: Marine Police

Coral seller faces up to 4 years and 40,000 baht fine

POLICE arrested a man for selling pieces of dead coral at the popular Saphan Hin Park in Phuket Town on May 3.

Acting on a tip-off, officers moved in and arrested Suphachok Worramatamart, 37.

Marine Police Region 8 Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Prasert Srikunrat led the raid, joined by Thanet Munnoy, chief of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Phuket office.

"We found 13 bracelets made from dead coral and 27 other pieces of dead coral in the shop," Col Prasert said.

"We asked to see Mr Suphachok's license for possessing the coral, but he could not provide one," he said.

Mr Suphachok was charged with illegal possession of a wildlife item protected under the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act BE 2535 (1992).

"He faces a fine of up to 40,000 baht or up to four years in prison," Col Prasert said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Five extra lifeguard towers called for; budget not likely to increase

By Namsai Wongsaree

THE Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) is pushing to get extra lifeguard watchtowers set up at five tourist-popular beaches on Phuket's west coast.

The move comes as the contract with the Phuket Lifeguard Club expires at the end of this month, coinciding with the regular arrival of the annual rainy season, when the island's beaches claim tourists' lives each year.

"With everyone's safety as our priority, we are planning to increase the number of lifeguard stations from 33 to 38 this year," said Kanyarat Senrung, an officer at the PPAO's Tourism Department.

"The five additional stations will be at Kata, Kata Noi, Karon, Patong and Kamala beaches," Ms Kanyarat said.

"Although the terms of the contract to be offered to the Phuket Lifeguard Club have yet to be finalized, at this stage it looks like the budget offered will be the same as last year," she added.

Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan said the five new lifeguard stations was news to him, but he welcomed the move.

"It's a good thing. It would make the beaches safer for tourists," he said.

Mr Prathaiyut could not promise that his organization would continue providing lifeguards if the club were presented with the same



ON GUARD: Phuket lifeguards rescued almost 900 people during their last contract period. Photo: Gazette file

budget as last year but had to man five extra stations.

"I would have to talk to our members first and see the conditions offered, but I personally would like to come to some arrangement to make this happen," he said.

Highlighting the danger of Phuket's surf during the southwest monsoon, two tourists drowned while the lifeguards were not at their posts last May.

Ms Kanyarat today described the critical service the Phuket lifeguards provide.

"From May 28, 2012 through April 27, 2013, the lifeguards res-

cued 882 people – that is, 156 Thais and 726 foreigners – from the surf," she said.

However, despite the good work of the guards, 14 people drowned during the period.

"Nine people drowned while lifeguards were on duty [from 9am to 7pm] and five people drowned outside the duty hours," she said.

"The lifeguards do their job," Ms Kanyarat said, defending their efforts. "Those who drowned did so because of a pre-existing medical condition. Some of them were also drunk," she added.

Ms Kanyarat urged everyone to

observe the surf warning flags.

"Red flags mean 'No Swimming'. They are posted to inform people of dangerous currents, submerged rocks and other threats that lurk offshore," she said.

"A yellow flag indicates the area is not supervised by lifeguards, but one may swim with caution; yellow and red flags tell swimmers that lifeguards are keeping watch over the area between the yellow-red flags," Ms Kanyarat explained.

"People should swim only when the yellow-red flags are displayed, and only between those flags," she said.



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Hi-so thieves served time before

POLICE have confirmed that a couple accused of breaking-and-entering robberies at nine high-end hotels and resorts on Phuket are convicts fresh out of prison.

Ritthimeth "Q" Singhaumpai, 33, and Sasithorn Seekam, 22, who were arrested on May 1, served time for breaking into a car and stealing valuables in 2011, Somsak Tongkiliang of the Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

The arrests came after officers began following the couple, whose black Mercedes E200 sports sedan was the same make and model and had the same license number as the one caught on CCTV at many of the resorts where robberies had occurred.

The Mercedes caught on CCTV was white – the couple had covered it completely with black stickers, explained Karon Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borrirak.

"Police recovered 79 items from the car, including a Sony digital camera; 44 pieces of jewelry; 11 watches; three iPods and five Mastercard debit cards.

"They also seized 3,090 euros, 44,710 baht, US\$10,000 dollars, AUS\$6,215 and nominal amounts in other currencies," said Lt Col Sophon.



Mr Ritthimeth, in handcuffs, watches as police remove stolen items from the white Mercedes he disguised with black stickers.

Mr Ritthimeth is accused of robbing guest rooms in resorts at Karon, Kata and Patong.

"The CCTV footage from the hotels shows a white Mercedes E200 with the same license plates arriving at the hotels at about the same time the robberies occurred," Col Sophon said.

During questioning, Mr Ritthimeth claimed he was the son of a well-known official and directed police to a sticker on the windscreen of his car marking the

'24th Session of Parliament, 362 MPs', Col Sophon said.

Police have confirmed that the sticker is a fake.

Mr Ritthimeth was charged with breaking and entering private property and committing theft at night.

Ms Sasithorn was charged with receiving stolen property.

Police are still investigating whether or not Mr Ritthimeth was involved in any other recent hotel robberies in Phuket.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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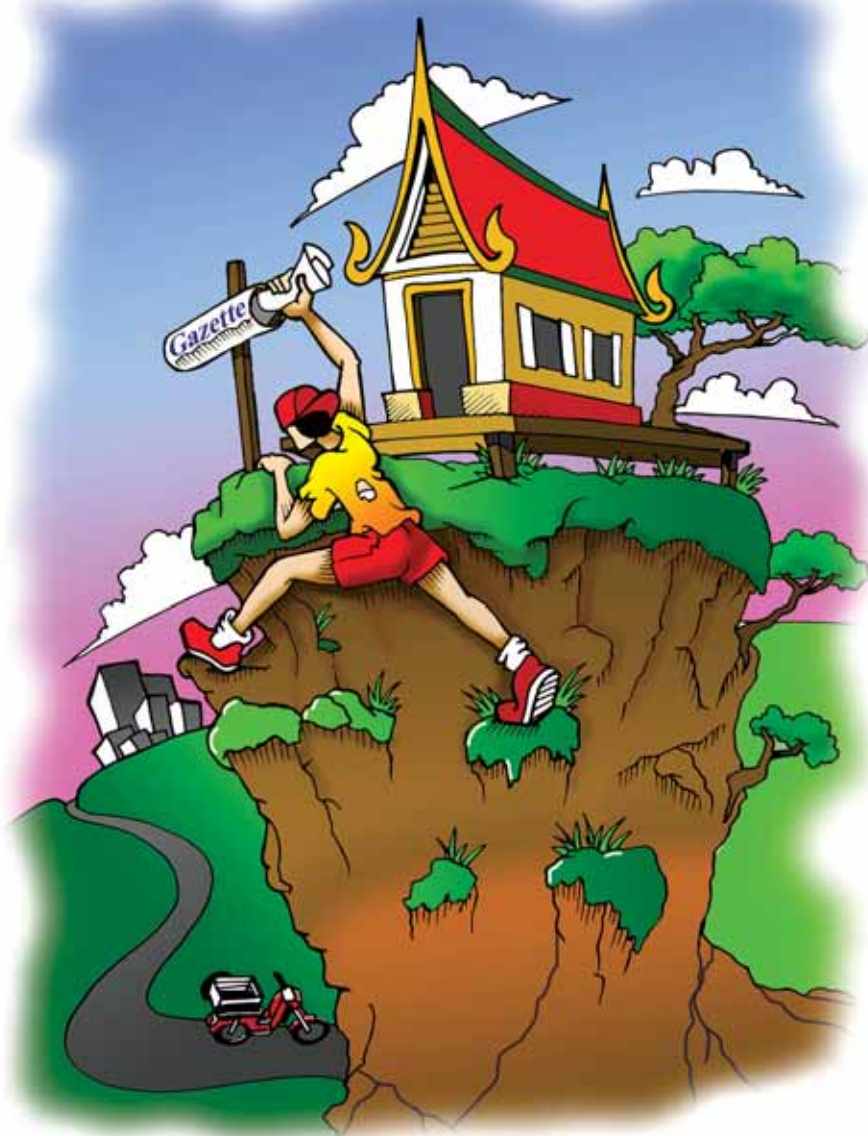
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Gen Pharnu said Thailand was in talks with other nations to find a new home for the detainees.

Immigration chief 'concerned' over Rohingya refugees

IMMIGRATION Bureau Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarpphon, in Phuket on April 30 for a closed-door meeting of high-ranking officials, has expressed his concern over the growing number of Rohingya refugees being detained in Thailand.

"The number of Rohingya entering the country is worrying. We are now detaining 1,936 Rohingya across the country, including 399 boys and 304 girls," Gen Pharnu told the press.

"Immigration Police shelters in the South have no more room for refugees. We had to transfer some of the refugees to immigration shelters elsewhere in the Kingdom," he said.

The refugees' detention in Thailand is intended to be only temporary, he cautioned.

"The shelters are supposed to be only for temporary detention before illegal immigrants are deported, but in the case of the Rohingya, we cannot really deport them because their home country [Myanmar] does not welcome them," Gen Pharnu said.

"The Thai Government is in discussions with other countries to find a place the refugees can be transferred to.

"I have been assured that the Rohingya will be treated in a way that meets international standards," he added.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Phuket hosts international congress for buffalo experts

AFTER previous editions in Cairo, Delhi, Manila and Buenos Aires, the World Buffalo Congress this year made its way to Thailand, where Phuket this week hosted the triennial event at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon.

More than 500 participants from 35 countries arrived to attend the event, held this year on May 6-8 under the theme "Green Production Against Global Warming".

"The main objective of the conference is to discuss and exchange scientific and technological information and opinions in regards to the study and breeding of buffaloes," Dr Rangsan Parnpai, president of the International

Buffalo Federation, explained.

"It is also a great chance to build connections among buffalo researchers throughout the world," he said.

"While many people know Phuket as a tourist destination, Phuket was originally dependent on the agricultural sector," Dr Prapha Kayee, director of Phuket Rajabhat University, explained.

"The Buffalo Congress will create awareness about the importance of buffaloes and agriculture. I believe that we can benefit and learn the value of agricultural tourism from this event," she said.

— **Namsai Wongsaree**



Phuket MP Raywat Areerob is pictured with the winner of the buffalo 'beauty contest' at an event last year. Photo: Gazette file

Elephant raids return

Livestock chief denies tourism is driving elephant-trafficking network

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE head of the Phuket Livestock Office has refuted allegations that tourism is the driving force behind an elephant-trafficking network that is allegedly supplying pachyderms so they can carry tourists on jungle tours.

The news comes after an elephant camp on Big Buddha hill was raided in the wake of 66 possibly illegal trekking elephants coming under investigation in Phang Nga last week.

"We were assigned by the Central Investigation Bureau to search for illegal elephants in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi," explained Maj Gen Sriwara Rangsitprahmkul, who led the raid along with Col Watcharin Phusit from the Regional Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division.

"We have received reports that an elephant-trafficking network is operating in Phuket – the situation has become critical," Gen Sriwara added.



Tourists sit atop an elephant at one of the jungle-trekking camps raided in Phang Nga last week. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

However, Phuket Provincial Livestock Chief Weerasit Phutthipairrote, who joined the raids, has refuted such reports.

"I believe the elephants in Phuket are not the product of an illegal-trading network, because the companies in Phuket use them

for trekking tours and performances," he explained.

"However, I cannot comment any further on the possibility of an illegal-elephant trading network in Phuket [serving other purposes]," he added.

During the raid on Tuesday, the

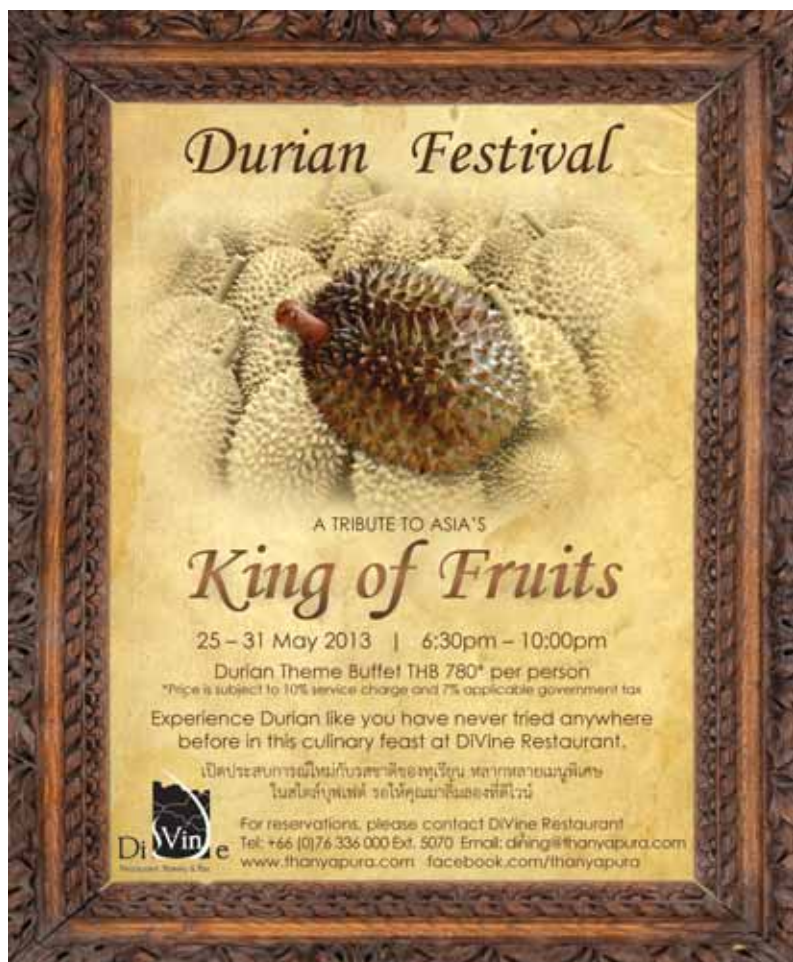
investigation team identified 10 elephants at the camp they believe may have been illegally taken from the wild.

Officers seized one elephant identification microchip and nine elephant registration documents, which Gen Sriwara said would be handed over to the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office.

Chief Weerasit explained that his office would establish whether or not the microchip and registration documents were forgeries.

The camp, which police refused to name, was targeted because it has a record of exchanging elephants with one of the camps raided in Phang Nga, explained Chief Weerasit.

Similar raids plagued several Phuket elephant camps last year, and DNA samples were taken to determine whether the baby pachyderms owned by the companies were the offspring of a wild elephant seized in illegal captivity in the renowned Kaeng Krachan wildlife park in Kanchanaburi.



Loan shark, henchmen netted in raid

CRIME Suppression Division officers arrested a loan shark and his six henchmen in a raid on a house in Thalang district late Monday afternoon.

Led by Maj Roongsak Maichandee and armed with a search warrant, the officers entered a house in Ban Muang Mai, off Thepkrasattri Road, and arrested Yutthana "Tum" Dorkjan, 31, for running a loan shark operation under the name Tum Credit.

The officers also arrested Surasak Tongyam, 19, from Uthai Thani; Artin Samit, 24, from Nakhon Nayok; Akeapong Rongharnkaew, 20, from Chiang Rai; Supakorn Polyium, 28, from Roi Et; Somkiat Sonmaneechoti, 28, from Nakhon Pathom; and Yutthapong Buanam, 28, from Phetchaburi.

"The six men went out onto the streets and into neighborhoods to find new customers, and collect payments," Maj Roongsak said.

"They collected 20 per cent in-



Loan shark debt collectors are known in Thai as 'muak gun-knock' for the full-face crash helmets they wear so bystanders cannot identify them.

terest per month. The maximum rate to be charged on loans is set by law at 15 per cent per month," he explained.

Police seized 107,000 baht cash, 19 debtor record books, business cards, two bankbooks, 15 mobile phones, one iPad, one laptop, five motorbikes, two cars and seven jackets emblazoned with

the Tum Credit logo.

Officers also seized one semi-automatic handgun.

"They were all charged with operating and assisting an illegal loan business and charging illegal interest rates. They have all confessed to the charges against them," he stated.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Deep South drive-by kills six

SIX civilians were massacred in the Deep South province of Yala in a drive-by shooting on May 1.

A two-year-old boy was among the dead.

Witnesses said that four men dressed like Army rangers pulled up on two motorcycles and opened fire on a crowd of civilians outside a grocery store.

Store owner Watcharin Nuansai, 34, lost her husband and 2-year-old son in the attack.

Ms Watcharin told Isra News Agency she would leave Yala for her hometown of Buri Ram in the Northeast since she no longer had anything keeping her in the South.

"My husband told me every day that he wanted to move to Buri Ram... but we couldn't do that," she said. "We didn't have enough money to start a new life there. So, we had to continue to live and work here, even though we feared death."

"Now, I've lost both my husband and son. Right after I finish their funeral rites here, I will definitely migrate to Buri Ram. I don't want others in my family to be killed," she said.

Mrs Watcharin was lucky to survive the attack herself. She had

AROUND THE nation

just gone to the restroom to take a bath when the shooting started.

"I heard loud gunfire so I rushed to see what was going on. I saw smoke and heard the gunfire again, so I went back to hide in the restroom. Then, authorities took me to hide in an area at the back of my house, as they feared more attacks," she said.

Khuha Muk Community leader Rakchai Suwan said the recent attack was severer than previous incidents.

"Many of us are now extra cautious when going out. Some people have even moved away," he added.

Another resident, Suwan Panboonleu, urged the insurgents to stop the attacks and join others in assisting Thailand's development.

Meanwhile, National Security Council chief Paradorn Pattanabutra said the attack was not related to ongoing peace talks



Watcharin Nuansai, 34, lost both her husband and her 2-year-old son in the drive-by shooting of a local grocery store. Photo: The Nation

in Malaysia between the Thai government and one insurgent group, the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN). Mr Paradorn claimed the

shooting was "an act of revenge" carried out by "extremists" and he affirmed that the talks would continue.

Thai officials investigated over GT200s

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is investigating officials from 13 government agencies that bought fake drug and explosive detectors, following the imprisonment of the British man who invented them.

Jim McCormick, 57, was sentenced to 10 years in jail for selling the fraudulent devices to agencies around the world.

Thai agencies spent at least 1.13 billion baht on 1,358 GT200 and Alpha 6 units, both of which have been revealed as completely ineffectual at substance detection.

The Royal Thai Army, which was assigned to dispose of bombs in the Deep South when the insurgency initially took grip there, was in dire need of bomb detectors that could detect explosives from a distance.

After learning that the Air Force's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit possessed the GT200 detectors, the Army tested the device and bought 541 GT200s in 2008-09 – the largest lot ever bought by Thai security agencies.

Ministry threatens online clamp down over 'defamatory' PM Yingluck cartoon

THE MINISTRY of Information and Communications Technology (MICT) is threatening to shut down websites that recently carried allegedly defamatory messages about Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

MICT Minister Anudith Nakornthap made the threats in response to comments made online by Thai Rath cartoonist Somchai Rachawat.

Mrs Yingluck is suing Mr Somchai for allegedly posting photographs of the premier giving a recent speech in Mongolia along with the message: "Please understand that prostitutes are not bad women. Prostitutes only sell their bodies, but a bad woman has been wandering around trying to sell the country."

Mr Anudith urged anyone who found offensive messages on the internet to report them so they



Female MPs from Pheu Thai Party condemn Chai Rachawat for his Facebook post about Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Photo: The Nation

could be "immediately removed".

He added that if the intention was to defame the prime minister, the website could be shut down and the persons responsible prosecuted under Article 326 of the Criminal Act, which could lead to one year in prison and a fine of

20,000 baht or both.

National Human Rights commissioner Niran Pitakwatchara said that Mr Anudith's threats were a violation of the basic rights of Thai citizens and that the right to criticize was a foundation of democracy.

Miss Maxim contestant ejected for drug use video

A CONTESTANT has been ejected from the Miss Maxim Beauty Pageant after a video surfaced on YouTube apparently showing her teaching a three-year-old boy to inhale illegal drugs.

Kwanjai Khempradub, 20, had made it to the last 20 contestants in the competition before the video surfaced.

In it, she appears to help the boy to snort ketamine – known as "ya k" in Thai – using a banknote.

Mrs Kwanjai later told police the substance was harmless white powder, not actually illegal drugs.



Police drug test results for Kwanjai Khempradub came back negative. Photo: The Nation

sorry for what had happened and admitted she did it for fun. She said she was not involved with illicit drugs anymore and the test results confirmed that.



BISP Secondary School Induction Week

(for Year 6 students (10-11 years old) transitioning to the Secondary School)

If you wish to consider enrolment at the BIS Secondary School you are invited to send your child to join the 45 Year 6 students as they experience the Secondary School Induction Week.

Lessons, among others, during this Induction Week include: Science experiments; a Design Technology project; Music composition; Art work; Drama and ICT.



Parents new to BISP are invited to an Information Seminar led by the Head of Secondary, Mr. Simon Meredith, and will also have an opportunity to meet the Headmaster, Mr. Neil Richards on Monday 27 May 2013 at 8 am.

There is no charge, and spaces for children are limited, so please register your interest by info@bisphuket.ac.th before 21 May 2013.

Due to the limited spaces available we ask that only families who are seriously considering the school apply to take part in the Induction Week.

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In brief...

At least three killed in Italy after ship crashes into port

AT LEAST three people were killed and six injured when a container ship rammed a control tower in the northern Italian port city of Genoa late on Tuesday, harbor officials quoted on local television said.

Seven people were also reported missing after the accident.

Cheap food plans to prove costly for India's government

INDIA may soon pass a new law to give millions more people cheap food, fulfilling an election promise of the ruling Congress party that could cost about \$US 23 billion a year and take a third of annual grain production.

The National Food Security Bill, which aims to feed 70 per cent of the population, could widen India's already swollen budget deficit next year, increasing the risk to its coveted investment-grade status.

Bank of China Ltd closes account of North Korean exchange bank

BANK of China Ltd has shut the account of North Korea's main foreign exchange bank, which was hit with US sanctions in March after Washington accused it of helping finance Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

The state-run Foreign Trade Bank had been told its transactions had been halted and its account closed, Bank of China, the country's biggest foreign exchange bank, said in a statement on Tuesday.

