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Phuket Jazette

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Lack of visibility online and on-site keeps
Airport Express stuck in reverse

INSIDE TODAY

October 12 - 18, 2013

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(HI)AYS

■ WANTED: Murder fugitive living openly in sunny Philippines

By Gazette Reporters

BRITISH murder fugitive Michael John Taylor, better known in Phuket as "Mick The Pom", has been found alive and well in the Philippines, and now uses the online monikers "Mick Doggard", or just "Mickdog" for short.

Taylor, who celebrated his 50th birthday on September 20 this year, remains wanted for the murder of his girlfriend Jantra Weangta, 27, who was found stabbed to death in Taylor's rented bungalow near Chalong Pier on August 17, 2004.

Ms Jantra died from a single stab wound to the heart.

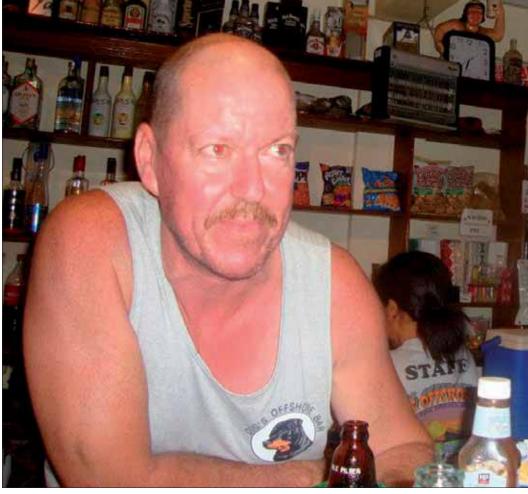
Nearby, police found a large Bowie knife and a pair of bloodstained trousers, and quickly arrested Taylor for the murder.

Taylor denied the accusation and told police that around the time Ms Jantra was estimated to have been killed, he was drinking at the Moonlight Bar in Karon and then having sex on the beach with a katoey, 21-year-old Fonnoi Khonsau.

He said that he found Ms Jantra dead on the bed when he and Mr. Fonnoi went to the house.

By the time Taylor's much-delayed trial started over a year later, the prosecution had lined up 13 witnesses to testify against him, including Pornthip Rojanasunand, Thailand's leading forensic investigator, who was to present DNA evidence.

Despite the fact that he faced a murder charge, Taylor had been released on bail after a Chanote land title deed valued at 400,000 baht was posted as surety.



British national Michael Taylor is still wanted for the stabbing murder of his Thai girlfriend.

In 2006, mid-trial, he disappeared.

Taylor was later seen by a *Gazette* reader on the streets of his hometown of Hull, in northern England.

The British Embassy in Bangkok has refused to confirm or deny whether or not he re-entered the UK after he absconded from Thailand, and neither that embassy nor the British embassy in Manila nor the Home Of-

fice in the UK have explained to the Gazette how Taylor continues to travel abroad.

Taylor's lawyer, Somsak "Sam" Chattay, confirmed to the Gazette in 2006 that Taylor's passport was held at the Chalong Police Station during the trial.

The Gazette has a copy of Taylor's...

Continued on Page 6

Briton held for myr

Murder victim Jantra Weangta. By Siripansa Somboon

CHALONG: Briton Michael John Taylor, 40, has been arrested on a charge of murdering his girlfriend on August 17. He is being held in custody in Phuket Provincial Prison.

Police say they have statements from eight people confirming their belief that Taylor, known locally as "Mick the Pom", murdered 27-year-old Jantra Weangta at the home they

shared in Chalong. Pol Maj Jessada Sangsuree, an inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the Gazette, "We have eight statements that suggest Mr Taylor is the murderer. The court issued an arrest warrant, but he still denies the

Maj Jessada said that Taylor claims that, around the time K. Jantra is estimated to have been killed, he was drinking at the Moonlight Bar in Karon and then having sex on the beach with a katoey, 21-year-old Fonnoi Khonsau.

Taylor asserts that he found K. Jantra dead on the bed when he and K. Fonnoi went to the

K. Jantra died from a single stab wound to the heart. Nearby, police found a large Bowie knife and a pair of bloodstained trou-



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This Week



Property

One man's vision to build an eco-resort in Phuket. Page 14



Business

Get into the kitchen business with a Danish company. Page 17



Food

Meet Flavio Manzoni, Phuket's own ice cream Page 34



Boats

Learn what luxury is all about on board the White Pearl. Page 39



French street artist Noe Two colors Phuket's walls. Page 40



Sport

It's high time to get in shape for the Laguna Challenge. Page 49



Severe weather warning issued as floods subside

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MINOR floods from heavy rains across Phuket last weekend drained early in the week, but more water is on its way. The Thai Meteorological Department has issued a severe weather warning that will remain in effect until at least this Saturday.

People in flood and landslide risk areas in Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun were urged to exercise caution.

All small boats were advised to stay ashore, as waves reaching up to three meters high were expected on the Andaman Sea.

The warning follows deluges flooding main roads in Phuket Town - notably Phuket Road, Montri Road and Rassada Road, all in the heart of the Phuket Old Town quarter, where water ran up to 20cm deep last Sunday.

Heavy rain last weekend also caused a landslide on Soi Yodsanae. the lone road leading up the hill to the Big Buddha image in Chalong, on Saturday.

"Chalong Municipality has teams of officers on 24-hour standby, ready to receive reports of any landslides and floods in our area, and to assist residents," said Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol.

The Chalong flood and landslide



Chalong Municipality workers clear trees and soil from the only road leading up to the island's famous Big Buddha image.

hotline can be reached by calling

In Phuket Town, municipality workers spent hours pumping the floodwater into Bang Yai Canal to clear the roads, Phuket Town Mayor Somjai Suwansupana said.

"We also posted signs to warn motorists that some roads might flood if the rain continues," she

A hotline has been set up to assist Phuket Town residents in need of help due to flooding.

"People in need of help are calling 076-385640.

urged to call 199 or 076-211111. Our staff will be available aroundthe-clock," Mayor Somjai said.

In Kamala, more than 20 homes were flooded by mud and water during a flash flood last Sunday that swamped a hotel and caused a small landslip.

Officers are on standby at the Kamala Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day.

The Kamala OrBorTor flood and landslide hotline can be reached by

Helmetless motorbiker dies from head injury

A HELMETLESS man died of head injuries last Sunday night after his motorbike collided with a SUV being driven at high speed on Pa Khlok Road near the Heroines' Monument.

"The body of Prasit Munmai, 50, was lying face down on the road near his motorbike when we arrived," said Kittipoom Tinthalang of the Thalang Police.

"Mr Prasit hit the asphalt headfirst, and died instantly," said Maj Kittipoom.

Mr Prasit is one of several who have died this month from a head injury in a motorbike accident on



Mr Prasit reportedly died instantly.

Phuket's infamously deadly roads. The driver of the SUV, Korranee Klasuk, 53, was charged with reckless driving resulting in death.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Baby breaches in 'bad stomachache'

RESCUE workers taking a Myanmar national with complaints of a bad stomachache to Takuapa Hospital on October 3 were surprised when she suddenly gave birth to a baby boy.

"We received an emergency call to pick up Ms Soe, 35, a Burmese worker at a rubber plantation, just after midnight. She reported having a very bad stomachache for no reason," said Preecha Fungfuang, a Phuket Ruamjai Rescue worker based in Takuapa.

"On the way to the hospital, we heard her shout, "I can't take it anymore!" We saw that she was bleeding, and when we examined her, we saw the head of a baby.

"We stopped the van and deliv-



Rescue workers believed the woman had appendicitis.

because we weren't expecting it, but we managed. Both the mother and baby are healthy," he added.

'We called Takuapa Hospital for an ambulance to take them to the hospital. The baby boy weighed 2.8 kilograms," he stated.

"Ms Soe told us that she had ered the baby. It was a challenge no clue she was pregnant. She did

not notice any physical changes, and she said she kept getting her

"When we saw her, we didn't realize she was pregnant either. We thought she had appendicitis. We are glad that they both are safe," Mr Preecha said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Sexual assault and abduction

Convicted taxi driver walks free with suspended sentence, light fine

By Saran Mitrarat

THE illegal Phuket taxi driver who abducted and sexually assaulted a teenage Chinese tourist while under the influence of drugs and alcohol walked out of Phuket Pro-

vincial Court a free man on October 4 after being handed down a suspended sentence.

Paitoon Kruain, 32, was given a sentence of 13 months suspended

after pleading guilty to all charges against him.

The court initially sentenced him to 26 months in prison and ordered him to pay a fine of 21,000 baht, a court clerk told the Gazette.

"However, because he pled guilty to all charges, the penalty was cut in half," she said.

As this was his first offense, his sentence was suspended and time in prison, the clerk added.

"However, he must present himself to the court every month," the clerk said.

Mr Paitoon picked up the Chitourist at Phuket International Air-

'By October 2018, he

will have the right to

license in Phuket'

port and kept her locked in his car for nearly five apply for a taxi driver's hours as he drove around the island while repeatedly - Konlayut Jattutasri, PPLTO touching her. licensing division chief

The young woman held cap-

jail time and a fine of 10,500 baht tive was freed from her ordeal only after Mr Paitoon's car ran out of gas. When he got out of the car to push it, she fled and was assisted by passers-by.

Police quickly identified Mr Paitoon after the tourist gave accurate descriptions of the car, its license plate number and Mr Paitoon's driver ID number.

tested positive for ya bah [methamphetamine], leading to a

he will not be required to serve Category 1 narcotics charge, in addition to a charge for consuming alcohol while driving.

> He also paid a 2,000-baht fine for illegally operating a regular vehicle as a taxi.

After the sentence was handed down in court today, Mr Paitoon was escorted out of the courtroom via the defendant's exit.

Mr Paitoon's mother, present in the court gallery, said simply, "The case is finished.'

She had no other comment for the media.

Konlayut Jattutasri, chief of the licensing division at the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office, confirmed to the Gazette that Mr Paitoon will be ineligible to apply to operate a legal Phuket taxi for five years.

"He cannot apply for a taxi driver's license during the period of the full sentence handed down or for three years after that.

"By October 2018, he will have After his subsequent arrest, he the right to apply for a taxi driver's license in Phuket," Mr Konlayut



Paitoon Kruain's sentence was halved after he pled guilty to taking drugs, and abducting and sexually assaulting a Chinese tourist. Photo: Gazette file

Hit-and-run bus driver surrenders

ONCE again, the driver of a Phuket tour bus fled the scene after hitting and killing a local resident. The incident occurred as a woman was crossing Thepkrasattri Road in Thalang on October 4.

The 33-year-old driver, Natthanapong Jithang, turned himself in at Thalang Police Station later that night.

"After I crashed into The woman had crossed the road for groceries. her... I ran away because I

was afraid of being attacked by villagers. That is why I came to the police station instead of returning to the accident," Mr Natthanapong said.

The fatality occurred about 400 meters from the Baan Nai Klum u-turn, close to where another hitand-run victim perished about three weeks ago.

When the police arrived with volunteer rescue workers, they found the body of the woman.

A search of the body revealed no identifying documents, but a witness to the accident identified the woman as a Myanmar national in her 50s who often crossed the road at that spot to get to a grocery store.

'While she was crossing, I saw a bus travelling at high speed and yelled out a warning," the witness said.

Bus driver Mr Natthanapong told police that he

didn't have time to brake and couldn't swerve to avoid hitting her as a car was in the next lane.

Police later found the bus parked about a kilometer from the scene.

"It had a cracked windshield. Inside we found Chinese passengers and a tour guide, but the driver had fled," Maj Kittipoom Tinthalang of the Thalang - Thawit Bilabdullar Police said.

Local meth arrests lead back to prison inmate drug lord

THE trend for local drug dealers to source their product from a kingpin operating out of a maximum-security prison was evident again this week as Crime Suppression Division officers on Monday arrested and seized 2,336 pills of ya bah (methamphetamine) in two raids north of Phuket Town.

Officers arrested Khajorn Jantasri, 30, and Jamroen Sawangwit, 28, and seized 700mg of ya ice [crystal methamphetamine] during the raids.

Mr Khajorn told police that he got the drugs from a man he named only as "Mr R", who Mr Khajorn said was currently an inmate at the maximum-security facility Nakhon Sri Thammarat



Suspects Jamroen (left) and Khajorn Central Prison.

"Mr R apparently sells ya bah in bulk at 540,000 baht for 4,000 pills," Col Seksan said.

Both suspects were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong







Iguanas are a protected species in Thailand. Photo: Twicepix

Exploited lizard puts rainy-day tout in hot water

NON-stop rain in Patong could not stop an iguana tout from offering tourists photo opportunities with his captive reptile, a protected species. However, his persistence paid no dividends.

Kathu District officers arrested the tout on Monday on Patong's Phang Muang Sai Kor Road.

"Ruonkimlhee Unruean, 46, from Patong, was caught with the iguana in front of One Tambon One Product market," Kathu District Chief Veera Kerdsirimongkol told the *Gazette*.

"The iguana touts have switched to working during the day, believing that this will lower their risk of being caught," he added.

- Chutharat Plerin

Taxi probe goes to the beach

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has revealed that the next two areas to be investigated for alleged taxi mafia activity are the Phuket beachside communities of Rawai and Kamala.

The move from Central Phuket Festival and the Phuket International Airport has already received the support of Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who has ordered the investigations to be carried out without further delay.

Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Unit 3, delivered the news at a meeting at Provincial Hall on October 1.

The first people to be targeted in the investigation are illegal taxi drivers at the taxi stand in front of the Novotel Phuket Kamala.

"We received a complaint from an Australian who bought a tour package that included taxi transfers," Col Somboon said.

"But when a taxi came to pick him up at the hotel, five men blocked the car and threatened to attack the driver if he persisted in his attempt to pick him up,"



Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Unit 3, is investigating claims of taxi intimidation in Rawai and Kamala.

he explained.

The DSI has a witness who has corroborated the complaint of the Australian tourist, saying

that he saw the five men blocking the taxi driver from coming into the hotel, he added.

The five illegal drivers work for

a co-operative headed by Anake Salakom, a councilor of the Kamala Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), Col Somboon alleged.

The investigation into reports of violent intimidation by taxi drivers at hotels and resorts in Rawai will begin at the taxi stand in front of the Serenity Resort & Residences on Wiset Road.

A complaint was filed on September 27 alleging that a man had called a limousine taxi to pick up his sister and her foreign partner to have dinner, Col Somboon said.

"After the taxi picked up his sister at the resort, the taxi was not allowed to leave because a man had blocked the exit with a steel boom gate.

"The man threatened the passenger – the complainant's sister – and said she was only allowed to use taxis from in front of hotel," he said.

Finally, after two hours of negotiating with her captor, the woman was allowed to leave the resort in the limousine taxi, Col Somboon said.

"The incident was caught on CCTV, and we will use the footage as evidence," he said.



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Trainees bolster cop ranks

POLICE trainees from Surat Thani saw some frontline action in Phuket last week when they received on-the-job training at a checkpoint in Baan Bang Jo, in Srisoonthorn.

Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwootthinan and a team of officers supervised the 14 trainees assigned to the Thalang precinct, while another 43 trainees from Surat Thani were dispatched to assist in Phuket City, Chalong and Patong.

The 57 police trainees, not formally called "cadets" as they will not graduate as commissioned officers at the Police Academy in Bangkok, have been assigned to assist Phuket Police perform their duties as part of their training at the Provincial Police Region 8 Training Center.

The 57 trainees will depart Phuket on October 25 in order to prepare for their graduation ceremony at Provincial Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani.

However, they will return to Phuket as police officers in November, accompanied by a further

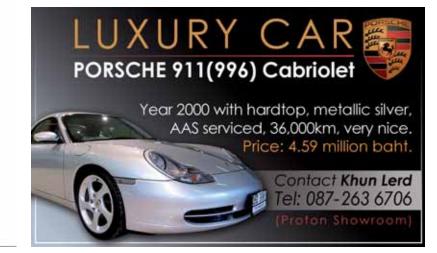


The police trainees conducted routine checks of vehicles and their drivers, and searched for drugs and weapons.

40 officers, bringing the total number of new officers on the island to 97.

Having new recruits assigned to Phuket is part of the Royal Thai Police's current push to increase the number of officers on the island in order to boost public safety.

– Thawit Bilabdullar



Boarding the struggle bus

By Irfarn Jamdukor

THE airport bus service continues to operate at a loss, mainly due to management and marketing problems, its owner has told the *Gazette*.

The buses, which travel from Phuket International Airport to Patong, have been carrying only six to eight passengers each morning and about 12 to 15 in the afternoons, company owner

'It took me 20 minutes

to find the bus stop."

- Josh Yang, tourist

Prakob Panyawai said.
"We have not been effec-

"We have not been effective in getting customers' attention," he said.

"We really need a counter inside the terminal, something similar to what the taxis have. We talked to airport management twice in September about this, but they told us we have to wait for the new terminal to be completed in 2015," he said.

Tourists looking for the bus stop outside the terminal continue to have difficulty finding it, Mr Prakob said, despite signs that were put up in August.

Mr Prakob's concerns were supported by several visitors who spoke with the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"It took me 20 minutes to find the bus stop," Korean tourist Josh Yang said.

Jean-Elly Longchamps, a first-time visi-

tor to Phuket, said, "I saw the airport bus signs inside and a few outside, but they did not tell us where exactly the bus stop is or where I could buy a bus ticket."

"I checked the information on the website, but I didn't understand," he said. "There was information only in Thai."

Bill Daniels, a three-time visitor from the US, has never taken the bus. "There is no counter to give information to tourists,"

he said. He also noted that the bus stop area was dirty.

Last month, the *Gazette* asked Mr Prakob why information about the bus wasn't available in English online.

He responded that in the rush to get the bus up and going, he overlooked the website and vowed to have an English-language version available this month.

Mr Prakob also alleged that airport taxi drivers have been luring customers away by telling them their service is better than the bus.

Another visitor complaint concerned cleanliness; the bus stop is dirty, Mr Daniels said. The bus company is responsible for making the bus stop attractive for customers, Pakin Sirijun, a Phuket Airport Customer Service officer said.

"We gave them the bus stop area," he said. "Now the company owner has to



Bus staff explain the bus stop to Governor Maitri Inthusut on his first visit. Photo: Gazette file

manage that area himself."

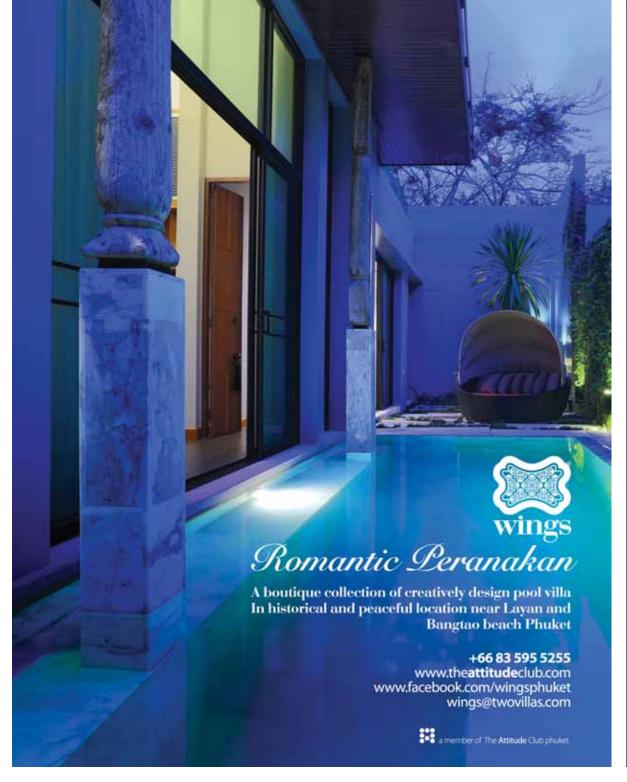
Mr Pakin also noted that the airport had added bus signs inside and outside the terminal, and had installed lights at the bus stop.

"I haven't seen the owner do anything

to develop the area," he added.

The bus has lost 400,000 baht since its first run in July, Mr Prakob calculates.

If ridership doesn't increase in the coming high season, the company will start using smaller vehicles to save money, he said.





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CHANINTRLIVING COM

Life in the sun, on the run

From page 1

... previous passport, showing it was due to expire on June 12 this year. For Taylor to be legally travelling today as a British national, he must have been issued a new passport by the UK authorities while he was still wanted for murder in Thailand.

The news of Taylor's latest whereabouts was brought to the *Gazette*'s attention after patrons at the Dogs Offshore Bar in the beach resort town of Pundaquit, about 160km west of Manila and just over an hour's driver from Subic Bay, heard him bragging about the killing to patrons in the bar.

Asked who to contact with such information, the British Embassy in Bangkok refused to provide any assistance in bringing one of its own nationals to justice.

"The alleged offence was committed in Thailand, and therefore the whereabouts of the alleged offender is likely to be of interest to the Thai authorities. We would suggest that any information on the case be shared with the Thai authorities," an email from the

embassy said.

"This is a bilateral matter between Thailand and the Philippines authorities and the Royal Thai Police are the correct body to

take this issue forward,"

said an earlier email.

No embassy representative was willing to officially claim responsibility for either email.

The *Gazette* on August 31 informed Phuket Provincial Police Chief Choti Chavalwivat, who retired on September 30, as well as Phuket



everybody that he is innocent and his dog offshore bar is doing better because of the publicity.'

- Concerned resident, in Pundakit, the Philippines

Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya and Chalong Police Superintendent

Kritapas Daztharasorn. However, the Gazette hitting the streets this weekend will mark six weeks of action any Phuket law enforcement authority to bring Taylor to justice despite having been given a photo, the arrest warrant for murder and for jumping bail, a

phone number, Facebook page, website address and even a map of where to find him.

After being informed and shown documentary evidence of Taylor's



Jantra Weangta (seated, right) pictured with friends before her brutal murder in August 2004. Photo: Gazette file

whereabouts on August 31, Maj Gen Choti told the *Gazette* it was a matter for the Public Prosecutor, not the police. However, he assured he would report the information to Chief Prosecutor Chiengsean as soon as possible.

Three days later, while chasing an update, the *Gazette* broke the news of Taylor's whereabouts to Mr Chiengsean, who repeatedly confirmed that he had yet to receive any notification from Gen Choti.

Even then, Mr Chiengsean was adamant that arresting a murder fugitive – even one that absconded on bail during trial – was a matter for the police.

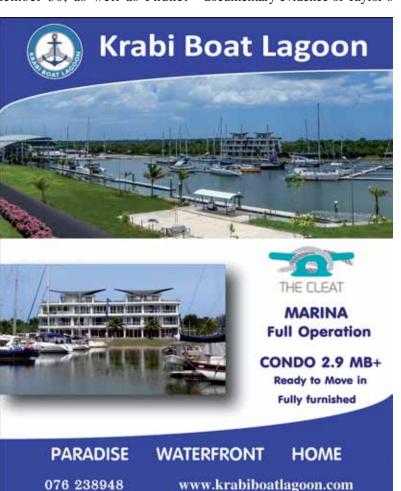
Noting the failure of communication and a lack of common understanding between police and the chief prosecutor in matters involving the arrest of murder fugitives, the *Gazette* brought the case to the attention of Col Kritapas, who as Superintendent of the Chalong Police heads the police unit that brought the case to trial. He denied any further responsibility for bringing a murder suspect arrested in his jurisdiction to justice.

"It is beyond police authority to arrest anyone outside of the country. Police have done their job. The suspect was arrested and handed over to the prosecutor," Col Krittapas said. "Also, the suspect escaped while on court bail, not police bail... This is clearly a matter for the prosecutor," he added.

Nigh daily calls – by phone and in person – by the *Gazette* to all three top law-enforcement authorities related to the case have since yielded no confirmation that the Royal Thai Police in Phuket are willing to take any action to arrest Taylor.

At last report, the *Gazette* learned Taylor was heading offshore again to work – most likely in the oil and gas industry.

His online posts appear on "rovworld.com", a site for offshore workers.



Officials look to pull sand out from under Kamala beach encroachers

SHOP and bar owners that have been found to be encroaching on Kamala Beach have until October 8 to take down their offending structures.

The deadline for the structures to be removed was extended to Friday from an October 4 deadline.

If they are not removed voluntarily, they will be demolished, said Kamala Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*) Vice President Seri Larpmark.

Mr Seri first inspected construction on the beach in early September.

"We found many shops and bars encroaching on the beach, and called the owners to a meeting a week later to ask them to take down their illegal constructions," Mr Seri said.

The owners were told they had two weeks to take down the structures and all agreed, he said.



Restaurants and beach bars were told to get off the sand. Photo: Supplied

"We will inspect the beach on October 8 and make a list of any establishments that have not removed their encroaching structures," Prasert Poksakul, said an official with the Kamala Tambon *OrBorTor* on October 4.

"Then we will send that list to Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, along with a letter that states that if the owners don't remove the structures themselves, we will demolish them," he said.

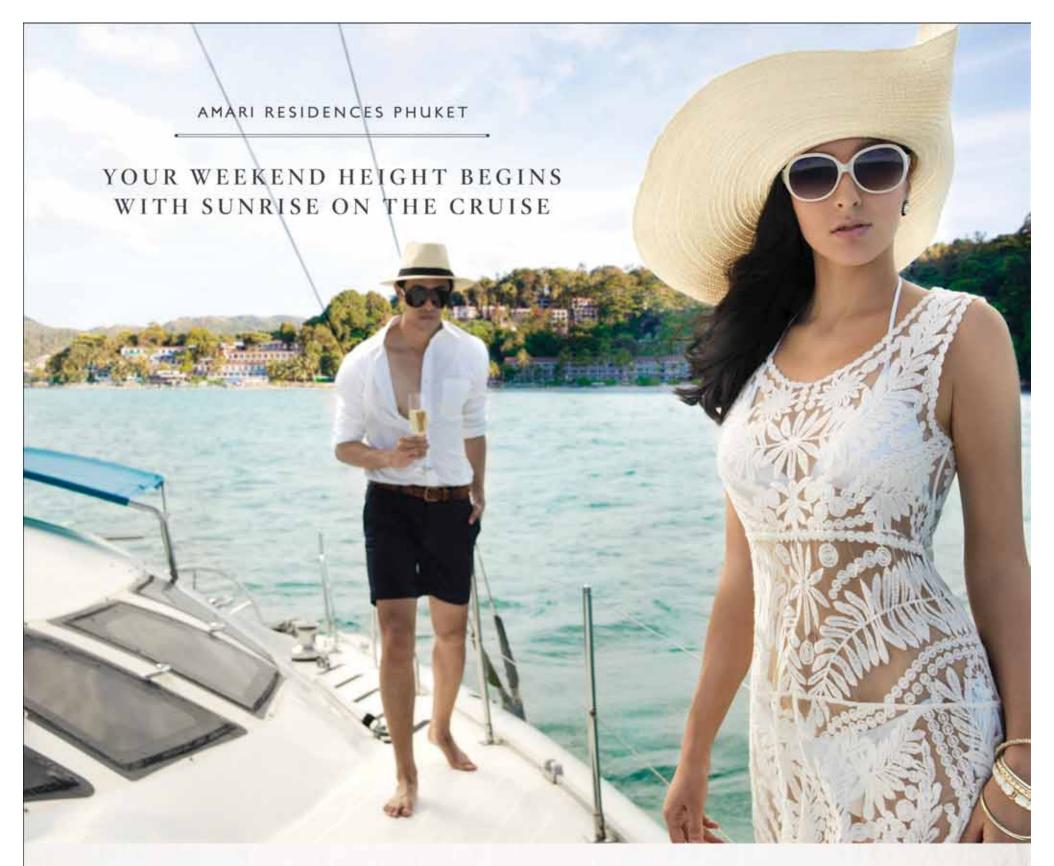
The new deadline for demolition will be set by Vice Governor Chamroen, said Mr Prasert.

