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deported Two foreigners wanted in relation to pedophilia charges booted from Thailand

INSIDE TODAY

25 Baht



Grammy-winning performer takes stage to raise funds for Filipino typhoon victims

OVER 400 people gathered to watch Grammyaward-winning international pop star and rapper apl.de.ap from the Black Eyed Peas drop beats at Xana Beach Club to raise funds for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the central Philippines over a week ago.

"I thought we [Filipinos] were tough, until this happened. Like I've never seen this magnitude of people really starving for days, [waiting] to get help," apl.de.ap told the Gazette after the almost-two-hour set. "So we are strong, but... we aren't superhuman. People need food. In a matter of hours... not days.'

"We are partying, but at the same time we're helping," apl.de.ap called out to the crowd about an hour earlier that night.

Despite the beach party vibe and colorful strobe lights, some of Black Eyed Peas' lyrics seemed to resonate more deeply, as members of Phuket's large Filipino population joined other islanders on the dance floor.

"People killin', people dyin'; Children hurt and you hear them cryin'; Can you practice what you preach; And would you turn the other cheek;

Father, Father, Father help us; Send some guidance from above; 'cause people got me, got me questionin'; Where is the love?" the crowd sang from the Black Eyed Peas' global chart-topper Where is the love?

This disaster has shown apl.de.ap where the

"It's so weird that it takes a disaster... to catch everyone's attention, but thank God... everyone is trying to help. And you know what? I love it. It shows you that people really care. When this kind of magnitude of disaster happens, that they truly, truly really care," he said.

"Some people are catching up, some people are moving forward, but at least everyone is catching everyone's intention, and...

Continued on Page 6

Frenchman pulled from flight over seeping pus

A FRENCHMAN departing Phuket was prevented from boarding his flight after other passaners waiting to board the plane noticed that pus was oozing from the back of his neck onto his shirt.

Staffers, concnerned about an outbreak of an infectious disease, took quick action.

Full story Page 2

DSI tackles taxi head over queue

OFFICERS from the Department of Special Investigations (DSI) have cited alleged queue hopping as part of their continued investigation of Central Festival taxi leader, "Brother" Pom Sukkasem.

Full story Page 5

Pipe pulled from beach

OFFICERS from the Regional Environmental Office last week responded to fears that water from a pipe draining directly onto Patong Beach contained harmful contaminants.

Full Story Page 8











This Week



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Developers look ahead to Phuket's next business oasis. Page 14



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Don't believe what the big banks say when you buy stocks. Page 17



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Welcome to the new world order ruled by the internet giants. Page 42



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Cycling

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Frenchman held in leaching pus scare

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A FRENCH tourist leaching yellow pus from the back of his neck prompted fears that he might infect other passengers at Phuket International Airport last Friday.

Airport authorities removed Michel Dominique Godfroy, 56, from the international departure lounge a little after 11:30pm.

"We were called to the airport at 11:45pm," a Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker told the Gazette.

The rescue workers took Mr Godfroy to Thalang Hospital, where the Frenchman at first resisted nurses' attempts to clean and dress the wound.

"He refused any treatment for over an hour. Each time a nurse dressed the wound, he pulled it off," the rescue worker said. "All the while, the Frenchman kept singing."

Hospital staff called the Tourist Police, whose presence convinced Mr Godfroy to accept the medical assistance being administered.

"Over [last] weekend, doctors had Mr Godfroy transferred to Vachira Hospital Phuket, where he is still receiving treatment for the



Mr Godfroy kept singing while nurses attempted to dress his seeping wound. He kept pulling off the bandage as soon as the nurses had finished.



The pus scared other passengers. wound on his neck," Capt Akachai Siri of the Tourist Police in Phuket

Town told the Gazette. "Doctors have performed some

basic tests, and are concerned for

Mr Godfroy's current mental

"They have contacted the French embassy so officials can get in touch with his relatives and make appropriate arrangements for getting Mr Godfroy safely home," he said.

As of Wednesday, staff at Vachira Hospital confirmed that Mr Godfroy was still in the hospital's care and that arrangements had yet to be made to repatriate the Frenchman home.

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Tourist drowns in Karon Beach surf

A NORWEGIAN tourist drowned after being caught in heavy surf at Karon Beach on November 14.

Kata-Karon chief lifeguard Uten Singsom reported his staff seeing the man, named by police as Chris Roger Hangsao, 55, having difficulty coping with the large waves.

"There were big waves, up to about two meters high," Mr Uten told the Gazette.

A tourist swimming near Mr Hangsao raised the alarm after spotting the man floating face down in the water.

"We rushed to help him and brought him back to the beach," Mr Uten said.

"We spent 20 minutes giving him CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation], but he remained unconscious.

"We rushed him to Patong he added. - Thawit Bilabdullar

Hospital, but it was too late," he

Karon Beach has gained a notorious reputation for surf safety over the years. The tourist-popular beach is prone to large waves and dangerous rips during the southwest monsoon season.

Late last month, two tourists drowned within hours of each other at Karon Beach.

Following a heavy rain warning being issued on Wednesday, Mr Uten repeated his warning to swimmers.