Abducted American women discovered alive, years later

By Kim Palmer
and Daniel Trotta

THREE American women newly freed from a decade-long kidnapping ordeal huddled privately with loved ones on Tuesday as police scoured the Cleveland house where the captives had been held for clues to how their confinement went unnoticed for so long.

Three brothers were arrested as suspects shortly after Monday evening's rescue of the women and are expected to be formally charged soon. One of them, Ariel Castro, 52, a former school bus driver and owner of the house, was thought to live there alone.

The women, believed to have been abducted separately from the surrounding neighborhood and held prisoner for years, were found alive together by a neighbor who was alerted by cries for help coming from the house.

He broke through the door to rescue one of the women, Amanda Berry, whose 2003 disappearance as a teenager was widely publicized in the local media, and helped her place a frantic emergency call to authorities.

"Help me! I'm Amanda Berry... I've been kidnapped and I've been missing for 10 years and I'm here.



A missing person poster for Amanda Berry on a tree in front of the home of Berry's sister Beth. Photo: Reuters

I'm free now," Ms Berry can be heard saying in a recording of the call released by police.

Found with Ms Berry, now 27, was her 6-year-old daughter, conceived and born during her captivity, and two other women – Gina DeJesus, 23, who vanished at age 14 in 2004, and Michelle Knight, 32, who was 20 years old when she went missing in 2002.

Mr Castro was arrested almost

immediately. Two brothers, Pedro Castro, 54, and Onil Castro, 50, were taken into custody a short time later.

Police have not said what role each man is suspected of playing in the case, but Ms Berry named Mr Castro in her 911 call as the man from whom she was trying to escape.

Initial euphoria in Cleveland over the women's rescue soon gave way

to questions about why their captivity went undetected, despite what neighbors said were a number of suspicious or disturbing incidents at the house.

"We didn't search hard enough. She was right under our nose the whole time," said Angel Arroyo, a church pastor who had handed out flyers of DeJesus in the neighborhood where she ultimately surfaced.

– Reuters

Other notorious child abductions in which missing person was discovered alive

• **Jaycee Dugard** was kidnapped in June 1991 in the United States at age 11 and remained missing for more than 18 years. She was discovered after her abductor, Phillip Craig Garrido, brought her to a parole office in California along with two daughters fathered by him, aged 11 and 15 at the time.

In June 2011 he was sentenced to 431 years imprisonment.

• **Elizabeth Smart** was abducted from her bedroom in an affluent suburb of Salt Lake City, Utah, in March, 2003, at age 14. She was found nine months later only a few miles from her home. Brian David Mitchell and Wandaileen Barzee were indicted for her kidnapping. They were initially found unfit to stand trial but were later convicted. The abduction and recovery were the subject of a movie and a book.

• **Natascha Kampusch** was abducted at the age of 10 in March 1998 on her way to school in Vienna, Austria and held for more than eight years in a secret cellar in the small town of Strasshof until she escaped in 2006. Her kidnapper, Wolfgang Priklopil, 44, committed suicide the same day. Ms Kampusch later wrote a book about her experience.

– Reuters

Opposition leader decries Malaysian election results

MALAYSIA'S government accused opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim of "fomenting division" and planning to cause unrest at a rally to protest alleged vote fraud following his defeat in the national election on May 5.

Mr Anwar calleded the rally to present what he says is evidence of widespread fraud in the election that handed victory, with a weakened parliamentary majority, to the long-ruling Barisan Nasional coalition.

Tens of thousands of supporters were expected to attend the event on Wednesday as the *Gazette* went to print, despite a police warning that the opposition had not acquired the necessary permission.

"Anwar has deliberately refused to apply for permission for his protest, and deliberately chosen a



Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim alleges vote fraud. Photo: Reuters

small stadium to ensure it will spill onto the streets. His protest is calculated to create unrest," the government said in a statement.

Without explicitly banning the rally, police said in a statement they

would not hesitate to "take action" against the organizer and the speakers if the rally violated Malaysia's sedition laws that forbid incitement to break social order.

– Reuters

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'Fake tourists' in the crosshairs

Immigration police chief asks local tour companies for help to net more illegal foreigners

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE 'top brass' of Thailand's Immigration Bureau has asked for cooperation from local tour businesses to report any suspicious foreign clients suspected of conducting illegal activities.

Immigration Bureau Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarphphon was in Phuket last week for a closed-door meeting of high-ranking officials. Lt Gen Pharnu's visit to Phuket on Tuesday, April 30, was to head a meeting tabled to discuss the bureau's 'working policy' at which Phuket's own immigration superintendent did not attend.

Following the meeting, Gen Pharnu told the press "At the moment, the number of tourists using Phuket airport's services is about 17,000 people per day,

[while there are] 119 flight daily."

"It's quite crowded in the terminals. So, we've provided [additional] officials for tourists' convenience.

"In the future the airport will be expanded which will resolve the [over] crowded issue.

"There are a lot of foreigners, most of them European, coming to Phuket as tourists. However, some of them are operating illegal businesses and some are fugitives.

"We are after them. Anyone who provides rental services for foreigners [that look suspicious of operating an illegal business], please report them to us so we can have them recorded [profiled], and [make it] easy to check up on them," he added.

Gen Pharnu joined the board of directors of Airports of Thai-

land (AOT), a public company listed on the Thai Stock Exchange, in February. AOT operates all major airports in Thailand, including Phuket International Airport.

Other airports the corporation runs are Suvarnabhumi Airport, Don Mueang International Airport, Chiang Mai International Airport, Hat Yai International Airport and Chiang Rai International Airport.

In joining AOT's board, Gen Pharnu joins the ranks with fellow directors Air Chief Marshal Araya Ngampramuan (vice chairman), Police Major General Montien Prateepavanich (independent director) and Police General Krisna Polananta (independent director).

In 2012, AOT posted a net profit of 6.499 billion baht.



Thailand Immigration Bureau Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarphphon.

Asia-Pacific consumers more green conscious

ALL over the world, much has been said and reported about green issues and the impact of climate change over the years.

The latest findings in a GfK "Green Gauge Global" survey reveal that over 7 in 10 consumers globally, as well as in the Asia Pacific region, are concerned about environmental pollution and a similar proportion (67%) view global warming as a concern.

Green Gauge Global is in its fourth reporting year and is part of the Roper Reports Worldwide consumer trends study. GfK polled over 37,500 consumers aged 15 and above, across 25 countries, including eight from Asia Pacific (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand), where respondents were surveyed on their attitudes, behavior and values across a range of topics.

This year, additional reports for Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam will be available as well.

"Green Gauge Global findings reflect environmental pollution being on par with issues like crime and lawlessness and also

educational quality," observed Jodie Roberts, Regional Director for GfK Consumer Trends.

"It is interesting to note that concern for pollution tends to be higher in emerging markets like China where environmental degradation is much more visible."

Although the majority of consumers are concerned about global warming, 3 in 5 (60%) consumers in the Asia Pacific region said they

would do more for the environment but they don't know how.

This sentiment appears to be more prominent in the developing countries, especially China and India. Meanwhile, consumers who seem more equipped on how to contribute to the environment are from Australia and Taiwan.

However, there is a surfacing trend of emerging markets starting to take the lead in some green

attitudes over the past few years.

Developing countries in Asia Pacific are more likely to conserve energy and water at home, as compared to their counterparts in the developed countries.

Among established markets, it's worth highlighting that in Taiwan, concern about the environment is consistent with their behaviors.

In fact Taiwan is the most active country in the region when it comes to environmental behaviors. For instance, 94 % of Taiwanese consumers recycle frequently, making them the highest proportion amongst all other countries in the world.

"The level of awareness, attitude and green behavior is different across countries and largely depends on many factors, from infrastructure within the country, experience of natural disasters, efforts by the local government and the companies within countries and so forth," highlighted Roberts.

"One particularly noteworthy observation is the fact that consumers globally are increasingly expecting corporations to do their

part to address the environment."

Across the region, three-quarters of respondents agreed that it is important that companies take environmentally responsible actions such as using environmentally friendly materials. Sentiments are especially strong in Indonesia, Taiwan and India.

"It is important for companies to understand the reasons behind consumers wanting to go 'green', which aside from altruism, could stem from other motivations such as saving money and even showing their social status – a behavior particularly apparent in Asia," said Roberts.

"We live in an era where companies are evaluated not just on their products and services but also how socially responsible they are perceived to be, and this will have a great impact on their business performance going forward," she concluded.

GfK is one of the world's largest research companies, with more than 12,000 experts working to discover new insights into the way people live, think and shop, in over 100 markets, every day.

– GfK Global



Polystyrene is the only type of plastic not recycled in Phuket. Photo: Jo-h

BoT survey: prices expected to rise

Some business operators could raise their product prices in the current quarter, given higher fuel costs and wages, while an expected increase in foreign orders points to an export recovery, according to a recent survey by the Bank of Thailand (BoT).

According to a statement from the central bank, "the three-month confidence index for product selling prices stays above 50, reflecting the likelihood that operators will raise their prices following increases in the prices of raw materials and fuel, as well as in wages."

Similarly, based on the BoT's information exchange with operators, many of the surveyed businesses planned to raise their product prices gradually over the course of the year.

The property sector may boost prices due to higher costs of land and construction materials, taking into account demand and purchasing power, the survey found.

However, some businesses, such as processed-food exporters and transport providers, may not be able to increase their prices this year due to their yearly contract terms.

The survey was conducted on 198 business chiefs across the nation during the first quarter.

The monthly business-confidence survey, meanwhile, was conducted on 1,010 companies.

The survey found that exports could do well in the coming months, given the fact that the three-month foreign purchasing-order index stood above 50. An index above 50 means operators remain confident of gaining foreign orders in the next three months. However, the appreciation of the baht remains a risk to export performance.

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A perfect 'short-time' for sailors

Riverside marina in Krabi Town welcomes influx of boats

SAILING smoothly through its second year of operations, the Krabi River Marina (KRM) recently added a second restaurant to its portfolio – a small albeit significant indicator of the Phang Nga Bay's marine and leisure industry's continuous growth.

One of the main selling points of the newly opened Terrace pub and restaurant, KRM's second eatery after the Marina Villa, will be live music and rejuvenating refreshments in a coastal riverside atmosphere.

"Our targets include yachtees making a brief shore-stop before continuing on their exploration of Phang Nga Bay," explained Wityanan of Thai Water Craft LP, the developer of KPM.

"That's the main difference with us and other local marinas. We're more oriented towards temporary docking for yachts, who may need to refill on supplies, or just take a rest, but don't plan to stay more than a day or two."

KRM offers protected berths for boats measuring up to 80 feet in length with a maximum draft of three meters at low tide. All in, the 6,000 square-meter docking area provides berths for 40 to 45 boats, depending on the size.

The marina is ideally located along the Krabi River, just a few minutes drive to the center of town – about a kilometer, or a 20-minute boat-ride from Phang Nga Bay proper.

Convenient access to the marina is available 24 hours a day, especially at night thanks to the illuminated navigation channel. There are no tidal restrictions and the water is calm all year round.

The vista from the berths is very picturesque with unspoiled natural bush, traditional fishing villages and mountain views. Aside from a 7-11 on site, other supermarkets for re-provisioning, as well as the local market, are also within walking distance.

Private transportation or land-

based tour services are available from the marina office. Car hire and motorbike hire can be arranged, as well as taxis to Krabi airport or bus station if required.

Marina facilities include boat refueling and repair services, laundry service, 220 volts shore plug-in power, water connections, hot showers and other amenities such as WiFi internet for marina guests, a clubhouse and about 10 private shops in total.

The Terrace licensed restaurant serves both Thai and western food at very reasonable prices, with an extensive cocktail menu and happy-hour from 5 to 6pm.

"We offer a secure place for locals and foreigners on a chartered or personal boats, who plan to stay a day or two, or longer.

"We also cater to weddings, organizations, tourists and foreigners who are staying in or visiting Krabi, Phuket and nearby provinces.

"In front of the marina is the expansive Thara public park, where



SHORE LEAVE: The KRM has berths for 40 to 45 boats.

clients can run, walk, cycle and can feel like they're in their own home without a bunch of big buildings surrounding them," he said.

Asked about the investment, Mr Wityanan said that his firm has put about 70 million baht into the project, not including land costs.

"As this is part of Thara Park,

the land is owned by the King."

Thai Water Craft also operate a number of jetty-service businesses in Phuket, namely off Cape Panwa and Surin Beach, among others.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, see krabi-river-marina.com

Phuket firm to co-develop superyacht facility in BKK

PHUKET based, Yacht Solutions (YS) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangkok's ItalThai Marine (ITM), agreeing to create Thailand's first dedicated superyacht facility just south of Bangkok. This joint venture brings together Thailand's largest and most established shipbuilding company, ITM, with one of Thailand's most reputable and experienced superyacht refit companies, YS.

Dubbed 'Yacht Solutions at ItalThai Marine', the new facility is being set up in response to the demand for more superyacht refit and repair facilities in the Asian region – from both owners of superyachts based in Asia and those travelling from Europe and the Americas.

Located near the mouth of the Chao Phraya River in Samut Prakarn, just south of Bangkok, and easy to navigate to from the Gulf of Thailand, ItalThai Marine provides the perfect site for such a facility. Its location, with convenient access to the Thai capital, and only 45 minutes from Suvarnabhumi International Airport (the transiting hub of Southeast Asia) is ideal because it is extremely appealing to owners, captains and crew due to the vast range of crew facilities close to hand. This deep water facility was needed by Yacht Solutions to cater for larger refit and build projects as well as shorter emergency and maintenance projects.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, YS Managing Director, Gareth Twist, elaborated on the reasons why Bangkok was the ideal choice for establishing such a dedicated superyacht facility, and not Phuket.

"There [in Bangkok], we can handle yachts as big as 95 meters long, up to 20 meters wide and weighing as much as 3,500 tonnes, whereas in Phuket, we can only handle [superyachts that measure] up to 45-50 meters long, 10 meters wide and weighing up to 260 tonnes."



LOCATION IS EVERYTHING: Conveniently located on the mighty Chao Phraya River, the new facility puts superyachts within a stone's throw to the greater Bangkok metropolitan area.

Asked if there are any plans or ambitions to build a similar high-capacity facility in Phuket in the near future, Gareth responded: "Definitely. We've got the funds and plans to build such a yard in Phuket, but acquiring the ideal piece of land, with good deep water access, has been an obstacle.

Meanwhile, Gareth's brother, Simon Twist, has relocated from Phuket to the Thai capital as part of the latest partnership with ItalThai Marine.

"As a major yachting hub, Phuket has a good yachting skill base, and this is our strength... We will continue to send personnel, who will be groomed in Phuket, before going up to Bangkok."

Gareth went on to highlight the growth that his company and the island's industry, overall, has seen in the past year. Currently, more than 90% of his firm's business is dealing with superyachts. This is compared to last year, when only about 60-70% of the business came from such large vessels, he said.

"In the past year, some 60 superyachts came through Phuket. Of these, Yacht Solutions worked on about 16... Our business volume from superyachts has grown three-fold and we expect the industry to continue to see strong growth," he said.

Yacht Solutions at ItalThai Marine will utilize a 112,000 square meter facility offering full ship building and repair capabilities plus a bonded warehouse and in-house design office. The facility is ISO 9001:2000 rated and boasts a lifting capacity up to 95 meters and 3,500 tonnes. It has access to two 115 meter dry docks, 300 meter alongside berthing, a floating dock up to 160 meters and 5000 tonnes lift capacity, making this the largest superyacht repair facility in Southeast Asia.

"We have been in the marine refit and repair business in Thailand for over 10 years and we have been looking for a deep water facility for the last two years," said Gareth.

"We are very excited to be at ItalThai



Gareth Twist, MD of Yacht Solutions.



Yacht Solutions can refit boats and ships.

Marine as this is the perfect site for us. Yacht Solutions at ItalThai Marine expands our superyacht capabilities for hauling-out, and opens up a great yard option for any resident yachts and superyachts passing through the Gulf of Thailand.

"This facility is accessible to all of South-east Asia being less than 800 miles from Singapore. We are very excited with this partnership as it offers a natural progression for our business."

The superyacht industry in Asia is growing and recent trends show that there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of superyachts, either in the region or transiting through the region. Yacht Solutions at ItalThai Marine is very keen to attract those yachts to this new facility in Thailand for planned or emergency refits, repairs or conversion work.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Khao Lak hotel rooms to double

THE hotel industry in Phang Nga province's tourist destination of Khao Lak will more than double from 9,000 guestrooms this year to 20,000 in five years.

Sompong Dowpiset, the owner of Casa de la Flora, a luxury boutique resort, told *The Nation* last week that the influx of foreign tourists will be a key driver, rising from 8,000 to more than 10,000 in 2014.

"Hotel developers here should not follow the trend of international chains. They should look for ways to design a concept that fits the area, which is rich in unspoiled and natural resources and the simple lifestyles of local people. A hotel should have its own character and sell 'Thainess'," he said.

Sompong, who is co-founder of Boontavorn, a major sanitary ware distributor, said the firm plans to construct two hotels to capture specific groups, but declined to disclose the investment. One of them is La Sella, which will target families, while the other one is undergoing a feasibility study as a place for a vacation and medical stay at the same time.

Possibly, elderly Western tourists will be one of the potential markets.

In Western culture, most retirees live alone, while in Asia, they stay with their family under the care of their children. Sompong plans to approach his foreign friends, who are retired doctors in the USA, to work here.

"With the tourism business booming, all parties in Khao Lak should work more closely to secure its sustainable development,



Beach at Khao Lak.



focusing on tourism infrastructure like wastewater treatment facilities and human security systems.

"The area should not follow the business models of Phuket or Pattaya for long-term growth, as these two resort cities seem to be plagued with problems ranging from the environment to crime and congestion.

"Khao Lak is clearly positioned as an eco-tourism destination. It has no need to become bigger. It is a holiday haven for foreign tourists from Europe, Australia, the UK, and German-speaking countries.

The stronger baht and economic troubles in Europe have not hurt the tourism scene here; it has rebounded com-

pletely from the deadly tsunami of December 2004," he said.

"For the national tourism strategy, the government should promote in selective markets globally rather than all of them and make its policy clear which group of foreign travellers will get the most attention.

"In Phuket, German and regular European tourists have disappeared because of the invasion of Russian visitors," he added.

— *The Nation*



THAINESS: Traditional Thai dancers are just one part of Thailand's rich culture that is a key selling point to international tourists. Photo Mark Knowles



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Khao Lak finds its way forward



KHAO LAK: With pristine beaches like these, it is easy to see why Khao Lak's popularity is rising amongst international tourists. Photo: Vincent



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THESE days, everywhere you turn, the news is focused on Phuket fever. From soaring airport arrival numbers and surging hotel occupancy rates to, of course, the sordid underbelly of mass tourism. But the resort destination known as 'Greater Phuket' is no 'one trick pony'. Nearby Khao Lak has certainly been kicking up its heels lately as Fortuna's wheel of fortune has hit winning streaks.

Over the past 18 months a number of bright new international class hotels have come into the market, including Beyond, Sensi Mar, Casa de la Flora, Sands by Katathani, Mai and the Best Western Premier Southsea.

While Phuket is already edging closer and closer to the major milestone of 50,000 registered hotel rooms, Khao Lak currently sits at 6,334. Supply between 2011 through 2013 has increased by 1,578 new rooms, but today, the pipeline of new properties has dried up. Phuket on the other hand, has well over 20 new hotels coming up and the number is continuing to rise unabated.

One notable new entry, which will debut in July, is the SENTIDO Graceland which will offer 338 rooms and villas at a beachfront location. With the popularity of Graceland's other Phuket hotel,

expect this latest offering to be full come high season. For those of you who don't know the SENTIDO brand, this is an affiliate of Thomas Cook and is a franchise hospitality group mainly focused on Southern Europe and the Mediterranean with 44 hotels in its system.

During my recent visit to Khao Lak I was able to catch up with Ty Collins, general manager of the JW Marriott. His comments on the trade were extremely positive, with the JW posting a substantial rise in occupancy between 2011 and 2012. Aside from legacy markets such as Germany; Austria; Switzerland; Scandinavia and the UK, an emerging trend is groups from China and Korea.

While traditionally Khao Lak has been confined to just two seasons – high (including peak) and low, this year a shoulder season is emerging in April and again in October. When I was there in late April, a good number of properties were still fully booked.

For a long time, the conundrum for Khao Lak hotels has been how to make the money during high season and not to spend it during low season. The shorter low season is assisting properties in stabilizing their annual trading figures. Michael Vorderleitner, who has been GM at the successful Ramada resort for over three years, says that during July and August more

Australians are coming – as are MICE groups.

At present, one clear difference between Phuket and Khao Lak – besides the lack of masses of sun lounges or the whining noise of jet skies at the latter – is that very little Eastern European business has gone north.

Speaking to some local hoteliers, they voiced the opinion that many of the legacy western European wholesalers have continued to pressure hotels not to mix markets, and that this has left Khao Lak a bit out of step with broader market trends.

Today Khao Lak is still highly leveraged in the legacy markets, as the world shifts to the short haul Asian markets and emerging sectors; the question is

how can it make the transition. Certainly the new SENTIDO Graceland could be a game changer. While there remain questions over year round opportunity, given that the nearby Similan islands are closed from May to October and there

is little retail, one has to believe that as hotels see increased trading, the range of attractions will develop in parallel.

I am reminded how Kata and Karon were for years mired in Eurocentric trading and how the impact of new markets and short-haul travel changed all this. Heading to the Le Meridien I met with Ruud Hulscher and Steven Roberto, both familiar faces in Phuket hospitality who now work at the resort. Both pointed out the

many Asian faces in the lobby and said the market is moving and starting to attract a new demographic of tourists. Perhaps the most positive sign was that many of the area's successful hotels are now moving rates higher for the upcoming 2013/2014 high season in November.