"Once the Vice Governor approves the demolition letter and sets a date to take action, we will call all the bar and restaurant owners in to sign the letter," he said.

Mr Prasert urged beach establishments to comply.

- Irfarn Jamdukor

October 12 - 18, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 7



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No seatbelts but all survive van double flip



The six passengers, including three children, had minor injuries.

SIX relatives, including three children, escaped serious injury when the van they were in flipped twice before coming to rest on Thepkrasattri Road in Mai Khao on the afternoon of October 6.

None of the adults or three children, aged 8 to 11, was wearing a seat belt when the van slid on the rain-slicked road, flipped twice and came to rest upright in the northbound lane.

The driver, Chaiyut Nanakorn, 54, told police the family was on their way home after visiting relatives Krabi.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Ultimatum on drownings

By Saran Mitrarat

RESPONDING to the recent spate of Chinese tourist drownings at Racha Yai island, the head of the Conservation Club there issued the Phuket Government a safety ultimatum on October 3.

"The authorities have to put pressure on tour companies to increase tourist safety," said Sarit Jandee, head of the club.

"The tour companies need to do more – provide life jackets to swimmers, not operate day trips on bad-weather days, give their guides more safety training and also teach them to take more responsibility for their customers," he said.

In the case of the most recent fatality – Lin Hunhing, 30, who died on October 1 – the guide did not take any action to save the tourist, Mr Sarit alleged.

"The guide claimed that he had already warned the tourists, but they didn't believe him," Mr Sarit said.

"I will give the local government 15 days to find a solution. If none is forthcoming, we will take the matter into our own hands,"



Sarit Jandee, left, asked V/Gov Somkiet Sangkaosuttirakat for help in stopping drownings. Photo: PR Dept

Mr Sarit said. "We will set our own safety conditions for the tour companies."

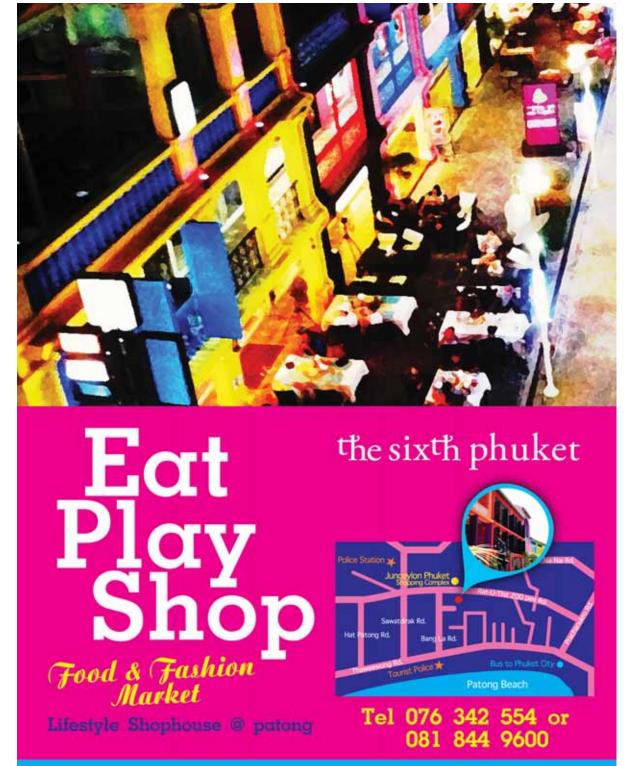
According to Mr Sarit, there have been at least eight drownings at the island in the

past 10 months.

Tourism is being affected, he said, as Chinese tourists begin to regard Racha Yai Island as a dangerous place.

"It's time for officials to take

action to improve the safety at Racha Yai Island," he said as he presented his letter of complaint to Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak at Phuket Provin-



Lights re-ignite on deadly road stretch



The lights will slow traffic on Thepkrasattri Road. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

ONE of the deadliest stretches of Thepkrasattri Road got new traffic lights on October 3. Or rather, got its old ones operating again.

The 2.9m baht lights, located at the Baan Khaolarn intersection between the PTT station in Sri Soonthorn and Tesco Lotus in Thalang, have been installed to increase safety in the area, said Director of Phuket Highways Samak Luedwonghad.

"There have been five accidents on this stretch in the last three months, two of which had fatalities," he said late last month.

He was not including the death on October 3 of a woman who was crossing the street when she was struck by a Chinese tour bus, nor the three deaths over the past Christmas and New Year period reported by the *Gazette*.

The 5.5km of road between the circle at Heroine's Monument and

the traffic light at Tesco Lotus Thalang has four u-turns but nothing to slow traffic hurrying along Phuket's main south-north route towards the airport, Sarasin Bridge and other provinces.

There used to be a traffic light at the Baan Khaolarn intersection, but it was removed some years ago because authorities felt traffic volume wasn't enough to warrant it, Mr Samak said.

However, the number of cars and motorbikes has increased and the area has developed and become more crowded, he said.

"Putting the traffic lights here will reduce the number of accidents on the road. It will help reduce the speed of traffic, make a safe place to u-turn and increase the safety of nearby u-turns as well," said Thalang police Deputy Traffic inspector Sarayuth Meeboon. — *Irfarn Jamdukor*



Ms Rungtiwa, in white shirt, said everything in her home was destroyed or damaged.

Firecrackers likely cause of house fire

CHILDREN playing with firecrackers before the Phuket Vegetarian Festival got underway are the likely cause of a fire which gutted a home in Thalang.

Two teams of firefighters arrived at the house of Rungtiwa Nuansri, 29, in Thepkrasattri, at about 8pm on October 3 to find her modest home ablaze.

The firemen, working with local residents, took about an hour to extinguish the flames.

"We believe the fire was caused by firecrackers. It is impossible it was an electrical short circuit because our electricity has been cut off for three days. We had to stay at my parents' house nearby," Ms Rungtiwa explained.

Ms Rungtiwa estimated the cost of damage to her belongings at about 30,000 baht.

"Everything in my house was destroyed or damaged by the fire," she said.

Thalang Police case investigator Chatree Chuwichian said his officers will be looking into the cause of the blaze.

"We have contacted experts to investigate the real cause," he said.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Turtles injured by propellers and nets wash ashore

TWO injured Olive Ridley sea turtles washed up on Phuket's west coast on October 6.

One of the two, a male between 15 and 20 years old, was found on Patong Beach with leg and head injuries inflicted by a boat propeller.

The other turtle, a female between five and 20 years old, was found earlier that day at Nai Harn Beach.

"The turtle found at Nai Harn Beach had several cuts on her fins from a net," said Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Marine Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

Both turtles were taken to the PMBC to be treated and are being kept under observation.

The discovery of the injured turtles follows an injured Olive Ridley sea turtle being rescued at Koh Racha Yai the week before.

The creature – rated as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of nature – was rescued by the staff of Phuket's Scuba Cat Diving company.

PMBC veterinarian Patcharaporn Kaewmong said the Racha turtle had a fractured shell, scars from fishing-net wounds and was suffering from an internal infection.

It was given antibiotics and was slightly better, she said.

Kritsada Mueanhawong
 Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal



Three injured Olive Ridley sea turtles have been rescued in the past two weeks.

Getting anchors off coral

By Orawin Narabal

OFFICIALS have vowed to take action against boat operators dropping anchor on live corals in popular Phuket day-trip destinations such as Koh Racha Yai, after a video showing an anchor destroying the fragile marine environment there surfaced online in early October.

"I was notified by the Go Eco Phuket team about the problem. I will issue a letter to all boat operators who run trips to Koh Racha Yai to meet with Marine Police and members of the Phuket Tourist Association to discuss the issue," Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Phuket office chief Thanet Munnoy said on October 7. The meeting has been set for October 10.

Dropping anchor on coral reefs is illegal, and carries a punishment of up to four years in prison, a fine of up to 40,000 baht or both, explained chief Thanet.

Chief Thanet admitted that the fundamental issue was a lack of moorings around Koh Racha Yai.

"I understand that part of the problem stems from a lack of



Lack of moorings is one reason anchors have been dropped on coral at Racha Yai Island. Photo: Sourced

moorings in the area. Last year, we tried to solve the problem by adding moorings at Siam Bay, Batok Bay, Tue Bay and Khonkae Bay, but many of them were damaged because they were overloaded and the ropes broke.

"We are not ignoring this prob-

lem at all. I actually already had a plan drawn up to add 20 more moorings around Koh Racha Yai, which will cost about one million baht," chief Thanet said.

However, the project is still in the planning stages and the exact locations for the 20 moorings have

yet to be identified.

"Hopefully, I will be able to complete the project within a year. Until then, I will be sending DMCR officers out to the island to find and charge those operators who are dropping anchor on the reefs," he said.





The pickup was carrying 24 people when it crashed. Photo: The Nation

Two pregnant women, 15 others killed in horror crash

TWO of the 17 people killed in a single vehicle accident in Buri Ram on Monday were pregnant women.

The mostly Lao-national passengers were killed when the pickup truck that was carrying them smashed into a tree in Ban Dan District.

The truck, which was carrying 24 construction workers, skidded off the roadway on a straight stretch of road in dry conditions.

"No other cars were involved. At this point, it's likely the driver fell asleep while the vehicle was travelling at high speed," Col Suthee Setthawong said in an interview.

The driver, named by police as Chawalit Thavornkham, was believed to be taking an alternate route to the border checkpoint to avoid police detection.

Seven passengers were injured, six seriously.

Police found a tablet of methamphetamine in the driver's pocket and a bottle of alcohol next to his seat, Col Suthee said.

in about an

nour.

Lese Majeste: Two convicted, one released by royal pardon

THAILAND's controversial Lese Majeste law is making waves again after the appeals courts overturned two acquittals on charges of defaming the monarchy.

But the same week, high-profile Lese Majeste prisoner Surachai Danwattananusorn praised HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's graciousness after he was released through a royal pardon, The Nation reported.

On October 1, royalist yellow-shirt leader Sondhi Limthongkul was sentenced to two years in prison at the appeals court after it ruled to overturn an earlier acquittal.

Mr Sondhi was convicted for a speech he made at a People's Alliance for Democracy rally in 2008, in which he quoted parts of a speech made by another Lese Majeste convict, Daranee "Da Torpedo" Charnchoensilpakul.

In July 2012, Mr Sondhi was acquitted of the charge when a court concluded he had no intention of defaming the monarchy.

The appeals court later rejected the ruling, saying that by repeating what Ms Daranee had said, Mr Sondhi ended up spreading remarks defaming the monarchy to people who had not yet heard them, thus was guilty of committing the crime.

Nevertheless, Mr Sondhi was immediately bailed for 500,000 baht pending further appeals.

The following day, the appeals court overturned another Lese Majeste acquittal.

In January 2011, Noppawan Tang-udomsuk was found not guilty of posting a defamatory remark about the monarchy on the Prachatai web board five years ago. It ruled that though

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Sondhi Limthongkul was convicted for a speech he made during a yellow-shirt rally in 2008. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

the remark had come from her computer, it could not be proved that it was Ms Noppawan who

However, the appeals court disagreed. It said experts from the **Information and Communications** Technology Ministry and cyber police had insisted that the IP address belonged to Noppawan's notebook computer and that a password was needed to access the web board.

The prosecutors asked the court to punish the defendant severely in order to set an example.

One day later Lese Majeste convict Surachai Danwattananusorn was released by royal pardon after spending 17 months in Bangkok Remand Prison.

"I am happy to receive royal treated for a number of illnesses.

kindness and graciousness. Without a royal pardon, I would have served another eight years in jail," he said.

Mr Surachai, a former communist insurgent and a red-shirt leader, also thanked the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the ruling Pheu Thai Party for "never abandoning" those convicted of Lese Majeste

He said that he planned to return to his home province of Nakhon Sri Thammarat to be

Teeth Whitening Center



Krathom legalization on the table

THAI authorities are considering legalizing krathom, a leaf with psychoactive properties that is currently listed as a controlled substance, The Nation reported.

The leaf, popularly used as a drug in the South, is thought to have painkilling properties and a stimulant effect.

It was banned by the Thai authorities about 70 years ago because it was used as an onium substitute, and an opium monopoly provided the state with huge amounts of income, the Nation

But now, there is talk of bringing krathom back as a legal remedy, particularly as a way to help people ease off methamphetamine addiction.

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) will consider several options: remove krathom from the list of banned narcotics; declare it is merely a psychoactive substance; or come up with ways of maximizing the



Cops continue to make arrests over krathom possession. Photo: The Nation

use of krathom for economic benefit if it decides to continue including the plant on the narcotics list.

An ONCB report estimates that 404,548 people in Thailand used krathom in 2011, and of them, 200,000 were in the South.

The report also stated that 11,339 kilograms of *krathom* has already been seized this year and most of the users were farmers and workers between the ages of 15 and 24.

The report said that in Australia krathom was described as a herb containing controlled substances – alkaloids – while in the US, krathom was openly sold in shops for about 1,000 baht per packet.

Child brides on the rise

region

By Hariati Azizan

IN MALAYSIA, girls under the age of 16 cannot legally drive or buy cigarettes. They can't even watch certain movies or go clubbing. But they can marry – lawfully at that. And many are increasingly doing so, according to statistics from the Malaysian Syariah Judiciary Department (JKSM).

In 2012, there were around 1,165 applications for marriage in which one party, usually the bride, was younger than the legal marrying age. The Syariah Courts approved 1,022 of them – an increase on the 900-plus marriages involving at least one Muslim minor that were approved in 2011.

As of May this year, JKSM received 600 marriage applications, of which 446 had been approved.

In Malaysia, the legal minimum marriage age is 18, but it is 16 for Muslim girls. Those younger than 16 can marry with the consent of the Syariah Court.

Malaysia, along with over 90 other countries, adopted a United Nations resolution to end child,



Of grave concern are the health risks young wives are exposed to if they conceive too early. Photo: Sam Nasim

early or forced marriages, at the Human Rights Council last week.

However, JKSM's data shows that child marriage is very much rampant in Malaysia.

Sisters in Islam said it was shocking that child marriage still existed, because of loopholes in the marriage laws and a continuing belief that girls should be married off once they reached puberty.

"We stand by the UN findings that child marriage is harmful to children and girls, in particular, are vulnerable to abuse, health problems, difficulty in accessing education and loss of childhood and adolescence," said SIS legal officer Kartina Mohd Sobri.

Given the significant number, the Government needed to review the provisions in secular, customary and Syariah law that currently permitted girls under the age of 18 to marry, said United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Malaysia program adviser Saira Shameem.

"We need to develop alternatives and more progressive options that will allow our young to achieve the fullest extent of their potentials.

"There is also a risk to the physical health of girls who marry and conceive too early... As a result, we have under-aged girls in Malaysia today who die of maternal health complications during delivery," she said.

"This is unacceptable, and efforts must be taken to provide genuine alternatives and lifesaving choices to these young people."

- The Star

In brief...

Rakhine violence leaves 5 dead, more than 400 homeless

FIVE people were killed and at least 482 rendered homeless in the week-long civic unrest that ended on October 4 in Myanmar's Rakine State.

More than 100 homes, three religious buildings and a petrol godown were burned to the ground by rioters in the melee.

Authorities detained 44 suspects, including two women, involved in the violence. The suspects detained include 37 Rakhines and two Kaman ethnics, said senior police officer Kyaw Tint.

- Eleven Media Group

Sorry, no apology

HONG KONG Chief Executive Leung Chunying finally got to meet Philippines President Benigno Aquino at the APEC Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Monday.

Leung, however, failed to get the apology his people have been demanding since eight of his compatriots were killed during a bungled hostage rescue operation in Manila three years ago.

"But we do extend our sincerest condolences. Again, we expressed our deepest regret that it's so contrary to how we treat visitors in our country," Aquino said. – *Philippine Daily Inquirer*





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In brief...

Somalia joins fight against terror, says PM

SOMALIA'S prime minister said on Sunday his government was working with international partners and neighbouring states to combat the terror group al Shabaab, in the first remarks by the government since Saturday's raid by US forces on a militant base.

"We have collaboration with the world and with neighbouring countries in the battle against al Shabaab," Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon said when asked if his government was aware of the raid on the Somali port of Barawe, south of Mogadishu.

Beijing official probed over son's lavish wedding

CHINA'S anti-graft watchdog is investigating an official who spent more than 1.6 million yuan (8.2 million baht) on a lavish threeday wedding for his son, Chinese state media said, the latest step in Beijing's most recent crackdown on waste and extravagance.

Maldives set for new election

THE Maldives Supreme Court on Monday annulled the September 7 presidential election results and set a new vote for October 20 after a candidate challenged the outcome, citing irregularities.

US gets debt-ceiling jitters

By Andy Sullivan

PRESIDENT Obama's administration says a US default would be "catastrophic". Economists say not only could it plunge the country into recession, it could prompt another global financial meltdown.

To many Republicans, however, the prospect of the world's lone superpower juggling its bills doesn't seem so bad. The US could muddle through without a debt-ceiling increase as long as it kept up with interest payments and a few other priorities, they argue.

"We are not going to default on the public debt. That doesn't mean that we have to pay every bill the day it comes in," Republican Representative Joe Barton of Texas said on CNBC on Monday.

Mr Barton's position could reflect a genuine disagreement with warnings by Wall Street and Washington analysts or he could be downplaying the default to gain tactical advantage in negotiations with President Barack Obama. But Mr Barton isn't an outlier.

Nearly every Republican in the House of Representatives voted for a bill in May that would direct the Treasury Department to prioritize bond payments and Social Security retiree benefits over other obligations if Congress failed to extend its borrowing authority. Republicans say that approach would minimize the fallout if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling before the Treasury Department exhausts its borrowing authority on October 17.

Both past and present Treasury officials and Wall Street analysts reject that view out of hand as naive at best.

In order to make sure bond payments and Social Security checks went out on time, the government would have to delay other payments by days or weeks. That would send a massive economic shockwave through military contractors, hospitals, and other entities farther down the priority list.



Global financial services firm Lehman Brothers' head office in New York. Some Democrats believe that a US default could trigger another global recession. Photo: David Shankbone

The plan also may not be workable in a practical sense. The US treasury handles four million transactions a day, and separating some of them out would be practically impossible.

"It's mind-boggling. I don't know what to say," said Tony Fratto, a Republican and a former Treasury Department official.

That may not be the point. By presenting a plan to deal with a possible default, Republican lawmakers can show

voters they are taking steps to minimize any potential fallout.

And as the October 17 deadline approaches, they may gain a negotiating advantage by

showing Democrats they are not particularly afraid of going right up to – or over – the edge.

The uncertainty has weighed on financial markets. The CBOE Volatility index (VIX) –

a measure of market turbulence called the "fear index" – has risen by nearly 50 per cent over the past three weeks amid fear of a default and anxiety over a related government shutdown that took effect on Octo-

ber 1. "With each passing day, the market becomes more restless," said Leo Grohowski, chief investment officer at BNY Mellon Wealth Management in New York. — *Reuters*





UN begins dismantling Syria's arsenal

UN SECRETARY-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday told the Security Council that the international team of experts who will oversee the dismantling of Syria's chemical weapons team will number around 100 and will likely require help from UN member states.

An advance team of experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with UN support personnel on October 6 oversaw Syrian forces using blowtorches and angle-grinders to render missile



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon Photo: Reuters

warheads and bombs unusable. The demolition work is due to last until mid-2014.

"The mission will be expected to support, monitor and verify the

destruction of a complex chemical weapons program involving multiple sites spread over a country engulfed in violent conflict, which includes approximately 1,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, agents and precursors," Ban said.

The operation would be dangerous because personnel would need to move "across active confrontation lines and in some cases through territory controlled by armed groups that are hostile to the objectives of the Joint Mission," he said. — Reuters



CIN MARKET DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Graham Cooke, World Travel Awards President and Founder (3rd left) presents awards to Peter Komposch, GM, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.



TEAM PLAYER: Peter Komposch (2nd left) gave credit to the staff at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket for earning the two accolades. Photos: Supplied

Top beach resort named in Phuket

DUSIT Thani Laguna Phuket, Thailand (DTLP) was commended as "Asia's Leading Beach Resort" at the World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia Gala Ceremony, held recently in Dubai.

The renowned five-star property was selected from among 14 properties nominated in the category.

Asked about what he thought elevated DTLP above the rest, Peter Komposch, General Manager, commented that his property's ideal location was the main factor.

"We're right next to the ocean and when you emerge from the rooms, there are shaded [areas with] trees, you can walk right out onto the beach... and it's rarely ever crowded," he said.

Other nominations in this category were: Alila Villas Soori, Indonesia; Amanpuri, Thailand; Anantara Rasananda Koh Phangan Villa Resort & Spa, Thailand; Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui; Hotel Vila Ombak, Indonesia; InterContinental Hua Hin Resort, Thailand; InterContinental Samui Baan Taling Ngam Resort, Thailand; Karma Kandara Resorts, Indonesia; Kempinski Hotel Haitang Bay Sanya, China; The Mulia, Mulia Resort &

PROPERTY

Gazette

Villas - Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia; The Oberoi Lombok, Indonesia; The Oberoi, Bali, Indonesia and The St Regis Bali Resort, Indonesia

In addition, Dusit Thani Laguna, Phuket was also awarded as "Thailand's Leading Beach Resort", while also bagging the honors as "Thailand's Leading Golf Resort".

"These [awards] were really earned by our team in Phuket. We worked together for this," Peter exclaimed.

One other Phuket property was recognized at the Dubai gala, namely, Indigo Pearl, Phuket, which was commended as "Thailand's Leading Boutique Hotel".

It should be noted that Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket was also nominated as "Thailand's Leading Spa Resort", but this category prize ended up going to Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort.

The awards gala was hosted by Anantara Dubai The Palm Resort &

Spa, and marked the upscale Asian operators first property opening in Dubai. InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, Air New Zealand, Conrad and Malaysia Airlines were among the top brands to emerge victorious from awards ceremony.

The World Travel Awards celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year and is acknowledged across the globe as the ultimate travel accolade, celebrating those companies, organizations and brands that are pushing the boundaries of industry excellence in product and service.

In the Asia section of the event, InterContinental Asiana Saigon Hotel was one of the big winners, taking the title of Asia's Leading Hotel, Leading Conference Hotel and Leading Business Hotel. The title of Asia's Leading Airline went to Malaysian Airlines, while the title of Asia's Leading Hotel Brand went to InterContinental Hotels & Resorts. Voters from around the world selected Singapore as Asia's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination.

- Phuket Gazette

All winners: worldtravelawards.com



Building for sustainability

One man's vision to build a sustainable eco-resort in Phuket

By Richard Randall

THE earth possesses a finite amount of natural resources – ores, timber, oils, for example – but our demand for those resources is growing exponentially. It is time we start looking at serious alternatives to help reduce the amount of waste we produce in our quest for ever more buildings.

It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to visualize the amount of pollutants produced when turning oil into plastic or how much rock is dug up to extract a single steel bar or aluminum window casing.

I have recently allowed a mid-sized condo project being built locally to dump their waste materials on my property to be used as a land fill. I have already accumulated around 200 cubic meters of broken block, cement, packaging, tiles, plastic pipe offcuts, wooden forms and so on, and their project is far from finished

It's time we woke up and tried to educate ourselves to new methods of building that are more harmonious with nature, less wasteful and kinder to our environment. There are methods that exist right now that that if we can start to implement, would vastly reduce the amount of waste, and pollution, and thus free ourselves from our dependence on manufactured materials.

Eco-minded projects have been studied, and in a few isolated

cases, designed as conceptual models that are far from cost effective. We have been shown that by spending "X" on a wind turbine we can save "Y" – a small amount of electricity. Yet people often scoff the minute an "ecominded" project is suggested. Yes, yes they all say – but it will cost more than it will practically save.

What if it could be demonstrated that an attractive construction, an appealing and beautiful place to stay

think in the future?

Well obviously there will always be those who want concrete skyscrapers. But what about the smaller resort projects? Maybe we can start to offer alternatives to the concrete box rooms that most mid-priced hotels and resorts offer now.

This is my dream plan – to build a harmonious, Balinesestyle resort – consisting of bungalows set in gardens with native plants and herbs around a lake-like-swimming pool. This

dream project would be built predominantly from natural, long lasting,

non-manufactured materials, or to put it another way... dirt!

The method I am talking about is a variation of the time-tested rammed-earth construction. As its name suggests, this literally means building from compacted reject soil. Building block by block as our ancestors did with traditional building methods know as "Cob", which have been used throughout the world for centuries.

This particular method is "Earth bag" construction, where grain sacks are filled with the reject soil – which is normally discarded or used in land fill – then compressed into blocks and stacked, rather like sand bags damming up a flooding river. Although in this



The earth bag construction method requires minimal manufactured materials and minimal skilled labor. Photo: KaneJamison.com

case, the earth will harden into durable clay bricks. This method creates both a very strong structure that can in fact have far greater resistance to earthquakes than traditional methods of construction, but it also has fantastic thermal and sound insulation qualities as well, keeping the structure cooler and therefore more efficient in its usage of electricity.

Not only can these units be built with minimal manufactured materials and completely without all the waste and pollutants, but they also require very little skilled labor. Hence, this method can also be used to help disaster struck areas to rebuild, once global awareness of the method is achieved.

I am appealing for help to make this dream come true. I am currently looking for investors for the project or sponsors who can help donate materials or cash and possibly manual labor or design contributions as well. All will help towards the construction of this project on land secured in a hot spot close to Laguna, in the Bang Tao beach area, an ideal location for a resort project. I also plan to conduct workshops to teach these new skills to the public.

The goal of the project is to demonstrate that an eco-conscious resort can, using this construction method, be both harmonious to nature and pleasing to the eye, while maintaining functionality and at the same time, save costs and have an extremely low environmental footprint.

Contrary to most other appeals, where one-off projects are developed that then require even more donations to maintain them, this project aims to demonstrate a feasible economic model for future businesses to follow, by demonstrating that an eco-minded design is an attractive alternative to standard building methods and will not only save the investors money, but be equally profitable. This is the only way we will see any real changes

in the commercial world.