"The weather is changing, and the danger is changing from rip currents to hard-hitting waves, especially near the beach," he said.

"Please be careful. Even in waer only knee-high, the waves can knock you down and hurt you,"



POLICE are investigating the death of a 28-year-old man who was slain by a single gunshot to the head near Rawai Beach early on November 14.

to the head

"When we arrived at the scene, an unregistered rental house about 150 meters from the beach, we found the body of Khin Oo Not face up outside his front door." said Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaidoung.

A neighbor reported hearing Mr Khin Oo Not, a Myanmar national, returning home on his motorbike at about 3am. Soon after, she heard a single gunshot.

"Mr Khin Oo Not was shot in the left eye. At this stage, we do not know what a kind of gun was used," Lt Col Jumroon said.

"We are waiting to confirm the size of the bullet. In the meantime, we will continue to question people in the area," he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



A lifeguard at Karon Beach signals for tourists to move away from the no-swimming zone marked by red flags. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

The holiday is over

American sent home to face Texas pedophile charge

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

FORREST Wayne, a 41- year-old fitness instructor from Houston. Texas, arrived in Thailand on holiday on November 1.

However, his trip came to an abrupt end when officers from the Patong Police approached him in front of the Bel Aire Resort in Patong, where he was staying, and placed him under arrest.

Escorting Mr Wayne into his hotel room, the officers explained that they had received a notice from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requesting he be taken into custody and deported back to the United States.

That was when Mr Wayne discovered that the Harris County Court had issued a warrant for his arrest for the alleged sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl in Houston earlier this year.

The warrant was issued on November 4.

In a public statement, the Houston Police said that Mr Wayne befriended the 13-year-old female victim in July, while he was working as a fitness instructor.

"He used text messages and phone calls to start a relationship with the girl. That relationship led to Forrest engaging in multiple sexual encounters with the victim at a hotel located in the 9500 block of the Katy Freeway," the statement read.

After confirming Mr Wayne's identity, Patong Police handed him over to Phuket Immigration.

"I came here for a vacation."



Mr Wayne (right) remained silent throughout the press conference, as Col Sunchai explained the sex assault charge against him and the motorbike theft charge against Swedish national Johan Wetzelmayr (left).

Mr Wayne told the *Gazette* from his Immigration holding cell on Monday afternoon.

Mr Wayne explained that up until the point of being arrested, he planned on catching his prebooked return flight.

"Well, I planned to, but it didn't happen," he said.

Mr Wayne acknowledged that he was aware of the charge against him: "Yes, I do [understand]."

However, he declined to comment any further than: "I was accused.'

want to go home," Mr Wayne

On Tuesday, Col Sunchai presented Mr Wayne to the press.

"We revoked Mr Wayne's permit-to-stay, and he will be sent to Bangkok tomorrow [Wednesday], where officers from the FBI will take him into custody," Col Sunchai said.

Alongside Mr Wayne at the press conference was Swedish national Johan Wetzelmayr.

Mr Wetzelmayr, 32, was arrested near Chalong Circle on November 5 and had been in de-"Please leave me alone. I just tention at Phuket Immigration for Plerin

two weeks, waiting for police from Hua Hin to arrive and take him into custody.

"We learned that the Prachuap Khiri Khan Court issued an arrest warrant against him for allegedly stealing a motorbike in Hua Hin," Col Sunchai said.

"We have contacted Hua Hin Police. They will arrive in Phuket tomorrow [Wednesday] to take him into custody and return him to Hua Hin to face trial," he added.

Additional reporting by Chutharat

Jaruwan Prasit was leaning into the lift when it accidentally activated.

Hotel maid dies in tragic service lift accident

A HOTEL maid died at a Phuket resort last Friday when her neck was broken by a service lift being activated while she was leaning inside, trying to retrieve a clothes

Karon Police arrived at the Phuket Peach Blossom Resort in Karon to find the body of Jaruwan Prasit, 21, inside the lift shaft, lying on top of the service elevator.

"It took Ruamjai Foundation rescue workers almost two hours to recover the body," Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Pachai Matthayan told the *Gazette*.

Hotel staff told police that Ms Jaruwan was retrieving bed linen from the lift when the accident occurred.

"When the service lift arrived, she started unloading bedsheets, pillowcases and other stuff. She was almost finished unloading she only had to get the iron," one maid said.

"While she was trying to reach the iron, the lift accidentally started going down and she was pulled down with it...

"We are so sorry that we could not help her at all," she added.

Anurak Chuaysri, Executive Assistant Manager at the resort, told the Gazette that the tragedy has taken its toll on their staff.

"This has deeply saddened evervone here. The service lift has been shut down and we have contacted our elevator maintenance crew to inspect the lift and make it safe.

"We don't want any more incidents like this, or our staff being put at risk," Mr Anurak said.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Belgian deported over child sex assault conviction

BELGIAN expat Georges Sirre, who has lived in bond, while serving five years' probation, but he Phuket for nine years, was among three foreigners named by Phuket Immigration this week to face deportation for previous offenses.