Wrapping up my trip, it is clear that Khao Lak is changing, with the central resort area being pushed north up to the Bangsak area, which is where larger land plots exist. In the future the trek north of internationally branded properties will surely follow a similar trend as Phuket.

As I was about to get in my car for the drive home, I had one last glimpse of the setting sun and serene beach, where nary a beach lounge could be seen, nor the roar of a jet ski heard and for just a moment the world all made sense.

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



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



SENTIDO GRACELAND: Sento's new resort in Khao Lak will open its doors to tourists in July. Photo: Bill Barnett

Real estate investment on the rise

DIRECT commercial real estate investment globally reached a milestone in the first quarter of 2013, with the highest Q1 global transaction volume recorded since 2008, according to Jones Lang LaSalle's latest Global Capital Flows report.

Volumes came in at US\$105 billion for Q1 2013, with all three regions surveyed witnessing growth year-on-year, as the weight of money chasing real estate has increased significantly.

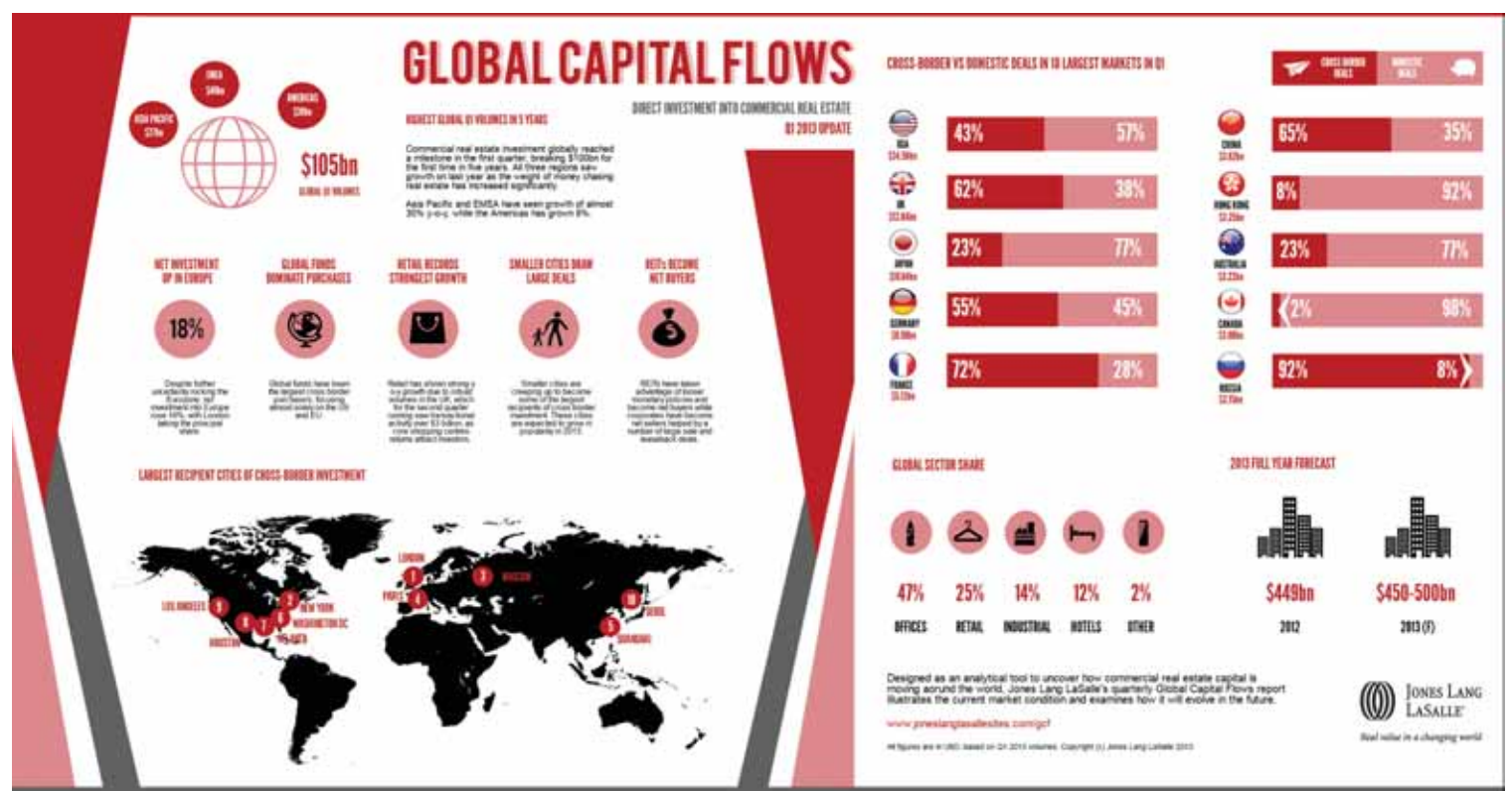
A total of US\$27 billion was invested directly in Asia Pacific commercial real estate in Q1 2013, which is on par with Q4 of last year, but up 26 per cent on the first quarter of 2012.

Asia Pacific was the only region not to see a decline in volumes transacted compared to Q4 of 2012.

An increased proportion of transaction volumes in the Asia Pacific region in the first quarter was made up of domestic deals (\$20bn), with cross border investment (\$7bn) down 24% year-on-year and down 11% quarter-on-quarter.

Stuart Crow, head of Asia Pacific capital markets at Jones Lang LaSalle said: "Continued quantitative easing globally is increasing liquidity and reducing the cost of debt in Asia Pacific, which is making real estate assets more accessible to investors within Asia Pacific."

He continued: "We maintain our expectation of an increase in transaction volumes in Asia Pacific to \$110bn for 2013, which will be about 12% up on last year, and we think that Japan is going to be the 'one to watch' this year. We expect a lift in investment activity in the country, as positive signs are emerging following announcements about



LEFT BEHIND: No Thai cities made the top 10 most active cities globally. Photo: Jones Lang LaSalle

stimulus measures targeted at reflation the Japanese economy."

Investors from Asia Pacific maintained their preference for European investment during the first quarter, particularly the biggest, most liquid cities of Paris and London, concentrating on office and hotel assets. The \$2.6bn spent outside the region is 45% higher than this time last year.

Alistair Meadows, director, International Capital Group Asia Pacific, Jones Lang LaSalle commented: "New capital continues

to emerge from Asia Pacific that is aggressively targeting global cities, especially London and New York. The sources of this capital are increasingly Chinese sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and insurance companies as well as pension funds from Korea and Malaysia.

Core office assets in gateway cities remain the favored targets, making up 50% of global cross-border activity."

Four Asia Pacific countries featured in the ten largest markets globally in Q1 this year,

Japan, China, Hong Kong and Australia.

Domestic investors accounted for the lion's share of investment in all except China, reflecting a trend seen across the region in the past quarter, as investment from investors within the region has increased.

Five Asia Pacific cities made the top ten most active cities globally, with Tokyo maintaining its number three spot (\$5.9bn), Hong Kong ranked fifth (\$3.3bn), Shanghai ranked sixth (\$2.4bn) and Singapore ranked ninth (\$1.9bn). — *Phuket Gazette/JLL*

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Outrigger gets new Executive Vice President

GLOBAL marketing expert Sean Dee has joined the Outrigger executive team as executive vice president and chief marketing officer.

The new appointment was recently announced by David Carey, president and CEO of Outrigger Enterprises Group.

As the company's new global brand steward, Dee is responsible for developing and deploying the global marketing and brand strategies for Outrigger Enterprises Group, working closely with the company's Hawaii and Asia-Pacific regions to address market-specific sales and marketing needs, as well as ensuring integration, collaboration and consistency across the entire Outrigger portfolio.

Dee joins Outrigger from Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) Worldwide, where he was executive vice president and chief marketing officer (CMO) and, subsequently, president of global branding. His responsibilities at AEG included directing the overall branding and business management of many of the organization's key worldwide assets, and overseeing the management of AEG's marketing, sales, merchandise, public relations, community relations and creative services business units. Dee also oversaw the JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotel properties in collaboration with asset management company Pyramid Hotel Group.

Before AEG, Dee was chief marketing officer for Hard Rock International, Inc.,

where he directed the company's worldwide sales and marketing initiatives for its global portfolio of restaurants, hotels, casinos and live venues, as well as e-commerce initiatives, branded philanthropy, memorabilia acquisition strategy, food and beverage offerings and the development of the company's iconic merchandise line.

Prior to this Dee held two positions at Levi Strauss & Company, the first as global marketing director-digital where he was responsible for developing and establishing a worldwide visionary approach to digital and traditional media for the company, and the second as vice president, he led the Levi's brand through a series of key turnaround initiatives in marketing.

Dee began his career as a media and account executive for the advertising agency Foote, Cone & Belding San Francisco. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a BA in Political Science.

"Sean has an impressive background in all aspects of marketing and sales, including brand creation and management," said David Carey.

"Under his leadership Outrigger will be well-positioned globally and regionally with an integrated and effective sales, marketing and brand strategy that will further enhance Outrigger's reputation for hospitality, taking our growing portfolio globally to the next level of excellence."



THE PERFECT PRODUCT: Sean Dee (above) should have little trouble marketing Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.



The Outrigger Group, one of the fastest growing privately-held leisure lodging and global hospitality companies in the Asia-Pacific and Oceania regions, last month launched the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort, Bang Tao Beach.

Outrigger announced its purchase of the 52.25 rai (8.36 hectare), 255-room beachfront property in July of last year.

The privately-held, Hawaii-based firm, with over 65 years of hotel management experience, now has four properties in Asia: Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort, the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, Outrigger Phi Phi Island Beach Resort, and O-CE-N Bali by Outrigger.

— *Phuket Gazette*

In brief...

Honda Green Home in USA

AMERICAN Honda Motor is moving forward with its plans to build a Honda Smart Home US (HSH-US).

The US subsidiary of the Japanese auto giant says the project, to be built on the campus of the University of California, Davis, demonstrates Honda's vision for sustainable, zero-carbon living and personal mobility, including the use of solar power to charge a Honda Fit battery-driven electric vehicle.

Among the many technologies that will be applied are a solar-power system, an energy-management system, high-efficiency heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, a lighting system and direct solar PV-to-vehicle charging.

Honda anticipates construction to be completed by the end of this year.

Last year, Honda unveiled the Honda Smart Home System in the Japanese city of Saitama.

— *The Nation*

BKK Green City plan approved

THE construction of "green" buildings will be boosted by the new "Bangkok, the Green City" plan, which was approved by Cabinet last week.

The goal of the plan is to promote environment-friendly buildings in line with the guidelines of the Thai Green Building Institute by permitting increased floor-area ratios beyond the level allowed for standard buildings. While this will present a challenge for property developers, who will need to increase their budgets to put up green buildings, the aim is to save energy costs in the long term, said Panyapas Nopphan, deputy director-general of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's City Planning Department.

The new plan will be vetted by municipal authorities before officially taking effect to replace the current plan, which expires on May 15.

— *The Nation*

Tune Hotel rocks Patong

THE Tune Hotel Patong has taken the main stage of one of the world's most renowned resort islands by storm, with a new focus on real value and more choices for savvy travelers.

Tune Hotel Patong is perfectly situated for guests to kick off their stay in the heart of Phuket's vibrant local dining and shopping precinct. It is located within walking distance of the beach, nightlife and Jungceylon shopping mall.

The popular lifestyle brand offers travelers serious value for money and Tune Hotel Patong is set to add to its hit parade with the in-house opening of the first Phuket branch of the popular Korean coffee shop Tom N Toms in July.

Owned and managed by Red Planet Hotels, the 144-room hotel has welcomed over 15,000 guests in the past three months alone. Guests from Thailand, China, Malaysia, UK, Australia, France, Indonesia and Russia lead the nationalities pouring into the property.

Red Planet Hotels Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Mark Armsden, said the rapid success of the Patong property had



Everything you need, nothing you don't; part launch pad, part crash pad.

been a great accomplishment for Tune Hotels and further confirmation that the brand was right on song in delivering what travelers want – real value, more choices and more time to engage with the destination.

"Tune gives you a great night's sleep in a custom-made bed, a power shower, a location in the heart of the action and unrivaled value. With the money guests save by choosing Tune as their hotel, they can spend more time exploring the amazing array of local dining adventures, island

hopping, shopping or indulging in the island's famous nightlife," said Mr Armsden.

Tune Hotel Patong, Phuket is the latest addition to the fast-growing Tune Hotels portfolio in Thailand, joining hotels in prime locations in Bangkok, Pattaya and Hat Yai, and a rapidly expanding regional presence.

Mr Armsden said Red Planet Hotels saw Thailand as a key development market for the Tune brand and its pioneering approach to value hospitality.

— *Phuket Gazette*

LaGuna

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Gold plunges to 33 year low

THE PAST month has not been kind to anyone who has bought gold recently. With a nearly 9% loss since its January peak, and nearly 14% from last September's, of late, the precious metal has been anything but.

Last week it had its largest one-day percentage decline since February 28, 1983. For the past 20 months, the price of gold has failed to make a new high since peaking in 2011. With all the hype surrounding gold, gold ATMs (yes they have ATMs to buy gold directly), and my phone ringing at least five times a month from people wanting to buy gold, it appears to have topped and the neckline is now broken. There has been a mania as gold climbed higher and higher. The worst part for holders of gold is that it doesn't even pay a dividend.

I consider gold to be a 'fear trade'. When the investing herd or crowd is scared they buy the shiny stuff because they feel better, since it is tangible. Look at the chart above and notice the price of gold took off on a 10-year spurt right after the dot-com bubble burst in the year 2000 (Fear 1), then when the 9-11 terror attacks occurred (Fear 2). When hurricane Katrina hit the US (Fear 3) and the Great Recession in 2008 (Fear 4), gold climbed the 'fear index'. Note that during this 11-year run, the US stock market went sideways and consolidated its gains after a strong run from 1975 to 2000.

In 2010, I taught a series of investment courses at Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Phuket. For two years now I have been telling clients and people to avoid all gold exposure. All the while, I've been saying that gold had peaked and investors need to increase their stock exposure. The bull market in stocks began in 2008 and we are just now entering a period of increased optimism. This will bring in a period of good feelings where investors return to the stock market. They'll begin to buy and move cash out of the bomb shelter (gold and cash) and into funds and take

Island Investor

By Don Freeman

risks. The 'fear' or gold trade is now dead and a great bull run in stocks has begun.

Gold price fluctuation is nothing more than a graph of fear. When investors begin to feel good about investing in stocks and the economy in general this 'fear index' will decline, as we are now seeing since 2011. Gold investors are panicking and now we have seen a drop below critical support levels. I expect gold to lag equities for many years to come and global stocks to move much higher.

When the bull market in stocks began in 1980, stocks rose for 20 years as we climbed the excitement, thrill and euphoria stages. During this same time the price of gold went sideways and did nothing for 20 years. I expect a similar hibernation for gold now.

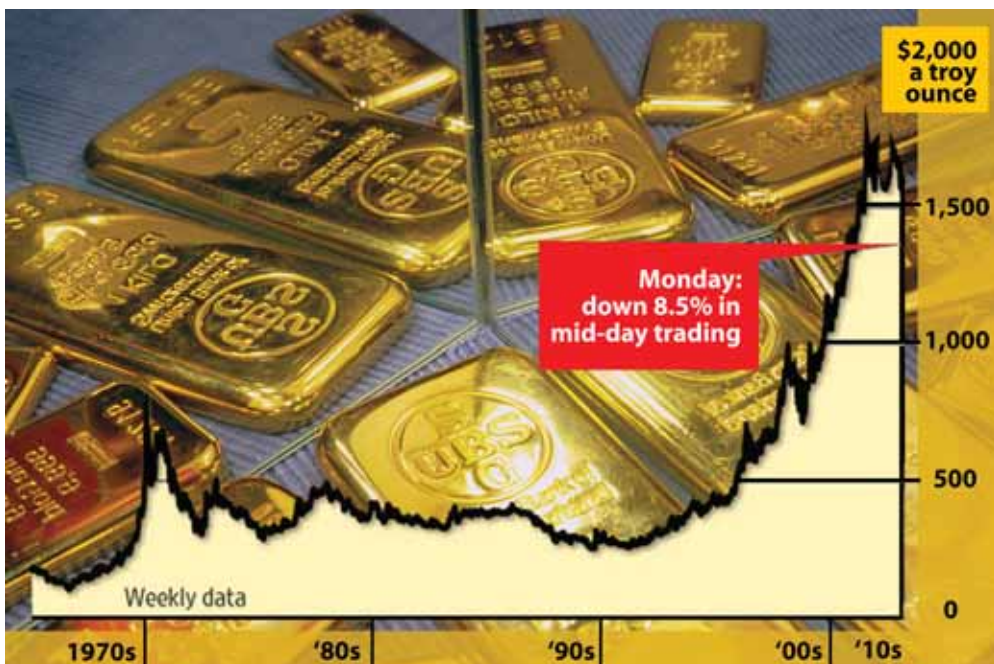
A large reason for the recent bull run in gold prices had been the development of the ETF for gold. It allowed investors to buy gold like a stock. As money went into this ETF, more and more gold was bought, pushing up the price. Now that many of these investors have been burned with their gold holdings, look for gold to continue to sell off as investors in these ETFs unload their gold holdings.

With the clear break down last week, gold is not a wise investment for your portfolio. Stock, funds and equities should be bought now. The US stock market is now on the verge of breaking out to new highs after consolidating for 12 long years. I will be an aggressive buyer of US and global stocks and funds in the weeks ahead. The decline in gold is a welcome sign that there is less global fear.

There is increased optimism about global economies and that is good for stocks. Any rally in the price of gold is to be sold into. I suggest anyone holding gold to exit now before prices go much lower. If you would like to discuss the gold market and the outlook for stocks, feel free to give me a call, email or hit me up on Skype. I can suggest ways to exit your gold and transition into stocks and collect dividends to live on here in Thailand.



PONDERING: The sharp drop in the gold price has led many to reevaluate their investment in the precious metal. Photo: Lee Haywood



Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience

and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

TBank loan's boom

THANACHART Bank's lending to small and medium-sized enterprises this year has a good chance of exceeding the target of 90 billion baht. Lending in the first four months of 2013 is already 84bn baht against year's target of 90 bn baht.

This is thanks to its business plan for the remaining months of the year to finance university student apartments and aggressively pursue auto-related business.

After targeting outstanding SME loans of 90bn baht for the entire year, the figure in the first four months alone reached 84bn baht, said Jiratchayuth Amyongka, head of SME banking. TBank adjusted its SME portfolio last year by moving some customers to corporate loans to set a strategy to advance the SME segment. He said the board had given the green light to the SME banking division to

provide loans for university-student apartments in the country's education hubs.

TBank conducted a study in this field and found that the supply of student apartments was insufficient, he said. The number of new university students increases by 10 per cent a year, and new accommodation for them is not keeping pace.

"We will provide loans to apartment developers based in education hubs. In the northern region, potential locations are around Chiang Mai University and Payap University. In the Northeast, apartments near Khon Kaen University are the focus," he said.

The lending will be divided into two types. First is project financing to apartment developers, for which sales teams from TBank in Bangkok will help teams in provincial branches. Second is working capital, for which

provincial sales teams can approve loans themselves through the scorecard system. Working-capital loans will provide a credit line of up to 10mn baht, while the figure will be above 10mn baht for project financing; for which apartment developers will require annual turnover of 600mn baht.

Jiratchayuth said the bank would add two business-centre branches to the five currently operating to support lending to SMEs in the provinces.

Another key strategy this year is auto-related business, which also will help strengthen SME lending. TBank is already the leader in installment lending, and other auto-related businesses such as garages will be the focus as well. He said such businesses had good potential to service vehicles purchased under last year's first-car tax-break scheme.

— The Nation

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Tourist Court pie in the sky

RECENT talk of establishing a special court to fast-track legal cases involving foreign visitors (*see page 1*) raises some interesting issues, but at the end of the day is unlikely to result in little more than that: just talk.

The reasons put forward to establish such a court are probably well-intended and certainly easy enough to understand. Thailand's tourism industry is a key generator of revenue, probably the main reason behind the baht's sustained resurgence against most other major foreign currencies since the dark days of the "Tom Yum Kung" financial crisis that befell much of the region in 1997.

Due to Thailand's enduring attractiveness to foreign visitors, the baht continues to inch closer to the fixed 25 baht to US\$1 exchange rate that was in place for many years before that economic collapse.

Since 1997, Thailand's attractiveness and good value for money have been more than enough to offset any number of negative factors that might deter foreigners from considering the Kingdom as their destination of choice: political instability, including rioting; arson attacks and shooting murders on the streets of Bangkok; one of Asia's deadliest ethnic insurgencies in the Deep South provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat; unprecedented flooding and other natural and man-made disasters.

The number of crises that the Thai tourism industry has managed to overcome over the past two decades is now far too extensive to list on a tourist-oriented T-shirt of the kind that appeared on the streets of Patong after the 2004 tsunami disaster. The momentum of the Thai tourism juggernaut is reflected in the Ministry of Tourism and Sports' bold prediction of a record-breaking tourist arrival figure of 24 million by the end of 2013.

Of course the sheer number of foreign visitors makes it inevitable that ever more tourists will end up in the last place they would ever choose when planning their perfect Thai holiday: entangled in the Kingdom's notoriously slow criminal justice system, where some cases can linger for over a decade before resolution — a time period very different from that typically meted out in the form of "permits to stay" granted to foreign tourists by Immigration.

The main reason that a tourist court will never happen is simple: bureaucratic inertia. It is easy for the Tourism and Sports Minister to say that having one would be nice, but getting monolithic institutions like the Justice Ministry and Royal Thai Police to take action without any real economic inducements seems unlikely indeed.

For this reason we will place the Tourist Court in the same file with so many other tourism related, pie-in-the-sky projects that have never come to fruition: the Phuket International Convention Center, "Monkey Island" and of course a safe and reasonably-priced public transport system.



Don't coddle Thai guides, teach them

Granted, some Thais speak Mandarin, but how many Thais speak Russian, Japanese, Korean, French or German?

The Thais complaining about [foreign guides] are in the stone age.