It is only by demonstrating that these ideas can be translated into actual profits will these systems be taken up and implemented on a wider and globally beneficial scale by the industrialists and entrepreneurs of this planet. Well researched figures suggest that my proposed eco-resort project would offer investors returns exceeding 40 per cent per annum over a four year period, and even greater in the long term.

The resort itself will offer the public an opportunity to stay in a beautiful resort at a far lower cost than anything comparable in the area. It will



A building constructed from rammed earth. Photo: Bomun

generate awareness, create local knowledge of these designs and building methods. Much of the actual profits (outside of any business investments to the project) thereafter will be put towards expanding this awareness and developing future resorts of a similar nature and further promoting environmentally aware projects.

Richard Randall is a Phuket based environmentalist and entrepreneur. If you would like to know more about his eco-resort plans or are interested in investing or donating to the project he can be contacted by email at chicphuket@gmail.com or by phone on 087 884 0644.



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could be built that is not only

harmonious with nature but could

also be low-cost, save on waste,

be kind to our environment,

practical and could be shown to be

a profitable and economically

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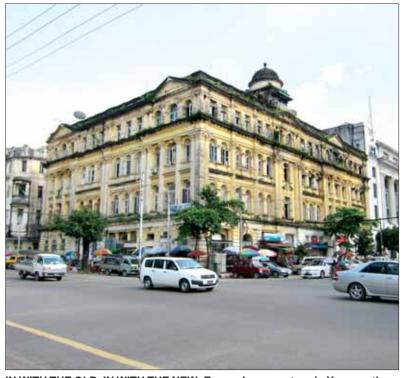
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Bumper to bumper in Myanmar



IN WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW: Everywhere you turn in Yangon, there is a historical piece of real estate. Photos: Bill Barnett

Phuket's property guru sips coffee, contemplates real estate future of Yangon

THERE is nothing quite like raw, naked ambition. Well not exactly, but that's perhaps best left for another time and place. Last week I found myself straight in the middle of boomtown -Yangon, Myanmar.

an afternoon coffee at the historically-twinged Strand Hotel, the smiling waiter pulled out his smartphone and showed me a picture of the chipmunk-like, former US President Jimmy Carter who I had just missed by



a few hours. Lucky me.

The hype following Myanmar Stopping off as I usually do for these days is almost befitting for a permanent set of paparazzi, all set to capture those star-studded highs, lows and in between moments. I can only imagine if Miley Cyrus showed up in the country, though they might somehow frown on public twerking. As for

STREET SHOPPING: Yangon street book shop – old school style.

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Sindead O'Conner, not even the fall and rise of Southeast Asia's last great success story could revamp her career. Thank goodness we are over all that loris talk.

Over the past year the country's international gateway Yangon has continued to see an influx of high profile global business people (see how non sexist we can be) and politicians. On the negative side, the government's effort to bring on lower-cost cars and the ensuing chaos on the roadways makes me feel very Phuket high season stuck behind a tour bus and going nowhere. You can no doubt imagine this.

And yet primed up in the buzz, a very ordinary three-star hotel charges more than a hundred dollars and try a top place, with a multiple of two or three.

These days speculation, like demand, are running down the street stark naked with blind ambition. I'm purposely avoiding more twerking references. Real estate remains arcane and complicated in a country cut off for decades and yet there is

movement in refining ownership, at least to the level where you can lease land for fifty years and have two 10-year options.

This of course is predicated that you can find freehold non-government land that has no ownership disputes. Start looking at those lovely old historical buildings or former government structures vacated once the powers that be moved on to the newly-minted capital, now turned very complex with bidding and structuring of deals.

For residential properties, bank loans are limited to one year and the market is debt starved. Good news remains that currently under review is a condominium law that may grant up to 30ish per cent of the units for foreign ownership, but this may take time. It's not exactly clear how much time.



VINTAGE: Believe it or not, this is actually the Yangon General Post Office.

Still hotels are getting built: A new Novotel in Yangon, and the joint-venture landmark Peninsula site with Yoma is at least seeing some hoarding covering the property. Bangkok-based Victor Pang from ACCOR, who heads up development in Myanmar, told me that he has inked eight deals across the country for

down to valleys when the flooding comes.

Perhaps the largest elephant in the room is the ongoing ethnic violence, which is the single biggest country risk for foreign investment in Myanmar. Welcome to a journey without maps.

Yet as I took an afternoon off from work and spent time

looking at the old colonial buildings from the late 1800s and the turn of that century, it's hard not to love the strangeness of one of Asia's great trading posts.

The city is alive with the ghosts of Orwell, Kipling and Maugham. Yet my very own personal favorite is Pablo Neruda and his epic story Widower's Tango, which turns to failure and ruin amidst a stunning backdrop.

For Yangon, what happens next, after the rain remains a blank sheet

of paper? For those closer or further away, you must visit, and visit soon, as there is no other place in Asia quite like it, for better or worse, it's still one of the region's great cities.

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



Naypyidaw. Things have OLD BUT STILL GOLD: Yangon's numerous colonialage buildings remain in use today.

various in-house brands, but the developers are all local groups.

Seasonality still comes into play, with the beach areas virtually slammed by monsoon weather and usable months really only being seven or eight at best. For Yangon, the rains hit the city hard and drive hotel occupancy rates from peaks

Kvik-start your future

Danish kitchen brand Kvik is seeking new partners as it expands into Thailand

known for its high-quality, low prices and fast delivery times, has rapidly expanded its presence in Thailand over the last year and is on the lookout for business partners in Phuket.

Kvik Associate Thomas Sorensen explained that as part of Kvik's current expansion, the company is offering and unprecedented support package to its new business partners. The business module on offer will include comprehensive business academy training, sales support, IT systems, all supported by an intensive marketing and promotion campaign.

"This is to ensure the best possible platform for our new partners to succeed in the Thailand market. We have gone from two to 11 stores in the last 12 months and another four are under construction. It is still possible to become part of the success - we are looking for potential partners all over Thailand," he said.

The Danish kitchen brand has been a major player in the European market for more than 30 years and is rapidly increasing its market share in Asia. According to Mr Sorenson, the company's strong push into the Thai market

THE Danish kitchen brand Kvik, is driven by the philosophy of "providing the best possible service and helping our customers to make their dreams for a fun and functional kitchen come true."

> The company takes a similar approach with its partners, providing strong ongoing support, training and marketing to ensure that they can create their own successful businesses.

> "Kvik's business is based on strong relationships with our partners in which we train, supply and support each of our partners using the same hard-won experience and expertise that has brought us huge success across the European markets. Our core values, which we pass on to our partners, are all about giving customers the best experience with our products and services," said Mr Sorenson.

> "Kvik's popularity in Thailand is based on its European success, along with our great Danish design history. Thais connect with Kvik products because they are contemporary, smart, fashionable, imported kitchens offered at a surprisingly low price," he said.

"The charm of Danish design is their innovative, contemporary design – where form closely



A SOCIABLE DESIGN: Kvik pays great interest to people's lifestyle and behaviors and have designed kitchens to compliment them. Photo: Kvik

follows function. Kvik pays great interest to people's lifestyle and behaviors and have designed kitchens to compliment them.

"Take our 'Sociable Kitchen'; with its large multifunctional work island placed in the center of the room, it becomes the beating heart of the home. Where family and friends can gather and share the task

of preparing food, this ritual is at the center of all cultures and families do it while enjoying a laugh, and often even a deeper conversation," he added.

"Kvik's Danish designed kitchens are crafted to ensure people have a more enjoyable experience when cooking. Our products are highquality, durable and affordable, allowing everyone to own their own 'cool' kitchen," he continued.

With the possesstrong presence in Asia-Pacific. the Thai market, Mr

Sorensen said that now was the ideal time for people considering becoming partners with Kvik to get on board and grow along with the company.

"We consider Thailand as our home market in the region and we are planning to expand our business across Asia. This is why we are setting up production and warehouse facilities in Thailand. It really is



sive increasingly Thomas Sorensen, Kvik Development Director,

the perfect time for motivated partners to make a successful business knowing they will have our full support," he concluded.

- Phuket Gazette

If you are interested and would like to be a part of the Kvik Family, please contact Thomas Sorenson for more information. Email: tes @kvik.com or mobile: 084-926 0318



Kvik's Danish designed kitchens are crafted to ensure people have a more enjoyable experience when cooking.

Tesco Lotus flood update

TESCO Lotus Corporate Affairs Director Salinla Seehaphan has announced that in the current flood situation, Tesco Lotus' top priorities are to keep stores open for customers and maintain adequate stocks of essential products. During the great flood of 2011, Tesco Lotus staff were universally praised for their efforts in supporting their communities by keeping stores open and keeping them stocked with food and other essentials.

Over the past two months, Tesco Lotus has closely monitored the

flood situation and has prepared detailed contingency plans, such as maintaining stocks of essential items such as noodles, tinned fish and garbage bags. Backup distribution plans have been developed to ensure products are delivered to customers in difficult situations, such as enabling vendors to deliver directly to stores, and using alternative routes to avoid flooded areas. Many stores now have taller protecting walls and improved water pumping equipment in the wake of the 2011 floods. Only its Ubon Ratchathani store has been

affected so far, with no other stores flooded despite high water levels in the area.

According to a press statement, Tesco Lotus is committed to help its people and its local communities affected by flood, and has been one of the first companies to give help. Recently, the company gave assistance worth over 450,000 baht to affected communities in the five provinces of Si Saket, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Prachinburi and Saraburi. This assistance to communities is ongoing, it read.

- Phuket Gazette



Signs of chaos

THAILAND can claim credit for some of Southeast Asia's most high-profile land transport boundoggles, yet often overlooked is the long-standing and scandalously in-your-face inadequacy of the Transport Ministry to provide drivers with one of the most basic motoring necessities: accurate and informative road signs.

We live in an age of amazing geographic technology. Cars, cameras and other electronic gadgets come equipped with global positioning satellite technology capable of providing real-time spatial information with almost pinpoint accuracy, at least for those who take the time to use it.

We suspect that the powers-that-be in the Land Transport Department and other responsible agencies are not among them. It would be impossible to estimate the number of lost man-hours, mega-liters of wasted petroleum and amount of sheer frustration resulting from poorly conceived, badly maintained road signs throughout the Kingdom.

The problem spans national, regional and local dimensions and demonstrates a lack of co-operation and integration among the numerous agencies involved. In rural areas, important road signs are typically covered with moss or obscured by vegetation. In most cases, such problems could be easily solved with the most meager of budgets and buckets, sponges and gardening shears. Yet they go ignored, giving our highways an appearance of decay and neglect that is particularly striking in contrast to all of the colorful advertising signage that is allowed to compete for our attention.

Where they are legible, road signs are often inaccurate, if not completely misleading. As just one example, route marking signs invariably fail to indicate whether segments of national highways are heading north or south, east or west.

Here in Phuket, authorities seem more interested in raking in additional income from "official" road signs guiding motorists to private-sector businesses than getting them from any generic "Point A" to "Point B" as quickly as possible.

Indeed, the most basic form of geographical literacy appears lost to the people who authorize, design and install road signs. Why else is the island littered with signs indicating "turn right" or "turn left" to get to Phuket, when the entire province is Phuket? These guideposts are mind-boggling even for local residents; one can only imagine what it must be like for newcomers trying to get their bearings.

Foreign readers who cannot read Thai may be misled into thinking that the root of the problem is a matter of important information being "lost in translation". That is hardly the case; the situation is equally appalling in the vernacular.

Much has been written and said about Thailand's readiness for the terms of the Asean Economic Community agreement set to launch in 2015. A good place to start would be to appoint a road sign "czar" to overhaul, standardize and lend some simple common sense to road signage throughout the country.

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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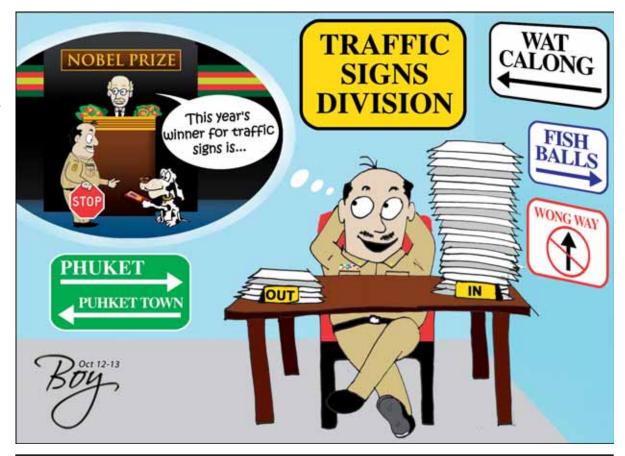
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Demolition crew free of charge

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach encroachers face Kamala Friday deadline, October 3

A lot of volunteers would be happy to pull down all illegal structures on Phuket's beaches. Just ask for it and it'll be done... and quickly.

Asterix Gazette forum

Fine on the beach

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach encroachers face Kamala Friday deadline, October 3

If the local administration is sincere in cracking down on encroachment on Kamala beach, the best way is to fine the businesses a few thousand baht a day until they remove the illegal structures.

Seafarer Divers Charlie Phuket Facebook

Waters ran deeper than reported

Re: Gazette online, Phuket floods clear, but landslide strikes afore severe weather warning, October 7

There was nothing 'minor' about the flooding in Kamala yesterday – the filling in of the swamp that acted as a natural sump for the village left nowhere for the water to go. It was nearly 2 meters deep in some places before a digger turned up to cut a way into the drains.

Mister Ree Gazette forum

Ladyboys must pay

Re: Gazette online, Phuket ladyboys pickpocket Swedish tourist, October 3

This is a good opportunity to once again test the tourist court. I would expect the 5,000 baht to be repaid and an extra 5,000 baht for time lost on their holiday. If they scream poverty, sell their motorbike.

Letters

to the Editor

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

I would expect jail time for theft, more so if they have a criminal record. Send the message loud and clear!

> Skip Gazette forum

Oxygen truck posed grave danger

Re: Gazette online, Tanker truck vapor prompts Phuket scare, October 7

Seems to be a lot of vented oxygen, granted the driver is right.

Oxygen does not explode, but it does cause combustion in a big way. No way would I be anywhere near this truck, one spark and... well, the driver will never need to be cremated.

Ever seen what a small amount of oxygen does when a spark is dropped in it?

DSI Watcher Gazette forum

Airport bus, we need you, don't give up

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport bus service still struggling, October 6

Mr Prakob 'Su-su!' Don't give up. Phuket needs people like you. Without forward thinkers like you, our future is bleak, void of tourists and bankrupt.

Get your website working and keep it optimized. People are Googling transportation options while standing in the queue at Immigration.

They do not want to be ripped off. Keep it up!

Captain Jack Gazette forum

Airport bus wasn't meant to succeed

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport bus service still struggling, October 6

It was designed to fail. The conclusion will be, "You see, we tried, we did our best, but we couldn't make it work. So we have to stop the service!" And back to the old system...

Juergen Schenker Facebook

Taxi mafia brutality is clearly islandwide

Re: Gazette online, Phuket taxi mafia probe targets Kamala, Rawai, October 3

I think everyone knows of the blockades against any kind of non-local-gang transport service at a number of Phuket hotels, and of the brutal beatings of tourists and outside drivers who try to use or provide such services.

These stories have gone worldwide on newspaper websites, YouTube, and elsewhere. But until this DSI investigation, I don't think many people knew just how pervasive the brutality is.

It seems to be in operation now at almost every hotel on the island! Unbelievable.

Andy Harrison Gazette forum

Rooms with a view mean no more view

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Property: Best of the best 2013, October 3

Without a doubt there are many very nice properties on Phuket.

However, the price to be paid for this is that more and more of Phuket's beautiful green landscapes will disappear.

> Chiara Gazette forum

It's all about drugs

FIRST PERSON

WHEN I arrived in Phuket, I saw the most beautiful vistas I've ever seen – the gorgeous beaches here. Phuket is a world-famous tourist destination because of these beaches, and generates a lot of income for Thailand through tourism. That's why the first thing I'll do is focus on tourist safety.

During the year that I'll be working on Phuket before I retire, my first priority will be to improve safety for tourists and locals, and the way to do that is to focus on illegal drugs.

I hate drugs; I have absolutely zero tolerance for them, and I'm not willing to negotiate at all when it comes to drug cases.

A lot of drug dealers have met their end because of me, either because I shot them during a raid or because after they were arrested and tried, they were sentenced to death by a judge.

Drugs cause all kinds of problems. To start with, they affect the emotions and behavior of the people who use them, never in a good way. Drug-users either turn to crime or become lazy. If they hold jobs and are lazy, they are apt to deliver poor service, which can adversely affect the business they work in, and by extension, the economy.

Drugs are also one of the causes of corruption within the police force – for example, when officers take under-the-table money from dealers. Corruption of all kinds slows down development, which also affects the economy.

So getting rids of drugs has all sorts of important repercussions.

In terms of corruption, another thing that's important is to provide officers with a good role



The new Phuket Provincial Police Commander, Ong-art Phiwruangnont, 59, is from Yasothon. He graduated from the Royal Police Cadet Academy and has spent his entire career in the police force. Before coming to Phuket, Maj Gen Ong-art was Provincial Police Commander in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Here he talks about why his priority is eradicating drugs from Phuket, and why gambling should be legalized.

model. I will be the role model of a non-corrupt officer for all the police in Phuket.

To do that, I need to get in touch with all the officers on the island. I intend to visit every officer in Phuket, both low and high-ranking, so that they can get to know me.

As you might imagine, lowerranking officers tend to feel awkward talking with higherranking officers. I don't want Phuket police to feel this way. We are all working together, and if someone is a straight cop, he is worthy of my respect, regardless of his rank.

While I won't compromise whatsoever when it comes to drugs, there are some issues which I can be flexible about. These tend to be aspects of local culture that are deeply entrenched, and in these cases I think it's up to me to adapt. One example is gambling. I know that there are a lot of illegal lotteries in Phuket, but they've been going on so long that I don't think I can put an end to them.

That doesn't mean it's now okay for illegal lotteries to open public shops, just that they should be discrete as usual. If they are not, police will have to make arrests.

I actually think it could be beneficial to open some casinos in Thailand. The times I've visited neighboring countries, I've seen a lot of Thai people in their casinos. The way I see it, gambling is an accepted activity in many places – a normal part of life. In a way it doesn't really seem fair that other countries have casinos but we don't.

If gambling were legalized here, and properly regulated, it could generate a lot of income for us. Of course, we'd have to ensure that people didn't cheat, and didn't run off when they owed debts. And players would have to show self-control.

To my mind, gambling is different from drugs or corruption. Drugs affect peoples' physical and psychological health, and along with corruption cause trouble for other people. Gambling is not like that. Also, gambling can be controlled.

Nevertheless, right now only legal lotteries are permitted in Thailand, and we must abide by

My overall goal in Phuket is to create a place where law-abiding people feel happy to live, and where criminals do not.



The epidemic of drownings warrants shock tactics. Photo: Nick Walker

Scare the Chinese safe

A FEW weeks ago I was swimming at Racha Island, in Batok Bay. When I got out past the breakers I found myself face-toface with a Chinese man on a boogie board. He immediately struck up a conversation with me, asking where I was from.

After determining that I do not speak Chinese and have no plans to visit China, he shifted tack and started naming some of my famous countrymen: Barack Obama, LeBron James, Michael Jordan. Having cemented our bond in this way, he invited me to swim farther out into the bay with him.

Images of drowned Chinese tourists came quickly to mind.

"Can you swim?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, and after the briefest pause he pointed down at his boogie board.

What exactly that gesture meant, I'm still not sure, but I decided it was not in either of our interests to swim deeper together, and I bid him adieu.

On October 1, Lin Hunhing, a 30-year-old Chinese tourist on a day trip, drowned in the same waters. He was the fourth Chinese tourist to drown in Phuket since June 18. Tourists from China have been drowning here at twice the rate of any other nationality.

The challenge of attracting visitors to our lovely beaches while at the same time warning them about our dangerous waters might seem an impossible marketing challenge. But is it?

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

The Chinese are a captive audience. One reason they are flocking here in record numbers is that Thailand is one of the few popular tourist destinations that allows them to get a visa on arrival. The TAT and the Phuket government needn't worry about scaring them off. In fact, a bit of scaring might be in order, and I speak from experience.

On the rim of the Grand Canyon in the US, at the head of perhaps every trail leading down into the canyon, are posted grim warnings of the fatal risk of hiking too far in the extreme heat without sufficient water supplies. The National Park Service emphasizes its point by posting photographs of people who have died while hiking there, and they are careful to note that some of the victims have been young and athletic; one was a marathoner.

Those photos had exactly the desired effect on me.

So how about creating a brochure with pictures of the dead, names, ages, and brief circumstances of drownings, to be handed out by tour companies?

We want tourists to come here, but we want them to go home

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

Can I put a foreign ad on a tuk-tuk?

Is it legal for a European company to advertise its product on a tuktuk? The ad would be made in a printing shop in Phuket.

> Cobra Phuket

Somsok Poknaungnong, an officer at Phuket Land Transportation office replies:

Yes, it is possible for a foreign company to advertise on a tuk-tuk. You will need to negotiate the cost directly with a tuk-tuk company and supply them with a mock-up of the ad, then the company will come to us to have the ad approved.

We do have some restrictions which you should keep in mind. Above all, the ad must be safe for road users - it should not be distracting – for example, not have blinking lights. It should not be political, sexual or offensive to any group of people. When in position, it should not touch the PLTO sticker on the tuk-tuk or the tuktuk company's logo.

When the tuk-tuk owner comes to see us, he should bring the mock-up of the ad as well as an A4 size copy of it. We also need a letter from the company requesting to put the ad on the tuk-tuk. and proof that the owner is indeed the owner of the company.

Once we receive all the documents, we will consider the request.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ **IssuesAnswers**

How to deal with a water thief

After two months of unreasonable we will issue you a letter saying water consumption – as much as twice the monthly average during my six years' tenancy – I discov-Whom can I report this issue to and how will it be handled?

Not so happy tenant

Amnat Wichain, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA), replies:

The first thing I recommend you do is contact us so we can inspect your property and confirm that a theft is taking place. You could contact the police directly, but they will need to contact us in any case.

If the evidence points to theft,

so, and you can take this to the police to file a theft complaint. Because the water you bought ered that my neighbor is stealing from us is your property, we do water from my kitchen pipe. not have the authority to fine or charge your neighbor.

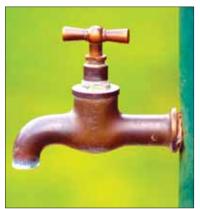
When you come to our office, bring the original and a copy of your identity card or passport, and the original and a copy of your water bill.

Our office is located near the Bang Wad reservoir, and is open 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. Or call us at 076-319173.

Sermpan Sirikong, Phuket City Police Superintendent, replies:

The first thing we recommend in a case like this is for neighbors to try to settle the problem themselves. However, if that is not possible, you may file a theft complaint at the police station.

We will inspect your property with the Waterworks Authority officers and if the evidence supports it, charge your neighbor with theft.



Get an inspection before going to the police. Photo: Anita Martinz

20 PHUKET GAZETTE October 12 - 18, 2013

YOUR Phuket

ENJOYRETRO STYLE NIGHT OUT!



The Motown girl band look recall the golden age of Soul and R&B.



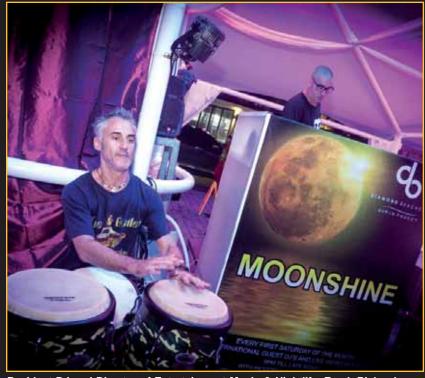
RETRO ENTERTAINMENT: Fro dude with his brothaz and sistaz.

Another great event by Two Chefs Karon Beach... good for enjoying a nostalgic night out with friends.



Far-out hairstyles are the order of the yesteryear event.

MOONSHINE



Resident DJ and Director of Entertainment Music & Nightlife, Frank Richards; Resident Percussionist: Jean-Marc Limacher



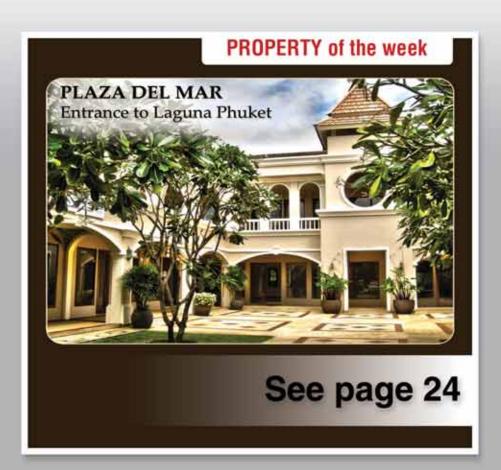
Phuket House Mafia – Taz, Mong & Q putting vinyl back on the map of Phuket cool.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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LAND FOR SALE

Seaview and beachfront. Tel: 089-723 4278. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketlandowner.com

LAND FOR SALE

1 rai of flat land for sale in quiet area of Pa Klok with Chanote title. 3,350,000 baht ono. Email: jase.shanahan@ virgin.net

NAIHARN CONDO

2-bed condo at The Sands, just reduced to 6.7 mill baht by highly motivated seller. 4thfloor, 150sqm unit. Fully furnished, great view from balcony, large common pool, 24hr security and only a 3-mins walk to popular Nai Harn Beach. This is the best-value unit in the project. Don't miss this opportunity! Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

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87 sqm. beautiful condo with bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for I month, 35K baht/ month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for I year contract.

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NEW HOUSE FOR SALE, CHEAP PRICE



2-storey twin house in Palm Villa, Pa Khlok, 5km from the Heroines Momument. Price: 2.2 million baht. 35.2sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, car park for 2 cars. Cheaper than the developer's. Ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana 1225@gmail.com

HABITOWN. **KOH KAEW**

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 130,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb_ giff@yahoo.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. For more information, please call 089-472 9118.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 500m from the beach. 5 million baht. Contact Amorn. Tel: 081-569 6030.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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

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.

HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



Opposite Big C, 1 bedroom with nice view, includes furniture. 55sqm. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Also available as rental. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Thanapa Park View Village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana 1225@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

CAPE YAMU SEAVIEW

5 million baht. Tel: 091-034 1911. Email: pas.phuket@gmail.com

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

PATONG SEAVIEW BUILDING LAND

A large (1,048sqm) building plot on the Andaman Mountain, overlooking Patong Beach. Concrete road, electricity and water. Only 8 million baht. Contact Ron Crane at +44-788-948 8091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

All classifieds in these pages are



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

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

Live in Cherng Talay?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Chaba Supermarket



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Property Classifieds

HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Sino-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.

PRICE DROP 3.5 MILLION BAHT

3-bedroom and 2-bathroom house, valued at 4.2 million baht by bank. Big garden, 112sq wah, Pa Khlok. Sale now: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 086-836 7292.

HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Small 10-room Italian andThai restaurant. All new equipment and coffee shop. Tel: 032-470344, 089-008 6562, 089-504 7253. Email: jpgermi@yahoo.com

LUXURY CHIANG DAO ESTATE

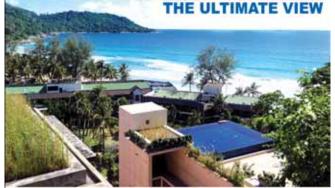
Exquisite 7 rai, 3 home Chiang Dao Estate with B&B/boutique nature resort potential for sale well below market value. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Email: mychiangmai property@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://mychiang maiproperty.com

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. Tel: 087-270 9093.

ALL OF KATA NOI FROM YOUR BALCONY



This is all about the view-huge covered porch with the ultimate view of Kata Noi Sea and mountain views. Relax, listen to the ocean.

From this condo, you can be on the beach in 4 minutes walking down. It is so quiet and peaceful where we are in Kata Noi, then walk over the hill into Kata and find everything the first world person would need. This is a 2 bedroom with queen beds, with flat screen TV and DVD in each bedroom ensuite bathrooms too. The pool is 10 meters away, Wifi, iPods loaded, cell phone for renters to use local number. Full kitchen, coffee maker, blender, George Foreman, electric kettle. Also we have a full size washer and dryer.

www.katanoi-beachhouse.com for all details
Sale & Rent
Contact me Steve@dtachina.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc). Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1 @hotmail.com

PRIME LAND!

2.5 rai land. Ready to build. Good price for location. 19.5 million baht. Full Chanote! Please call 080-124 1245 (English). Email: kay@phu ketandamanrealestate.com

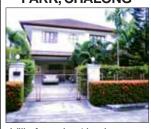
LAND FOR SALE

Near Thalang, nearly 1 rai, Chanote title. 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-859 5194 (English), 081-326 5659 (English & Thai), 087-282 7227 (Thai).

READY TO MOVE IN!

Beautiful, quiet, 3-bedroom house in Bang Jo. Many features! Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-968 6051 (English), 081-737 1881 (English & Thai). Email: bluebeyond@me.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK, CHALONG



Villa for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped, garden, 240sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 083-394 4536 (English), 084-443 5389 (English & Thai).

5 BEDROOMS, PHUKET TOWN 6.5MB

70sq wah, 2-storey single house, quiet. Tel: 089-780 1888. Email: klang888@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://phuketcityhome.igetweb.com/

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

PROPERTY AWARDS 2011 σ

Now's your chance to own a property in Phuket's best condominium development.



Own your **Piece of Paradise** near Bang Tao Beach, in Phuket's prestigious Laguna area.

For Further Information, Contact us today; www.baanmandala.com Email: info@baanmandala.com Mobile: 087 034 2090 MANDALA VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

LAND, SALE BY OWNER

Thalang and Mai Khao plots. Tel: 089-723 4278. Email: chalit9999@gmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

3 levels, 4 bedrooms with / without furniture. 3.3 million baht. Please call 081-303 2202.

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW

Corner unit, high floor, freehold, 2 bedrooms, 78sqm, all windows, fantastic sea views, Jacuzzi, newly refurbished. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-273 4212. Email: phuketcondo1@ gmail.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

2 BEDROOMS FOR SALE / RENT



Palm Breeze Resort, Nai Harn. Last one, 5th floor. Sale: 7.5 million baht. For more information, please call 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@ yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.premier propertiesphuket.com

6.5 RAI OCEAN VIEW

For sale. Flat, waterfront land. Chanote title. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

Then hand it to any of our agents.

Thermand it to any or our agents.
_ _ _ _ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent



d) Pls contact 088-476961;

WALK TO KATA BEACH

New gorgeous furnished quiet 2 bedrooms, 3bathrooms home. 30,000 baht per month. 25,000 baht for 2 months. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

CONDO @ **PHUKET MARINA**

2-bedroom pool villa in Royal Phuket Marina, 195sqm, fully furnished, WiFi 85,000 baht/ month. Tel: 076-296029, 089-185 5318 (English & Thai), 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-296029. Email: aood16@ hotmail.com

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.

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.

SUPER LUXURY VILLA

4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, this huge 900sqm property offers the finest sea views in Phuket, state of the art games room, home cinema, etc. Cape Yamu. 300,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-420 3270.

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 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

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract and common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS

54sqm, maid, WiFi, cable, from 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phycondo@ aol.com

APARTMENT PATONG

140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms plus storage room. Spacious living and dining with Western kitchen. Large balcony. Full aircon, WiFi, UBC ready. Quiet location near Nanai. Long term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

KAMALA

Pool 14m. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished. Rent: 30,000. Sale: 12.2 million baht. Tel: 087-382 3058. Email: kradanresort@gmail.

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 longterm rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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

POOL VILLA IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, shared pool, landscaped gardens, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, water included. 12-month contract, available December. Sorry, no pets or kids. Email: gar.inman@me.com

KATA NOI HOLIDAY RENT CONDO

Superb 2-bed, 2 1/2 bathrooms, large terrace, sea view, beach 2 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAIHARN



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.

CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness center, quiet and secure. 12,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 093-742 6801. Email: thaidoodee1@gmail.com

PATONG STUDIO RENT/SALE

Nice and clean studio, 10,000 baht per month, 300m to beach, fully furnished. Tel: 088-846 3467 (English). Email: sellingcartel@ hotmail.com

PALAI BEACH

We have a house with two apartments for long term rent. Some seaview, private area, fully furnished. Each apartment is 75 sqm. with 2 bedrooms, living room, and kitchen. Rent: 27,000 baht per month. Tel: +46-070-688 4995, 080-147 1400. Email: tomas@tmsengineering.se

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80-120 sq. meter units available.



Contact Khun Nong for details or visit our website m: 087 266 8400 e: plazadelmar@gmail.com www.plazadelmar.nphuket.com



KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, quiet, seaview, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

APARTMENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 54sqm, fully equipped, quiet location with pool. Tel: 081-892 1621.

STUDIO APARTMENT **IN PATONG**

Livingroom with kitchenette, separate bedroom and bathroom, aircon, UBC ready, free WiFi, quiet location, western standard, nicely furnished. Long term: 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

NEWLY MODERN TOWNHOUSE

18,000 baht/month. Fully furnished 3bed, kitchen, aircon, fridge, bedding, sofa, hot water. Available now. Tel: 085-055 9576, 089-892 6174. Email: intira.boonsith@g mail.com

CONDOS IN PATONG

Both at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long term only, newly renovated and well furnished. Tel: 081-892 1621.



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Network property office Burawana Villa 7-Eleven Serenity Resort Davinci O Crepes Restaurant 🗢 Soi Naya GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work

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

because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Property Classifieds

Property Services

BUILDER CAN WORK NOW

Home construction, repairs, renovations at fixed prices. Tel: 081-892 8526 (Khun Peter). For further details, please see our website at www.phuketbesthomes.com

HOSPITALITY MGR. AVAILABLE

Hospitality GM for all types of pre-openings from A-Z, also management of resorts, estates, condos, marketing, interim management, feasibility studies. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

HOTEL/CONDO MANAGEMENT

Asset management + preopening services by experienced hoteliers. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

HOME RENOVATION

We provide services: home and pool renovation, sauna and stream room construction. Tel: 084-191 1288. For further details, please see our website at www.homere novationphuket.com

PDS PHUKET DRAIN SPECIALIST

At Phuket drain specialists, we can guarantee that you will receive a quick and efficient service for everything from blocked drains to drain repaires to pipe replacement, our team of highly qualified staff have a wealth of experience in dealing with blocked drains, we operate a 24hr emergency service and ensure a quick response time when you ever have a blocked drain you will know who to call. Phuket drain specialists we guarantee we will beat any quote. Tel: 081-090 9516 (English), 085-224 6685 (Thai). Email: kjoshea@hotmail.co.uk

Property Services Wanted

ELECTRICIAN

Electrician needed to check and determine property power, need to install generator and hook up. Tel: 087-884 8972.

Property Wanted

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE WANTED

Office/Retail space wanted asap. Approx 20sqm. In Kamala/Surin area. Tel: 082-521 7745 (English). Email: mr craigwhite@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAS, CONDOS AT KATA, KARON

Successful property and rental management company seeks additional villas/condos. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

WANTED VILLA FOR LONG-TERM

Looking for a villa for long-term lease ~50,000 per month. Preferences are: Hillside location, Security, Kamala to Bang Tao, Pool, Single story. Tel: 080-319 9255 (English). Email: 425 zeds@gmail.com

APARTMENT/HOUSE NEEDED

Our customers need urgently apartment rentals up to 25,000 baht per month, and house rentals up to 40,000 baht per month. For long and short-term contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at www.stay onphuket.com

Accommodation Available

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM HOUSE

4-bedrooms, 4-bathrooms, seaview house in Kuku. For rent at 35,000 baht per month. Sale at 8.7 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2201 (English & Thai). Email: phuket8@hotmail. com

4 BEDROOM ROCK HOUSE, SAI YUAN

4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big garden, fully furnished,. Long-term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-787 2201. Email: phuket8@ hotmail. com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

NAI HARN BUNGALOW

Nice bungalow for long-term rent, quiet location, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-891 7408, 087-292 5309 (English & Thai). Email: gillies18567@hotmail. com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

DELUXE TOP-FLOOR 1 BED

The Trees Residence, Kamala. 1 year min: 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-130 3234 (English).

BEACH APARTMENT

Nice beach studio for rent long-term. Please email for further info. Tel: +41-79-337 8631 (English). Email: mde feo@gmx.net

KATA BEACH

5 minutes walk from the beach. Southern Fried Rice Guesthouse (TripAdvisor Winner 2013). Offers big rooms from 600 baht (low season) including continental breakfast. 1,200 baht (high season) includes airport pickup. 5-night stay, WiFi, water and beach towels provided. See comments on TripAdvisor. Tel: 081-8948446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com www.southernfriedrice.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, swimming pool, in a very peaceful and secure compound. Long-term rental only. 45,000 baht per month. This price includes Internet, maid once a week, pool service every 2 weeks, and gardening once a month. Email: aom.phongpan @gmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW HOUSE/APT

Stunning new furnished Patong seaview house (or apartment) for long lease. Three en-suite bedrooms. Huge lounge and balconies. Gloss white fitted kitchen. On Andaman Mountain. House only 45,000 baht a month. Apartment only 18,000 baht a month. Tel: +44-788-548 8091(English). Contact Ron Crane at craneprop@hot mail.co.uk

Accommodation Wanted

POOL VILLA WANTED

Wanted in Rawai/Nai Ham area: 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, secure villa with Western kitchen and pool. Must be in a quiet area. 40,000-50,000 baht per month, 1 month bond, 2 year contract. Tel: 088-760 5003 (English). Email: collettegaleano@gmail.com

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL

We are looking for a 2-bedroom villa with private pool from 12 December to 12 January 2014 on Phuket Island. Southwest preferred. +41-79-651 3602 (English). Email: orca_67 @hispeed.ch

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

DISCOUNT SEAVIEW 3-4 BEDROOMS

October and November end of low season price. Tel: 085-237 1007. Email: patrickf oconnor@outlook.com

KAMALA BEACH GUEST HOUSE

Private, quiet guest house, for two accommodation. 2 bedrooms apt 2,800 baht/night & 1 bedrooms house 2,000 baht/night. Kitchen, Euro bathroom, aircon, TV, DVD, ADSL, parking, swimming pool. Tel: 076-385909, 087-277 5216 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-385909. Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

NAI HARN 2-BED BEACH CONDOS

Terrace, 2-bed and 2-bath, shared pool, garden, free WiFi, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

HOUSES 1 OR 2-BEDROOMS

Fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, pool. From 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn. com

Household Items

SAMSUNG FRIDGE

Two doors, as-new condition. 8,500 baht. Tel: 084-443 5050 (English), 087-026 9914 (Thai).

HITACHI FRIDGE

R-W691FMSX. 180x80x 75cm. Jan 2012, 4 doors, external water dispenser, internal ice maker, perfect condition. Sale: 25,000 baht (new: 39,900 baht). Tel: 081-720 4334.

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomemainte nance@yahoo.com

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at **Taurus Travel** Patong Beach THAWEEWONG RD ANDAMAN BEACH SCHOOL RAT-U-THIT 200 PEE RD. SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work Simply write out your ad, because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads pay and leave it with Khun Kai: (076-344321-2) and FREE - in the Gazette Online! The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

Then hand it to any of our agents.

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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.402 Fax: 076-615240

NEED LADY DRIVERS

Three experienced motorbike and car drivers, based in Patong, go all around Phuket. Tel: 093-768 4939.

ADVERTISING SALES WANTED

Salary 20,000 baht plus commission and gasoline. Working on Monday-Saturday from 8.30am - 5.30pm. Tel: 089-474 4704. Please call or send email to info@theguidephuket.com

SHOP MANAGER

Urgent need shop manager for boutique shop in Surin, fluent in English. Send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

PROPERTY MANAGER

Thai national. Must speak & write English. Good Attitude. Salary + commission. Send CV. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English & Thai). Email:phkreal estate@aol.com

Live in Patong?

THAITEACHER NEEDED

Qualified Thai teacher wanted for small Kindergarten. Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

RUSSIAN LADY SALES WANTED

Russian and English speaking/writing. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshore projects.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Thai male wanted, in Patong, know English and have computer skills. Tel: 081-088

PROPERTY RENTAL ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties is hiring a rental assistant with experience. English, written and spoken, is a must. Good salright person. Must be able to start very soon. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phukettropical-realestate.com

177/30 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, www.pinnaclegastro.com



PINNACLE GASTRO

We currently have 2 openings for:

- Sales Admin
- Senior Sales Executive

These positions are based in Phuket to service our existing HORECA customers in the Southern region. Computer and English language skills are a must!

Interested candidate please forward CV to hr@pinnaclegastro.com

FRONT OFFICE / **ADMIN**

Thai national office manager. Must speak & write English. Good salary + benefits. Send CV. Email: info@phuketfit.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

For property and car rental. Required: good English, driving license, work independent, flexible, Thai national. Office at Boat Lagoon. Send CV to Claudio at claudstrev @gmail.com

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP

Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: info@phuket fit.com

SALES REP. ENGLISH-SPEAKING

We require a sales rep to build relationships and genwedding market. Excellent commissions paid. Tel: +61-03-9551 8955. Email: angela @wedsaway.com

LISTING REPRESENTATIVE

Tropical Properties is expanding its business and is urgently requires a listing representative. Candidates must have good knowledge of English, written and spoken. Must also be able to work with computer (Microsoft Office) and have own transportation. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for Personal Assistant/Office Manager. Must have very good knowledge of spoken and written English, and basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropicalrealestate.com

HORIZON

HORIZON GROUP

· Assistant Front Office Manager

Receptionist Supervisor

Assistant Night Manager

HUMAN RESOURCES

Training Manager

Chief Engineering

ENGINEERING

FRONT OFFICE

Receptionist

Night Supervisor

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO - FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND IN KARON AS FOLLOWING VACANCIES.

ADMINISTRATION

- Executive Sales Manager Assistant Sales Manager
- Assistant Operation Manager
- **FOOD & BEVERGE**

- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Captain Hostess

RESERVATION

Reservation Officer

HOUSEKEEPING

Assistant Executive Housekeeper

WELFARE: SALARY, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to HR of Horizon at E-mail: apply@horizonbeach.com Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

2 WAITRESSES WANTED

Good salary. Speak English. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit. com

PHUKET DIGEST **MAGAZINE**

We need Sales and Marketing staff, Thai national, good English skills, good benefits. Send CV to PhuketDigest @gmail.

CLEANER WANTED

Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: mayphu@hotmail.com

CALL CENTER.

Want native English speakers only for call center (U.S. Bus Hrs.) sales positions and tel reception pos avail. Full and part time. Call for details. Tel: 093-779-5224 (English). Email: steve.8888.j ohnson@gmail.com

PIZZERIA STAFF WANTED

Pizzaiolo Patong Beach. cooks, waitress, bartender. speak English, Thai national only, good salary. Contact Mathias. Tel: 084-

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising: erate sales with any suppliary and commissions for the ers involved in the destination

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

Tel: 076-232398

Tel: 076-258369

Tel: 076-255425

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

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KARON

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Thai nurse. Will be trained in detox. must speak English. Thai national. Good salary! Email: Info@phuketfit.com

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Senior Arts/Creative/Graphics designer Experience with Adobe CS Suite, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver required. Fluency in English required. Tel: 093-779-5224 (English). Email: steve.8888.j ohnson@gmail.com

FITNESS TRAINER WANTED

Experience required. Please send CV to be considered at info@ phuketfit. com Check out our website: www. phuket fit.com

DETOX/CLEANSE CONSULTANT

Experience working in detox, cleanse or spa. Must speak English. Thai national only. Good salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com Check out PhuketFit website for more www.phuketfit.com

SECONDARY EP VACANCY

ELT Phuket is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher of English (M1-4) to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, as soon as possible. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate (TEFL). Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: bantaladnuaep@gmail.

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Thai or foreigner, start immediately. English is a must, Thai an advantage. Full or part time. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thaievagroup.com

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Looking for a foreign national secretary who has a driver's licence and can speak very good English. Email: web@bayshore projects.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

To aid in graphic design and administrative work. Thai national, able to communicate clearly in English. Computer skills required. Marketing and design skills preferred. Willingness to learn. Basic administrative skills (email, Word, Excel) Please send your resume to info@apr-pfleiderer.com.

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- 5. Ability to work well in a team environment
- 6. Highly motivated with an interest in emerging technologies

Please forward your CV with cover letter and recent photo to it@wwdas.com

Address: Worldwide Dive and Sail (Phuket Office)

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Tel. +(66) 76 367 444. Contact: IT Department | Email: it@wwdas.com



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- Thai national only!!
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Contact Kirk Tel: 081-895 1186. Email: kirkstucker@bondisamui.com

www.bondisamui.com

ACCOUNTANT

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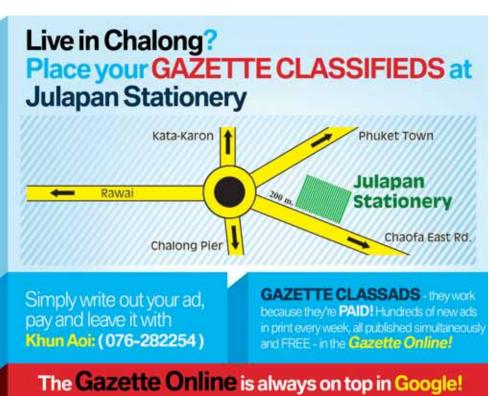
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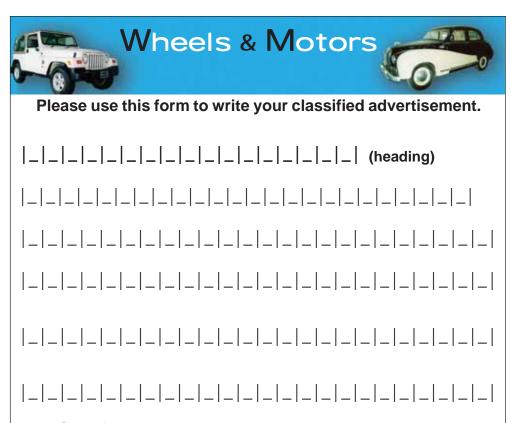
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Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

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, 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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IN MEMORY OF 9-11



Peter Gold and Noi (center), from The Stoned Crab Pub in Rawai, donated two fire suits to the Rawai Fire Dept in memory of September 11, 2001 tragedy. The Fire Dept was very excited to receive them, saying this was a very nice gesture. Noi said more suits would be coming their way in the near future.



VEGETERIAN FESTIVAL CAMPAIGN

Phuket Gazette Editor -Features, Maciej Tomasz Klimowicz (2nd left) and Vasana Subthavee, Assistant Manager-Classifieds (3rd left) received a white t-shirt from the Bangkok Phuket Hospital Marketing team.



SUPERKIDZ TENNIS

Thanyapura held a successful Superkidz tennis tournament last weekend. Almost 30 children from around Phuket and Phang Nga joined this competition. This weekend, come along to support the kids at the Yonex Junior Tennis tournament at Thanyapura.





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CORNUCOPIA: Flavio Manzoni makes 220 flavors of ice cream at his boutique factory in Kamala. MAN OF MANY TALENTS: Executive Chef and ice-cream maker extraordinaire Flavio Manzoni.

The ice cream man

By Mark Knowles

HAVING your own ice cream factory... admit it, you dreamed about it when you were a kid, but sadly for most of us, life ends up getting in the way. For executive chef Flavio Manzoni, however, this dream came true. Along with his wife Gai, Flavio churns out as many as five hundred liters of delicious, icy goodness a day from his boutique factory in Kamala.

Hailing from Italy, and having worked for many years as a chef in top resorts around the world, Flavio has always cooked and sourced his ingredients following his personal philosophy – keep it simple and natural. He started Manzoni Ice Cream three years ago when he saw a market for artisanstyle organic ice cream at many of the luxury resorts on the island.



ICE CREAM DREAM TEAM: (L-R) Kotchakorn Leeweing, Flavio's wife Monrudee, Martin Smetsers from Pura Organic and Flavio Manzoni.



"When I came down here I worked at a resort and I tried the ice cream they had... I said, what is that?" Flavio recalls with a grimace.

Confident he could do it better, he soon set up a small production facility in Kamala and began making his own ice cream in small batches. Three years on, he has just expanded to a larger factory and now makes ice cream, sorbet and frozen yogurts in over 200 flavors.

"Yes, we make two hundred and twenty flavors. Mostly I stock around 80 or so at any one time and I make the rest to order... whatever the customer wants... I can make customized ice creams working with other chefs too," he says.

"When we get an order, we make the ice cream the next morning and deliver it that afternoon, the next day. We don't wait two days, none of that. We make it, label it and boom.'

"We deliver all over the island [to] all the five-star-hotels, mostly. We deliver here in Phuket, to Khao Lak, Koh Yao Noi, Phi Phi island and Krabi. We even deliver to some of the island resorts by speedboat," he adds.

Since day one, Flavio has tried to source all organic ingredients whenever possible, and failing that, the highest quality he can find. Milk, his key ingredient, comes from the Dairy Home organic dairy in Nakorn Ratchasima, care of local organic food distributor Pura Organic.

"It's all organic milk, this one is farmyard certified, which means that there are no added antibiotics, nothing. It's a little more expensive, but the taste is like real milk," he says.

'We get mangosteens and coconuts from an organic farm in Khao Sok, all through Pura Organics. We try to be artisan and organic with our ice cream, for the children mostly, as we sell to schools too. If children are going to eat my ice cream, I don't want to put stuff that is too weird in it."

For ingredients that can't be found locally, Flavio sources them from all over the globe.

"We get green tea in from Japan, the vanilla comes from Madagascar, but I buy it in Japan too. Our pistachios are from



Just a small selection of Flavio's ice creams, truffles and fruit sorbets.

Sicily and other ingredients from many countries."

"Many chefs, they try to take something simple and make it too complicated. I like to make it simple and natural. I believe that if you have good ingredients you don't need much else."

As a chef, he can't help but experiment with flavors and textures, and lately, he has been having some fun concocting savory ice-creams using vegetables and herbs.

"We try to use organic fruit for the sorbets and we even use vegetables. For example, with buffalo milk, we add roasted tomato and sometimes basil. It's something different. Beetroot with goat's milk... white carrots... it's fun to experiment. But of course, this kind of thing is not as popular as it is in big cities like New York and London; the customers here are not quite ready for it," he says.

If beetroot ice cream sounds a bit extreme, don't worry, Flavio has scores of other sumptuous flavors to tempt you. I was lucky enough to be treated to just a small selection from his frozen treasure trove; pistachio, limoncello, mango, strawberry, coconut, rum and raisin, passion fruit, chocolate, and of course, vanilla. After tasting them, I truly regretted having given up on my youthful dream of owning my own ice cream factory.

Along with bulk ice cream orders, Flavio also has an impressive range of decadent handmade ice cream truffles, as well as specialty sorbets which he serves au natural - in the actual skin of the fruit used to make them.

"We make our truffles with silicone molds. We do two or three hundred at a time. Like our hazelnut flavor... First we do one half, and then the other, then we put in some amaretto and put the two halves together and put it together in the chill blaster. We make our limoncello, meringue and chocolate truffles this way. With the sorbets, we have coconut flavor in its natural shell, mango in the natural skin and passion fruit in its original skin.

So now for the truly challenging question – with so many flavors to choose from, what is his favorite? Hesitating, Flavio answers: "The most likely one is yoghurt with wild-berry. It's an ice cream base with the starter for yoghurt to give it acidity and then the fresh berries. That's what I like, a bit of sour, maybe tamarind too."

If you would like to know more about stocking Manzoni Ice Cream email leonardaspen@hotmail.com or phone Khun Kay 0856693149

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Oct 5-13, 2013, Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of vegetables will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making. Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

Oct 12, 2013, 8pm-1am, Phuket Latin Night, Calling all Latin lovers and sexy senoritas...

The evening will feature free salsa lessons with former Usher dancer Sean Moonwalker, from 8pm. And from 9:30pm, after warming up your dancing toes, the evening will feature a Latin inspired DJ set – including a mash-up of funky beats and pop favorites. The evening will feature 2-for-1 Mexican drinks all night to get you into the Latin flava, as well as delicious tacos. For more information contact Annabel Fox on +66-76-324101

Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club at Cape Panwa Hotel.

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non-members



and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiwc.com or contact Carole Dux on 076-316711.

Oct 20, 2013, 6:30pm-11pm, Sunday Italian Buffet Dinner Savor our special Italian buffet spread with a variety of choices of antipasti, salads, pastas and pizzas, and a wide range of irresistible desserts at our award winning Italian restaurant, La Trattoria. Priced at THB 1,320++ per person (food only) and 735++ for children aged 6-12 years (food plus free flow of soft drinks). For reservations, please call: 076-362 999, ext 7303

Oct 21 - 26, 2013, 9:30am-4:30 pm, PYSC Phuket Youth Week & Sailing Regatta

Phuket Youth Week offers young people the opportunity to learn to sail and hone crucial skills in the sport, including starting and finishing techniques, mark rounding, boat speed and general tactical skills essential to racing. Training will be offered through Topper Sail Phuket, RYA Training School and Thai National Coaches. The week will finish with a 2-days Regatta on October 25 and 26 with divisions for the Optimist, Topper, Topaz and Laser. We are also holding a beginners course on October 19 and 20. Limited places, so book now to confirm your place. Interested in joining the training week or two day regatta please contact Katy phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or call 085 2159185

Oct 24, 2013, 6-10:30pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013 – Bangkok.