I am sure foreign tourists want to hear their own language spoken clearly on tours rather than poorly.

Better to educate the Thais than protect them like disadvantaged children.

*Lost In Translation
Gazette Forum*

Not so fast with that boob job

Re: Gazette online, Phuket boob job holiday? This round's on me, April 29

There are many good surgeons in Thailand for breast augmentation but I doubt you can have it done one day and sit by the pool drinking cocktails the next day.

Alcohol is to be avoided for at least two weeks following such operations!

*Claire Mier
Gazette Forum*

Get real with public transport

Re: Phuket Gazette, Phuket Opinion: Speak up for public transport, April 20

Chief Transport Technician Jaturong Kaewkasi does everything but take any responsibility for the ever-worsening traffic congestion in Phuket.

His whole article is based on the falsity that there is a functioning public transport system in Phuket.

He blames certain companies that offer low downpayments on vehicles and implicitly blames the public for buying them.

He blames the public for not "speaking up" about improving public transportation, unlike the

Letters to the Editor

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

private interest groups that oppose the new airport bus service.

At the same time, he feels the Land Transport Department does "a good job in terms of seats, safety and information".

What is he talking about? Surely he is not referring to the rickety collection of *songtaew*-style buses that collect at the market?

Please get real. Take responsibility and create an efficient, regular and cheap bus service.

It will take a huge investment but it will have enormous benefit for Phuket in the future.

*Chris Stark
Phuket*

Editorial is right on

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Plenty to do, if you can get there, April 28

Good editorial. It is true that there is no viable or honest public transportation for a tourist here.

My family and I have been staying at Surin Beach for a week and have given up trying to go anywhere other than where we can walk to. In Surin, that is not much.

We have grown tired of the beach now and ready to go back home. Very disappointing. Also disappointed in our hotel, whose website did not tell us about this when we booked.

*Carol Williams
Gazette Forum*

Thanks Woody

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Tech: Woody retires but 'Live Wire' lives on, April 30

Woody, there aren't enough

characters available with the Phuket Gazette to express my respect for your priceless input over the years.

Your advice and guidance has always given good and valid direction to us less knowledgeable folks.

I'm pleased to hear that you aren't disappearing off the radar!

I wish you all the very best, and enjoy your retirement.

*Paul
Gazette Forum*

Silly cyber-crime law requirement

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Tech: Cyber-crime law being revised, May 1

While there are many, many problems with the cyber-crime law, the one that gets me the most is the requirement for open internet shops to keep track of who is using their systems.

In theory, every WiFi hotspot should have a log of all the people who sign in to the hotspot, as well as copies of ID cards and passports.

That's just silly. Nobody does it, and the requirement just makes open WiFi that much harder.

*Live Wire
Gazette Forum*

Inaccurate headline

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Video Report: Lucky sidecar driver saved by call of nature, April 29

The headline is very misleading: If the motorcycle driver had continued on with his journey, instead of stopping to answer the call of nature, his rig would not have rolled out of control to wind up under the wheels of a much bigger rig.

Try this: "Careless motorcycle driver endangers the lives of others".

*Anthony Lawson
Gazette Forum*

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News Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli
News Manager: Chris Husted
Features Editor: Marc Mulloy

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

Contact us:

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

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

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Using CCTV to prevent hotel crime, not solve it

FIRST PERSON

MORE than ten hotel and resort robberies were carried out in the last three months – this is a serious problem that needs solutions.

Owners of resorts and hotels can't just sit back and expect the police to take care of this problem.

The number of tourists visiting Phuket is growing every year, but the number of police officers is not changing, which makes it more difficult for them to guarantee the safety of all of our guests and their belongings.

Officers are doing their best, but people in the hospitality industry need to make efforts to boost their security as well.

For example, when they experience re-occurring crimes, they need to figure out how to close the loopholes in their security systems.

The best way for hotels to close these loopholes and protect their guests is to proactively and effectively use CCTV.

Usually CCTV cameras are checked after a robbery takes place, when really the focus should be on crime prevention.

Using CCTV footage to track down a thief is hard work, especially because thieves know they need to obscure their faces by wearing masks, glasses or helmets.

I have actually seen CCTV footage where a brazen thief waved to the camera.

Instead of checking the CCTV footage after a robbery, hotels should have security guards constantly monitoring the cameras. This way, guards would be able



Phuket Tourism Association (PTA) Vice President **Bhuritt Maswongssa**, 51, is also the Vice Chairman of Patong Resort Hotel. He received law degrees from both Ngee Ann College in Singapore and Ramkhamhaeng University in Thailand.

In the wake of a recent spate of hotel robberies across the island, he discusses how to boost hotel and resort security (see page 6).

to spot suspicious people who have gotten into a hotel and could notify other guards to keep an eye on the person, possibly stopping a crime before it happens.

You can never be sure when a crime will happen, so even when everything seems normal, constantly and diligently monitoring CCTV is essential.

After a successful robbery, thieves know more about a hotel's security system. They know the weak points in the system, and they know that the CCTV cameras aren't being monitored.

We need to be smart and careful when designing hotel and resort security systems.

We need to think of the situation from a thief's perspective.

It's important for us to try and imagine how he will conduct a robbery so we can take steps ahead of time to prevent them.

In addition to using technology like CCTV, hotel staff should keep an eye on suspicious guests or situations.

Guards especially should be careful and observant. But really, all hotel staff should take note of all guests who act

strangely, even those who visit the hotel often or seem wealthy – a person that does not look like a thief might be the most dangerous person in the lobby.

Sometimes criminals will pretend to be tourists or officers, so hotel staff must be alert at all times.

Staff should not just keep an eye on guests, they should also keep watch over their colleagues.

If they know other staff members well, they will be able to spot a co-worker acting suspiciously.

By simply keeping an eye on each other they can help prevent inside jobs.

The last security concern that hotels should look at is infrastructure.

Hotels should not have any dark areas or CCTV blind spots that would allow thieves to easily commit crimes.

By having the proper infrastructure, CCTV coverage and diligent staff, hotels can boost the level of safety they provide to guests – the key is to be proactive in crime prevention.



There can be too much of a good thing. Photo: Thynus/Wikimedia Commons

For the love of Bob

Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

MANY years ago, backpacking through Malaysia, I found myself at a hostel one night swapping stories and listening to a fellow traveller playing guitar and singing.

When the dreadlocked musician asked if any of us had any requests I jumped in with "play some Bob Marley" assuming that he would have at least a dozen Marley songs in his repertoire.

His response, "No way, I hate Bob Marley", shocked and baffled me; how could anyone hate Bob Marley? It wasn't until I moved to Phuket that I finally understood how a person could come to hate the King of Reggae.

When I first arrived here, I was staying in a cheap hotel in close proximity to several reggae bars.

Being a reggae fan, I thought "well, even if the music is a bit loud, at least it will be a type that I enjoy".

Little did I know that in Phuket the musical genre known as reggae is actually shorthand for Bob Marley, and despite his vast catalogue of songs, it seems that only ten of his greatest hits ever made the journey from Jamaica to Phuket.

So after the hundredth repetition of 'No Woman, No Cry' at ear-piercing volume at 2 o'clock in the morning, I have come to understand and empathize with the musician I met all those years ago.

Now, my lifelong love of Bob Marley's music has all but ended and I find myself crossing the street to avoid reggae bars pumping out non-stop Marley.

It has come to the point where I am pondering the possibility of setting up a charitable "Save Bob" foundation, with the aim of replacing all Bob Marley CDs on the island with mix CDs containing a wide range of reggae music, not to mention its offspring genres such as dancehall, one drop and dub.

So to all owners of reggae bars in Phuket I beg of you, for the love of Bob, find some new reggae music!

Issues & Answers...

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

Is my deposit safe in a Thai bank?

Deposits in banks in my country are guaranteed by the government up to US\$250,000.

If I deposit money in a Thai bank, is it guaranteed? If so, up to what amount?

Lumpoon Chalong

An officer at the Bank of Thailand replies:

Money deposited in Thai banks is guaranteed by law as follows:

- Up to 50 million baht on all deposits from August 11, 2012 to August 10, 2015
- Up to 25 million baht on all deposits from August 11, 2015 to August 10, 2016
- Up to 1 million baht on all deposits from August 11, 2016 onwards

This coverage applies to 36

Thai banks as listed on the Deposit Protection Agency website.

All deposits at the following state-owned banks are 100 per cent guaranteed:

- Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives
- Government Savings Bank
- Government Housing Bank
- Islamic Bank of Thailand

The guarantee of large deposits was introduced after the European financial crisis in 2009 in order to boost confidence and encourage investors to use Thai banking institutions.

Guarantees are now slowly being returned to pre-crisis levels.

Coverage is being removed for deposits of more than one million baht because, according to our statistics, 98.5 per cent of accounts at Thai banks have balances of less than one million baht.

Any deposits exceeding the amounts listed above can be claimed during the liquidation process.

When you may refuse a police search

Recently I was again stopped by police close to my house and searched. They went through my pockets, wallet, my motorcycle and frisked me as well. It is a very unpleasant experience.

What are my rights under these circumstances? Can I refuse the search? Can I demand representation?

Tom Kathu

Phuket City Police chief Col Sermphan Sirikong replies:

No person can refuse to be searched by an officer at a checkpoint.

The Royal Thai Police are empowered by a Cabinet resolution and through the Internal Security Operations Command to set up checkpoints and search people.

We do not need a warrant from

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

the court to search people at checkpoints in any public area because the checkpoint serves to protect public safety.

Werapong Khaokhawong, an officer at the Ministry of Justice's Rights and Liberties Protection Department Phuket Office, replies:

It is very important to cooper-

ate with police conducting searches. They do so to improve public safety and to prevent crime in the area.

Also, Section 138 of Thailand's Penal Code states that anyone obstructing an officer in the exercise of his functions faces a year in prison, a fine of 2,000 baht or both.

However, if you are not in a public area and a person identifies himself as a law enforcement officer and asks to search you, you have the right to ask that person to show you identification to confirm he is indeed a law enforcement official.

You also have the right to ask to see the warrant empowering that officer to search you.

If he can not present the correct identification and search warrant, you have the right to refuse to be searched.

YOUR Phuket

Sansiri, sponsor of the Thailand Optimist National Championships 2013, invited the Phuket Gazette to Pattaya



Top of the Gulf: Sansiri's Social Director Ob-oom Chutrakul (second from left) congratulates Pongsapat Pumyam (third from left) - winner of the Thailand Optimist National Championships 2013.



Kamonwan 'Joy' Prasitwuttivech, senior PR manager of the corporate marketing department at Sansiri PLC poses with an optimist.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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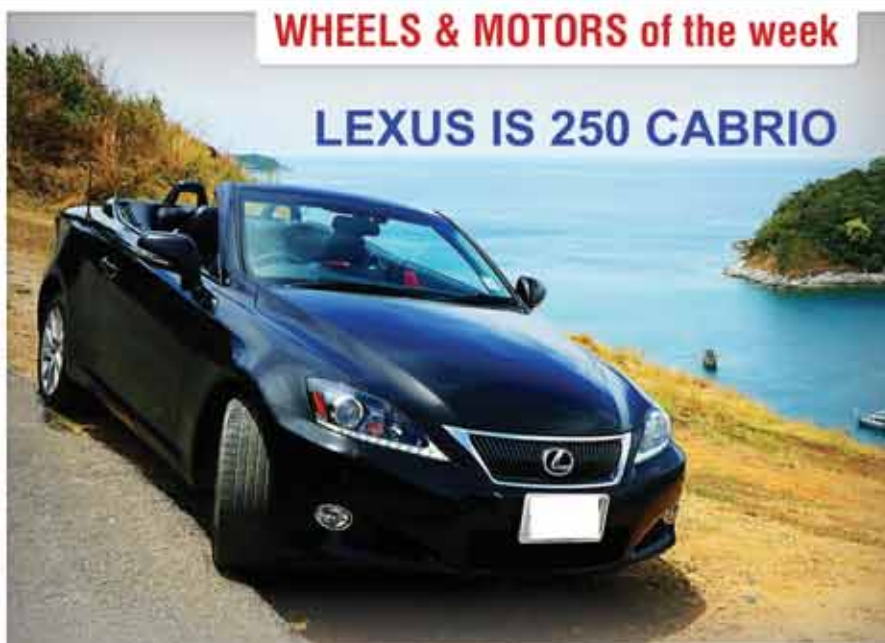
BOAT of the week



See page 31

WHEELS & MOTORS of the week

LEXUS IS 250 CABRIO



See page 30

JOB of the week

Absolute.
WORLD

See page 27

PROPERTY of the week



Land / Plot For Sale

See page 23

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

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Properties For Sale

LAND ON KOH LON ISLAND



Flat land for sale. 3 rai, 150m from beach. Price: 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: kohlon@hotmail.com

BALINESE INSPIRED POOL VILLA

Seaview, Kalim, Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, stunning views day and night. Tel: 087-623 6425. See pictures and details at our website: <http://seaview-villa-in-phuket.com>.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

D CONDO 1, KATHU

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

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no 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.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



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

HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Chino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 Ngarn, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

PATONG BEAUTIFUL CONDOS

Freehold, sell together or separate. Tel: 088-846 3467 (English). Email: sellingcartel@hotmail.com

RENT 3 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS

Furnished. Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. Tel: 083-649 1218.

KRABI, AO NANG

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

HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



Opposite to Big C, one bedroom with nice view includes furniture. Price: 3.8 million. Negotiable. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



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

LAND AND HOUSE CHEAP

Ao Nang, 4, 9, 12 rai, Chanotes, starting at 500,000 baht per rai. House with 3 bedrooms: 5 million baht. Family problems, must sell. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-850 2499 (English). Email: mrpaulsmallman@gmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

LAND FOR SALE OR RENT

Near Ban Kalai (15 minutes from airport), 85 rai, two lots, Chanote. Very beautiful and good for any purpose. 350,000 baht per rai o.n.o. Email: phuketmark@yahoo.co.uk

NEW TOWNHOUSE AT PHUKET TOWN

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

NAI HARN BEACH CONDO

2-bed condo, 146sqm, ground floor unit, 3 mins walk from beach. Fully furnished. Large common pool. Only 7 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

KAMALA LODGINGS

A new development comprising 10 units, each with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 90sqm townhouses for sale in Kamala. Priced at 5.495 million baht. Tel: 076-349660. Fax: 076-292772. Email: leehunt.home@msn.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

URGENT SALE/RENT



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

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4 BED, 4 BATH SECURE VILLA

10 minutes to international schools, 15 minutes to Patong and Central, aircons, pool, sala, fully furnished. 14.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900 (English), +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai). Fax: +61-86-161 2691. Email: donmountford@gmail.com

NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH



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

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KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Secure, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.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

URGENT RENT/ SALE



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-4769612.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



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

KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

For rent, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, access, 4km to BIS, overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course, quiet, on top of private hill, secure, maid, furnished, WiFi. 1 year lease: 32,000 baht per month. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

LOVELY HOUSE 14,000 BAHT/MONTH

Furnished, WiFi, cable TV, pool. Near Chalong Marina. Tel: 089-475 1200. Email: info@welcome-inn.com

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Start from 12,000-18,000 baht per month. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Bang Tao Beach, 2 bedrooms, quiet area, furnished, Sat TV, ADSL. Tel: 090-156 7927.

APARTMENT KATA BEACH

For rent. Fully furnished, aircon, fan, WiFi, kitchen, jacuzzi. Available now. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

For rent, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, access, 4km to BIS, overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course, quiet, on top of private hill, secure, maid, furnished, WiFi. 1-year lease: 32,000 baht per month. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



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

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.

BEACH HOUSE & CONDO

Beach house in Cape Panwa. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, kitchen and dining room for 12 people, outdoor relax room for sunset meetings. No pool. 45,000 baht per month. Separate condo with 1 bedroom, 1 living room and dining room, 1 bathroom, private porch. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-471 7629 (English), 084-520 5013 (English & Thai). Email: per.benckert@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketbeachliving.com

7 BEDROOMS WITH GOLF VIEW

Large house with golf view in Anuphas Golf Ville. Quiet, private swimming pool, close to all shopping malls and international school. Call 081-271 3228 or email: info@procarpentering.com for more info.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

FOR RENT

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

CONDO FOR RENT

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Also gym and swimming pool. In Phuket Town. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

KATA HOLIDAY APARTMENTS

1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, modern, apartments and pool penthouses. Free WiFi, 5 minutes walk to 2 beaches + town. Email: resortgm@gmail.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

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

Luxury apartment, pool, WiFi, cable. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

SURIN BEACH APT [LOFTS]

The Lofts apartments are situated on the beach road in Surin which is fast developing into one of the trendiest areas of Phuket. Overlooking the Kings Park, location of Phuket's first golf course, now a public park, these apartments puts you 100m from Surin Beach. The apartments are accessed through a code panel lock with remote entry possible from the apartment for visitors. The apartments are situated above Steakhouse and Lemon Grass House. A penthouse is available. Tel: 076-386537, 086-120 0298 (English), 080-995 8609 (Thai). Fax: 076-386537. Email: info@rentalpropertyphuket.com Website: www.rentalpropertyphuket.com

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

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



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

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

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

ARCHITECT

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

ACCOUNTING BOOKKEEPER

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

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

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.

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

HOUSEKEEPER

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

MAID WANTED

Thai maid wanted for holiday villa in Surin. Live in or live out; must speak a little bit of English and have experience. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-693 1621 (Thai). Email: Kamalabeach@hotmail.com

GUEST SERVICE MANAGER

Mangosteen Resort & Ayurveda Spa requires a female guest services manager for Resort and Vacation Club. Duties will involve confirming guests' appointments upon arrival, liaising with sales team and resort staff. Outgoing personality & excellent communication skills in English a must. Experience in the Vacation Ownership Industry preferred. Excellent basic Salary plus commission. Tel: 076-289 399. Fax: 076-289389. Please contact: rm@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.mangosteen-phuket.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

WORK WANTED

Thai lady, speaks English, experienced, cook, maid, babysitter, can live in, looking for part-time job. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

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

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@phuket-condos-homes.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

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

PROMOTERS WANTED

Popular bar for young "Farangs" looking for dynamic people to do promotion. Residents and travellers welcome to apply. Tel: 081-958 5394 (English). Email: collinniemi@gmail.com

FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

MAINTENANCE MANAGER NEEDED

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

OAK MEADOW INTERNATIONAL

The following positions are open in our school:

- Qualified Thai Teacher
- Cook

- Cleaning lady

Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com

ADMIN & COORDINATOR STAFF

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

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, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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

ITALIAN SALES CONSULTANT

Experienced Italian sales representative is needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Italian are required. Highest commission on the island awaits the right candidate. T81-968 5963. Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Thai citizen, aged 21-40, basic computer skills, good spoken English. Salary is 12,000 baht + big commissions on sales. Tel: 076-333079. 080-698 8335, 082-417 9299. Email: iphone.dez@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Thai trainee housekeeper, English speaking, start from 10,000 baht, nice increase and work place. Tel: 081-787 9774. Email: phukettreasure@gmail.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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

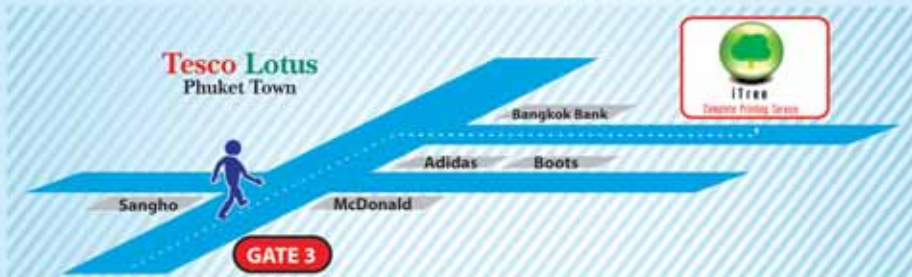
KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

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Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

STAFF WANTED

Cashier, Waiters, Thai cook, Cleaner. Location: Kata-Karon.
Tel: 081-895 5852 (English), 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

Small business company accountant needed. Daily duties will include project administration and office accounting. Friendly team and excellent salary based on experience. Tel: 076-206707, 084-844 6246. Email: rogerg@seamarine services.com

ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a new assistant branch manager to join our latest branch at Cherng Talay. 20,000 baht + excellent commission. Please send your resume or call us. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

MARKETING MANAGER

Rental management company based in Rawai seeks an experienced Marketing Manager. The candidate will be responsible for marketing communications, advertising and promotional activities both online and offline. Sales and marketing experience in the tourist market is essential. Applying foreigners must have their own company. Tel: 076-383435. Forward CV via email. Email: eb@ebnet work. it

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

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR

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

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

สำนักงานทนายความ บริษัท อินเตอร์ เนชั่นแนล

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd. OPEN POSITION (Patong Office)**• Office Assistant****Qualifications:**

- Female with bachelor's degree
- Administrative background and fluency in English will be advantageous
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work well under pressure and to strict deadlines
- Computer skills

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: bernd@ilo-phuket.com; sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

55 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong sub-district, Kathu district, Phuket province
Tel: 66-76-344180 to 1, 340 731
Fax: 66-76-340767

Location Patong Branch, Phuket, Thailand

Absolute WORLD**WE ARE CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS IN ASIA**

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Are you someone who won't take **NO** for an answer?

If so, then read on...

Due to further expansion in Asia we currently have immediate openings for Sales Representatives and working TO's in Bali, Indonesia. This is a superb opportunity to become part of a busy sales team with one of the finest brands in Asia.

Sales Applicants should be

- Highly motivated with excellent communication skills both written and oral
- Fun, energetic and committed to customer satisfaction, a real people person
- Success driven, stable & reliable
- A natural ability to overcome objections
- No experience in the industry is required as you will receive full training to build a career in an exciting environment

As well as the above, we are accepting applications for Sales Management positions. Management applicants should have the following attributes

- A proven track record of Sales Management and results
- Ability to motivate a multi-national sales team

For immediate consideration please send a recent CV to careers@absoluteworld.net to arrange a confidential interview

DIVE AND SURFSHOP

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

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

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

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.