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise among the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens

in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Inquire directly with Jon Hyams on 080-4718713

Oct 26, 2013, 8pm-11:30pm, Margaritaville-Parrot Head Party at Underwood Art Factory. Support the Navy League Phuket's Community Service Projects. 1,500 baht in advance, or 2,000 baht at the door. Call 087-266 7514 for reservations. Email: rucker4012 @gmail.com

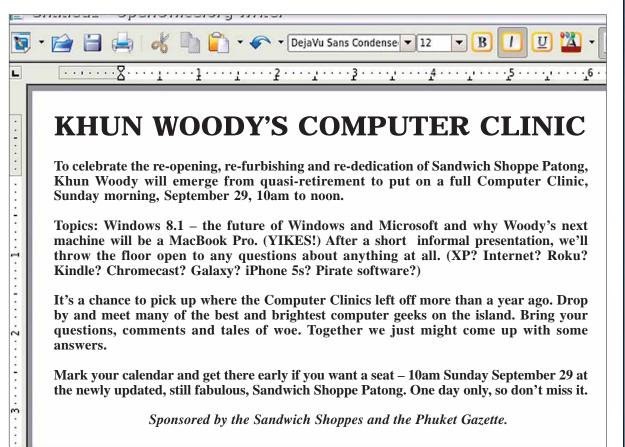
Oct 29 - Nov 3, 2013, 9am-6pm, Phuket Thailand Open Powered By PTT 2013

The Phuket Thailand Open will attract top beach volleyball teams from around the globe. Leading teams to play in the tournament are: Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA. There will be intotal up to six Thai teams taking part in the event, of which three are in the main draw and three in the qualifying. For more information visit website: pentanglepromotion

Nov 8, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. Call 076286464







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Lone Ranger rides once more



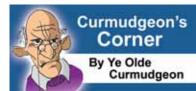
The latest incarnation of the masked man stars Armie Hammer as The Lone Ranger and Johnny Depp as Tonto. Photo: The Jiff

the traditional portrayal of the Lone Ranger. The new movie about him has some major flaws, but it will still dazzle the nine-yearold boy locked up inside every American man of a certain age who was thrilled by the William Tell Overture and the cry of "Hiyo, Silver!"

law graduate named John Reid, a strait-laced believer in the civilizing power of law who likes to quote the English philosopher John Locke. He's headed back to

MY LAST column talked about his home in the West to take up his new job as a federal prosecutor. An attack on the train by bandits derails this plan and throws him into an unwanted partnership with Tonto, played by Johnny Depp- made up to look like a witch doctor with a dead crow on his head.

The movie turns Tonto into a The future Lone Ranger is a new age schlockmeister, a Cherokee shaman who believes that Reid is actually a spirit warrior who can't be killed (although he can be wounded), and that his white stallion Silver is a spirit horse.



Together this improbable trio battle the bandits and the corporate villain behind them.

There's a good deal of campy dialogue. Instead of asking the traditional question, "Who was that masked man?", an Indian chief opts for a more contemporary idiom:

"What's with the mask?" Tonto plays the mask card hard, telling the Ranger, "A good man must wear a mask", and "Never take off the mask." Apparently he is laboring to convey the idea that in our topsyturvy world, where evil rules and good is on the run, it's the good guvs that have to wear the masks. This message is a little too heavy for the movie to bear. Tonto has cut the mask out of the vest of the Ranger's murdered brother, so it ought to look a little ragged. Instead, it looks like an expensive fashion accessory custom-designed by Giorgio Armani.

When the Lone Ranger tries to bust the madam of a brothel. played by Helena Bonham Carter, and she asks what law she's broken, the Ranger sternly proclaims, "You serve pickles."

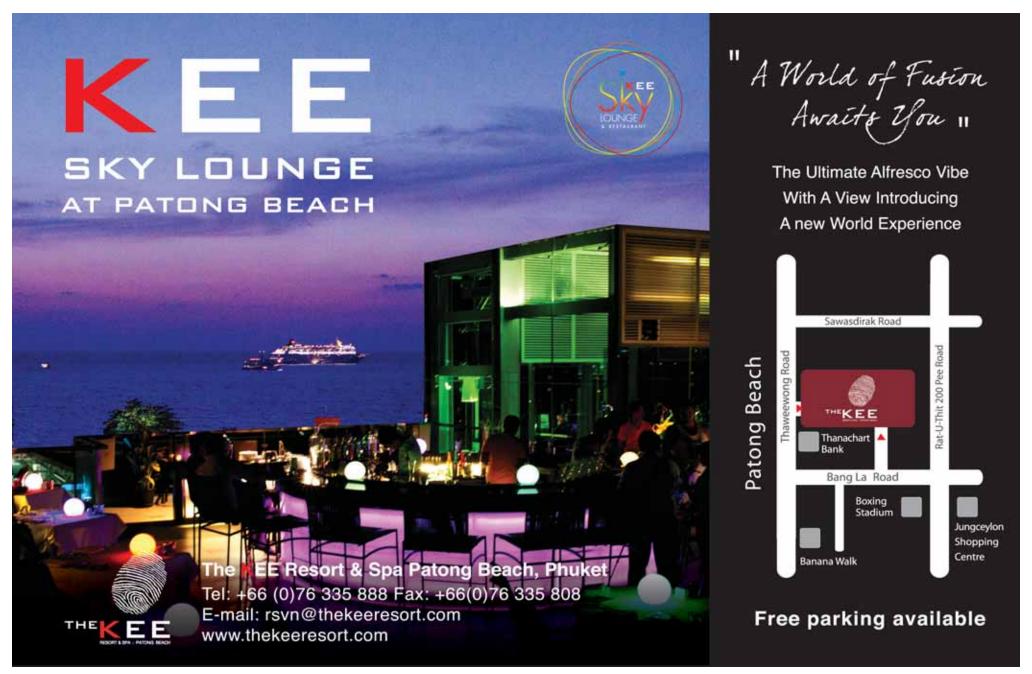


Many American men, of a certain age, will remember fondly watching the Lone Ranger on TV when they were children. Photo: Public Domain

Tonto adds, "Unrefrigerated." The audience is too nonplussed even to giggle. Helena has a wooden leg with a gun inside. She iust raises her leg and blasts away whenever somebody annoys her. There's also a transsexual bandit who carries a parasol that Tonto swipes. And Tonto's dead-crow headdress eats the peanuts he feeds it, shells and all.

Such campy diversions keep the movie going much longer than it should. All is forgiven, though, in the magnificent final scene, a train chase (with two trains!) in which the Lone Ranger charges down the roofs of the trains on Silver and leaps dexterously from one train to another as the William Tell Overture thunders in the background and the nine-year-old boy inside every American male viewer of a certain age thrills with excitement. For him, this movie is a gotta-see.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be scolded for having a nine-year-old boy locked up inside him c/o wpage108@gmail.com



Life & style Life and Garden E is for ericas and eucalypts



Eucalyptus torquata has delicate red flowers which bees use to make some delicious honey. Photo: expom2uk



Rainbow Eucalyptus has a colorful trunk. Photo: Gail Hampshire



Most ericas are characterized by tiny narrow leaves and pink, white or red tubular flowers. Photo: Derek Keats



THERE are plenty of plants which names begin with the letter "E" but none that can rival the 2,000 strong euphorbia family. So large is the genus that that one unheralded member completely slipped through the net last week.

Naturalized here, E. cotonifolia bears absolutely no resemblance to the exotic crown of thorns, or even to the brilliant yellow spurges of cooler climes. Instead, it has conventional reddish leaves which can become a brilliant crimson in the right conditions, namely, in full sun. Slender-stemmed and multi-branched from the base, it will tolerate poor soils and even shade, though in such conditions the foliage will remain a dull greenish purple. An ideal plant for bare spaces where little else will grow. One of the first plants to colonize waste land, it is a real toughie and easily propagated from cuttings.

Some *ericas* or heathers are also pressed into service as border or bedding plants. Most varieties such as carnea or alpine heath, ciliaris or Dorset heath and *cinerea* or bell heather are generally found growing wild on temperate heathland, providing impenetrable cover for ground-loving birds such as grouse. Often replaced here as a dense low growing border or rockery plant by easier to grow

cuphea or false heather, there are nonetheless South African or Australian natives which will thrive in Phuket. For example, E. densifolia, an unusual South African variety, has tiny green leaves and spikes of tubular red flowers whereas australis which actually, hails from Spain and Portugal, has an upright, spirelike habit and can reach three meters in height.

Most *ericas* are characterized by tiny narrow leaves and pink, white or red tubular flowers; almost all require an acid, peaty or neutral soil.

Altogether more tropical in appearance is the torch ginger or etlingera. For a long time, I marveled at these heavy cone-like red blooms atop thick ram-rod straight stems which appeared as cut flowers in local markets. They look even more impressive in their natural surroundings, extravagant



Torch ginger or etlingera, a native of jungles of Malaysia and Indonesia, has magnificent cone-shaped red flowers. Photo: Vinayaraj

clumps, up to twenty feet across, of huge pointed dark green leaves and fleshy 4-5 foot stalks rising straight from the ground and bearing these cone-like, flaming, waxy inflorescences.

If any plant epitomizes the tropics, this is surely it. Unsurprisingly, its native habitat is the jungles of Malaysia and Indonesia where it thrives on the humus-rich moist soil of the rainforest. If you want to grow

> etlingera, remember that it will, like all gingers, need organic soil, protection from wind and time to spare. Oh and plenty of space!

I suppose we should allow the eucalyptus a modicum of space. That, unfortunately, is the trouble. Give this tree an inch and it will take a yard. There is a large colony, fully fifty meters tall, of what Australians call "gum trees" at the end of my soi. I can't imagine

they were put there deliberately, since this clump has never been harvested as timber [the trees are notoriously fast growing], though they are planted in Mediterranean climates as roadside trees to

provide shade. Perhaps some public-spirited Thai did just that. But they are a mixed blessing, for though the saplings are pressed into service here for scaffolding, the mature trees syphon up vast quantities of water. In Southern Spain, they have begun to remove them for this very reason.

Eucalypts are nonetheless interesting. The juvenile leaves are often different from the adult ones, broader and more attractive than their seniors. The wood is rich in fragrant oil and the flowers are replete with nectar and include some of the world's finest honey plants. Perhaps we should try more of the interesting ornamental varieties in Thailand: for example, E. alba which has beautiful smooth white bark, E. blakelyi which has ornamenta 1 value with showy clusters of whitish flowers, or E. cicerea or cordata, both of which possess silvery-gray foliage. There are 700 species to choose from and they will all grow here. Spoiled for choice.

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



Several species of eucalypt have silvery gray foliage. Photo: Brewbooks

Tip of the Week Pollination of your plants

You may have shrubs or trees which are not yielding fruit. There may be many reasons for this lack. All conventional plants need to be pollinated to bear crops. This can be achieved by self-pollination, a process whereby pollen from the stamen (the male part) is transferred to the pistil (the female part). Often this transfer takes place in the *same* flower: for example with tomatoes, egg plants, peas and beans.

With many plants, cross-polli-

nation, known as allogamy, is essential, so pollen from one plant is transferred to another of the same species in the vicinity. Cross-pollination, which often produces stronger offspring, requires the assistance of (mainly) insects. Bees are the most important bio-pollinators, but butterflies, beetles, hawk-moths and flies also contribute importantly to this exchange. In California, 1,000,000 bee-hives are moved into the almond groves every season to ensure the flowers are fertilized.



A honey bee visiting a Sherwood Redazalea. Photo: Hickoryrose

Luxury aboard

By Maciek Klimowicz

WHAT makes a boat luxurious is not only the boat itself, it's the quality of service on board. Boat Lagoon Cruises Luxury Charters proved this point clearly on their recent promotional cruise.

I've seen it all – the spacious interiors, attention to detail, high quality materials, a design that combines beauty with comfort. In many ways, the White Pearl Princess 60 motor yacht is similar to any other luxurious boat available for rent in Phuket. Looking at it from the pier is a pleasure, standing on its deck even more so. To sail on it through the deep blue waters surrounding Phuket is one of the things that makes life here worth living. On that Thursday morning cruise I felt pampered and it felt good.

The food is great, a range of antipasti from Two Chefs Bar & Grill, designed to suit the palettes of guests from different backgrounds as well as to complement the wines served on board. The potato salad filled cakes suited the taste of the Russians and Germans on board, the Gazpacho helped cope with the heat and the mushroom pies filled up empty stomachs.

However, that's just a glimpse at the full menu available to Boat Lagoon Cruises' customers. There are five different themed buffet menus to choose from: International, Asian, Italian, barbecue and seafood. Standout dishes include smoked pork tenderloin with mango salsa and poached Maine lobster. Let's not forget the desserts either; who could pass up the sumptuous blueberry cheesecake, or the chocolate cake with amaretto cream?

Then there is wine. We rinsed all these culinary delights down with a nicely balanced, new world Sauvignion Blanc and a tangy, refreshing Prosecco. Guests who charter the yacht can choose from over 20 different wines, among them, the Whispering Angel rose awarded a silver medal by the Decanter magazine or a Nipozzano Riserva Chiantifrom Frescobaldi.

The high-class wine and food set the mood for the rest of the cruise and the mood is all about fun. One of the biggest advantages of sailing on a private yacht is that you can go wherever you want, whenever you want to. For example, to a beautiful, white sand beach on one of the smaller islands east from Phuket, a beach usually filled with tourists. But when we get there, holidaymakers are nowhere to be seen and we have the place all to ourselves and we leave just as a big, tourist-filled boat arrives to disturb the tranquil atmosphere.

Back on board, one can just sit in the shadow of the spacious sunroof, enjoy a chat with one of the fellow VIPs, sip on a drink, munch on some more snacks or just gaze in astonishment at the rock formations of Phang Nga Bay in the distance. Or if you're a more adventurous type, hop on a jet-ski available for the guests and cut through the waves. Don't worry about scams and extractions, this is not Patong. And if a few minutes of this high speed fun leaves your muscles sore, there is a masseuse waiting on the White Pearl to soothe away your aches.

Stepping on the dry land at the Boat Lagoon marina a few hours later felt a bit like waking up from a dream, a good dream.

The White Pearl Princess 60 can hold up to 12 passengers. Indulging in eight hours of pure pleasure aboard her costs from 199 to 230 thousand baht depending on the season. The price includes fuel, crew and hostesses, drinks and snacks, National Park fees, gourmet breakfast and lunch, use of on-board equipment, insurance and transportation to and from the pier. Custom itineraries, overnight and half day charters are available on request.

The cruise was sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV, Railand Magazine, BB&B (wines), Two Chefs (food). Phuket Beer and Princess Yachts South East Asia.



How to avoid jetski scams? Get a private one with your boat.



One of the biggest joys of sailing a private boat - going where you want and when you want. Photos: Supplied



White Pearl form the outside looks great, like most luxurious boats. What matters is what awaits aboard.

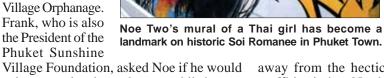


Paris street art colors Phuket

By Mark Knowles

RENOWNED French street artist Noe Two is a regular visitor to Phuket, having visited the island several times in the past to paint murals in his signature style of psychedelic colors and graffiti lettering. Perhaps his best known piece here is the portrait of a young Thai girl, painted on a wall in the historic Soi Romanee in old Phuket Town, which has become somewhat of a landmark since.

He returned recently to complete a work commissioned by local resident Frank Couture, at his house in Chalong, as well as to bring some color to the lives of the kids at Phuket Sunshine Village Orphanage. Frank, who is also the President of the Phuket Sunshine



paint a mural at the orphanage while he was here and received an instant yes. Frank kindly invited the Gazette team to

visit his house to interview Noe Two and watch him in action; and I asked him how it all came about.

"Noe came to Phuket over a year ago on holiday and a painting trip. He found an old wall in Phuket Town, got authorization from

the Governor to create art on it, and it was featured in the newspaper. I saw it and I thought... wow, this speaks to me. So I looked up his website to find out who he was, dropped him a message asking 'When are you back in town?'

and he said in a

Originally, Noe used only spray cans, but now

employs many techniques when creating his art.

While he was taking a break from his work - painting a mural of singer Erykah Badu - I had a chat with Noe about his evolution as an artist and how his art had helped him connect with people from across the globe. I soon found out that, despite having been inspired to take his name from the biblical story of Noah's Ark, Noe's own story has been one of constant evolution.

"Noe is Noah, from Noah's Arc. I was very young and loved animals I wanted to choose the name of an animal; a lion, snake or tiger... but for me it was very cheap to do that. So after thinking I said, why not Noe? Because it's related to animals and has three letters, so it is simple," he said.

From his earlier days, spray-painting "tags" and illegal murals in the alleys and lanes of Paris as member of the groundbreaking graffiti crew RAW (Real Authentik Writa), his style and technique has expanded to include works of computer generated design, photo montage, video and acrylic on canvas.

"When I started graffiti, I tried to imitate New York style, but after you have more experience and become older you

> develop your own style. My letters have a lot of influence from New York, I would look at that graffiti art and try to do the same. But with time, I started working towards finding new ideas, new forms, new calligraphy.

As Noe grew older and moved

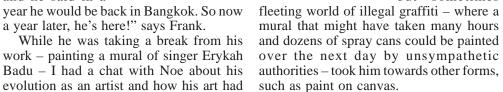
away from the hectic lifestyle of illegal graffiti painting, Noe begun to look at other ways to express himself artistically.

"When you're young, you're all about speed, adrenaline, being crazy... but later in life you're more chilled, quiet and mature... you think about things," he told me.

"I used to do a lot of realistic characters when I was mostly working on walls, but then I stopped using walls and moved into

photography and 3D art - so then Iused the computer to design art. I moved away from graffiti because I want my paintings to last through time and on the computer, the art is not very 'real', you can't touch it."

His desire to leave the thrilling but sometimes



"So I started with canvas and I tried to do graffiti on canvas, but it's too small of a size. So I experimented with new ways, different forms and colors and tried to do a more abstract style, I began to put abstract colors in the faces, I did more and more, which led to this colorful portrait style."

Many of Noe's most iconic images are close-up female portraits. Initially he painted images of celebrities whose music or art have inspired him, but increasingly he prefers to do portraits of interesting people



Frank Couture (left) commissioned Noe Two (right) to create this mural at his Chalong home.



While he was here, Noe also painted a colorful mural at Phuket Sunshine Village Orphanage.

he meets as he works and travels around the world.

"Before I did famous people because I needed a model, so I looked for my models on websites. With Erykah Badu, I painted her because I like her look, her style – a very original style with the afro and so on. Sometimes I do famous models, like Natalia Vodianova, Adriana Lima.

"But now, when it's possible, I try to meet people and if I like someone's look, I'll talk to the guy or the girl and see if it's possible to take a photo and use that to paint from. But sometimes it's complicated, they can get suspicious and question why I want a photo of them."

Noe has now been painting for over 25 years and his art has taken him all over the world. He has collaborated with many artists to paint murals from the favelas of Brazil to New York, LA, Hong Kong, Beijing and even Mongolia. He said he is often inspired by local artistic styles, iconic cultural images, and the many people he meets on his travels and tries to incorporate this into his work. Judging from his enthusiasm for Thailand, Noe will no doubt be back again, so keep an eye out on in your area, you never know which wall might be his next.

To see more of Noe Two's amazing portfolio visit: noetwo-gallery.com and watch PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show - full schedule on pg.35

Life & style



OCTOBER 12

- 1492 Christopher Columbus's expedition landed in The Bahamas.
- 1773 America's first insane asylum was opened.
- 1799 First woman jumped from a balloon with a parachute.
- 1901 The "Executive Mansion" was renamed to the White House.
- 1928 An iron lung respirator was used for the first time.
- 2002 Terrorists attack on Bali killed 202 people.



JAILED 1931 Photo: The-Lane-Team



GALAXY 1773 Photo NASA

OCTOBER 13

- 1773 The Whirlpool Galaxy was discovered by Charles Messier.
- 1775 United States Continental Navy established
- 1923 Ankara replaced Istanbul as the capital of Turkey.
- 1958 Paddington Bear made his debut.

OCTOBER 14

- 1773 The world's first Ministry of Education was formed in Poland.
- 1888 First motion picture, Roundhay Garden Scene, was filmed.
- 1926 Winnie-the-Pooh, by A A Milne, was first published.
- 1982 US President Ronald Reagan proclaimed a War on Drugs.

OCTOBER 16

1793 Marie Antoinette, widow of Louis XVI, was guillotined.

1905 The Partition of Bengal in India took place. 1923 The Walt Disney Company was founded. 1940 The Warsaw Ghetto was established.

1964 China detonated its first nuclear weapon.



DEFEAT 1815 Photo: National Gallery



JUMPER 1799 Photo: Tissandier

OCTOBER 15

- 1815 Napoleon begun his exile on Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean. 1917 Mata Hari was executed for spying for the German Empire.
- 1989 Wayne Gretzky became the all-time leading points scorer in the NHL.
- 1990 Mikhail Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



FRIEND 1926 Photo: peacay

WHALE 1851

OCTOBER 17

- 1814 London Beer Flood occurred in London, killing nine.
- 1917 First British bombing of Germany in World War I.
- 1931 Al Capone convicted of income tax evasion.
- 1943 Burma Railway (Burma-Thailand Railway) was completed.
- 1979 Mother Teresa awarded the

Nobel Peace Prize.

OCTOBER 18

- 1210 Pope Innocent III excommunicated German leader Otto IV.
- 1648 Boston Shoemakers formed first U.S. labor organization.
- 1775 African-American poet Phillis Wheatley freed from slavery.
- 1851 Herman Melville's Moby-Dick was first published.



SPY 1917

Photo: Texaus1

Preparing for Asian Beach **Games 2014**

THE Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand, with support from its President Princess Siribhachudhabhorn, recently announced that a "Test Event" dubbed the Pre-Asian Beach Games will be held next month at the temporary aeronautic stadium in Si Phuwanat Park, opposite of Lam Chan health promoting hospital, in preparation for the next year's Asian Beach Games in Phuket.

The Association aims to promote aeronautic sports in Thailand and develop a higher standard of competition within the kingdom so that Thai sportspeople can develop their skills and compete in international Aeronautical sports competitions.

The 2013 Pre-Asian Beach Games will include paragliding, paramotor and radio-controlled model aircraft pylon racing, and will be held from November 8 to December 1 at Chao Fah Mine Aviation Stadium in Phuket.

"The Test Event Beach Games 2013 is set to prepare organisers and competitors for the 4th Asian Beach Games in 2014," said Chairman of the Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand Group Captain Virayuth Didyasarin.

"There are three kinds of competition. Firstly, the 2013 Pre-Asian Beach Games for radio-controlled model aircraft pylon racing from November 8 to 10, 2013. Secondly, the inaugural FAI Paramotor Asian Oceania Championships 2013 Test Event, from November 14 to 20 and lastly, the Pre-Asian Beach Games Paragliding Accuracy South East Asia Open from November 28 to December 1, 2013," he added.

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Life & style BISP and Cruzeiro unite

New Football Academy to be run with the support of top-tier Brazillian club Cruzeiro

BRITISH International School Phuket (BISP) will be announcing the launch of its new Football Academy at the forthcoming International seven-a-side Football Tournament (November 8-9, 2013), which is held annually on the school campus.

The aim is to develop a center of footballing excellence in Asia under the coaching auspices of the premier Brazilian football club, Cruzeiro EC. An essential element of the academy is the appointment of a top Cruzeiro professional coach at the school, able to work alongside the BISP sports and PE staff, to develop the academy concept and program.

In October, Cruzeiro EC Youth Coach Jonathas Candido, whose youth team won the Brazilian Cup last year, will be joining the BISP staff. In addition, the school will be awarding scholarships each year to attract the very best young footballers in Asia.

Of equal importance to the development of an academy is the development of close cooperation with Cruzeiro EC and Phuket FC in plans to develop coaching clinics and develop youth football leagues and representative teams on the island, and to produce professional footballers for Phuket FC, Cruzeiro EC or other professional clubs seeking Asian players. It is hoped that academy players who wish to continue with their studies will be able to obtain sports scholarships in the United States or elsewhere. All academy players will receive a full BISP education, culminated in an IB Diploma, but will be expected to devote most afternoons and weekends to the academy program.

BISP Headmaster Neil Richards said he firmly believes that the school has the capacity to become the premier sports international school in Asia and points to the success of the BISP High Performance Team (HPT) Swimming Academy as a model. Already several scholarships have been awarded to top international youth

swimmers and these are being trained under the watchful eye of the fulltime professional coach Simon Jones. Four of the HPT students are swimming at the forthcoming FINA World Cup in Singapore and members of the school team will be represented at the State championships held in Queensland Australia as well as other competitions in the region.

Mr Richards said that further sports academies in the pipe-

line included Golf and Tennis – which will use the new covered courts facility due to be completed in October. He said that negotiations and discussions are well under way to make these a reality. Mr Richards acknowledges that the boarding facilities at the school are critical to his vision, because it enables the school to bring top young athletes to live and train in Phuket. However, he does not believe that students should suffer in any way academically. Accordingly, all the athletes will be required to complete a full day's schooling on



FANCY FOOTWORK: BISP has signed up Jonathas Candido, Youth Coach for Brazil's Cruzeiro EC to help develop its new Football Acadamy.

only in this way can he provide a rounded education that will also open up a top university education for the students should it be desired.

Mr Richards is anxious to stress that the school does not revolve around sport, but rather that he is enabling top young athletes to take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities at the school. To make his point, he refers to the large number of single subject IGCSE awards made to BISP this year, more than any other international school in Thailand,

including schools with more than twice the number of students. In addition, he also explained that the school has offered scholarships this year to outstanding academic students from around Asia, including Vietnam, Bangladesh and Thailand, as well as Canada. This academic scholarship program, named after the school's founder Dr Arthit, will continue alongside the sporting scholarships. It will be an extraordinary environment for all students, he says, because young people will respond positively to the achievements of their peers

and in a climate of excellence, across all disciplines, every student will thrive. He concludes that the top universities around the world will soon be attracted to the quality of experience of a BISP student, and these will be reflected in the opening up of scholarship opportunities across the globe.

Mr Richards acknowledges that, in the longer term, his vision may result in much greater competition for school places within the local Phuket community, particularly at the ages from fourteen and above where the current scholarships are being offered, and

that competition for admission will increase dramatically at these age groups. He believes, however, that this will prove to be a good thing in the long run for the local communities, both Thai and foreign. It is important that young people have something worthwhile to aspire to, and by raising the academic and sporting bar he believes there will be a positive knock-on effect across all schools.

This scholarship vision, he acknowledges, would not have been possible without the school board's commitment to becoming a non-profit institution. By adopting this status, says Mr Richards, he has been free to invest and subsequently to re-invest in the development of academic excellence and the sports academies. The headmaster has not yet completed two full years at the school, but said he remains confident that the impact of the school will be felt across Asia in the very near future, and that this will have an extremely positive affect upon Phuket as a whole.





rigorous international curricula. He said that Four Flying Fish athletes will be completing at the FINA World Cup in Singapore next month.