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. Applications are now invited for the following positions.

Part-Time Mandarin Teacher

This is a part-time position working primarily with children aged between 7 and 11 years old. The starting date is August 2013.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Education.
- Good Command of spoken and written English.
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Responsible, flexible and proactive.

BIS-Phuket Flying Fish Swim Team is seeking a Squad Level Swim Coach for its expanding team.**Job Specification to include:**

Assisting in the design, planning and implementation of the Flying Fish program. Being Responsible for teaching/coaching young swimmers and developmental age group athletes.

Requirements:

1. Thai National with Swimming certification and/or experience in age group coaching.
2. Enthusiastic when working with children and a passion for teaching/coaching swimming.

Due to the nature of the position, applicants will be expected to work a flexible schedule (afternoons, evenings, some early mornings and occasional weekends).

Applicants must have a minimum of two years teaching experience. Please email a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees.

For Part-Time Mandarin applications send to Headmaster@bisphuket.ac.th

Squad Level Swim Coach applications send to pattamar@bisphuket.ac.th

or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th Applications close May 31st, 2013. Early applications are encouraged as an appointment may be made immediately to the right candidate.



Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bisphuket.ac.th

CUSTOMER RELATIONS @ RESORT

Health Resort Customer Relations & Sales Rep. Fluent English speaker & experience required. (Good salary & benefits). Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailand camp.com

REAL ESTATE RENTAL AGENT

Thai national, must have car, be professional. 20,000 baht. Salary + commission. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

GIGONG / TAICHI TEACHER

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

TEACHERS WANTED

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

DJ NEEDED

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

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: 084-689 4658 (English), 087-290 1019 (Thai). Email: Malin@vertigophuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.vertigo-phuket.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is now looking for native English teachers. Degree, TEFL and teaching experience are required. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Qualified teachers please send your CV with recent photo to info@brainy-house.com



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

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. Tel: 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@worldwidealoha.com

MINI LATHE SALE

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

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

POOL TABLE, FRIDGES

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

KITCHEN HARDWARE

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

SHISHA & HOOKAHS

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

MASSAGE / BEAUTY SALON

Top location in Kata for sale. Can sell 50% this year and the rest later. Contact Ulf for information. Tel: 087-281 7233.

COMPANY FOR SALE

Big discount on startup companies. Good name, paperwork, advice on accountant. Call for more details. Tel: 084-063 0620.

BAR FOR SALE SOI BEL AIR

Busy mushroom-style bar for sale. All stock, fridges and sound system included. Price: 600,000 baht o.n.o. Rent: only 10,000 baht per month. All licences paid up until end of 2013. For more information, please call 086-725 0771 (English). Email: warrenmecca4@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

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

BAKERY & RESTAURANT FOR RENT

3 years on contract or more. Ao-nang, Krabi, great location amidst lush garden surroundings. Fully furnished and equipped, ready to move in. For more information please call 075-637190, 086-270 8223.

Business Opportunities

LUXURY RESTAURANT RAWAI

Luxury restaurant and bar for sale, on the beachfront of Rawai, furnished. Tel: 081-583 5169 (English). Email: lan.projected@gmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

For immediate sale. Kata-Karon. For more information, please call 090-176 7364. Email: dhabirwaiba@hotmail.com

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.

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

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

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.

TOUR SHOP PATONG

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

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.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

RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN CHALONG

Located next to Ao Chalong Sauna. Including company with 2 work permits. Price: 600,000 baht only. Tel: 081-893 4900 (English).

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

OTOP BAR FOR SALE

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

INBOUND COMPANY FOR SALE

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

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

KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

HOTEL WITH RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

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).

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

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.

INVESTOR NEEDED URGENTLY

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

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

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

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T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



Business Products & Services

FAST-FOOD COOK

New burger restaurant opening soon, located at Soi Bangla, Patong. Tel: 087-080 4258 (English), 081-737 5684 (Thai).

FINE ART SERVICE

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

SUSHI BOX FRANCHISE AVAILABLE

Central Festival, Koh Samui. Opening Jan 2014. Excellent opportunity. Contact Brain Gray. Tel: 087-080 4258. Email: sushiboxthailand@gmail.com

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

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Events massage in your place. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000hr. Thai traditional massage: 500hr. Open daily 10am-10pm. To make a reservation, please call 090-879 6421.

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Computers, etc

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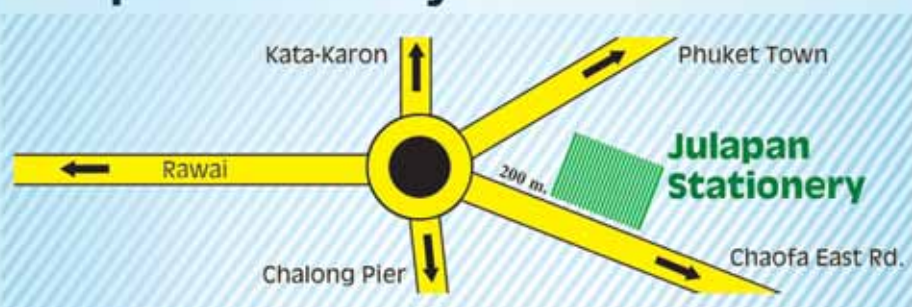
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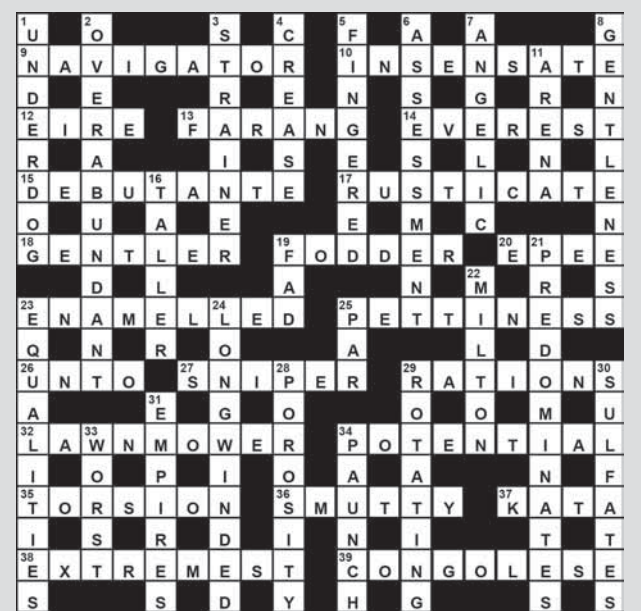
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THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S Cryptic Crossword

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TECNAM P-92

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

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

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

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Government hosts social function to celebrate Coronation Day here in Phuket

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut chaired the celebrations to honor His Majesty The King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Coronation Day. Joining him were Phuket Red Cross president Pavinee Inthusut (Governor Maitri's wife), Phuket Red Cross deputy president Wipapan Kusuwan and other Phuket officials.



CHECK OUT: 96,000 baht was raised at the recent Phuket Invitational Rally, 80,000 of which was handed over to the Life Home Project charity. From left are Jum Ali Khan; Valentine Guytonbeck; John Devenport, H I ne Fallon-Wood and Alan Collinge. Photo: Marc Mulloy



C'EST BON: PYP 4 and 5 students singing *L'Ecole est finie* during French Assembly at PIADS.

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The Art of food

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

WHEN checking in on Facebook one often comes across photographs of food; meals about to be consumed at restaurants and in homes. With the advent of 'smart phones' it seems everyone now has a camera ready to snap a shot of their dinner or their cat or even their cat's dinner.

Among my Facebook friends is local artist Jayda Ponlid who posts photos of food regularly, interspersed with images of her artwork. These photos show large quantities of food being prepared and while finding out why this was so, I became a regular visitor to her 'Kitchen of Love'.

Jayda, is a very popular and very active person and uses the social network to inform her 2,300-plus followers of her daily activities.

So when her fiancé, Thiwa Wa Singha, lovingly cooked traditional Thai specialties for her, using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients she posted photos of these offerings online. Immediately some of her friends and fans wanted the recipes and even asked if she could send some of the beautifully prepared food to them to taste. When one particularly well-heeled fan in Bangkok pleaded that she share this food, stating that money was no object, Jayda looked into the possibilities of sending food to the capital and decided to treat this as an art project. Her first dish, a pineapple fried rice, was flown to the capital for 1000 baht a box including delivery.

A year on, their 'Kitchen of Love' now sends out orders all over Thailand. Her regular clients include famous Thai movie and TV stars, singers and even royalty, but Jayda insists that she does not do this only for money and limits the orders to 29 people a day which is the maximum amount Jayda and her fiancé can cope with, in order to add the magic ingredient that has people ordering weeks in advance. That ingredient is love.

"When my fiancé started cooking for me I enjoyed it so much that I pretended I couldn't cook. He is an artist like myself and each dish was made with such feeling that eventually I had to own up that I also knew how to cook and then cooked for him," said Jayda.

Between them they now have 85 recipes and each time they cook they put all their heart and creativity into the meals, with music in the background and a few dance moves thrown in for measure.

"My mother taught me how to cook when I was very young; it was always a happy time. She used to sing while cooking and explained to

me how she imagined how happy people would be when they tasted her food. Maybe these are old fashioned values, but nowadays people just don't take the time to prepare delicious food and eat together as a family," explains Jayda as she places three huge plates of their 'crab meat spaghetti' on the table in front of us. The generous portions are delicious and packed with huge chunks of crab – more than I have ever had at any traditional restaurant.

Jayda notices my delight and explains that in order to get 25



FOOD LOVERS: Jayda and her fiancé are both accomplished artists as well as chefs. Photos: Marc Mulloy

kilos of crab meat she needs to buy 100 kilos of fresh crab at auction and hires sea gypsies to carefully decorticate the fragile meat. It is this attention to detail and the fact that she is at the fresh market at 4am that I am now tasting and I begin to understand why they limit orders to 29. Given the hours and quality ingredients that go into each dish, prices (which range from 650 to 1,500 baht a dish) are very reasonable.

Phuket customers must make their order online before midnight on Thursday and collect the still-warm prepared food on Friday between 5-10pm. I have done this a few times and have run into a few local celebs, including the owner of a famous five-star resort, arriving at the same time.

Customers from the rest of Thailand get their orders in from Monday to Wednesday and through a complex system of delivery – involving airplanes, motorcycles and dry ice – receive their 'food parcel' at home as can be seen by the photos of happy recipients on her Facebook page.

What started out as a three-week art project has now turned into a thriving business, yet Jayda still finds time to take care of her eight dogs; three kids; art gallery and teaching projects.

And her personal favorite dish? "That would have to be our Andaman Salad because of the colors and taste. In with the multi-colored salad leaves are crab meat, fish, shrimp, seaweed, oysters, shrimp roe and lemon. A feast for the eyes and the palate and a real

taste of Phuket," she enthuses.

As for future projects Jayda and her fiancé have a couple of exhibitions coming up in Bangkok and Taiwan, then plan to instate an intimate single table concept in their own garden where a bespoke romantic evening meal is prepared while the pampered guests chat among the rose bushes knowing that they are the only patrons that evening receiving 100 per cent attention.

Such an evening can only be found at the unique and aptly named 'Kitchen of Love'.

For more information visit Jayda's Facebook page: [facebook.com/JaydaFanclub](https://www.facebook.com/JaydaFanclub) (in Thai), or call her on 089 289 8852 (Jayda speaks good English). The food will need to be picked up near Suan Luang Park.



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INNER PEACE: Yoga classes are popular among men, women and children. The Phuket Health and Fitness Festival appeals to all ages. Photo: Atmanjai



VISION: Michael Massey, director of Atmanjai Wellness Center. Photo: Atmanjai

A festival of fitness for Phuket

By Andrew Scott

THE second Phuket Health and Fitness Festival, on May 18-19, will feature various events and activities, including yoga classes, lectures on well-being, raw food cooking classes, Zumba, a boot camp and the ultimate stand up paddle board (SUP) challenge.

The event aims to give the local community a fun, informative weekend that appeals to all ages, and it is this ethos that helped the Phuket Health and Fitness Festival attract around 200 visitors last year.

Michael Massey, director of Atmanjai Wellness Center and one of the members of the Rawai-Nai Harn Group, who are organizing the festival, believes that this year's event will attract over 400 guests.

Michael outlines why the Rawai-Nai Harn Group decided to start the Phuket Health and Fitness Festival.

"We wanted to create an event for the local community that was different. A lot of places do wine and food based festivals and it seems that this area of the island – Rawai and Nai harn – has become a haven for health and wellness related businesses."

Seminars and lectures at the festival will be given by some of the fitness world's leading lights, such as rock star trainer Hayden Rhodes, who has travelled with rock bands to keep them fit, healthy and sober as much as possible. His talk will help those in attendance get inside secrets from a celebrity trainer and performance coach on the best ways to improve your body, health and energy.

Doctor Larry Nusbaum is coming in from the USA to talk about how it can be very difficult to balance care of yourself with the care of others.

This experiential session will explore this challenge and Dr Larry will help guide his class in a fun and powerful process to help access the seeds of wisdom, inspiration and

balance buried in memories of self-care.

Michael Nour is making the trip down from Bangkok to explain how to achieve Radiant Health in 90 Days. Michael will share the art of designing a lifestyle that naturally leads to radiant health through a transformative approach to improving your life.

A wide range of physical classes, ranging from a Boot Camp Fitness Class led by Ocean Bloom on the beach in front of Friendship Beach Resort, to Kundalini Yoga and meditations run by Sukh Aman

Kaur, will also be held over the weekend.

The 91.5 FM SUP challenge will be held on Sunday, May 19. SUP is very popular on Phuket and most of the people involved in the sport will be at Friendship Beach

resort for this event.

There will be an inter-school SUP competition, learn how to paddle board classes and water safety will be provided by Sea Bees diving. Children can also participate in a Zumba for kids class held by Geti Pici on Sunday morning.

To help promote health and wellness products or services, the festival will host a small trade exhibit based around Friendship Beach Resort.

The Phuket Health and Fitness Festival will be held at O2 Beach Club in Chalong, Serenity Resort and Residences, Friendship Beach Resort and the Mangosteen Resort and Spa in Rawai.

The Phuket Health and Fitness Festival is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58).

For more information on the Phuket Health and Fitness Festival, visit: rawainaiharn.com/health_fitness_2013.htm or [Facebook.com/phukethealthfitnessfestival2013](https://www.facebook.com/phukethealthfitnessfestival2013). Telephone: +66-81-412 5652



Zumba continues to grow in popularity.

Saturday 18 May

07:30 – 08:30

Atmanjai

Fun Hatha Yoga Class Tang Ketnim

Tang Ketnim

08:00 – 09:30

Friendship Beach Resort

Boot Camp Fitness Class Ocean Bloom

Ocean Bloom

10:00 – 11:00

Atmanjai

Zumba Gold Class Geti Pici

Geti Pici

10:00 – 11:30

Mangosteen Resort

Integrating Yoga & Ayurveda Lecture Dr. Subash

Dr. Subash

10:00 – 11:30

O2 Beach Club

Yoga Class with Russian Instruction Laura

Laura

12:00 – 13:30

Serenity Resort

Feldenkrais Class Mandy Kealy

Mandy Kealy

12:00 – 13:30

Atmanjai

Theory of Meditation Tobi Warzinek

Tobi Warzinek

Delicious, Tasty, Fun and Healthy Food Special Set Lunches available @ DaVinci Restaurant

East 88 at Serenity Resort

SuperNatural at Friendship Beach Resort

Mangosteen Resort

Anchor Inn – Chalong Pier Rd

O2 Beach Club – Chalong Pier Rd

14:00 – 15:30

Atmanjai

You Can Do More Mind Detox

Nikorn Banjerdert

14:00 – 15:30

Mangosteen Resort

Marma – Vital Health Points

Dorinda Roseberry

14:00 – 15:30

Serenity Resort

Your 4 Bodies – Talk, Visualisation & Meditation

Laura

14:00 – 15:30

O2 Beach Club

Yoga Class with Russian Instruction

Geti Pici

16:00 – 17:00

Mangosteen Resort

Zumba

Sukh Aman Kaur

16:30 – 18:00

Atmanjai

Kundalini Yoga Class Kundalini Chanting Meditation

Saturday 19 May

07:30 – 08:30

Atmanjai

Fun Hatha Yoga Class

Tang Ketnim

08:00 – 09:30

Friendship Beach Resort

Boot Camp Fitness Class

Ocean Bloom

10:00 – 11:30

Atmanjai

7 Secrets to Fat Loss

Hayden Rhodes

10:00 – 11:30

Mangosteen Resort

Learn Indian Head Massage

Dr. Subash

10:00 – 11:30

O2 Beach Club

Yoga Class with Russian Instruction

Laura

11:30 – 12:30

Atmanjai

Zumba for Kids

Geti Pici

12:00 – 13:30

Serenity Resort

The Power of Self Care

Dr. Larry Nusbaum

14:00 – 15:30

Atmanjai

90 Days To Radiant Health Seminar

Michael Nour

14:00 – 15:30

Mangosteen Resort

Eye Yoga for Computer Users

Dr. Subash

14:00 – 15:30

Serenity Resort

Raw Food Cooking Class

Melanie Procter

14:00 – 15:30

O2 Beach Club

Yoga Class with Russian Instruction

Laura

16:30 – 18:00

Atmanjai

Kundalini Yoga Class Kundalini Chanting Meditation

Sukh Aman Kaur

The 91.5 FM SUP Challenge

13:00 – 13:30

Registration & Briefing

13:30 – 14:30

Practice

14:30 – 17:30

Events

Festival Tickets do not include entry to Interschool SUP Challenge – Entries are only through school teams

Rawai-Nai Harn

South Coast Experience

Phuket + Thailand

SCHEDULE

ACTIVITIES

07:30 – 08:30

Atmanjai

Fun Hatha Yoga Class Tang Ketnim

Tang Ketnim

08:00 – 09:30

Friendship Beach Resort

Boot Camp Fitness Class Ocean Bloom

Ocean Bloom

10:00 – 11:00

Atmanjai

Zumba Gold Class Geti Pici

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Rawai-Nai Harn

South Coast Experience

Phuket + Thailand

Chiravut Kornjarungkiat

WHEN Bupa Health Insurance opened its first regional office in Phuket more than a decade ago, its business profile was featured in a short article in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Thirteen years on, the man who was there at the company's inception still heads its operation with unwavering commitment. He is Bupa's Southern Regional Manager, Chiravut "Woody" Kornjarungkiat.

Woody, as he prefers to be called, has seen a significant 20-fold growth in the company's turnover, but he will be the first to tell you that his role is about more than just net profit, it's also about offering choice in health care to the general public.

"Although we provide private medical insurance, Bupa is a not-for-profit organization. There are no shareholders to take care of, so everything the company earns is re-invested in its operation. It's more of an association than a company, if you like. That's why it's called a 'provident association'," explains the soft-spoken Woody.

Before the 1990s, there was virtually no form of medical insurance other than that offered by the government. Woody was confident that Bupa products would provide the missing link in the Thai health care landscape, and he was right. The success of Bupa, he says, stems from the fact that more and more people want access to the modern medical technology available in private hospitals.

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

For those who think that private insurance is expensive, Woody observes that "we are going through a period of 'medical inflation', where new medical technologies are pushing up treatment costs. The net profit made by companies like Bupa is very small. What we should do instead is consider this to be a pool of resource for the community in the area of health care".

Although Woody believes everyone should have private medical insurance if they can afford it, he never takes an aggressive approach to sales. "Virtually all my clients are walk-ins, usually expats, but now more and more Thais are subscribing to our services. Having access to quality health care has become more important than ever."

Woody, 47, hails from Chumporn Province and is married to Pannaree Na Nakorn, he also holds a degree in political science from Thammasart University. Woody says that he had always wanted to work with the community and be part of the government civil service, but over time his direction changed.

"I realized that people who called themselves civil servants were actually more interested in

wielding their power than looking after the public. I wanted no part in it," he says.

So he went to America and enrolled in an MBA at San Francisco State University. After graduating, he travelled across the country, getting to know its people and, being a keen sportsman, engaged in many sports such as diving, golf and windsurfing.

He later developed a passion for golf and has been practicing it continuously. Having achieved a handicap of 10, Woody fell prey to a shoulder injury and had to undergo a corrective operation. He is now back in action and his ambition is to bring down his handicap to a single figure; as well as turn pro.

"It's still not too late for me to be a senior pro," he says.

Apart from keeping his body healthy, Woody practices meditation regularly. Having studied meditation at the Willpower Institute in Phuket, he is now the institute's speaker and meditation trainer and he teaches meditation twice a month.

"There's no point in exercising only your body, the mind has to be strong too. You can achieve that through meditation," he says.

Buddhists believe life is constant suffering. You cannot stop the cycle of birth, growing old, getting ill, and dying, but you can live life with certain amount of mindfulness. Good medical insurance helps, too," he says with a smile.



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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Practical apps for Thailand: part-one

THE *Phuket Gazette* has put together this list of practical applications that can make your life easier, whether you live in Phuket, or just visiting. Check out next week's edition for part-two.

Thai Talking Food Menu



Learn how to correctly pronounce your favorite dish in Thai and discover the incredible variety of authentic and delicious Thai cuisine.

Use this app to confidently order from non-tourist restaurants that don't have an English menu or any English speaking staff.

You can use it to order a meal yourself in Thai, show the waiter the photo or name in Thai script or even play the audio description.

This is a great app for those who want to be a bit more adventurous when sampling new dishes in local restaurants and try something other than the standard Pad Thai or Tom Yum. Available at iTunes in a 'lite' version for US\$0.99 or full version for \$2.99 and can be used offline.

Thaivisa Connect



Thaivisa.com is the world largest expat forum with more than 160,000 members and a wealth of info on all aspects of living in Thailand. This app provides access to information such as visas and immigration, jobs and business, news, photos, food and much more.

You can access the expat forum to post questions and read answers on just about any topic.

The app includes travel and local forums for Bangkok, Phuket, Hua Hin, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Isaan, Central and Southern Thailand. This easily to navigate app is available for free for iPhone and Android.



Phuket Gazette



The *Phuket Gazette* iPhone app provides the best in daily breaking news and comprehensive Phuket lifestyle information, for readers both within and outside of Thailand. Breaking news and regular updates on matters of importance to Phuket's local and expat residents. You can comment on any story or add your event to the events calendar – directly from your iPhone. Access Phuket's largest classifieds marketplace. Thousands of ads, including hundreds of jobs – and you can place ads as well.

Foreign residents ask the questions and the *Gazette* gets the answers. Ask us a question from your iPhone now. Get queer news and read about the weirdest and most bizarre stuff happening in Thailand. App is available for free at iTunes, in-app subscriptions start from \$2.99 for three months.

Talking Thai



This is one of the most comprehensive Thai dictionary apps available, with over 150,000 entries. This app is aimed at Thai learners, so if you're not familiar with the Thai alphabet, you can even look up Thai words by their sound using an easy-to-read pronunciation guide system. Touch any Thai word to hear a high-quality sound recording of a native speaker, not a toneless robot voice. It also works without an Internet connection and without any data charges and includes both pronunciation guides and Thai Script with the Thai and English text. It also lists crucial Thai classifiers for more than 15,000 noun entries, with notated syllable stress. Subtle shades of meaning and formality are clarified using English explanations. Available from iTunes for \$24.99 and Google Play for 739.51 baht.

TrueVisions Anywhere



If you are a TrueVisions TV subscriber this app is fantastic for taking your TV mobile. You can choose your favorite channels from grid TV guide, go back to the beginning of the program on a two hour time-shift, or watch any missed programs from up to two days ago. There are also plenty of movies and series available on demand services. This app requires an active connection to a WiFi or 3G network and is available for TrueVisions subscribers on Platinum, Gold, Gold Lite, Silver and Super Entertainment packages only. Available for free from iTunes and Google Play – this is an absolute must have app.

Phuket Forum

A weekly round-up of current issues, complaints and questions in the world of Technology, as revealed in the *Gazette's* Phuket Forum @ thephuketforum.net



PG reader: A couple of months ago in the news it was stated that JAVA games was compromised from Europe, were they could get into accounts and destroy computers and ruin your personal accounts. Has it been taken care of so I can play JAVA games or not?

browsers, to learn how to do this type this link into your browser: www.infoworld.com/t/web-browsers/how-disable-java-in-your-browsers-210882



PG reader: Recently, god knows why, I deleted the pre-installed version of microsoft word from my PC. Is there any way to get it back for free, or do I have to purchase microsoft home/student to be able to write letters, work with spread sheets etc?



The situation's a bit more complicated than that. The problem is with running Java inside your internet browser, more than just running Java itself. If you're going to web sites that require Java in order to play games, I suggest you find different games!

I strongly recommend that people disable Java in their



You're probably stuck with buying a program like Office, unless Google docs will do it for you. It's free – and for simple stuff, it works great.

Do you have a tech question you want answered? Visit our tech forum today and leave a post to have it answered or just to have a chat with Mr Livewire and other PG readers at thephuketforum.net

AIS 3G claims 800,000 users

ADVANCED Info Service (AIS) claimed earlier this week that it had secured 800,000 users for its 3G-2.1GHz cellular service since its soft launch last month.

All of the 800,000 new users have to use call forwarding to AIS's subsidiary Advanced Wireless Network (AWN) because the number-portability capacity of all five operators is limited to 40,000 cases per day.

Somchai Letsuttiwong, chief marketing officer, said 1.7 million AIS users had applied to migrate to AWN. All of them are expected to be moved over to the third-generation service on the 2.1 gigahertz spectrum this month.

AIS kicked off its 3G-2.1GHz service recently for the general public. It is targeting 10 million customers, both old and new, for the new service by year-end.

Hui weng Cheong, chief operating officer, said AIS had set a 70 billion baht budget for network expansion over a few years. It has about 5,000 base stations in main cities in 20 provinces in every region throughout the country. Every month at least 800 base stations will be installed to ensure coverage for 77 provinces this year and full coverage country-

wide by next year.

Also, AIS recently launched a variety promotion package starting at 299 baht per month for 100 minutes of free calls and 500 megabits per second of throughput.

Somchai said some of AIS's packages might offer greater value in terms of services, such as faster data speed, and of applications, which account for more than a 15 per cent surplus from existing promotions.

"All new promotional packages are discounted more than 15 per cent from existing 2G service promotions," he said.

This week the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) asked all three 3G-2.1GHz operators to offer a 15 per cent discount for all new users.

Takorn Tantassit, secretary-general of the NBTC, said all of the new 3G licensees had to comply with the commission's regulations on reducing their package prices. It will monitor them to check if they are following the regulation. Violators will be sent a warning letter. Repeat offenders will be fined and eventually ordered to cease operations.

– *The Nation*

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Running the gamut from A to A

WHEN I hit upon the not so original idea of listing an ABC of tropical plants suitable for Phuket's gardens, I accepted the fact that there would inevitably be some overlap with previous articles. Just a different kind of taxonomy. But what I hadn't bargained for was the sheer volume of relevant plants. Uamporn Veesommia's cryptically named "Plant Materials in Thailand", the ultimate reference work on the subject has – including cultivars – no fewer than 1320 entries and the letter A alone has nearly 120 photographs of listed specimens. Of course, many are unsuitable for your average garden – forest trees, rarely seen or temperamental hybrids and so on, but the range is still impressive.

Some are therefore going to get only a brief mention, others none at all. The acid test, as always, will be – is it suitable for your Phuket garden?"

In the last ABC of plants, prominence was given to the varieties of *allamanda* (yellow *cathartica*) and dusky pink *blanchetti*, to popular annuals and to *acalypha wilkesiana* (red cat's tail). I did not include the large genus of *acacias*, or the giant *alocasia* whose enormous spade-shaped leaves are such a feature of marshy woodland everywhere in Phuket. Or the most popular of all foliage shade plants, the *aglaonema*, which is now displayed in nurseries in shades ranging from silver and green to mottled pink.

Aglaia odorata is a bushy shrub, up to two meters tall and also known as the Chinese rice or perfume plant. A relative rarity here, I have a slow growing specimen in a large pot. With small globose and scented yellow flowers and glossy green foliage, it is a rewarding but temperamental shrub. Perhaps it is best used alone as a specimen plant. The *adenium* (desert rose or *chuan chom*) has received frequent treatment in these columns – after all, the fleshy trunked shrub has something of a



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

cult following amongst Thai gardeners – and makes an ideal container plant for a sunny aspect.

Among climbers, two hardy souls merit special mention. One, the coral vine (*antigonum leptopus* or *phuag chomphu*) is a sturdy evergreen climber which needs no support, since it uses tendrils to attach itself to surfaces. With its masses of tiny deep pink flowers (one name is "hearts on a chain") it will quickly cover areas of bare wall or trellis and will tolerate dry conditions. Naturalized in parts of the island, it is a good choice for the inexperienced gardener. So too *argyreia nervosa* (in Thailand pak rabaat), a variety of morning glory which also spreads rapidly and produces attractive large trumpet-shaped pink blooms after the manner of its kind. Another easy vine to cultivate and readily available both in the wild and in nurseries.

Among small trees, the many varieties of *acacia* (known in Oz as wattles or in Thailand as *kratin*) are invaluable additions to any garden; smallish trees with masses of showy and perfumed yellow flowers, often produced in dense clusters or racemes. Most have neat, feathery, evergreen leaves and will thrive in dry conditions. An American garden book in my possession lists more than thirty species. They can be readily pruned; remove the lead shoot and the plant will grow as a shrub.

Certainly an alpha choice. And one more manageable than *alstonia* is known for some reason as the devil tree. A quick grower, I have one in my garden which, after five years, is already too large for its surroundings. But it has attractive, umbrella shaped leaves, provides ample shade, and is often used in Phuket along avenues where less hardy trees would struggle to survive.

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



Aglaia odorata or Chinese rice. Photo: Nampung



A for *antigonum leptopus* or coral vine (above) and one of *acacia* varieties known in Thailand as *kratin* (below). Photos: Mauricio Mercadante and IITA Image Library



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Pedaling with Pasta



MEALS ON WHEELS: Baz Daniel and Dusit Thani Executive Chef Silvano Amolini set out for Nai Thon Beach. A delicious meal of pasta is their reward for a hard day's ride. Photos: Baz Daniel



PASTA POWER: A hearty dish of pasta not only tastes delicious, but provides much needed replenishment for the hundreds of calories burned during a ride. Photo: Marisa Pérez

Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

SILVANO Amolini of the Dusit Thani Laguna Resort is one of Phuket's preeminent chefs and is also a keen cyclist. Baz Daniel recently caught up with him for a ride around his Bang Tao Beach backyard, followed by some serious pasta-loading at La Trattoria Restaurant.

One of the great unsolved mysteries of the universe is the seemingly irrevocable link between pedaling and pasta. Certainly a good bike ride burns loads of energy and a fine dish of Italian pasta is a great way to replenish the bodily reserves that

all the leg-pumping and lung-panting have depleted.

But there's much more to it than that!

Here on Phuket the link seems particularly strong, as many of the island's top chefs are also keen cyclists. Perhaps packing on the pounds is an occupational hazard for chefs, being surrounded by so much great tucker 24/7. Certainly, many of Phuket's top chefs crow about the benefits that "getting on their bikes" brings them. And none more so than the doyen of Italian cuisine in the Laguna area – Dusit Thani's Executive Chef Silvano Amolini.

When I went to meet him, Silvano was the picture of good health, a svelte 44 year old,



MULTI-TALENTED: Silvano is just at home in the kitchen as on his bike.

bounding energetically from cooking range to lightweight Italian road bike in the blink of a microwave – but he says it was not ever thus.

Just a few years back, Silvano's bathroom mirror turned traitor. It began to display a decidedly overweight profile, indeed, one that many members of his chosen profession also seem to manifest. Then 'Madame Destiny' came calling.

The Patong Rotary staged an auction at the Dusit in aid of underprivileged children, and a bicycle just happened to be one of the prizes. Cursing his bathroom mirror and scales, Silvano seized his chance. He outbid everyone, collected the bike, and from then on became a passionate convert to pedaling and pumping as a way of life.

"The turnaround in my lifestyle has been dramatic," he says.

"These days I am awake at 5:15 am and in the saddle by six doing my regular 38 kilometer ride along the back roads from the Laguna over to Nai Thon Beach and back.

"I ride three or four times a week with my training buddy and friendly rival Stefano Artosin, the

executive chef from the Amanpuri Resort.

"We try to outdo each other at every sport we try and so we've formed a sort of Italian pasta pedaling parade as the sun comes up!"

You might think that the hectic life of an executive chef would make so many demands on Silvano's time and energy that training for this year's Laguna Triathlon in November, would be a non-starter. But as he explains, the truth is quite the reverse.

"The strange thing is that since I started regular cycling I have so much more energy and I am more alert and able to handle stress far better than ever.

"Actually I would encourage any chef to get into cycling. It seems to be the perfect antidote for the stresses and strains, not to mention calories, of the job."

A recent stunning April evening saw us wheeling our bikes out of the Dusit Thani's grounds and setting off along the back roads that run along Bang Tao Beach and then heading north. Sleepy birds twittered, soi dogs scratched and the sun

threw its diminishing scarlet tentacles over the tops of the Casuarina trees as we sped (well Silvano sped and I tried to keep up) over the hilly back roads past Layan Gardens, Trisara Resort and then on down to the beautiful sands of Nai Thon Beach. There we had a Lycra-clad dip in the crashing spume as the sun continued its westward trajectory, as is its wont at that time of day.

Back at the Dusit we sat outside on their glorious sweep of Bang Tao Beach in front of Casuarina Restaurant and quaffed

health booster drinks while the last vestiges of sunset called it quits and dipped below the horizon.

After a shower, Silvano and I regrouped in his spiritual home – La Trattoria Restaurant for some serious pasta reloading.

"Pasta, my friend, is like cycling. It should be simple, uncomplicated and honest. Just take the very finest Italian spaghetti with fresh tomato sauce cooked with a few drops of quality Italian extra virgin olive oil, fresh sliced garlic, chopped fresh chili and a good ripe tomato.

"Cut it all up by hand and dice in a few leaves of fresh basil, a sprinkle of fresh Parmesan cheese and there you have the perfect simple, energizing and delicious pasta!"

"Serve it with a fresh a salad and a little cured ham and Mozzarella... oh, and a glass or two of good Chianti – because you deserve it."

So, we sat there admiring the dusk as she spread herself over the broad lawns of the Dusit Thani and enjoyed one of the most sensational meals I've ever

had. Was it my ravenous appetite from the ride? Was it the ambiance and atmosphere? Or was it the magic of the fine Chianti at work? I'll never know, but maybe, just maybe... at last I was beginning to appreciate the mystical link between pedaling and pasta.

As sponsors of the upcoming Laguna Phuket International Marathon the Phuket Gazette encourages Phuket's population to become more physically active. Articles that espouse the theme of fitness are branded with the 'Move It Phuket' logo as above.



Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events.

Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

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

True Freeview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World		Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week	
Monday:	05:10am	Monday - Sunday:	10:30am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.
Tuesday:	11:10pm		
Wednesday:	10:10am		
Thursday:	01:10pm		
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm		
Saturday:	01:10pm		
Sunday:	06:10pm		

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

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

Madness in Miami

AFTER a career of nearly 20 years as a demented humor columnist for the Miami Herald, Dave Barry has turned to writing comic novels.

Insane City (CP Putnam's Sons, New York, 2013, 341pp) is his third. He dedicates it to "the people of this truly insane city of Miami, for making this book easy. Without you, this book wouldn't exist; any errors in it are strictly your fault."

Seth Weinstein is a *schlub* with a dead-end job who has lucked into a marriage engagement with the beautiful and idealistic Tina Clark. Her fabulously wealthy parents "viewed Seth as unworthy to house-sit their pets, let alone marry their daughter". Why does she love him?

"You make me laugh."

"So does Danny DeVito."

"Yes, but he's taken."

Tina and her mother have been preparing for a year for her perfect wedding in Miami. Flying down from Washington two days before are the Groom Posse – Seth and his three loser friends. No sooner are they out of the Miami Airport they are chugging margarita pitchers at an outdoor bar presided over by DJ Boonga Wooga and his coffin-sized speakers. They are joined by Cyndi Gonzalez "who had finished fourth in the 'Miss Hot Amateur Bod competition' and who was wearing a dress made from roughly one square inch of some extremely stretchy material" and her friend Duane, a large bald man draped with "an eleven-foot Burmese albino python named Blossom".

Welcome to Miami.

Books

By James Eckardt

Seth gets drunk and curls up asleep under the bar only to awake to find his friends gone. He takes a cab, with the assistance of Cyndi and Duane, to his reserved suite at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Key Biscayne. Only then does he realize that he's left his suitcase back at the bar. Inside the suitcase is Tina's priceless diamond wedding ring. Duane is dispatched to retrieve the suitcase.

Seth and Cyndi find the suite already occupied by a giant African-America stripper named LeDawne who wants her \$200 fee. Seth calls his 'Groom Posse' who are stranded penniless outside a Russian clip joint. Seth wanders off to find an ATM machine, collapses on the beach and wakes up in time to rescue from drowning Laurette, a Haitian refugee, along with her toddler son and infant daughter. He takes the trio up to his suite where he meets Wilson, LeDawne's even bigger boyfriend, who, for a fee, lends Seth his Cadillac Escalade so that he can pick up his posse and his parents at the airport. The doddering Sid and Rose Weinstein are waiting with their suitcases "in a violently pink hue, like large radioactive wads of bubble gum, purchased from Sears during the Carter Administration". Inside is a healthy supply of medical marijuana brownies sent by their daughter in California.

Duane, meanwhile, has picked up Seth's suitcase but has been called away on a medical emergency involving another python and has left the suitcase under a tarpaulin at a private zoo in the Everglades



known as Primate Encounter. Cyndi and Seth leave the hotel again to fetch the suitcase but there's another complication: a 250-pound orangutan named Trevor. He has pulled the tarpaulin and suitcase into his cage. Ripping apart the suitcase, he finds the wedding ring and decides he likes the smell of it.

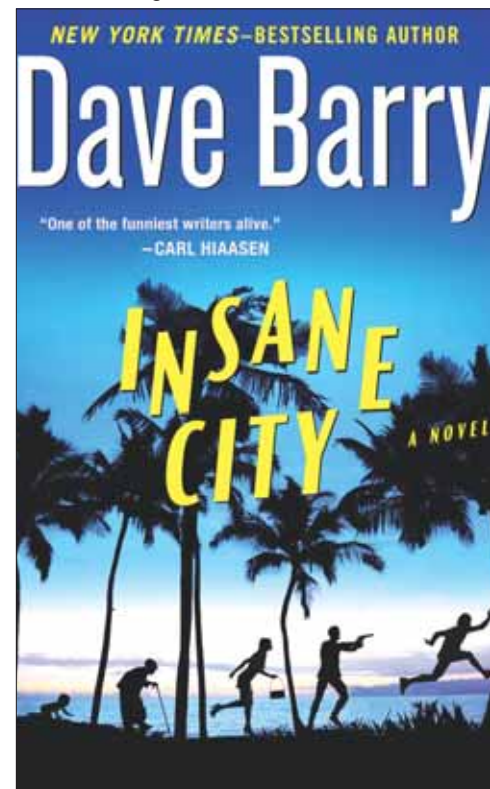
Meanwhile, back at the Ritz Carlton, the guests at the wedding rehearsal dinner run amok on the medical brownies. Laurette and her two children are kidnapped by two goons employed by Tina's father, Brewer and Castronovo, known as "the Tinker Bells, in recognition of the magical power they had to enable people to fly, at least for brief periods". Tina, while officially an idealist about illegal immigrants, doesn't want them around to spoil her wedding.

Seth and Cyndi don't know this as they set out for Primate Encounters and their horrified meeting with Trevor. This sets the stage for a wild car and boat chase through Miami and environs involving an apparent armed robbery of a 7-Eleven and an ape assault upon three security guards and the nose of Brewer.

Like a cherry atop this tall whipped cream of a novel, there is a surprise ending.

INSANE: The city of Miami is the setting of Dave Barry's new book.

Photo: Luis Miguel Alvarez



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Pirates of the Andaman

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

IN THE 1930s, the Thai government used the Andaman island of Tarutao as a prison to incarcerate the country's most undesirable criminals. When the Japanese Imperial Army brought the Second World War to the footsteps of the kingdom in December of 1941, the Thai government under Field Marshall Phibun Songkram sided with the invaders against the allied forces.

To a certain extent Phibun admired the Japanese and sympathized with their cause. In return for Thailand's friendship and cooperation, the Japanese had promised to return Thai territories that had been seceded to Britain and France during the late 19th century. When British Malaya fell to the Japanese invaders in 1941, four Malay states, Terengganu, Kedah, Kelantan and Perlis, which used to be under Thai dominion, were returned to Thailand as promised by the Japanese.

Most of the information hereafter is based on a book written by Pongpol Adireksarn, a well-known Thai politician and author of several novels based on Thai history. Better known amongst westerners by his pseudonym Paul Adirex, in 1994 Pongpol wrote a book called *The Pirates of Tarutao*, based on actual events that happened in the penal colony during the Second World War.

From 1942 onwards many allied prisoners of war were imprisoned on Tarutao Island on orders from the Japanese. Before the war started, food and supplies were regularly shipped to Tarutao from the mainland to sustain the prisoners and the wardens. When war broke out the British navy aggressively blockaded the Malay Peninsula, sinking any ships that dared to deliver supplies to their enemy. As the war dragged on supplies on Tarutao Island began to diminish. Food and medical rations were reduced. Prisoners of war, common criminals and wardens, began to starve alike. The prison system soon began to break down.

During that time there may have been more than 10,000 inmates detained on Tarutao Island. According to Pongpol many high profile political

prisoners had already been removed from the island and transferred to Koh Tao in the Gulf of Thailand, for fear that they may be liberated if the British captured Tarutao.

Out of hunger and desperation, the remaining prisoners took to begging from boats that carried supplies past the island. Guards and inmates were on their own fighting for survival. The number of deaths from starvation and malaria continued to grow day by day.

As the situation continued to worsen and it became clear that simply begging from passing boats was not going to sustain them for long, several inmates banded together and turned to piracy. Initially the inmates attacked boats in order to steal food and medical supplies.

But when it became apparent that the naval powers were too busy fighting each other to safeguard the high seas, the pirates became more audacious and violent. Many more inmates and even prison guards took

to piracy. Soon they began to attack ships indiscriminately, stealing all the cargo that the vessels carried. The prolonged war had carved out a huge black market for goods that were in short supply all over the region. As they attacked the passing vessels, the pirates would plunder them of their valuable cargo. Often they would murder the passengers and crews. The boats were then set on fire and sunk to the depths of the sea.

The beautiful landscape of the island; coasts, estuaries, creeks, rivers and narrow channels served to conceal the deadly marauders. According to reports from passing vessels, travellers soon began to fear for their own safety when passing the archipelago as vicious rumors of pirate attacks began to spread throughout the region. Ships that traveled between Penang, Satun and Kantang were vulnerable when they came close enough to Tarutao Island. The pirates also began setting up land bases on Langkawi Island, just south of Tarutao, using motorboats as well as sailboats to intercept merchant vessels.

The war in the Pacific ended in September 1945. After Japan surrendered to the allies, peace returned to the high seas and blockades were lifted as



SAILING JUNK: A junk similar to this one is depicted on the cover of Paul Adirex's book *The Pirates of Tarutao*. Photos: Thomas Schoch (above) and Oren Neu Dag (left)



TRANQUIL TARUTAO: The pristine beauty of Tarutao belies its brutal and violent past as a penal colony and base for pirate raids on shipping in the Andaman Sea. Photo: Jean-Christophe Berthon

Malaya and Singapore returned to British rule. During this time several merchants in Penang began to lodge complaints with the British Navy about the unabated piracy problem in the Andaman Sea.