- Phuket Gazette

Royal music concert

Princess Sirindhorn Music Library is organizing a mobile music exhibition entitled "The 8th King Rama IX Royal Composition" which will be held from October 31 to November 2 at Saphan Hin Park in Phuket Town. The highlight of the event will be an impressive musical fountain and traditional dancing. The event is held to

THE King Rama IX and honor 84-year-old HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The exhibition will focus on the King's musical talents by presenting 48 songs composed by His Majesty, along with his hand-written notes, a royal collection of vinyl records and HM King's personal saxophone.

Of course, there will be live music too! The 30-piece Chalearmraj band will perform some of the King's tunes with the help of vocalists such as Suthep Wongkamhaeng and Pacharapol Chantiang. The concert will start at 7pm and last until 9 pm. The exhibition however, will be open to the public all day long.

Alongside the exhibition and concert, a singing competition will be held in which vocalists aged between 11 and 28 will have a chance to win 5.000 baht cash for first place, 3,000 and 2,000 for second baht and third place, respectively.

The singing contest will be held on October 31 and November 1, from 3pm to 5pm. From 20 singers competing on each day, five will be chosen to form the final and 10 for the grand finale on November 2.

Interested candidates can apply for the competition by sending their name, nickname, age, phone number, the preferred date of performance and the songs they are going to sing in the first round and in the finale (must be different song) to kingrama9songs @gmail.com by October 30. There's only 20 spots to fill so hurry up and sing - Phuket Gazette to win!

For more information contact Khun Alice on 092-514-8158



The Myanmar friendship concert in Yongon

Lay" ("Young Lady") echoed loudly around the National Theatre in Yangon last Saturday, but, rather than being delivered by pop singers as usual, it came from Thailand's award-winning Suanplu Chorus.

The group gave a beautiful rendition of the tune about true love overcoming differences in language and culture.

"Kuang Ma Lay" was the high-light of a show called "The Melodies of Friendship by Suanplu Chorus", which celebrated the 65th anniversary of Thailand - Myanmar diplomatic relations – hosted by the Thai Embassy.

"Although we speak different countries.

THE popular love song "Kuang Ma languages and have different cultures, we are mostly all Buddhists and share much culture," Ambassador Pisanu Suvanajata pointed out. "Just like the chorus, we perform harmoniously."

> The event followed the success of the "Textiles of the Two Lands" exhibition earlier this year, which inspired Pisanu to organize an evening of musical friendship as well. Music, he knows, has no barriers.

> The Suanplu Chorus, wearing gorgeous classical costumes, sang in Burmese for nearly 1,000 guests, including diplomats, businessmen and cultural experts from both

Chorus director Dusdi Banomyong called the 35 members of her group "culture ambassadors". They'd rehearsed for four months. working with specialists from several ASEAN member-countries on lyrics and arrangements. They performed for 90 minutes accompanied by the ranad (xylophone) and a grand piano and led by Filipino conductor Ramon Lijauco Jr.

After a summary of its repertoire, the chorus, dressed in black, sang songs about the two countries hardy relationship - Elgin's "Gloria", the theme from the romantic movie "Ice Castles", Carole Bayer Sager's "Through the Eyes of Love" and the Broadway hit "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Changed into traditional Siamese outfits for the second act, they performed tunes from around Southeast Asia, like the Javanese ballad "Luk Luk Lumba", in which the upbeat percussion mimicked the sound of gamelans and "Illav Gandangan" ("Worship of the Sun") from the Philippines. The segment was capped by "Kuang Ma Lay".

Also performed were His Majesty the King's compositions "Oh I Say" and "Sang Duen" ("Moonlight"). "Lao Duang Duean" ("Moon Ballad") and "Kamen Sai Yoke" ("Sai Yok Waterfall") paid homage to the culture of Laos and Cambodia.

The show ended warmly with "Phama Thung Le", a medley of venerable songs dating back 300 years. VIP guests were invited to dance along, creating a memorable scene of friendship.

"Thailand and Myanmar are close friends," U Nyunt Swe averred. "Learning and sharing our cultures can tighten our relationship." Celebrations of that friendship continue until year's end. Thais will travel to Yangon for a Katin Ceremony and doctors will offer Myanmar people free medical services. Thailand is also establishing a 4-million baht center at a Yangon hospital that will specialise in prosthetic limbs. - The Nation

Ms Myanmar

ICC International's role in found in all the leading the selection of 25-year-old Moe Set Wine as Miss Universe Myanmar 2013, in Yangon on Thursday, gives Thais a chance to share a little in the joy of the country's first beauty contest in 53 years. Able to speak English and Mandarin as well, the lovely winner is a perfect choice to represent her homeland at the Miss Universe pageant in Moscow on November 9.

Thai firm ICC provided the swimwear and the makeup that Moe wore so stunningly in Yangon, as well as her underwear and shoes.

Myanmar women are familiar with ICC products, particularly the BSC and Pannada brands, which are

stores in the country.

Pannada Wongphudee or "Boom" is there often promoting the stuff. Last year she was asked to model for a calendar there as well. So the beauty pageant's organiser was happy to put its faith in ICC to handle makeup and outfits for all the contestants. It's kind of nice that so many gorgeous Myanmar girls are helping to reflect Thai beauty on stage. This ASEAN **Economic Community** thing might work out after all.

The Nation





A blessing in disguise

Despite crashing in Krabi and unscrupulous fine print, life moves on

By Steven Layne

"UNDER the weather" is one way to describe how I was initially feeling last Monday morning as I started traversing the city-block on foot, westward bound for the province's prime asphalt artery, where I could catch a sawng taeo to work.

My oversized umbrella – held down at my side like it had been the pride of a knight, ready to be drawn for battle - provided a small-yet-significant sense of security as I hopped and skipped over puddles left over from an early morning drizzle.

Although there were no looming thunderclouds in the grayish-blue sky overhead, the weather can turn on you without even a seconds' warning, especially this time of year, in this part of the world.

A beginners' urban obstacle course at best, by no means was this part of Phuket challenging or tedious to walk; there are narrow yet passable sidewalks along most of the stretches of Montri, Dibuk and Thepkrastri roads that I had to cover, and the traffic for the most part is slow and orderly enough to warrant safe crossings.

Unlike many of the streets and sois I'd scaled in Bangkok's massive concrete jungle over the last decade, these particular Phuket Town streets were relatively clean and easy to navigate, and as I was starting to learn once again, enjoyable.

A small public park I must have driven by a countless number of times over the past year, suddenly stood out in all its serenity - a playground, vibrant gardens, a fountain – how could I have lived here Narrow sidewalks along Phuket Town's main due admiration for such a lively and charming neighborhood?

Indeed, I had taken many things for granted since first getting behind the wheel in Phuket two years ago, and now that I was forced to rely on my shoes again, new yet familiar thought synapses began to reactivate in a dormant part of my brain – such a re-awakening was long overdue!

Before I get more into that, first lets rewind back to Sunday, when I had an automobile accident.

I must have been coasting at about 80 kilometers per hour (48 miles per hour) on highway four in Krabi, Southern Thailand, en route back to Phuket, when I suddenly slammed on my brakes in a reflex.

In all but an eye-blink, appearing and obstructing the road immediately ahead of me was a pickup truck, stopped in the middle of the single, northbound highway lane.

The truck must have been waiting to turn onto an adjacent eastbound road (that I only noticed after the fact). It's mind boggling how the highways department could sanction such a deadly turnoff like this on a cross-provincial highway - one that requires all northbound highway traffic to come to a dead stop in only a short moments notice; no turn lane, no stop sign nor traffic light, just a single, hardly-visible overhead hazard light. Add rainy conditions and you've got inevitable disaster.

As it had been raining much of that Sunday morning, the road was



so long without affording the roads can be traversed without much hassle.

slippery, so I found out the hard way upon braking, suddenly losing control of my vehicle, swerving to avoid colliding head-on with the back of the stopped truck. Evading the truck, instead I hit a roadside sign before continuing a few meters down into a lush and muddy ditch.

Everyone was intact; my son belted in the front seat, wife in the



Phuket and will cost another 65,000 baht to repair it, a small price to pay in the greater scheme of things.

back, both screaming in shock after their abrupt awakening to the screech of brakes. I yelled for everyone to get out of the car, fearing that an explosion would ensue.

There were a few onlookers who

had started coming down into the ditch to check and see if anyone was hurt or worse. I relayed to them that we were unharmed; they helped open the passenger side door so my son and wife could escape, and I forced my door open and climbed up the ditch too.

The truck was nowhere in sight at this point, but I proceeded to call the insurance company. Upon learning that there was no damage to another car, LMG Insurance was quick to claim no liability whatsoever, and didn't seem keen on offering any kind of support/ assistance. I had to literally

I'd have to clear the costs. The insurance I had was the best one available for my 11-yearold car, classified as class 2+ (sawng buak), and in the fine print

requires another vehicle to be dam-

demand for them to send a tow

truck after they made it clear that



IDLE TIME: Phuket's increasingly infamous traffic is much more enjoyable and bearable from this point of view, in the back of a sawng taeo.

aged for there to be any liability assumed by the company. Moreover, in Thailand, fault is almost always assumed to belong to the person who collides.

Signs, curbs, hit-and-runs, dangerous obstructions on the road - no chance, "you're on your own!" is the first and last message I got from LMG. The sad reality is this: had I crashed into the truck, all the damage would have been covered, regardless of who was at fault. But because it was a sign I crashed into, forget it.

Had I crashed into the truck, the accident would have surely been worse - my family might not have been so lucky. Nonetheless – no regrets here! When I think about what could have happened, I'm very fortunate. Cars can be fixed or replaced life has no price tag.

The lifting and 100-mile towing of my vehicle back to Phuket cost me about 7,500 baht (about US\$ 250); The initial quote from the garage for repairs will put me back another 65,000 baht (about \$ 2,070).

As I still owe about 130,000 baht (\$4,000) on the car loan, I have no choice but to fix it for later use/ sale.

Meanwhile, life moves on and I'm ever grateful for this fact. Swallowing the reality of my situation was difficult at first, especially on Monday morning anticipating the logistics to get to work 10 kilometers-or-so away. It had been two-plus years since I've had to rely on public transport on this island, and I'd forgotten how easy and affordable it can be, during daylight hours anyway.

With the need to plan my commutes, I suddenly found myself with more time - to walk, to wait, to look, to listen, to think, to plan, and even to read (a novel) again. I felt free again like a ninja with a sacred mission, all I'll need for the day strapped on my back. Indeed, it feels good to breath, tuning in to the symphony of the city.

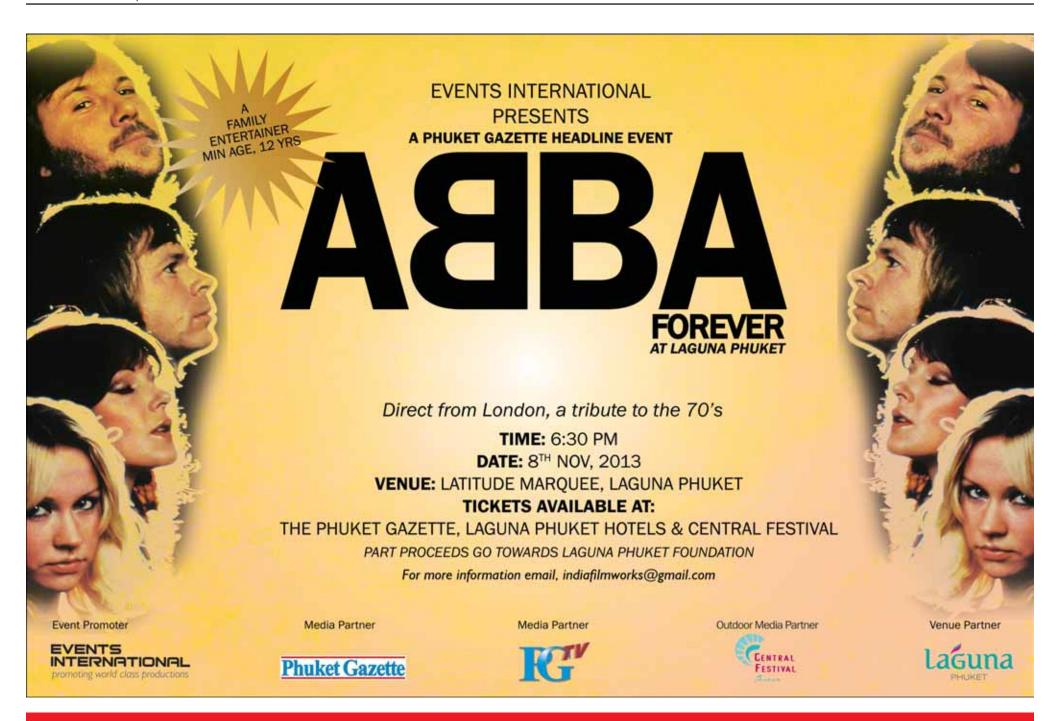
A bad week? I'm not so sure anymore – I'd like to believe that there is a true blessing disguised in here somewhere.





NEED A LIFT? Phuket's public transport is cheap and reliable, but only during daylight hours. Photos: S Layne

October 12 - 18, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 45





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October 12 - 18, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE

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

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Your weekly pith:

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book

'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

Across:

- 9. Proportion in open surgery (9)
- 10. Extend to lone new entry (8)
- 12. Evan an unruly blade! (4) 13. Splendid street, the best (6)
- 14. Unimportant to rival it perhaps (7)
- 15. Later, stun disorganized following (9)
- 17. Go over again, i.e. retreat
- carefully (9) 18. Severe bad time on the
- highest peak (7) 20. Creeps less, I' d worked out (6)
- 21. Keys open part of the Hebrides (4)
- 24. Plan of action stray around, get back (8)
- 26. In a Thai local council, oddly nab seats (8)
- 28. Concerning a right back (4)
- 29. Shower season (6)
- 31. A crime, a mistake, in the States (7)
- 34. One putting forward minor to an uncommon order (9)
- 36. To trial or change part of a helicopter (4,5)
- 38. Gale, air stormy, in the country (7)
- 39. Greets novel young birds (6) 40. Be all smiles and ring around (4)
- 41. Inclined to destroy level bed (8) 42. In the South maybe most worn in wintry weather (4,5)

Down:

- 1. Talk to the contrary (8)
- 2. Number up in second game (6)
- 3. Came down with giant possibility as claimant (8)
- 4. Troubled, I scent a bug (6)
- 5. Give leave to possibly deter

the erudite (8)

- 6. Wine wrinkles, son, causes corpulence (10)
- 7. Kindled a change in dieting (7) 8. Act it, a different part, of old Greece (6)
- 11. Possibly legal, editor claimed (7) 16. We lay out, out East, freedom to act (6)
- 19. Note times art turns up surplus to requirements (5)
- 20. Back as unknown voice (3) 22. Bark turns up, one for place across the bay from Phuket (5)
- 23. Profession for one who looks after people out East (6) 25. In the end contest socially

- 26. Deserter upset sailor (3)
- 27. To do with the head moving Clara in (7)
- 30. Gives warning opening closes (8) 31. Article by way of change into the use of aircraft (8)
- 32. Or many go broke in the
- science of crop production (8) 33. Not proven, not having been before the court (7)
- 35. Possibly, man, get something that attracts (6)
- 36. Thus right in time to shove (6)
- 37. Great fear for mistake after time (6)

Cyptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Caution should be your keyword. Too much optimism can encourage you to ignore warning signs in the world of work – the stars recommend not taking too much for granted. Those with a birthday this week will be more interested in spiritual matters during the coming year. In the realm of romance, playing games with a fire sign can result in getting burned. The number two shines for Librans this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

After a shaky start to the month, the stars indicate that you will be more grounded during the second half of October. People can be hard to understand this week, but it should be possible to tell the difference between flattery and genuine admiration. A fire sign is impressed enough to help you progress up the career ladder. Money matters are auspicious on Monday and Tuesday. Number seven can attract good fortune to Scorpios.

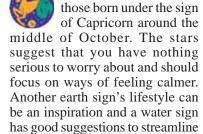
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

You may be inclined to take the blame for someone else's actions around the middle of the month. There are hints that another fire sign's mistake can lead to problems in your world of

work; it will be important for you to distance yourself from this situation. Romance is relaxed, with a water sign partner more determined to leave their past behind. Sagittarians are forecast to find number nine lucky this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Some anxiety can affect



your work responsibilities.

Romance becomes more interesting

this weekend. Your lucky number

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

this week is four.

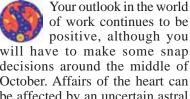
Where work is concerned, you may be restricted by unsettled circumstances during the coming days. However, your talents for finding creative solutions are forecast to be useful and this is an auspicious time to backpedal. The social scene is sparkling this weekend – those who are single should be pleased when an old flame shows they are still keen. The stars suggest that number one will be important for Aquarians this week.

YOUR

horoscope

By Isla Star

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



positive, although you will have to make some snap decisions around the middle of October. Affairs of the heart can be affected by an uncertain astral atmosphere during the coming days – a budding romance with an earth sign will require more effort if you want it to flourish. The number eight can bring good fortune to Pisceans this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

The stars show that your social skills are sharp at the moment and

this is the ideal time for networking. Finances are forecast to go more smoothly; turning a negative situation to your advantage can be done during the second half of October. Romance can be affected by disagreements this weekend and Arians are advised to choose their words carefully. Your lucky number this week is six.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

acceptable associate (10)

Connections made around the middle of October can be rewarding in the near future, with focus on the offer of work from another earth sign being too good to turn down. An air sign friend's behavior can be irritating, but the stars indicate that their heart is in the right place. Taureans with romantic interest in a water sign should be happy with what they hear. Number seven appears fortunate this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

There can be some

friction in the world of work around the middle of the month as your ideas can clash with those of other people. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for diplomatic discussions. In the personal zone, your open mind is appreciated by close friends during the coming days, particularly another air sign who is embarrassed to share a problem with anyone else. Number five comes alive for Geminis this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Organization will be important during the second half of October.

The stars suggest that you may have taken a lot on board since the start of this month and loose

ends will need to be tied up quickly. Indulging in a little luxury this weekend can boost your mood and an earth sign friend or partner is keen to encourage you on this path. Cancerians can find number three fortunate this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



A more practical outlook allows those born under the sign of Leo to put their

finances in better order during the second half of October. This is an auspicious time to start savings schemes and pay off loans. The stars show that you will have reason to realize the true value of friendship during the coming days, with an air sign forecast to show their generous nature. Leos' lucky number this week is eight.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Education of some sort is highlighted to be important for those born

under the sign of Virgo during the remainder of October. Those who have been seeking a new direction of learning should be inspired to make this happen. It can also be relevant to your personal zone as there are hints of a learning curve affecting a romantic relationship in a positive way. Your lucky number this week is four.

International Sport Phuket GAZETTE 47 Warriors defeat Wolves

By Patrick Campbell

TWO of the English game's top teams - Warrington Wolves and Wigan Warriors - confronted each other in a keenly anticipated Grand Final at Old Trafford, Manchester last Saturday. In an enthralling and at times brutal game of two contrasting halves, watched by a sell-out crowd of 63,000 vociferous supporters, Wigan emerged victorious 30 points to 16.

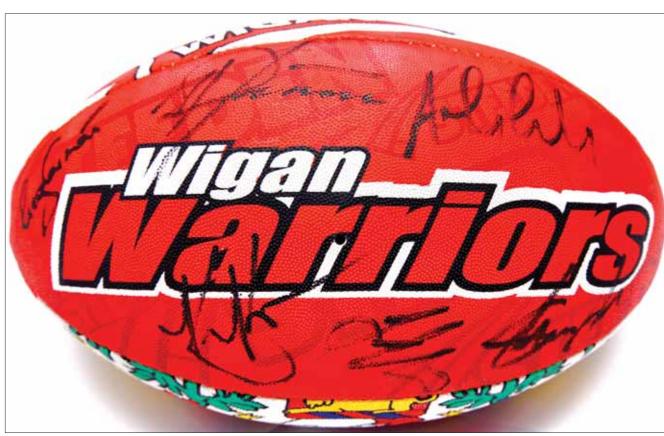
It was not always thus. Two minutes before the break, pre-match favorites Warrington, shrewdly marshaled by veteran pivot Lee Briers, had swept to a 16-2 lead, with tries from Joel Monaghan, Simon Grix and England forward Ben Westwood. Then a score by Wigan's Darrell Goulding close to half-time, and the sight of an insensible Monaghan being stretchered off, seemed to knock the stuffing out of Warrington who, further depleted by an injury to key full-back Stefan Ratchford, leaked 28 points without reply in the second period. The Cherry and Whites dominated both territory and possession; in a series of fluent attacks based on a superior back-line, and Warrington's depleted and dispirited troops, the resurgent Warriors ran in tries by McIlorum, Charnley, Green and Richards.

For Warrington, defeat extends their supporters' wait for a championship that stretches back to 1955.

Despite their consistent form in the league, they have finished as runners-up for the last two seasons. For Wigan on the other hand, the glory days of the past beckon again, with a young, locally produced side ably managed by coach Shaun Wane. As he observed: "At half time, the players were already talking about what they had to fix. That's the mentality they have," adding "I have seen these players come of age, but I want them to be good players and good men."

Tony Smith, the Wolves' coach understandably called for more protection for players, but conceded that "field position hurt us more than anything, Wigan are

fantastic close to the line." Pre-match talk had focused on team selection, with Wigan's inspirational captain Sean O'Loughlin, who led them to victory in 2010, declared fit to play only days before the match. The gamble paid off. Beaten by Leeds in the event last year, Warrington had named an unchanged 19-man squad from



Wigan's victory bring back the memories of past glory. Photo: mjtmail (tiggy)

their 30-22 semifinal win over Huddersfield Giants, with 36year-old legend Adrian Morley playing his last game for the club. Perhaps for some players, it was one match too far.

Now both teams will have to focus on rebuilding, as players move on or retire. The most publicized departure is that of Wigan's super-star full-back Sam Tomkins, making a world record move to NRL side New Zealand Warriors. But for many of these young men, the season reaches yet another climax with the Rugby League World Cup, being played on these shores for the first time since 2000. Eight of the players on show at Old Trafford have been named in coach Steve McNamara's 24 man squad for a tournament which begins on October 26.

While New Zealand are the holders and Australia the bookmakers' favorites, much interest will center on England's young team for whom - for the first time ever – three brothers, all currently playing in "Oz", have been selected. Mrs Burgess has already expressed her maternal disappointment that a fourth son had not been included. Some family!

Federer already looking forward to 'Great' 2014

By Sudipto Ganguly

LOOKING back is a waste of time, as far as Roger Federer is concerned. While tennis fans and pundits are obsessed with his below-par performance at the four majors this year, which has left him in danger of missing the cut for the season-ending ATP finale for the first time since 2001, Federer has already put a positive spin on his 2013 trials and tribulations.

"I always knew that this year, after a very tough year in 2012, the Olympics (and winning Wimbledon), was going to be a bit more quiet," the Swiss told reporters in Shanghai on Monday after winning his first-round doubles match with little-known Chinese Zhang Ze.

"I expected myself probably not to be as successful and as busy playing matches and tournaments. My mindset now is, okay, next year is going to be a great year again where I'm not going to have that many points to defend, especially at some very key moments where I consider myself a favorite."

Federer, who won the last of his record 17 grand slam titles at Wimbledon 15 months ago before scooping a silver at the London Games, went through the 2013

season without reaching a major final for the first time since 2002 and his only success has been at the low-key Halle tournament.

He lost in the Australian Open semifinals to Andy Murray, fell at the last-eight stage to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the French Open, suffered a shock secondround defeat at Wimbledon to journeyman Sergiy Stakhovsky before losing to Tommy Robredo in the US Open fourth round last

"I didn't want to focus too much on what happened the last two months. The US Open, I hardly ever thought about it if I look back, at the Robredo match," he said.

"It wasn't my day. It's one of those things you just want to move on from. I think my game has been coming back, which has been very important. Now it's about staying positive and working hard every single day. That's been the mindset."

If the over-exuberant fan reaction in Shanghai is anything to go by, the 32-year-old will be the star attraction in China this week even though he has now slipped down the rankings. Fellow Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka, Richard Gasquet and Milos Raonic are all breathing down his neck and could trip him up in the race to secure a place at the World Tour Finals in London.

World number one Rafa Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Murray and Spain's David Ferrer have already sealed spots for next month's tournament involving the top eight players. Currently seventh in the ATP Race, Federer's job has also been made more difficult as he is slated to meet Djokovic in the Shanghai quarterfinals with only 105 points separating him and ninth-placed Frenchman Gasquet.

"It was the goal at the beginning of the season to qualify for it. I consider it the absolute best of the best tournament out there, so I want to be part of that," said Federer.

"So it's extra motivation for me to play well and be part of that great tournament."

Federer, who trained in intense heat in Dubai before coming to Shanghai, opted not to play a competitive match for over a month following his loss to Robredo in New York.

But much to the delight of the local crowd, he partnered local hero Zhang, ranked 271 in singles and 437 in doubles, to breeze past Kevin Anderson and Dmitry Tursunov 6-2 6-1 to record his first doubles - Reuters win of 2013.



Federer: 'I don't want to focus too much on the past'. Photo: Reuters



Sport Sport Sport Sport Sport NFL Roundup: New York, New York

By Somchai Huasaikul

NEW England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who was the biggest threat to the winning record at 52 games, had his streak come to an end.

After five weeks of play in the National Football League (NFL) regular season, patterns are starting to emerge with some upstart teams continuing to perform much better than expected – while some perennial powerhouses seem to have lost their way, miserably in some

Week 5 was the first "bye week" of the season, and the four teams that did not have to play certainly needed the time to find ways to salvage what have thus far been nightmarish seasons: the Vikings, Steelers, Buccaneers and Redskins had a combined record of 2-14 going into the bye week. the Steelers and Redskins widely regarded as blue chip franchises – both remain winless.

A TALE OF ONE CITY

The so-called "Big Apple" is the only city to boast two NFL franchises, and my how their trajectories have changed in just a year. The Giants, who won Super Bowls in 2007 and 2011, are off to an abysmal 0-5 start and have a net point deficit of 100 after losing a "must win" home game 36-21 to NFC East rivals the Philadelphia Eagles. Nick Foles, the Eagles' back up QB, had no probteam to chalk up a win in Week

lem racking up 17 second half points after starting QB Michael Vick, of dog fighting fame, was sidelined with a hamstring injury after the last of his many scrambling run plays. Foles continued the destruction defense though the air, highlighting the G-men's inability to stop either the run or

On the other side of the ball, Giants superstar QB Eli Manning took to the air, but was picked off three times, going a paltry 24 for 52 on the day, with two passing TDs. There is now talk of Eli being benched and two-time Superbowl winning coach Tom Coughlin getting sacked after his team became only the third team in NFL history to allow 30 or more points in each of its first five games. They are also only the second team in history to turn over the ball at least three times in its first five games. Oh how the mighty have fallen.