Between December 1945 and March 1946, the British Navy launched a large-scale operation to clear the Strait of Malacca of its pirate infestation. At first the British simply used patrol boats to accompany merchant ships along the trade route. But they soon began to actively intercept pirates on the high seas and engage them. British efforts soon drove the pirates back to their bases on Tarutao and Langkawi Islands. In March 1946

the Thai and British navies conducted a joint operation and raided the penal colony of Tarutao. According to Pongpol, three warships and over 300 troops stormed Tarutao Island in order to arrest the inmates and prison guards that were suspected of piracy during the war years. The raid turned violent and many pirates died in the ensuing fight.

When the joint British-Thai forces managed to secure the island again, order was restored and the inmates were returned to their former prison conditions. A new prison governor was also appointed to manage the prison. The penal colony would survive for another year or so.

In 1947, the Tarutao penal colony was formally closed down. For decades after that the island would remain deserted. The thick tropical forest soon grew to assimilate the prison facilities, the cells, the offices and the kitchens. It would be years before backpackers would venture out to find Tarutao Island again, and put it on the tourist map. By then most of the physical evidence of its horrific past had been erased by nature, leaving behind a clean slate to start over for what would become a very different future for Tarutao Island.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com

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DEATH-DEFYING: A must-see stunt show is on the cards.



There will be a family picnic with American food and beer.



Many types of aircraft will be on display on July 6 and 7.

All systems go, Phuket

Air Show, family picnic and live jazz band confirmed for 4th of July weekend



FREQUENT FLYER: Phuket Gazette publisher John Magee ogles the latest addition to the Phuket Airpark fleet of private aircraft, this one owned by aviation consultants AeroPro.



UP, UP AND AWAY: Hot air balloon rides will be among the many options on offer on the ground and in the air at this year's two-day American Independence Day festivities.

THE Navy League Phuket (NLP) is pulling out all the stops in preparation for this year's American Independence Day weekend celebrations, with a family picnic, live music and the grandest of air-shows on the cards.

To celebrate the USA's 237th birthday, the NLP will stage the unprecedented extravaganza in a carnival-like format on July 6 and 7 at the expansive Phuket Airpark in Pa Klok, Thalang.

Headlining the itinerary will be an air-show – the first of its kind in Phuket – that will feature aerobatic planes, hot-air balloons and a death-defying skydiving stunt, among other aviation spectacles never-before-seen on or over the island.

Other free-of-charge activities planned include ATV riding; swimming and kayaking on the on-site lake; and an array of games and contests. Those wishing to see Phuket from on high, can buy tickets for hot-air balloon and airplane rides.

"By far, this will be the biggest American Independence Day celebration that we've ever had here in Phuket," says NLP President Pat James.

In previous years, the NLP's Independence Day festivities in Phuket have been limited to small-scale, single-day family picnics.

"We're quite excited about this year, which happens to mark the 180th year of Thailand-USA relations," he added.

Thai-American relations were officially kick-started in 1833, with the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, a

document that, to this day, still provides nationals from both countries special privileges in the other's jurisdiction.

And what American picnic would be complete without authentic American food and beer? Living up to the spirit of the occasion, participants can look forward to a live jazz band, fireworks, and an all-American chilli cook-off, with food and drinks to be served on a pay-as-you-go basis throughout the festival.

This and much more which will be on offer during the two-day event, with activities starting at 10am and running well into the night on both days.

All are welcome – Thai, American, and anyone else wishing to join in on the festivities.

General admission is free, as is parking for up to 400 cars. VIP parking for up to 40 vehicles will also be available for a small fee. All proceeds from the event will be used to fund charitable initiatives, as directed by the NLP.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The NLP are the organizers of this year's American Independence Day weekend event. Primary sponsors include the US Embassy, Bangkok; the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM); and the Phuket Gazette as media partners. Full details of the event, along with information on Navy ship tours and festival sponsorships, are available on the NLP website: NavyLeaguePhuket.org.

All about the NLP

The Navy League Phuket (NLP) is a local group (officially named Thailand Southern Seaboard Council) which is part of the larger Navy League of the United States.

This organization was founded in the United States in 1906 with the support of then-President Teddy Roosevelt to provide assistance to men and women serving at sea on US military and merchant ships.

The NLP is a non-profit organization with membership open to all nationalities. In fact, 90 per cent of current members are not even American and none are active duty servicemen, in order to avoid any conflicts of interest.

The NLP plays an important role with US Navy ships when they make a rest stop in Phuket during what is often an eight-month deployment away from their home ports in the US. The NLP assists in many ways, such as providing all visiting sailors and Marines with maps of Phuket along with suggestions of what to see and where to go.

Additionally, the NLP arranges Community Service projects (COMSERV) and coordinates putting between 20 and 40 of a ship's crew members side-by-side with local Navy League members and other community volunteers to help with various community improvement projects.

These have included such projects as rebuilding a school playground; painting a wall at an orphanage; improving a stream bank against erosion and repairing much needed hospital equipment.

When a large ship such as an aircraft carrier arrives here, the NLP may complete 10 or 12 such projects. To date, Navy League COMSERV guru Brad Kenny has successfully initiated more than 100 projects that have required many thousands of volunteer-donated man-hours, all for the greater Phuket community.



The NLUS was founded in 1906

Star Trek II: Into Kirk-ness

By Alexander Maycock

NEXT week sees the release of the latest Star Trek movie, *Into Darkness*, the sequel to JJ Abrams reboot of the original TV series.

Mr Abrams came in for an awful amount of stick for taking on the Trekkies golden calf, particularly after he admitted to not being a fan of The Original Series (TOS).

Despite a few exceptionally large plot holes (worm-holes, more like) and completely ignoring some of Gene Roddenberry's significant Trek tenants, he did manage to pull off quite a cool movie that won over all but the most die-hard Trekkies.

In the process – more by desire than design – he created a catalyst that would allow a whole new series of adventures to begin in an almost brand new Trek universe. Not bad, Mr Abrams, not bad at all.

Then comes the sequel, which Abrams and his demonic writing crew of Roberto Orci, Alex Kurtzman and Damon Lindelof could just as easily have called: *Star Trek Revenge ON the Nerds*, because *Into Darkness* is packed with one-liners and favorite quotes from TOS and the original cast movies, but almost all quoted by the wrong characters.

Hah! Take that fan-boys.

On top of which, rather than taking the opportunity to “plough onto places where no starship movie has gone before”, the team decided to slap the new cast with a well-worn old enemy. And, just in case you are in any doubt as to who it might be, up pops Leonard Nimoy's alternate-universe Spock to bang that nail deep into your noggin.

On the plus side, new Kirk's rather annoying, unremitting arrogance in the first movie is handled like a slap across Chris Pine's smug mug, allowing the character to grow just a wee bit.

Meanwhile, Zachary Quinto is so pedantically logical he would surely be channeling a young Mr Nimoy were the original Spock actually dead rather than reduced to a video phone call in this episode. But everyone else, from Zoe Saldana's Uhuru to Karl Urban's Doctor McCoy, gets barely any more screen time than in their first outing, because all those other fun crew members are really just foils for the “Kirk Grows” storyline.

In *TOS*, Kirk usually had McCoy and Spock, like opposing angels standing on either shoulder, to help direct his choices, but new Kirk's ego far outstrips that of his small-screen predecessor (yeah, I can't be-

lieve I wrote that either). With *Into Darkness*, as with the 2009 movie, Chris Pine's Kirk is shaped by his adversaries.

Ah, but what an adversary this time out. Played by the brilliant Benedict Cumberbatch, our villain of the piece is a dark, brooding man with a serious grudge against Starfleet. As with many past Trek villains, Mr Cumberbatch manages to steal what little of the show he is in, but being such a consummate actor he does so with barely a flair of the nostrils nor much scenery chewing – and is all the more sinister for it. It's just a shame he had to recreate an old adversary instead of being allowed to shape a brand new nemesis.

Originals are rarely as good as we remember, nor tangibly better than the reboots. *Into Darkness* is a fair Trek romp, but Team Abrams should have been brave enough to push forward with their new universe and perhaps taken the four years between films to actually watch the original series. Then they could have done more with this sequel than just re-tread old *TOS* with new tech.

Alexander Maycock regularly shouts out the next line of new movies just to prove Hollywood hasn't had an original idea since *Casablanca*.



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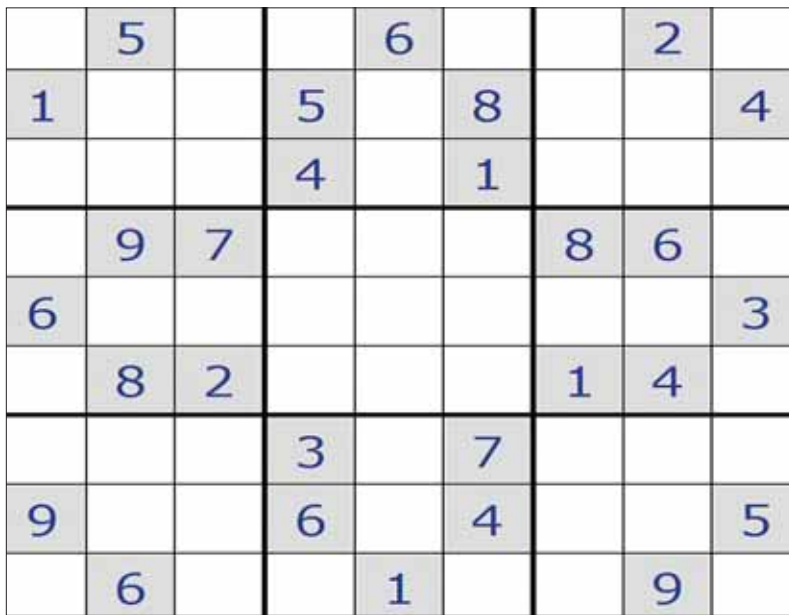
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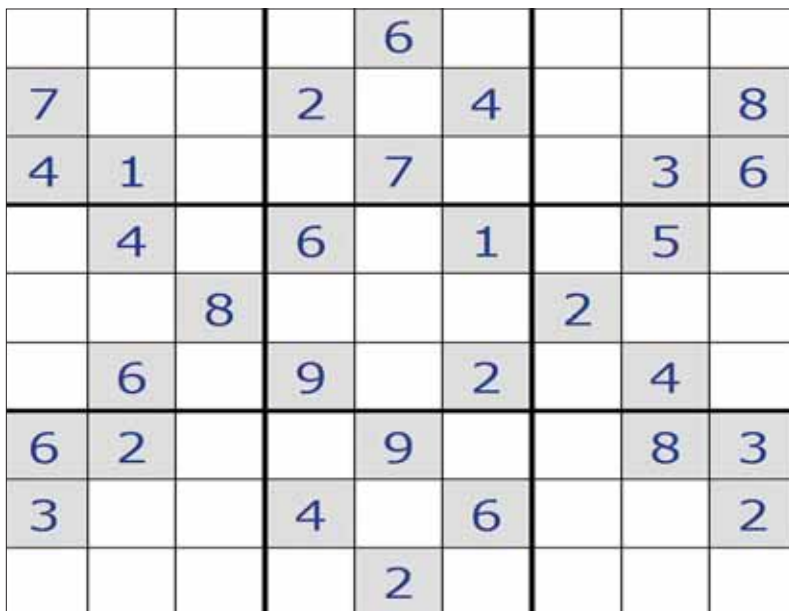


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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Show-unit now open.



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



Your weekly pith:

"If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it."

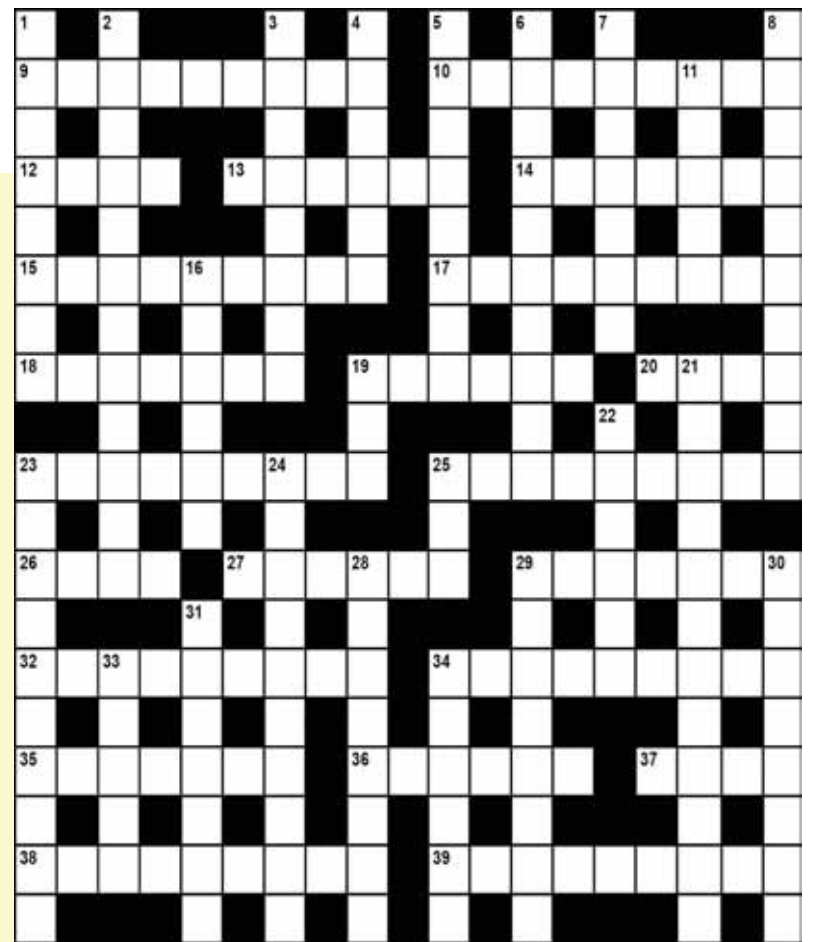
— Unknown

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

COFFEE break

Across:

9. Voting ran out for the guide (9)
10. Possibly tense, as in lacking sympathy (9)
12. Eerie out East in the great lake (4)
13. Fan rag put out for foreigner in Thailand (6)
14. The day before, take it easy on the highest peak (7)
15. First appearance, put up money for the young lady to be presented (9)
17. Send down? True, I cast out! (9)
18. Kind, tender, right? (7)
19. Forded a different way to get food for the animals (6)
20. In old record, note Eastern fencing (4)
23. Made Ellen upset! Glossed over! (9)
25. Pest I sent out for small mindedness (9)
26. Until turn, maybe not (4)
27. Shooter from cover gets bird on river (6)
29. Art, Son, I discover limits the availability (7)
32. This gives the coup de grace? Sounds like, if your French is not good! (4,5)
34. Forceful one, a liberal promise (9)
35. Twisting, or is not twisting (7)
36. Marked in blue (6)
37. Polite Thai female ending, thanks, in a Phuket beach (4)
38. Me, exert out on the street? Farthest removed from the usual! (9)
39. Central African clone goes crazy (9)



Down:

1. The weaker competitor may be grounded (8)
2. Above ample, too much (12)
3. Screen rain out, rest poorly (8)
4. Acres out East in the fold (6)
5. Informed on fringe movement, Editor (8)
6. Mess sent as new evaluation (10)
7. Clean G.I. could be divine (7)
8. Kind head shows docility (10)
11. Near a rebuilt stadium (5)
16. Tell a raging river higher (6)
19. Craze fine, nowadays (3)
21. Has the majority, Master, I'd open carefully (12)
22. Married lot in move to find old English poet (6)
23. Equal rights echo characteristics (10)
24. Left wedding on upsetting the garrulous (4,6)
25. Public Relations concealing a standard (3)
28. Work up story I devised for ability to absorb (8)
29. Turning, rotting, article inside (8)
30. Late fuss about chemical compounds (8)
31. Overseas possessions seem rip-off (7)
33. Beat the poorest (5)
34. A punch around the belly (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Getting someone to keep to their word could be a struggle around the middle of the month. Taureans who were counting on a water sign are most likely to be let down. Other signs may take some persuasion to meet their promises, particularly if money is involved. Those with a birthday in the coming week see welcome changes in their domestic environment in the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is nine.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

You could be an unwilling guest this weekend. Those born under the sign of Gemini who were hoping to sweet talk their way out of an invitation may find the pressure too much. Doing your duty may not turn out to be as tedious as you imagine. A dream this weekend sheds different light on a romantic dilemma. Geminis are forecast to find that number six brings good luck this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Shelling out on items you don't really need is highlighted this week. Cancerians suffering from a bout of boredom will be vulnerable to suggestions from friends with

more money than sense. Your financial outlook is hazy during the second half of May and it would be wise to curb spending until the end of the month. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday. The number two can be fortunate.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

During the second half of May it's not what you know, but who you know that counts. The stars suggest that you have gathered enough information to pursue an important project, but need the right contacts to make it happen. Earth signs can be relied upon, but an air sign's claims to fame are misleading. Romance with a water sign becomes intriguing. Leos' lucky number this week is seven.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Virgoans are forecast to take a more objective view of what is happening in their lives, particularly within the world of work. Others will be reacting more emotionally, but your practical point of view puts you streets ahead of the competition. Your romantic outlook becomes more promising as lines of communication open up around the middle of the month. The stars suggest that number four will be lucky this week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

The focus is on moving into the unknown for Librans. If this relates to starting a new job, treading water is recommended until you find your feet in this situation. Another air sign can help you feel at ease. In the realm of romance, those who are getting to know a fire sign could have cause for concern when they meet the family. Number three appears important this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Being too outspoken could land you in hot water around the middle of the month. The stars advise keeping your thoughts within a bubble when dealing with those in authority. Work is well-starred; ideas that you tossed aside are worth re-kindling. An earth sign colleague is ready to lend support and motivation will be strong during the second half of May. Number five should come alive for Scorpios this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Sagittarians' enthusiasm is strong during the second half of May and this can have a domino effect. Expect those who have been dragging their feet in the sand to come round to your way of thinking. However, the stars warn against involving too many people in your plans – another fire sign is indicated to try to steal your thunder. The number seven can encourage good fortune this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Where work is concerned, the stars suggest many Capricorns will be leaving a trail, rather than following a path. Overseas connections are forecast to be important, with travel highlighted at the end of the month. Spreading your social energy too thinly is not recommended this weekend as group dynamics are not well-starred. Those romantically committed find the perfect way to show how much they care. Your lucky number this week is one.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Wishful thinking can drag some Aquarians down around the middle of May. The stars recommend keeping your expectations realistic to help put things in perspective.

Romance with another air sign sparkles this weekend, but progress in a relationship with a water sign slows down when you are faced with the truth. Wear the color charcoal to encourage more grounding. The number four has good luck written on it this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Pisceans should be energized by the astral atmosphere during the second half of May. After a low-key period, you will be ready to make the most of opportunities that are forecast to come your way. Where work is concerned, having several irons in the fire puts you ahead of the game. A little romantic adventure can be on the agenda this weekend. Number six shows signs of being lucky.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The stars suggest that your perceptions can be off kilter around the middle of May. Arians are advised not to jump to fast conclusions as this can lead to unnecessary stress. Those ready to relocate could consider moving further away when their partner comes up with a surprising suggestion. If you are single and seeking, an earth sign's charm can be magnetic this weekend. Your lucky number this week is eight.

International Sport

Rumors, rivals and Renault

THE Sports Authority of Thailand has confirmed that a six-kilometer Formula One circuit will be created near the Royal Thai Naval Dockyard in Bangkok, possibly with the main stands in the Chao Phraya river. There are plans for an inaugural F1 night race in 2015. Red Bull is a keen backer. Interestingly, the Malaysian GP at Sepang is probably up for renewal in 2015, so Bangkok may be looking to replace Kuala Lumpur.

Sepang has been criticized for the rubbish said to be littered all over the place. But more importantly in 2008, Sepang announced its aim to become F1's second night race from 2009, to fit in well with European TV schedules. However, the organizers later confirmed that they would not stage a night race, but a late-afternoon one. The 2009 Malaysian Grand Prix did indeed adopt a late afternoon start, which proved disastrous. Heavy rainfall and poor drainage ended the race on Lap 33. There have been plenty of other problems, including a very late start in 2012. So Sepang is vulnerable and Bangkok may have timed a rival bid very well.

In other news, Maria de Villota is set to return to the F1 paddock in Spain for the first time since her awful accident in England. I am sure the brave and glamorous Marussia test-driver will be a big hit, sporting a piratical eye-patch. And Bernie Ecclestone is planning to team up two partners to buy the Long Beach Grand Prix and re-install F1 there from 2016, 33 years after the last race in Southern California.

But this weekend we are off to the Spanish GP in Catalunya, Barcelona.



MASTER: Bernie Ecclestone. Photos: Reuters



The track is well known to all teams because of the time spent there during winter testing. The 4.655km Circuit de Catalunya is a medium downforce, medium engine demand track, and a lot of engine and chassis decisions are based around it. Catalunya has always been a difficult circuit for overtaking. But the introduction of a second DRS zone will help. The undulating nature of the track stresses every component of the engine. If engines are going to blow, this is a circuit that encourages it.

Track conditions can change a lot



Force India Formula One driver Paul di Resta drives during the Bahrain F1 Grand Prix.

during the weekend, so a good set-up is a challenge. The track layout, with its high average speed, is hard on tyres, and this is likely to prove crucial. A variety of low and medium speed corners push engines in the lower rev ranges, particularly in sector three, but half of the track is taken at full throttle.

The longest full throttle is the pit straight. This allows a fully charged KERS to be deployed twice as the KERS energy counter resets on the start/finish line. A double KERS release also puts a lot of stress on the KERS cooling system, so look out for a few failures.

Pirelli has a revised version of their hard tyre for Spain; closer to the 2012 tyre. It has a wider working temperature window but delivers less. This should provide an even wider variety of race strategies than before. The medium tyre will be significantly faster and well suited to qualifying. The hard tyre will be the preferred race tyre.

I would expect to see Renault engines doing well here – Lotus, Red Bull, Williams and Caterham. So I believe we will see a Lotus on the podium, and maybe two. A Red Bull should be there too.