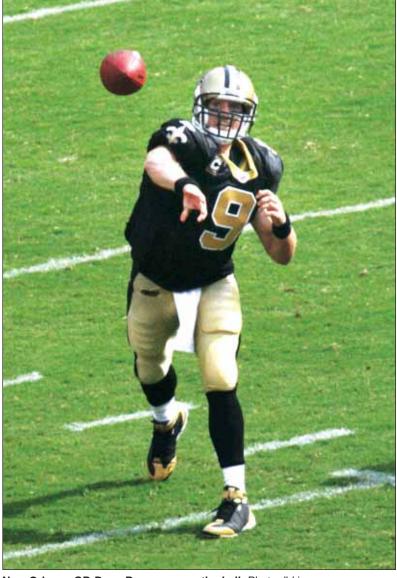
In contrast, the New York Jets were expected to be one of the worst teams in the league, with a no-name defense, unproven rookie quarterback and controversial coach. However, the Jets went out on the road in Week 5 and took down the Atlanta Falcons in an exciting Monday Night Football (MNF) matchup with a last-minute win courtesy of a clutch 43-yard field goal by Nick Folk. The New York Daily *News* reported the result thus: Folk Yeah! Nick Drills Kick.

The Jets, the only AFC East

5, are now a respectable 3-2, with more wins than many expected them to get all year. Their long-suffering fans are also beginning to talk of what seemed to be impossible at the start of the year: a run for the AFC East title. The Jets now sit just one game behind their nemesis: the New England Patriots. The previously unbeaten Pats fell to 4-1 after an abysmal loss to the Cincinnati Bengals in a game played under monsoon-like conditions. The Pats will look to get back on track this weekend, where they host the undefeated New Orleans Saints. The Jets will be riding a wave of positive momentum when they face a more modest task, hosting the winless Steelers, who are coming off the bye week.

Mismatch of the Week: The high-flying Denver Broncos (5-0) are favored by a record 28 points at home against the Jacksonville Jaguars (0-5).

Viewing Tip: Viewing NFL games in Phuket can be a nightmare, as most games air live in the middle of the night. This week three games will be on during daylight in Phuket. The first, which kicks off at 7:25am on Friday, will see the Chicago Bears (3-2) take on the winless Giants. Monday morning will see an important NFC East matchup when the Cowboys (2-3) host the winless Redskins (NBC, 7:30am). The



New Orleans QB Drew Brees passes the ball. Photo:dbking

MNF matchup (8:30am on Tuesday, ABC) will see the 4-1 Indianapolis Colts travel to San Diego to take on the entertaining Raiders last week.

but inconsistent Chargers, who fell to 2-3 after a road loss to division rivals the Oakland

Foam: rolling your way to recovery, regeneration

LAST time I talked about recovery and regeneration and this week I wanted to expand on that a little bit. One of the techniques I mentioned last time was foam rolling. So what is foam rolling? Most people would liken it to their own personal massage, which really it kind of is. But how does foam rolling work and why is it so effective for you?

Foam rolling or self-myofascial release (SMR) works by applying pressure to a specific area and helps to improve your "tissue quality". In order to improve our "tissue length" (which is what flexibility training does) we first need to improve our "tissue quality" by removing adhesions and scar tissue that may be impairing our "tissue length". Foam rolling does just that by helping to break-up scar tissue build-up and adhesions that form from training. Below are some guidelines for foam rolling:

- 1. Use a foam roller, massage stick or tennis ball to apply pressure to areas of the body.
- 2. Roll at a slow pace for 10-20 repetitions per side.
- 3. If a severe pain spot is noticed, hold the spot for 30-45 seconds



Foam rolling or self-myofascial release (SMR) works by applying pressure to a specific area and helps to improve your 'tissue quality'. Photo: Supplied

or until the pain decreases.

- 4. Perform pre- and post-workout. and as needed on non-training days. 5. Increase intensity by applying more pressure. Stack legs on foam roller; use a partner with massage sticks.
- 6. Roll the full length of muscle

from origination to insertion. 7. Static stretch after SMR to increase flexibility.

Like anything in the fitness world, results won't happen right away, but after only a few sessions you will see acute improvements.

Now for those of you that currently foam roll or have tried it in the past, you are right – it can hurt a little bit the first few times but this is perfectly normal and something you can control based on how much of your bodyweight you push down on the foam roller with. If

you are serious about increasing your flexibility and range of motion than adding foam rolling to your training program is a must!

Tip By Thanyapura's Operation Manager, Brian Finniss Email: tslc@thanyapura.com

Sport Sport Sport Laguna Challange 2013

REGISTRATION is still open for the 2013 half distance Challenge Laguna Phuket in Thailand – and you'd be crazy to miss out on the chance to compete in this unique destination event that has captured the hearts of triathletes all over the world.

The Sunday December 1 race will be the first of the Challenge Family series to be staged on this paradise tropical island a week after the legendary 20th Anniversary Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT.)

The days between the two spectacular events in Phuket will be filled with a Tri-Fest of training and social events held in and around the luxurious Laguna Phuket destination resort.

This "Triathlon Carnival" has proved a popular attraction for international athletes eager to sample the delights of Thailand while rubbing shoulders with the likes of Ruedi Wild and Radka Vodickova, last year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon champions.

Ruedi Wild triumphed at Laguna Phuket last year in a time of 2:29.22. Following Wild home were an elite field of seasoned athletes including Tim Meyer, Alberto Cassadei, Massimo Cigana and Simon Agoston.

The 2012 women's field top finishers were Radka Vodickova, Belinda Granger, Edith Niederfringer, Nickey Barnard, and Sarah Wheeler.

A fantastic spokesperson for the event, Belinda Granger has been one of the greatest supporters and an active ambassador for the Laguna Phuket race. She has been coming to Phuket for the LPT and now the Challenge Laguna Phuket since 2000, having missed the event only once in that period.

"Without a doubt Laguna Phuket is my favorite race destination in the world," says Belinda.

"There are many reasons why I continue to return year after year – the race, the food, the people, the weather, the accommodation, the sticky rice and mango... my list could go on and on."

"This really is one of the most amazing race experiences out there. I have watched the race grow in size and in expertise over the years, making it one of the best and most exciting races of the year.

It has a bit of everything – it's certainly not an easy race, but that's why I love it; the hills and the weather make it so challenging."

"The best thing about the race is that you don't just go there for the race itself - it's the entire race experience that keeps me coming back. Getting to stay in the Laguna Phuket resort and experiencing all that it has to offer post-race is perfect, espe-



Top finishers of Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2012 celebrate. Photo: Supplied

cially for families. There is just so much to see and do.'

"Make sure that if you do head over to this year's race that you have a few days after the race to explore and enjoy everything that Phuket has to offer. You won't be disappointed!"

And yet another appeal of

Laguna Phuket is the equally important business of the Awards Party - hosted by race announcer Whit Raymond, these parties have become the stuff of legend among the international triathlon community and last year's was no exception, and neither will this year's be. Watch

this space. - Phuket Gazette

The Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationallybroadcast 'Phuket Today' show. 'Phuket Today' is aired eight times a week on True Visions (channels 85 and 59) PSI, GMMZ and local cable.

Triathlon tips: get ready for the Challange

BEING six weeks away from the Challenge Laguna Phuket Triathlon (CLPT) Triathlon, athletes should make their final decisions on their race equipment soon. Your gear has to meet the challenges of the race.

SWIM

For the swim you want to make sure your vision is right. Get some new googles and double check if they fit correctly. Choose a comfortable one that does not limit your vision. If the goggles gets foggy inside, please use anti fog spray or clean them with body shampoo or tooth paste to remove grease. Use a swimsuit, trisuit or tritop/ trishort combination with a tight, but comfortable fit to reduce drag.

CYCLE

For the cycle section make sure your bike is in a technically perfect condition. If you don't have any bike mechanic skills, please see one of the local bike shops.

The CLPT course is quite hilly and technical. A time trial bike with steep seat angle and

aero equipment might not be the perfect bike for everyone. If you ride slower than 35km/ h normal wheels and a simple road bike could be the better option. If you want to use aero bars, please get used to them now. They require some experience and practice.

RUN

On the running leg you have to rely on your shoes. Break them in before the race. I recommend to run at least 20km with them before using them on race day.

Make up your mind now if you want to wear socks or not. You need to check your shoes now if you can run in them sockless or

Use a visor and sun protection during competition. Your body will be thankful.

Vaseline on sensitive body parts is also a good idea.

If you are advanced and use carbon wheels, please use the compatible brake pads for better

Put at least one bottle cage on your bike and make sure the bottle does not fall out when you ride over a bump.

Carry a spare tire and a mini

pump or CO2 to be able to change a flat tire.

If you don't know how to change a flat, please get some instructions now from an experienced cyclist.

Please choose a helmet with sufficient ventilation. It will be hot!

NUTRITION

Plan your nutrition ahead! Carry some gels or whatever works for you. It is very important to know how to transport them on race day. Place them safe somewhere on your bike. A race suit with pockets makes sense!

TRAINING

Thanyapura is organizing an official Challenge Laguna Phuket training special from October 18-November 3, 2013 with Thanyapura coaches J rgen Z ckand Tim Jardine. Check out the race course with expert local knowledge! The more you know about the course, the bigger your advantage over your competition.

Tips By Thanyapura's Triathlon Senior Head Coach, Jurgen Zack Email: triathlon@thanyapura.com

For more information contact reservations @thanyapura.com



Get your gear ready to meet the challenges of the race. Photo: Supplied



Youth sailing competition kicks off at Nai Yang

RACE one of the Phuket Dinghy Series youth sailing competition kicked of last Saturday in wild and windy conditions off Nai Yang Beach. The wet weather did not deter the 20 young Thai sailors who were competing in solo dinghy races in two classes – 15 in the Optimist class and five in the larger Laser class boats.

The Phuket Dingy Series, now in its fourth year, is held in conjunction with the Phuket King's Cup Regatta and aims to develop Thai youth sailing talent in the region. Competitors in the series are drawn from sailing clubs in Phuket and the surrounding provinces, but compete individually.

Santi Kanchanabandhu of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee, who is deeply involved in the dinghy series said: "The Phuket Dinghy Series has helped bring to the fore many young Thai sailing talents. It serves as an accessible means of competition for young sailors from many sailing clubs in Phuket, Phang Nga, Songkhla, and as far as Chonburi, in order to prepare them for the international competition and the Phuket King's Cup Regatta."

Mr Santi said it was great to see the kids' skills develop over the past four years of the series and that he looked forward to some of them competing in the King's Cup in the future. The series is as much about the social side of sailing and at the end of each race day the kids gather for a barbecue and a reading of the results.

There are two more races to be held in the series, the next will be hosted by The Kriss Resident Bang Tao from October 26 to 27 and the final race, hosted at Panwa Bay by the 3rd Naval Area Command of the Royal Thai Navy, will take place from November 23 to 24. Once the series is completed, winners of each class will receive a Royal Award which is to be presented, along with other Regatta class winners, at Kata Beach Resort and Spa on December 6.

- Phuket Gazette



The Phuket Dinghy Series is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationally-broadcast 'Phuket Today' show. For coverage, be sure to check the TV schedule on page 35 of this issue. Photo: Supplied

	Laser Cla	ISS	Optimist Class			
Rank	Name '	Total	Net	Rank	Name	Total Net
1st Chut	Dawruang	4.0	4.0	1st Chare	ef Rakpongbar	nthit 3.03.0
2 nd Jittaw	at Boonrat	5.0	5.0	2 nd Pong	phat Arkkomi	erk 6.0 6.0
3 rd Wina	i Sukkans	9.0	9.0	3 rd Traitu	ip Maneechard	pen 12.0 12.0
4th Pogho	d Nunkhunthoo	114.0	14.0	4 th Tanal	kon Kaewluai	n 19.0 19.0
5 th Kittita	ch Chauykaew	14.0	14.0	5 th Keera	atika Krongboo	on 19.0 19.0

Thai teams eye top-10 Phuket finish

THAILAND'S top women's beach volleyball team of Varapatsorn Radarong and Tanarattha Udomchavee are looking to achieve a top-10 finish at the FIVB Beach Volleyball, Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, which will be staged later this month on Karon beach, Phuket from October 29 to November 3.

A total of five Thai teams have entered the tournament with the number 1 team joined in the main draw by Rumpaipreut Numwong and Khanittha Hongpak, and returning veterans Usa Tenpaksee and Yupa Phokongploy. The other two teams, comprising Srinuch Kawfong with Saowaros Tangkaeo and Ariya Laosaengsa with Kitja Khantarak, will enter the qualifying draw.

This year is the first time that Varapatsorn Radarong and Tanarattha Udomchavee have seriously competed on the World Tour.

Currently they stand at no 40 in the world rankings and they have already made history becoming the first Thai team ever to achieve a top-5 finish on the World Tour.

They achieved this feat at the recently held Anapa Open in Russia; this was a repeat of their 5th place finish at the 27th University Games. Prior to competing in Phuket, Varapatsorn and Tanarattha along with Rumpaipreut Numwong and Khanittha Hongpak will compete in the FIVB Beach Volleyball Grand Slam tournament in Sao Paulo, Brazil from October 8-13.

Their coach, Mr Petcharat Putsorn, believes that Varapatsorn and Tanarattha should be able to improve to 35 in the world rankings by the year's end. At the start of the season, the girls were ranked a lowly 94, but their ranking has gradually improved throughout the season to their current world ranking of 40. Talking about the team's prospects in Phuket, he stated that the tournament will be very tough as so many of the world's top teams will be competing.

"However, as it is our home event, it will give the girls extra impetus to do well and we can reasonably expect a top-10 finish, anything better than that will be a bonus.

The Thai teams will also be supporting some of the grass root activities in Phuket such as the PTT beach Volleyball Clinic and PTT Schools Cup. Admission to the Phuket Thailand Open is free. For Thai beach volleyball fans who are unable to travel to Phuket, SMMTV will broadcast live daily broadcasts throughout the tournament, while the semifinals on Saturday, November 2, as well as the finals on Sunday, November 3, will also be televised on NBT in Thailand and broadcast to audiences around the world.

The Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT is supported by the Sports Authority of Thailand, PTT Public Company Limited, Thai Beverage Marketing Co Ltd, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mazda Sales (Thailand) Co Ltd, Kata Group, Woraburi Resort and Spa, TOT Public Company Limited, Grand Sports, Tez Tour, O'Natural, 91.5 FM, Haad Thip Public Co Ltd and Jungceylon. The event is also sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationally-broadcast 'Phuket Today' show. 'Phuket Today' is aired eight times a week on True Visions (channels 85 and 59) PSI, GMMZ and local cable. Umbrella sponsors of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour are Mikasa and Jinling Sports. For more information on the tournament, please contact Pentangle Promotions Co., Ltd at Tel: 02-3113414/5 or via W: pentanglepromotions.com

- Phuket Gazette





Tanarattha Udomchavee goes for a point. Right: Top Thai duo, Varapatsorn Radarong and Tanarattha Udomchavee, hope to finish in the top-10 at the upcoming Phuket event. Photos: supplied

Islanders edge Warlords



BLOCKED: Giorgi Tsimakuridze attempts to cross the ball into the area.

By Steven Layne

PHUKET FC fans, players and coaching staff were all able to rest a bit easier after the club ended a two-month winless run, having prevailed at home 1-0 over the Gulf Saraburi FC "Warlords" last Sunday evening (Oct 6).

Prior to this, Phuket's last win was on August 11 when they downed Nakhon Pathom United 2-0, also at home.

Scoring the latest victory's only goal was Phuket captain, Ekartit

Somjit, who fulfilled his duty when he lobbed the ball over the visitor's keeper on a breakaway seven minutes into the second half.

Perhaps due to dwindling fan support, coupled with the timing of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, the turnout of just over 1,200 clocked in as an all-time low in three seasons so far in the Thai first division - Yamaha League One (YL1).

Coming off the bench in the second half, Sukree E-tae and Ludovick Takam squandered a good chance to double Phuket's



BATTLE OF SURAKUL: Geoffrey Doumeng (right) challenges for possession. Photos: Steven Layne

lead, while Saraburi only narrowly missed on a number of chances to equalize, having dominated possession in Phuket territory for much of the final 20 minutes.

Indeed, Phuket's keeper Ninuruddin "Spider Ming" Nideha was stretched to his limits, bombarded by a seemingly endless run of attempts by the opponents, whose well-executed set-play game lacked only in the finishing touches.

Maintaining a clean sheet through to the end of five minutes of extra time allocated, Spider Ming was subsequently named "man of the match" for his fantastic performance.

The victory, which restored the Islanders' 9th place position in the 18-team YL1, was a big psychological victory, not only for Head Coach, Stefano "Teco" Cugura Rodriques – earning only his second win in 11 matches since taking the reigns - but especially for fans. Of the two sides' previous five meetings in the last three years, only one resulted in a



AIR TIME: Ekartit Somjit, the match's only scorer, heads the ball.

draw, while Saraburi claimed all four of the other results – outscoring Phuket 11-3 – now make that 11-4!

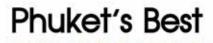
As a result, Saraburi fell from 6th into 7th place, ousted from their spot by Trat FC who beat Rayong United 5-2 on Saturday.

Phuket now have only three matches remaining, starting with an away match against PTT Rayong on October 19, before returning to Surakul Stadium for their final home match of the season on October 26, against Rayong United. The Islanders will conclude the season on November 2 with an away match against Nakhon Ratchasima FC.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Air Force	31	47	25	22	65
2	PTT Rayong	31	37	20	17	60
3	Bangkok	31	64	48	16	58
4	Port Lions	31	52	35	17	56
5	Korat	31	43	32	11	48
6	Trat FC	31	53	55	-2	42
7	Saraburi	31	42	38	4	41
8	Nakhon Pathom	31	40	40	0	39
9	Phuket	31	34	35	-1	39
10	Royal Navy	31	41	43	-2	39
11	Krabi	31	41	44	-3	38
12	BBCU FC	31	28	39	-11	38
13	Ayutthaya	31	34	39	-5	35
14	TTM FC	31	30	38	-8	35
15	Sriracha	31	45	49	-4	34
16	Khon Kaen	31	35	48	-13	32
17	Rayong FC	31	37	57	-20	27
18	Rayong Utd.	31	33	51	-18	23





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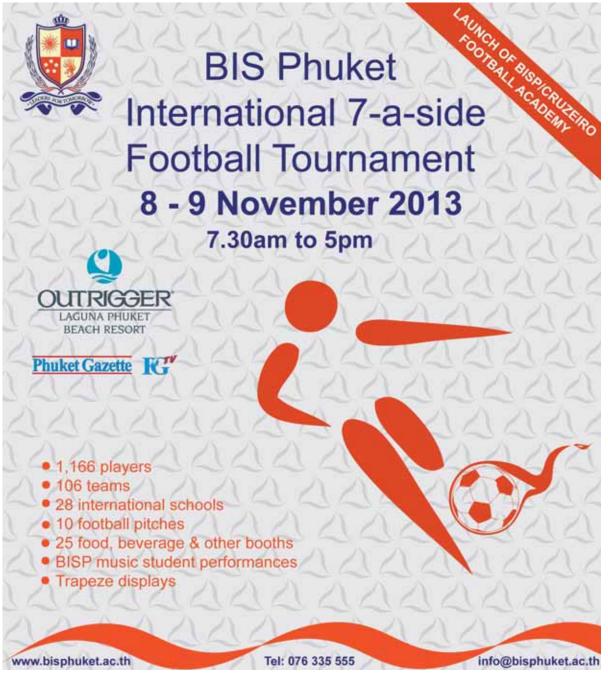
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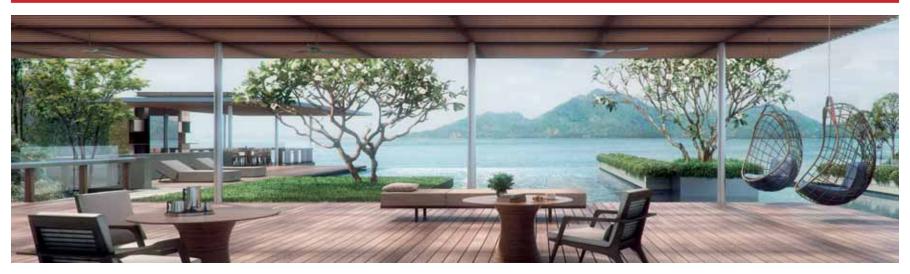
PHUKET PROPERTY REVIEW

October 2013

Special Moscow Supplement - The International real estate exhibition for the International real estate exhibition



50 Baht



Mature market moment



By Bill Barnett

Phuket's property expert and Managing Director of C9HotelWorks.com

COMMENT

PHUKET'S real estate sector is experiencing a dynamic change that is sweeping across the island's property landscape. Old school thinking has been put on the shelf as one out of every four international passengers arriving at the gateway airport in the first half of the year was from Mainland China.

New faces from new places abound from the emerging mass markets ranging from China to Eastern Europe and the knock-on effect from tourism into the island's broader economy is clearly set to take off.

While the highly leveraged domestic-centric trend of low-cost inland properties, which has dominated property headlines over the past 24 months, is continuing unabated, new buying trends are gaining momentum, offering both diversity and an attachment to broader global patterns.

First, there has been a rise of investment buyers into hotel branded residences. Unlike the boom market of the mid 2000s when pricing points were in the millions of dollars, this time the sweet spot of success is in the range of US\$100,000 to 200,000 properties. Notable launches by Laguna Shores, Amari Residences and Baan Mai Khao have seen sales absorption rates wind the clock back to a decade ago.

A lead indicator here is a new buyer profile – this time out its Asians from Hong Kong and

Singapore, and Eastern Europeans.

Second is the re-emergence of leasehold property suitable for overseas buyers and arguably provides more seamless integration into a hotel managed scenario. Price, size and returns are drawing buyers who have become wary of investment into highly volatile stock market's and other financial instruments.

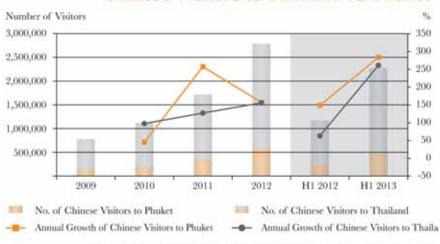
Another sign of Phuket's maturing market has been the ability of property developers to use technology and building methods, such as prefabrication, to ultimately drive down price. Larger groups have likewise been able to use their crucial mass and internal vertical organization, including sales, marketing, design and construction, to retain margins but at the same time reduce product costs to buyers.

We are starting to see a new series of housing estates with both attached and detached houses. These are attracting a blend of both domestic and foreign buyers. This follows both a shift in consumers placing a higher importance on pricing but also the evolutionary up-cycle of the island from emerging to a more mature market offering a wider array of real estate products.

While the island's tourism market has seen rate growth at luxury hotels, we are on the cusp of a number of impressive new launches that will help Phuket retain its reputation as a leading destination for the wellheeled glitterati. Offerings to watch include Point Yamu by Como, Rosewood on the Patong headland (pic above), Anantara Layan and more.

Continued on page 11

Chinese Visitors to Thailand vs. Phuket



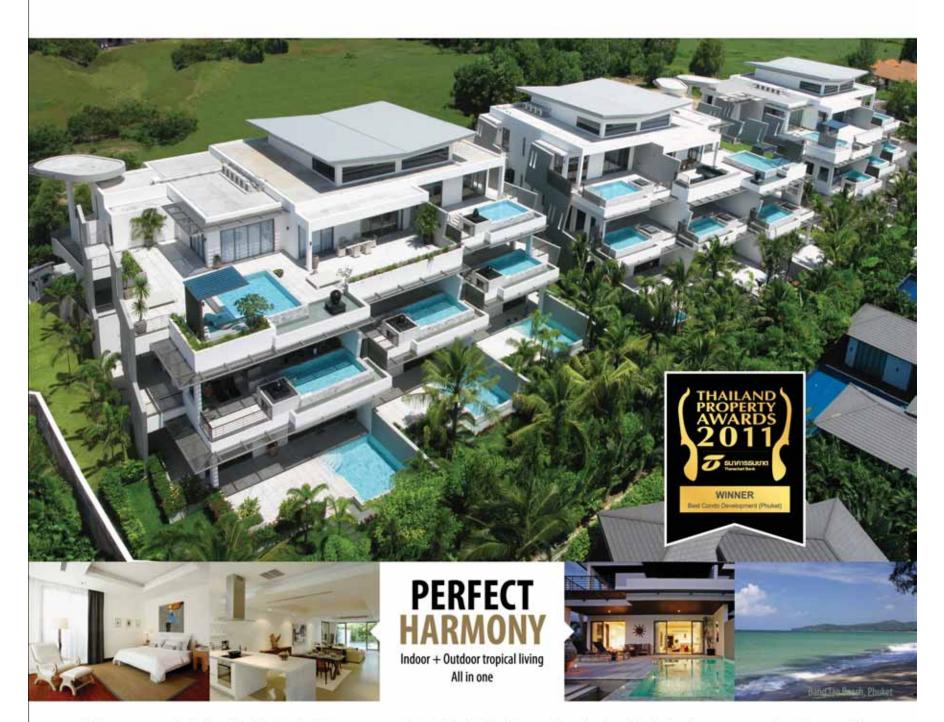
and C9 Horelowks Market Rese



2 PHUKET GAZETTE October 2013

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By Pakhin Aunggulsant

Community planning and development expert and MD of Phuket marketing communications firm, Prodigy One

ANALYSI:

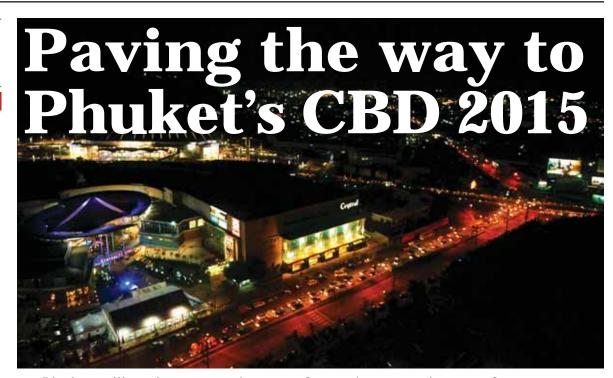
WITH MAJOR construction projects underway to develop the infrastructure required to cope with the expected influx of visitors and new commercial ventures, we are working closely with municipal authorities and top foreign and domestic investors to expand and transform the more than 100 rai of land and property extending northwards from the junction at Central Festival Phuket and Darasamuth School to the bypass road and beyond.

The area west of Central Festival is also ripe for further development as upmarket retail property. At least one major mega brand retail corporation has plans to build a brand new first-class shopping development in this area.