Traditionally teams bring upgrades to this race. Force India has come tantalisingly close to a podium finish this season; could Catalunya do it for them? Williams will have a number of upgrades, and since they won here last year, they may pull another rabbit out of a helmet.

Can McLaren squeeze a podium finish? They are playing down their strength, but who knows if Jenson Button can smooth his way through? I doubt if Mercedes or Sauber has a winning package.

So it's set to be exciting.

Join me at the Green Man to watch the race on the big screen on Sunday at 7 pm. Qualifying rounds are at the same time on Saturday.

Fergie retires

MANCHESTER United manager Alex Ferguson will retire at the end of the season after more than 26 years in charge, bringing to a close the most glittering managerial career in British football.

The Premier League champions confirmed on Wednesday that Ferguson, 71, would step aside at the end of the season.

"The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time," Ferguson said on United's website (www.manutd.com).

The Scot took charge in 1986 and his arrival heralded an unprecedented period of success for the club, including 13 English league titles, five FA Cups and four League Cups.

He also steered the club to two Champions League triumphs and FIFA's Club World Cup. Ferguson will move upstairs to join the Premier League club's board of directors.

Following is his statement in full: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time.

"It was important to me to leave an organization in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have

done so. The quality of this league winning squad, and the balance of ages within it, bodes well for continued success at the highest level whilst the structure of the youth set-up will ensure that the long-term future of the club remains a bright one.

"Our training facilities are among the finest in global sport and our home Old Trafford is rightfully regarded as one of the leading venues in the world.

"Going forward, I am delighted to take on the roles of both Director and Ambassador for the club. With these activities, along with my many other interests, I am looking forward to the future.

"I must pay tribute to my family, their love and support has been essential. My wife Cathy has been the key figure throughout my career, providing a bedrock of both stability and encouragement. Words are not enough to express what this has meant to me.

"As for my players and staff, past and present, I would like to thank them all for a staggering level of professional conduct and dedication that has helped to deliver so many memorable triumphs. Without their contribution the history of this great club would not be as rich.



Sir Alex Ferguson. Photo: Reuters

"In my early years, the backing of the board, and Sir Bobby Charlton in particular, gave me the confidence and time to build a football club, rather than just a football team.

"Over the past decade, the Glazer family have provided me with the platform to manage Manchester United to the best of my ability and I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with a talented and trustworthy Chief Executive in David Gill. I am truly grateful to all of them.

"To the fans, thank you. The support you have provided over the years has been truly humbling. It has been an honor and an enormous privilege to have had the opportunity to lead your club and I have treasured my time as manager of Manchester United."

– Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2013 18:45		
Aston Villa	vs	Chelsea
SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 19:30		
Stoke	vs	Tottenham
SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 21:00		
Everton	vs	West Ham
Fulham	vs	Liverpool
Sunderland	vs	Southampton
Norwich	vs	West Brom
SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 21:00		
QPR	vs	Newcastle
SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 22:00		
Man Utd	vs	Swansea
TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2013 01:45		
Arsenal	vs	Wigan
WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2013 02:00		
Man City	vs	Reading

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Man Utd	36	85
2	Man City	36	75
3	Chelsea	35	68
4	Arsenal	36	67
5	Tottenham	35	65
6	Everton	36	60
7	Liverpool	36	55
8	WBA	36	48
9	Swansea	36	46
10	West Ham	36	43
11	Stoke	36	41
12	Fulham	36	40
13	Aston Villa	36	40
14	Southampton	36	39
15	Sunderland	36	38
16	Norwich	36	38
17	Newcastle	36	38
18	Wigan	36	35
19	Reading	36	28
20	QPR	36	25

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RESTAURANT Off Course

International Sport

Genia happiest with Cooper

By Nick Mulvenney

AUSTRALIA scrumhalf Will Genia has dropped the strongest possible hint to coach Robbie Deans that he would prefer to play alongside Queensland Reds team mate Quade Cooper against the British and Irish Lions.

Genia is a nailed-on certainty for selection and could captain the side for the three tests in June and July, while flyhalf Cooper's international prospects have been up in the air since he spoke of the Wallabies' "toxic" environment last year.

Only two years ago, the pair combined to scythe through a succession of Super Rugby defenses as the Reds won the southern hemisphere's annual provincial competition for the first time.

They then teamed up for the national side to help Australia win the Tri-Nations for the first time in a decade, although they were less successful at the 2011 World Cup in New Zealand where the Wallabies finished third.

Both have since had knee reconstruction surgery and it is only in the last few weeks that they have been able to put together a sustained run of starts together.

Genia admitted the combination was still some way short of its very best but was quite clear who he preferred standing outside him in the number 10 shirt on match day.

"I love playing with Quade," Genia, who has played with Cooper since their school-boy days, told reporters in Brisbane on Tuesday. "We've got a long relationship. We've played together for a long time - I really enjoy that combination."

"More than anything it is a trust thing."



COMFORT: Australia's Wallabies' captain Will Genia leads his team onto the field before their Rugby Championship test match against South Africa. Photo: Reuters

In whatever decision each makes we back and support each other."

The flyhalf position looks to be one of the trickiest for coach Deans to fill, especially since he has made it clear he will not want to blood untried players in what he considers the ultimate test in international rugby.

That would seem to rule out the likes of in-form but uncapped ACT Brumbies Matt Toomua and Christian Lealiifano, as well as former sevens skipper Bernard Foley.

Kurtley Beale finished last season as incumbent in the position but has just returned to action after being banned for

hitting two team mates and is more likely to be preferred at fullback.

Like Beale, Berrick Barnes played both flyhalf and fullback for the Wallabies last year and filled the playmaker role in all three tests as Australia swept Wales 3-0 in the June series.

The 26-year-old, who offers a more orthodox and structured option than Cooper, is short of match practice having just been declared fit after missing six weeks with a broken wrist he sustained in his only match of the season.

Equally versatile, and some would argue more talented, is James O'Connor but he

has mostly been used in the back three by Deans and has played just one test at flyhalf.

That leaves Cooper, who has started 27 times in the Wallabies number 10 shirt, as by far the most experienced flyhalf available.

Regardless, the mercurial 25-year-old was left out of a 30-strong squad for a planning camp for the Lions tour last month and Deans has been less than effusive when discussing him.

There is also a school of thought – centered mainly but not exclusively on his homeland of New Zealand – that Cooper has been "found out" by international defenses and will never be the same threat he was in early 2011.

Adding to the doubts surrounding him is the fact that Cooper stands at fullback when the Reds are defending – a dispensation Deans is thought unhappy to continue at international level.

The first 25-man Wallabies squad for the Lions series will be named on May 19 with a further six players added when the Super Rugby season pauses for the international break.

Eschewing the outspokenness of last year, Cooper seems happy to let his performances for the Reds do the talking as he bids for a place in the party.

"It all depends on what the coach and the selectors are looking for," he said in Brisbane on Tuesday.

"Personally I am doing my best to work with Will, get the best out of each other and the Reds – I am not looking further than that." – *Reuters*

Senior Monty to compete in US full time

BRITAIN'S former world number two Colin Montgomerie repeatedly resisted the lure of the PGA Tour during his prime but now says he intends to compete full-time in the United States on the Champions Tour for players aged over 50.

The Scotsman, who won a record eight order of merit titles on the European Tour between 1993 and 2005, will be eligible for the senior circuit after his 50th birthday on June 23.

"I look forward now in many ways to starting a new life, a new chapter of my life to come over here now," Montgomerie told reporters on Monday before he was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, Florida.

Montgomerie said he was often tempted at the idea of playing full-time in the United States and was even asked on numerous

occasions by former PGA Tour commissioner Deane Beman and current head Tim Finchem to come over.

Montgomerie became one of the first British golfers to attend a U.S. college, earning a degree in business management at Houston Baptist University in May 1987 before he decided to embark on a career as a playing professional.

However, he opted to leave the US to play full-time on his home European Tour where he piled up 31 titles and clinched the order of merit crown for a record seven consecutive years from 1993-99.

"Seven in a row, that was something that I look back on and realize how special it was," said Montgomerie, who also compiled a stellar record in the biennial Ryder Cup team competition where he never lost in eight singles matches.

"So I'm probably most proud of that. But I look back at my career and raising the Ryder Cup as captain in 2010, to regain the Ryder Cup from the victory that the States had in 2008, was a very proud moment."

"It's funny because I never hit a golf shot that week. In terms of proud moments without hitting a ball, then it has to be raising the Ryder Cup."

Known for his natural swing, an aversion to practice and a temperament that could be prickly at times, Montgomerie had one glaring omission from an otherwise glittering career resume – a failure to win a major title despite having several close calls.

"I've enjoyed thoroughly my exploits in major championships," said the 49-year-old Scot, who recorded five runner-



Colin Montgomerie of Scotland tees off on the 12th hole during the first round of the Barclays Singapore Open golf tournament. Photo: Reuters

up spots in the majors among a total of 10 top-10 finishes.

"I just haven't been fortunate or whatever it takes, I've never, ever stood up and made a winner's speech ... I never will."

"But I look forward to the Seniors Tour and trying to win

them (majors) there. Gary Player counts them as majors, doesn't he?" Montgomerie added with a broad grin.

South African Player has won nine major titles on the regular PGA Tour, and a further nine in the senior events. – *Reuters*

Singapore to host women's tennis championships

SINGAPORE will host the glittering annual finale of the women's tennis season from 2014 until 2018, the WTA said on Wednesday.

The Southeast Asian city-state beat Tianjin in China and Mexico's Monterrey for the right to stage the S\$6 million (3.14 million pounds sterling) WTA Championships after Turkey's Istanbul ends

its three-year stint in October.

"Your sensational city, the amazing city of Singapore, has won the right to host the WTA Championships for the next five years from 2014," WTA chairman and chief executive Stacey Allaster told reporters.

Allaster called the agreement a record breaker and "the largest and

most significant WTA partnership in our history".

The season-ender is the most prestigious women's tennis event outside the four grand slam tournaments – the Australian, French and US Opens plus Wimbledon.

The top eight singles and doubles pairs over the season qualify for the event which was won last year

by American world number one Serena Williams. Russian pair Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova took the doubles title.

The hosting rights are a major coup for Singapore, which has not held a top level tennis event since the 1999 Heineken Cup on the men's ATP Tour. Lower ranked challenger events and exhibition tournaments

have struggled to attract crowds.

The event will take place at the Sports Hub complex, which is due to be finished by the first quarter of 2014 at a cost of S\$1.3 billion.

The impressive complex will feature a 55,000-seater stadium with retractable roof, a 13,000 indoor stadium, aquatics center and water sports center. – *Reuters*

Phuket Raceweek sails into view

THE award-winning Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek, presented by Mount Gay Rum, is set to take place again on July 17-21.

The event is celebrating its tenth anniversary and will feature four days of world-class yacht racing and four nights of magical, beach-side parties at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel.

Principal Race Officer Simon James is planning a variety of short courses and island courses, making the event competitive and fun for all classes.

A strong line-up of IRC boats, cruisers, sportsboats and multihulls will be taking part, and in keeping with tradition, the regatta will host the best classic class in Southeast Asian waters.

"What's unique about Phuket Raceweek is the race area. The east coast delivers good winds at this time of year and the racing area allows for a variety of race courses – something to suit all boats," commented Simon James.

"The race area also allows us to set interesting courses for the classic yachts, giving them the opportunity to 'stretch their legs' and show off their elegance."

The organizers of the 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek are proud to announce a stellar sponsorship line-up this year, with

some long-term supporters back on board and the return of a popular past sponsor.

After a brief hiatus, leading luxury automobile makers, Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC are back as a co-sponsor for 2013, and this is their third year sponsoring the event.

Joining them as co-sponsors is the Tourism Authority of Thailand as well as DaVinci Yacht Charters, who are also competing with their DaVinci catamaran – which is reigning class champion. The Sports Authority of Thailand have long been a supporting authority but this year, for the very first time at any regatta in Thailand, they have become a sponsor and are offering valuable support.

"Sponsorship is essential to the success of any event and we are very pleased to welcome back many of last year's sponsors. We're particularly excited to welcome back Jaguar Land Rover and the Sports Authority of Thailand in their expanded role and we look forward to working with all to make this a great 10th anniversary regatta," said Byron Jones, managing director of Media Business Services, co-organizer of Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

The Raceweek 'Regatta Village' on the beachfront at Cape Panwa

Hotel is taking shape. Site meetings have been conducted and planning is well underway to create a unique one-stop village center for the event, which will be Phuket's own version of the America's Cup Village.

Early bird registration is open until June 14 with a boat entry set at 10,000 baht and crew tickets at 3,850 baht. Entries are flowing in, with many regular favorites having already signed up to take advantage of the early bird offer, plus some new boats that haven't taken part before. A strong classic class is lining up for some 'green season' fun, and organizers are seeing a good spread of entries across all the classes.

The Junior Phuket Raceweek will be run in parallel with its 10-year-old bigger brother on July 19 and 20, and is expected to welcome over 30 youngsters competing in optimists, bics, toppers and lasers.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show.

For more information on the regatta: phuketraceweek.com. Sponsorship opportunities, email: paul@paulpoole.co.th (English) udomporn@paulpoole.co.th (Thai)



The DaVinci catamaran is the reigning class champion. Photo: Gazette file



Winner Melanie Klaffner (left), Craig Johns (center), director of Sports Academies at TSLC and runner-up Eric Doroteja. Photos: TSLC

Tennis at TSLC

THE final of the second International Tennis Federation (ITF) women's tournament between number six seed Melanie Klaffner from Austria and Serbia's Eric Doroteja was held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) on May 4.

Melanie won the final 3-6, 6-3 and 6-2 to make up for her semifinal defeat in the first ITF women's tournament by Luksika Kumkhum.

Eric, who had to qualify to enter the tournament, said "I tried very hard to win the first set but Klaffner is a strong opponent who played better and more consistently, forcing me to make more unforced errors."

In the semifinals, Klaffner beat Lee So-Ra in straight sets

7-6 (6), 6-3 and Eric Doroteja beat Lee Ya-Hsuan 6-0, 6-4.

In the doubles final, Thailand's Nicha Lertpitaksinchai and Paengtarn Plipuech, who won the first ITF women's doubles tournament, beat Fatma Al Nabhani and Ya-Hsuan Lee 6-2, 6-4.

TSLC hosted two women's SAT ITF Pro Circuit tournaments over two weeks.

Thanyapura will welcome ITF players and coaches back again next year.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The event was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions.



Seemant Raju of Patong lofts a ball from TNT's Pan Sriwang during their recent match at the Alan Cooke Ground. Photos: Phuket Cricket Group

JLL HOTELS LEAGUE 2012-2013				
Team	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Patong	8	6	2	39
Laguna	8	5	1	34
ICC	8	4	4	29
TNT	8	2	5	25
Village	8	1	6	15

Patong finish top of cricket league

IN THE final round robin match before the finals, Patong played TNT on Sunday, May 5 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

A Patong win would see them finish top of the league, whereas TNT were hoping to secure a confidence boosting end-of-season win. Patong ran out comfortable winners in the end, posting a solid total of 272 for 8 wickets from their 35 overs, while TNT reached 179 for 9 in reply.

After winning the toss, TNT elected to put Patong into bat. Patong, knowing they had already qualified for the final, adopted a unique way of selecting the batting order with the players chosen at random from cards numbered one to 11.

Richard Desmond (35) and Mike Khan (17) drew the opening spots and posted a solid start until Khan fell in the 8th over with the score on 42. Pao Suttiapha's (0) time in the middle was short-lived, surviving only two balls. Seemant Raju (28) then combined with Desmond to take the score along to 89 until Desmond was run out. Paddy Morton, one of Patong's dominant players, also failed to make an impression when he was well caught by Thai youngster Pan Sriwang.

Manish Sadarangani (33) and Niel Quail (52) then combined for a match winning 100 run partnership during a 10 over blitz, until Quail was deceived by the flight of an Andrew McMillan leggie.

Sadarangani fell shortly thereafter in the 30th over. However, Dave Watson (35 not out) and Soton Alamin (26) then



Seemant Raju finds a gap.

for 34).

After the lunch break, TNT set out to chase down the large

put on 56 runs in the final five overs to take Patong's total to an intimidating 272-8 from their 35 overs.

Pick of the bowlers for TNT were K Petruenthong (2 for 12), Andrew McMillan (2 for 20) and Pan Sriwang (1

Patong total.

They got off to a flying start with openers Roshan Jayasuria (66) and Andrew McMillan (40) posting a 109 run partnership in just 11 overs, before McMillan was bowled by Paddy Morton's leg spin.

Jayasuria's flamboyant innings, which included 6 fours and 4 sixes, eventually came to an end when he was bowled by Thai youngster Pao Suttiapha in the 17th over. TNT captain Simon Wetherell (18) tried to maintain the required run rate until he too fell victim to Pao. TNT then lost Simon Samaan and Pan Sriwang cheaply with only Anthony

Du Pont (13) providing any further resistance. The TNT innings eventually came to an end in the 26th over, with 179 runs on the scoreboard. Pick of the bowlers for Patong were Pao Suttiapha (3 for 36) and Soton Alamin (3 for 9).

The result means Patong finish top of the league table followed by Laguna. These teams will meet each other in the final at the ACG on Sunday, May 12 at 9am. Laguna will be looking to defend their title from last season, while Patong will be feeling confident of wrestling it away after convincingly beating Laguna in their last outing.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Seemant Raju of Patong plays a defensive shot against TNT's Pan Sriwang at the Alan Cooke Ground. Photo: Phuket Cricket Group.

Laguna Phuket's marathon theme song rocks

THIS year's Laguna Phuket International Marathon is rocking its thousands of runners and fans around the world with a specially-commissioned "Run Paradise" theme song.

The upbeat rock anthem was composed by Phuket-based musicians Gary Crause and Rob Cooke at Gary's Legend Music Studios.

The anthem celebrates the event's unique blend of enthusiasm for competitive running and community fund-raising on our tropical island paradise – all to an inspiring up-tempo beat.

Thousands of runners from across the globe will "Run Paradise" in the eighth edition of the annual event on Sunday, June 9, to re-affirm its status as Asia's

most popular family-friendly destination marathon.

As well as the full 42 kilometer marathon, there's a 21.1km half marathon, 10.5km run, a 91.5FM 5km community walk, and a 2km children's race.

Runners and spectators alike can help with fund-raising for the Laguna Phuket Foundation, which supports a number of community and school charity initiatives.

"Run Paradise" is an apt description, with runners of all ages and abilities on a mainly flat course that takes in rubber and pineapple plantations, beach views, local villages and the lagoons of Laguna Phuket – all in a family-friendly carnival atmosphere.

The new song will be performed

live at the runners' Pasta Party on the eve of the marathon by popular Phuket teen band, the Legends of Siam.

— *Phuket Gazette*

The event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTv and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, aired daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58).

Online marathon registration is available at: phuketmarathon.com with special deals at Laguna Phuket hotels also on the website.

The new song can also be heard on YouTube where it has been posted with a video of images from previous Laguna marathons.



Thousands of runners from across the globe will "Run Paradise" in the eighth edition of this annual event on Sunday, June 9. Photo: Laguna



FIRST TEAM: The starting 11 included two Brazilians, a Japanese, a Frenchman and seven Thais.



Phuket FC's Brazilian midfielder Juninho hits a free kick into the box. Photos: Steven Layne

Phuket fail to tame Port Lions

By Andrew Scott

THE Islanders drew 1-1 with the Port Authority of Thailand's pro soccer team, Singhtarua FC on Saturday night at Phuket's Surakul Stadium, and the home team will feel unlucky not to have claimed all three points.

The Singhtarua FC "Port Lions" survived a late onslaught, with Phuket's Thodsaphon Kanplook hitting the post before Luiz "Dudu" Purcino hit the bar with a header.

In a tight first half, chances for both teams were hard to come by.

Dudu forced the visiting team's keeper

into a great save just before half time, while the Lions' North Korean forward, Myong Jon Ri, should have done better with his diving header from six yards out.

His team mate, one of the YL1's leading scorers, Brazilian striker Leandro da Luz's 20 yard free kick was just wide of the Phuket goal.

Phuket took the lead in the second half when Dudu ran onto a through ball played



Former Phuket player Diarra Ali.

into the box, and struck his shot from a tight angle that beat Singhtarua's keeper at his near post.

Singhtarua, who were relegated from the Thai Premier League last season, equalized when midfielder Diarra Ali rose the highest in Phuket's box to glance his header past keeper Adisak Doungsri.

In the final minutes of the game, Steven Robb forced Adisak to palm the ball onto

his own bar.

Phuket threw all they could at Singhtarua in the dying minutes of the game but the post and bar denied the Islanders a valuable win.

Phuket remain in fifth place, three points behind top of the table PTT Rayong FC and Air Force United.

The Islanders next game is an away match against 16th place Ayutthaya FC on May 11, which will be shown live on True Vision channel 114 at 6pm.

Phuket's next home game is against Rayong FC on May 18.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE MAY 11

AYUTTHAYA FC VS PHUKET FC

KICKOFF 18.00

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2013 16:00

Rayong Utd. vs TTM FC

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2013 17:00

Trat FC vs Air Force Utd.

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2013 18:00

Sriracha FC vs Korat FC

Saraburi FC vs Nakhon Pathom

SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 16:00

Singhtarua FC vs Rayong FC

SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 18:00

BBCU FC vs Bangkok FC

Khon Kaen FC vs Krabi FC

SUNDAY, 12 MAY 2013 18:30

Siam Navy FC vs PTT Rayong

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	PTS
1	PTT Rayong	9	19
2	Air Force Utd.	9	19
3	BBCU FC	9	17
4	Singhtarua FC	9	17
5	Phuket	9	16
6	Bangkok FC	9	15
7	Krabi FC	9	14
8	Trat FC	9	12
9	Saraburi	9	11
10	Siam Navy	9	11
11	Korat FC	9	11
12	Nakhon Pathom	9	10
13	Si Racha	9	9
14	Rayong Utd.	9	8
15	Khon kaen	9	7
16	Ayutthaya FC	9	6
17	Rayong FC	9	5
18	TTM FC	9	4

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