In turn, Bangyai Road, which exits opposite Makro hypermarket, is set to become a Sohostyle chic business district featuring smaller, independent boutique retail outlets.

Development along north-south Chalermpakiat Road, where Homeworks, Design Square, Big C and Phuket International Hospital are currently located, is set to remain exclusively for large scale retail due to various economy of scale factors, such as the large parcels of land on either side of the road only available for long-term rental.

While expansion of existing branded shopping experiences into luxury lifestyle retail outlets is most definitely in the pipeline to cater to the fast-growing shopping tourism trend, new investment opportunities are also attracting major private investors from Bangkok and overseas.



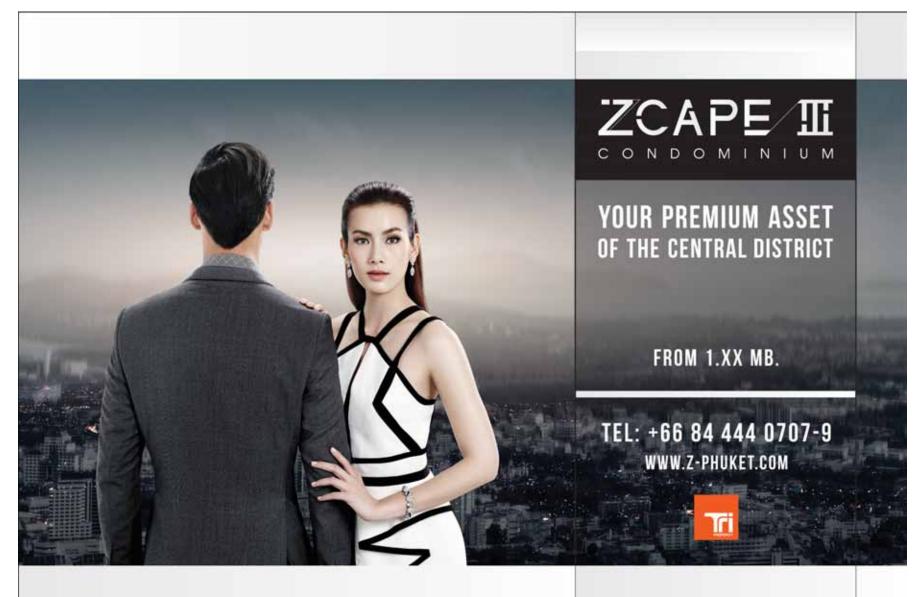
Phuket will undergo a major transformation over the next few years as private and government sectors collaborate to develop Phuket's main commercial area into a world-class Central Business District (CBD) in time for the island's integration into the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

Of course the growth of the CBD must be supported by infrastructure improvements. We are pleased to say that the local authorities are also very much on board in facilitating the influx of investor development.

The roads feeding the CBD are already being improved with central government budgets to build underpasses and road widening projects at the Central Festival junction, at the Tesco Lotus

junction and at the junction on the bypass road in Koh Kaew. Phuket International Airport's expansion plans are also set to comfortably accommodate up to 12 million visitors by 2015.

Prodigy One provides global industry research and development for strategic investor relations. www.prodigy-one.com. Email: info@prodigy-one.com for more information.



The September launch of Laguna Park, overlooking the golf course, coincides with the growing demands of the market.

LAGUNA Park is set to be Phuket's largest residential community, comprising up to 2,000 homes when fully completed.

To be developed by Laguna Property, part of the Laguna Resorts and Hotels and the Banyan Tree Group, the project will be located next to the well-known integrated resort destination that is comprised of five-star resorts, golf course, residences, shopping village, spas, restaurants and bars.

Positioned to provide primary residential homes, Laguna Park offers all the facilities, amenities, and services that collectively make up what is referred to as the "Laguna Lifestyle."

The gated development will provide a secure environment for a family-friendly community, embodying the project's concept of "Growing Together."

The townhomes measure 173sqm of built-up area and feature two bedrooms and four bathrooms, with an option to add a third bedroom and private rooftop Jacuzzi. The threestory residences, suitable for couples or small families, are priced from 6 million baht up.

The villas offer 340sqm of living area and feature four bedrooms and five bathrooms, with an option to add a fifth bedroom and private rooftop swimming pool. The threestory stand-alone homes are suitable

for families, and are priced from 12 million baht.

The first phase will have approximately 500 units, including 240 townhomes and villas and 280 condos These one-bedroom units will cater to singles or couples and will be launched in the latter part of 2013.

Show units are now open at Laguna Property's new Property Sales Centre, located near the entrance to Laguna Phuket, where customers can find more information about Laguna Park, as well as the group's property portfolio on Phuket and worldwide.

For more information, visit www.lagunaproperty.com or call +66 (0)76 362 333







Conzeptualizing a new Kata view

IMAGINE the convenience of city living, but with views across the Andaman Sea.

Q Conzept Condominium (left) is located just five minutes walk from Phuket's most popular southern beaches of Kata and Karon, but only a stones throw from everything an owner could want or need.

Fresh markets, supermarkets, gift and souvenir shops, and over thirty hip restaurants are within

easy walking distance of the condo.

Specially designed in modern tropical style, there are a total of 45 units in two buildings, offering panoramic views of Kata and Karon beaches and a lush mountainous backdrop.

Buyers can choose from one and two bedroom suites, ranging from 85 to 119sqm, or from four different penthouse designs (bottom left). The 4-6 bedroom penthouses range in size from approximately 189 to 241sqm with en-suite bathrooms and private roof-top swimming pools.

Q Conzept also offers complete common amenities including a restaurant, infinity edge pool with Jacuzzi, pool bar, fitness center and a 24-hour manned and CCTV-monitored security system.

Because of its location, Q Conzept Condominium is also a promising investment. The company is offering an annual 7% guaranteed rental return for investors. Foreign freehold is available with prices ranging from 8.3 to 79 million baht.

For further details contact Lilly at lilly@qconzeptcondominium.com or call +66 76 330 921



From Kata Beach across to Phuket Town, the south of the island has a remarkable range of facilities, services, shopping, accommodation and dining choices. There's also a beach to suit almost everyone; from the brilliant white sands of Kata and Karon to the hidden coves of Ya Nui and Ao Sane.





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Ready for Aseanarean?

ASEANAREAN – it's an unusual word, but then what it represents is a unique perspective of the cruising grounds that stretch from Myanmar to the islands of Indonesia.

"Everybody has heard of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean," Ao Po Grand Marina MD, Kasem Chiarasomboon, explains. "We want this region to have it's own identity too – Aseanarean."

At the centre of this Asian sailing experience is, of course, Phuket. Offering yacht owners services and facilities unparalleled, and in many cases unavailable, in other regional destinations, Phuket has already developed a vibrant yachting scene.

The latest addition to that scene is the Ao Po Grand Marina. With Phang Nga Bay extending enticingly just beyond the pontoons, the marina is already home to some 220 boats and many of the island's resident superyachts. With a new breakwater close to completion, Ao Po Grand will have room to support another 20 plus superyachts and even megayachts.

The services on land are equally impressive; the hard stands can currently take up to 60 boats, with plans on the table for many more and facilities to bring even larger boats out of the water. The marina's new yacht club, due to open this December, sits on a small rise that will offer com-



MARINA LIVING: Ao Po Grand Marina plans to build for lifestyle.

manding views of the yachts and the bay beyond.

Set back from the water's edge is Ao Po Grand's own property development – 33 exclusive condo units all with views across the bay in front and a peaceful lake park behind. The Marina Living development offers a range of 1-bed to 4-bed units, with prices to match that "exclusive" tag, and all accessible via their own private elevators.

With only four units per floor, the design by ISM (the team behind the award-winning Sri Panwa) allows for a free flow of fresh air through the units. So – even on the most sultry

days – air-con will be optional. "We are trying to build for

lifestyle," Kasem explains. "Not everyone is doing that."

The term Aseanarean was first proposed by Raffles Marina's Francis Lee in 1998. With the Asean Economic Community slated for 2015, what better time could their be for unified cruising grounds that encompass the very best South East Asia has to offer. One thing is for sure, with marina developments like Ao Po Grand, come AEC or Aseanaraean, Phuket will be ready.

www.aopograndmarina.com



The east coast is the gateway to breathtaking Phang Nga Bay. With hundreds of islets to visit, the bay is a wonderous place to explore. The view of the bay from Phuket is making the east coast highly desirable to developers. Not surprisingly the island's top marina's all face onto the bay



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Patong's Ace in the hole



PPR: In a busy market like Patong, what do you offer that others in the market do not?

ALISA: The main advantage Ace Condominium Patong has is the location. You cannot find a condo in this prime location of this quality at this price.

The other advantage I would like to suggest is the term payment for foreign buyers. Either for their own residence or for investment, there are quite a lot of potential buyers. So I consulted with my dad and would like to attract this target group by offering something special and flexible for them.

Normally developers set very strict

term payments for foreign buyers, for example 75% for the total down payment and 25% upon transfer of ownership.

For Ace, our foreign clients can pay 25% down payment and the rest upon transfer of ownership. Moreover, the reservation payment is only 30,000 baht, even for foreign buyers.

PPR: Where are your buyers from and who are you aiming to attract?

ALISA: Our main targets are people who work or have business in Patong and people who would like to invest in Patong real estate.

As everyone knows, Patong is the center of the tourism industry for

Phuket. There are many occupations and business opportunities here. Every square meter of land in the prime location of Patong costs 62,500 baht per square meter or even higher. More opportunity, more business,

More opportunity, more business, more jobs. Many people are coming to work in Patong and I know they have a big problem with transportation. Driving over the hill every day is dangerous and makes them tired. Finding an apartment here in Patong is very expensive, so that is why I would like to create the good quality and affordable property in a residential area within the center of Patong.

PPR: What services and facilities will your development offer?

ALISA: Ace Condominium Patong is the perfect choice for living, as it's secure, functional, and convenient. It's also a competitive alternative for investors seeking an opportunity in the real estate business. Either renting or reselling is possible and profitable.

Our facilities include swimming pool, sun bathing area and fitness center. We also have 24hr security and an electronic keycard entry system. I'm also planning to set up a rental management team for this property.

www.patong-center.com



From tourist friendly Patong to beautiful and chic Surin Bay, the west coast of Phuket has been the island's drawcard since tourism began. Phuket's luxury property market also began along this range of beautiful beaches. With the hiend homes and hotels also come top-rated services, including the Jungceylon Shopping Center.



Russian to conclusions

EVERYBODY talks about Russians in Phuket these days – from officials to expats to ordinary Thais. For some of them this a huge source of income, some others are just frightened by new competition and have started rumors regarding "Russian mafia".

You can see cyrillic writing now in shop windows all around Phuket – but these are mostly Thai and Western businesses who just want to get cashy Russian clients. So are Russian businesses so numerous? Not at all. They are just more visible.

These is my personal statistics: Travel agencies - Overall the number of Russian tourists coming to Phuket in the first half of this year was about 250 thousand from roughly 1.5 million international arrivals, which means about 17%. As there are many non-Russian travel agencies working with the Russian tourist market, Russian travel agencies get about 10%-15% of the market only.

Real Estate Agencies – a dozen from about 150 on the island, or less than 10%.

Property developers – a couple out

of several hundred, so about 1%. One of the first big "Russian" projects here is Vista del Mar Phuket. I put "Russian" in quotes because the investors are mostly Russian but the management team is truly international – Swiss, Canadian and Thais. And most of the clients for some mystical reason are not Russians but French and other expats from all over Asia.

Hotels/guest houses – No more than ten out of hundreds, about 2-3%. Restaurants – not more than 1%, I believe, from hundreds of others.

Russian IT and Internet companies are a specific niche market here on the island. Most of them have offices all around Russia and headquarters here in Phuket.

The tropical paradise environment combined with a relatively inexpensive work force are major reasons for business owners to reside here. A number of freelancers are also working here – limited to their own laptops with internet access.

Many Russians doing business here are well educated people, speaking different languages (including Thai) and



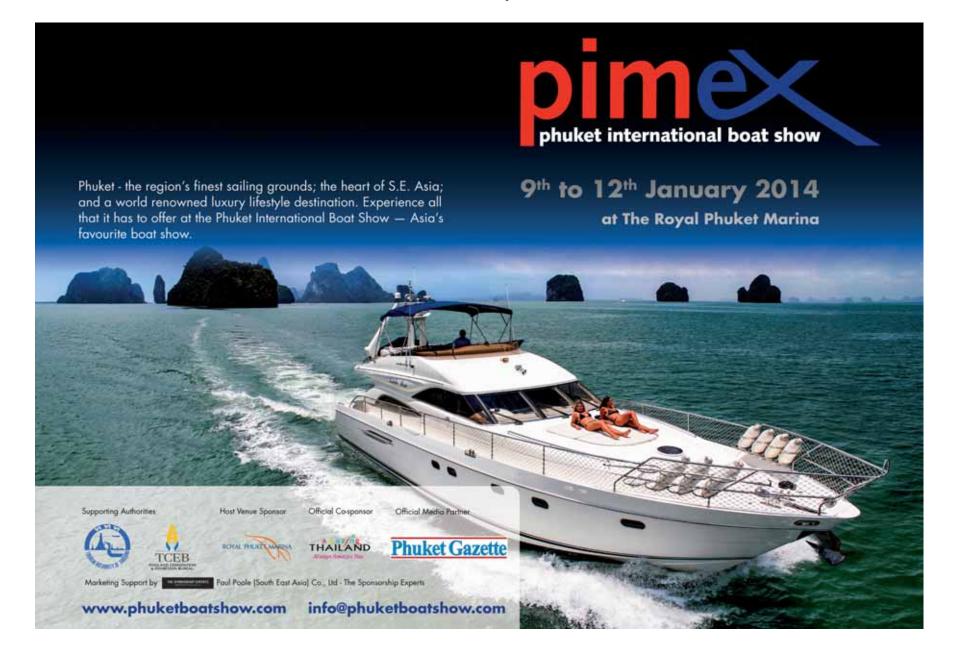
RUSSIAN CONECTIONS: The writer with Phuket's Governor Maitri Inthusut. Sergey is working to help establish a Russian business network for Phuket.

with vast international experience. They are taught to take things seriously and to implement systematic approaches. So Russians are serious competitors, not only for Thais but also for other foreign-owned businesses.

Moreover, the Thai legal environment and especially the way law is enforced here is very similar to what they deal with back home. So, for Russians it's easier to do business here than for traditional westerners.

Still the total of Russian business in Phuket accounts for less than 5% of the market share – plenty of room for expansion.

Sergey Nesterenko is the developer of the Vista Del Mar luxury villa project near Naithon Beach.



The five things every Phuket property investor should know

INVESTING in properties in the emerging world can offer you opportunities that may not be possible in the well developed markets. However, every country in the world carries a specific set of risks of which you need to be aware.

These risks do not mean you should not invest, but mainly that you should adjust the amount of your net worth you are willing to put at risk based on these factors. I have put together a shortlist of what I believe are the top five things everyone needs to make sure they understand before they invest in a property in Thailand.

1) Owning land in Thailand is generally not legal if you are a foreigner.

I have written about ways of securing a property in the past, and sure enough someone pointed out that I failed to mention that if you lock up something like US\$1 million into Thai government bonds that you can in fact legally own 1 rai. For the rest of us, the Thai government is willing to let us lease land for 30 years. Outside of buying a freehold condo, Thai law offers little protection beyond a 30

year lease. Any contract giving you rights to force transfer of title from the original seller or a Thai nominee holding the land for you is not likely to stand up in court on its own merit.

2) Markets can go both ways in the short term

Long term real estate is usually a good bet, but if you plan on flipping condos or making a quick buck, be aware that Phuket has been booming for quite some time already and you may get stuck waiting through a cycle. Make sure the money you are investing isn't something you need liquid in the next ten years. You may get lucky and flip it quickly, but you also may not.

3) Many Chanote titles are the result of corruption many years ago.

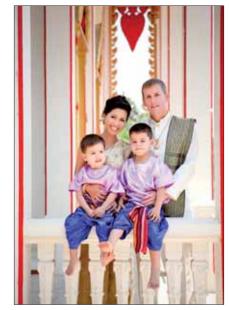
If you think a property you are interested in might be anywhere near a national park, I would go further than the usual title check at the land office. Make sure the land wasn't stolen from the national park. Resorts have been smashed down due to this and it is "buyer beware" as far as any recourse is concerned.

4) Only a Chanote or a Nor Sor Sam Gor title will allow you to build.

There may be a chance that you can upgrade the type of title. However it is never guaranteed despite any "guarantee" from a seller that the land office has already agreed to do it. If it is a lower type of title you will often get a good discount on the selling price but be wary that it may end up impossible to upgrade the title. Beginners in Thailand would be best served to go only for land with a Chanote title.

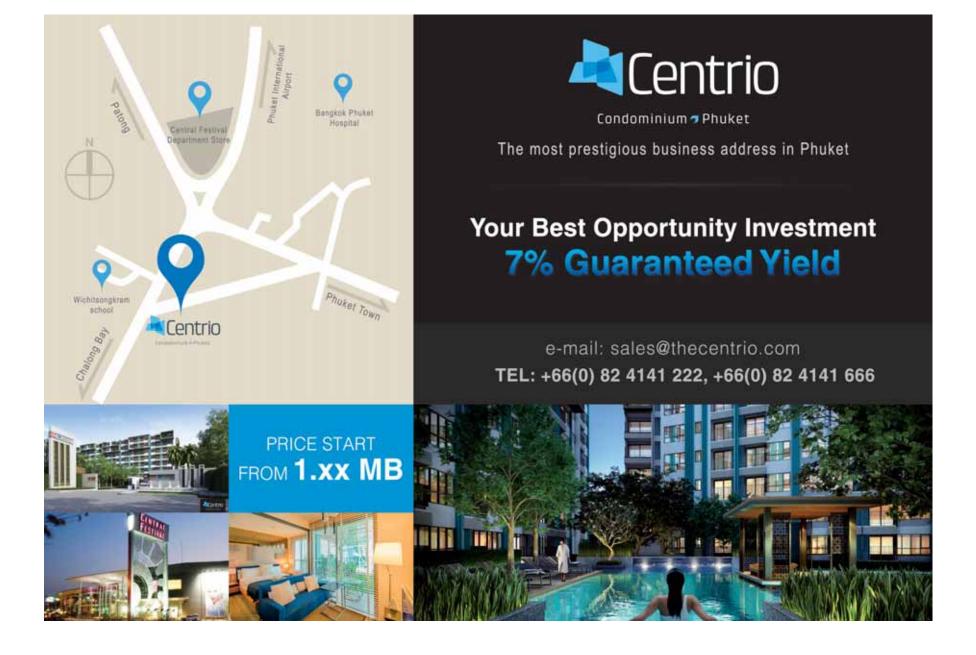
5) Local agents and lawyers are known to massage the legal realities.

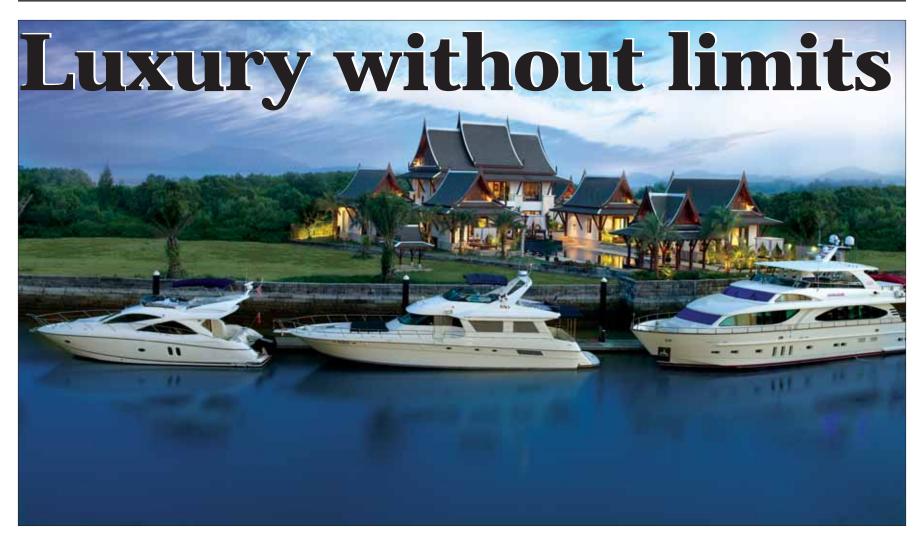
Keep in mind that people earning a commission from your investment have a conflict of interest inherent in their occupation, and they are sometimes afraid that if you know and understand all of the risks that you will not invest in Thailand. Never trust the seller's lawyer or an agent's legal opinion. A good agent's job is to find you the property you want and within your budget. After they have done that I would always verify the legal side of things with multiple lawyers independent of the deal you are looking at.



HAPPY FAMILY: The writer with his Phuket family.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket with his family and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and advises on pensions and taxation. Email: david.m@faramond.com





PHUKET is the ultimate tropical paradise, striking the perfect balance between laid-back beach living and a high-end luxury lifestyle. This sunblessed island in Southern Thailand is also known as the 'Pearl of the Andaman' not only for its thriving pearling industry, but also for its long white beaches, aquamarine waters and lush jungle-covered mountains.

In recent years Phuket has developed rapidly and has cemented its reputation as Southeast Asia's premier luxury destination. With countless options for fine dining and world-class shopping, entertainment and sporting facilities, Phuket has everything you need right at your fingertips.

The island's medical and education facilities are also second to none, with several international standard hospitals and schools with extensive

experience in meeting the needs of expatriates.

Phuket International Airport is the main gateway for visitors to the island, but for those seeking a more exclusive entryway, there are several

private marinas and also a private airpark capable of landing and storing all manor of light aircraft. The Royal Phuket Marina is

The Royal Phuket Marina is Phuket's most exclusive private marina with berths that can accommodate 81 vessels from 10 meters to 35 meters. This award-winning stateof-the-art marina is also the island's premier lifestyle destination, devoted to sailing, sports and leisure, with luxury residences and shopping facilities set amid landscaped parks and gardens. The marina also provides a full range of services to ensure your vessel is maintained to the highest standard.

If you have ever dreamed of flying in a tropical paradise, then the Phuket Flying Club located at Phuket Airpark is the place. They have a club aircraft for instruction or introduction flights and plenty of hangar space available if you want to land your own plane. Taking off from the airpark, you skim over a beach and out across the Andaman Sea, dotted with islands in all directions, giving you the ultimate freedom to explore this region of magnificent natural beauty.

For the golfer, Phuket offers six fantastic courses, making it a favorite spot of countless amateur and professional golfers. The jewel in Phuket's golfing crown is undoubtedly the serene grounds

of the Blue Canyon Country Člub, which boasts two 18-hole courses that are unsurpassed in their use of the stunning tropical landscape to create a challenging game for all levels of players.

For all other sporting and health and fitness needs there is Thanya-



BOATS & TENNIS: RPM (top) and TSLC (above) offer world-class service.

pura Sports and Leisure Club. The TSLC megaplex offers an unrivaled range of academies with competitions, teams and training at all levels and ages, including football, aquatics, tennis, rugby and triathlon academies. The cutting edge Thanyapura Integrative Health Centre combines several aspects of medicine, such as physiotherapy, traditional Asian medicine and contemporary treatment technologies to keep you fit, healthy and active.

With so many activities on offer, you're sure to work up a healthy appetite and once again Phuket exceeds expectations. You can find delicious meals from almost any cuisine and countless respected international chefs vie for distinction in creating new and unique flavors to tempt the diner who thinks they've tried everything.

Thai cuisine is world renowned for its use of fresh ingredients and exquisite balancing of flavours, so naturally many of Phuket's restaurants strive to reach the pinnacle of modern Thai cuisine and give their guests a unique and delicious dining experience. Silk Restaurant & Bar is one of these restaurants and prides itself on using the freshest local ingredients, prepared with time honored techniques mixed with a dash of contemporary flair, to ensure its reputation as the one of the finest Thai restaurants on the island. Le Versace restaurant offers diners a taste of classic French cuisine considered by most to be the best of its kind in Phuket. To complement the fabulous food guests get to enjoy one of the best sunset beach views on the island overlooking Patong Beach and the Andaman Sea.

There is also fantastic shopping to

No matter what you are missing from home, you are sure to find it in Phuket.





FABULOUS FOOD: At top international restaurants, including Silk in Kamala.

be had in Phuket, from local antiques and handicrafts to the finest international brands in clothing and jewelry.

Jungceylon and Central Festival shopping centers are the premier shopping destinations, and you can find almost anything, from watches and electronics to designer clothing and jewelry, all in the convenient confines of these two fantastic centers. They also offer an enormous range of international food products, so no matter what you are missing from home, you are sure to find it.

There are also plenty of entertainment options, including cinemas,

bowling and even shooting ranges! But for a unique night of entertainment, the world-famous Simon Cabaret show is a must see. It features outstanding set designs, extravagant costumes and the glamorous performers to give guests a truly international performance featuring modern and traditional acts from around the globe in English and alternative languages. You won't believe that the showgirls are actually ladyboys discovered in beauty pageants around Thailand - it is truly a uniquely Thai experience.

and standards and naturally combine classical and contemporary. That with solid features throughout. With innovative use of light and space, designs blend traditional tropical style

creating a truly unique home. The Lake House offers 8, affordable, luxury pool villas with plot size from 420.10 720 m2 and caters for budgets starting from 12m THB.

By Mark Knowles

Market moment

Continued from page 1

MEANWHILE, back to the key China shift. Some developers with brand recognition on the Mainland have been able get traction such as Laguna through its Banyan Tree affiliation. But the question for many is how to break into the market? Across Asia, Hong Kong and Singapore have been the two leaders in attracting Chinese buyers while the rest of the region is still trying to turn up the volume.

What's clear though is property in Phuket is rapidly accelerating into a new phase. Are there dangers

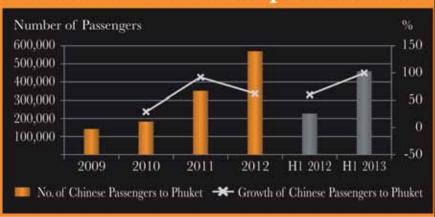
lurking around the corner? Certainly. The looming influx of a massive amount of new domestic condominium units will create a large secondary overhang of properties. And concerns over a China slowdown, which will have a domino effect into the economies of resource rich Australia and Indonesia is another storm cloud on the horizon.

Still, for an island that easily sits within six to eight hours flying time of half the world's population the numbers look like they could add up to a sustained pitch forward during the next few years. What's the old adage for business - location, location, location?

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Mainland Chinese Airport Arrivals



Source: Phuket Airport Immigration and C9 Hotelworks Market Research.



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PHUKET PROPERTY REVIEW

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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

The views expressed in the Review are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Publisher, or the Directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Telephone: 66 76 273555 (10 lines)

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Издатель: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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