Officers arrested Mr Sirre, 56, at his home in Rawai late Monday afternoon after receiving a request from the Belgian Embassy in Bangkok

"Mr Sirre broke probation conditions in Belgium after he had been convicted of child molestation charges," Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij told a press conference on Tuesday.

"Mr Sirre was later released on a good behavior

was prohibited from leaving the country [Belgium]," Col Sunchai said.

Phuket Immigration revoked Mr Sirre's permitto-stay and are making arrangements to deport him.

"He will be sent to Bangkok tonight [Tuesday], and later he will be handed over to Belgian authorities," Col Sunchai told the Gazette.

Mr Sirre was not presented at the press conference on Tuesday.

Officials at the Belgian Embassy in Bangkok declined to comment on the case.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong Belgian expat Georges Sirre







Consul Zhang (left) receives a gift from Governor Maitri. Photo: PR Dept

Chinese charge forward with island consulate

CHINESE officials have confirmed that a consulate in Phuket will be operational by next year to cater to the dramatic increase in Chinese visiting the island.

"The plan has been approved. However, we still need to find a place for it, as well as personnel," the Chinese Consulate General in Songkhla, Zhang Jinxiong, told Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut at a meeting last Friday.

"Having a consulate in Phuket is necessary. As we know, Phuket welcomes a lot of Chinese tourists to its shores.

"With more people arriving every year, there simply will be more problems that need to be taken care of," Mr Zhang said.

- Chutharat Plerin

Loy Krathong lantern ban strikes amid air safety blitz

By Chutharat Plerin

TWO men were arrested last Sunday night for selling fire lanterns in a restricted zone: the Air Safety Zone surrounding Phuket International Airport.

Col Nathapakin Kwanchaipruek, Superintendent of Tah Chat Chai Police Station, confirmed to the Gazette on Wednesday that the two lantern touts were arrested at Nai Yang Beach

The arrests followed Airports of Thailand (AoT) Phuket officials issuing a notice only days earlier warning those celebrating Loy Krathong by releasing fire lanterns could result in charges carrying a sentence of up 20 years imprisonment or even death.

The hefty penalty is cited in Thailand Air Navigation Act, BE Section 6(3).

"People like to release lanterns during Loy Krathong, especially people staying at hotels or in areas where celebrations are being held," Acting Director of



Lantern lift-off was denied in the Air Safety Zone. Photo: John Shedrick

Phuket International Airport Kanputt Mungklasiri said.

"However, we were worried that they could cause serious damage to low-flying aircraft."

Cap Kanputt explained that he was concerned that the modern renditions of the traditional lanterns, called kom loy, could get

กูเก็ต • PHUKET

caught in the engine of an airplane.

"In the past, lanterns were made of wood and paper. But now, people have developed larger lanterns that last longer and go higher," he said.

Col Nathapakin told the *Gazette* that his officers ensured local residents were aware of the dangers

of releasing fire lanterns near the airport through public announcements in areas affected.

"Regardless, we still found and arrested two lantern touts on Nai Yang Beach. They were charged with selling lanterns without a permit," he said.

"The punishment should be a fine. However, we do not know how much they are to be fined, as that remains the discretion of the judge," Col Nathapakin added.

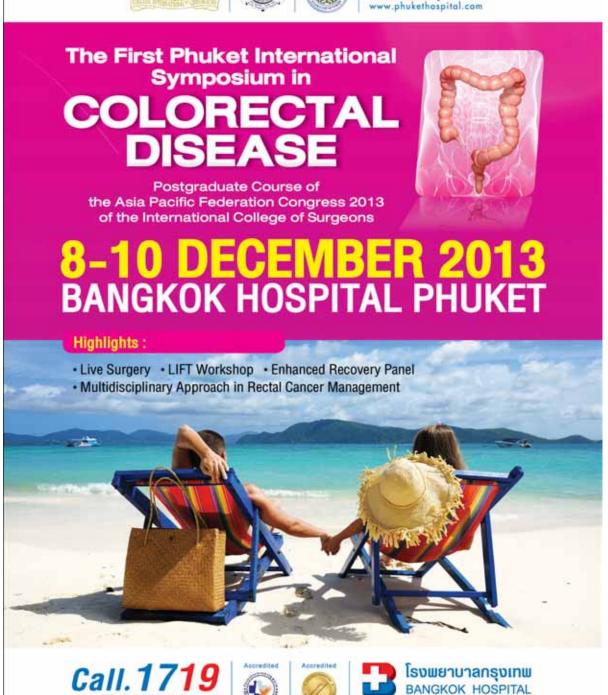
The ban, effectively forming the Air Safety Zone, affected the following areas in Thalang:

Tambon Mai Khao: Baan Mai Khao; Baan Thung Ka; Baan Mak Prok; Baan Hua Hong; Baan Yid; Baan Koh En; and Koh Kala

Tambon Thepkrasattri: Baan Laemsai; Baan Muang Mai and

Tambon Paklok: Koh Nham; Koh Bah Yu; and Koh Lawa Noi

Tambon Sakoo: Baan Din Sai, Baan Din Niow; Baan Nai Yang; Baan Sakoo; Baan Nai Thon; and other areas near the airport.





Accomplices of alleged Phuket hitman Joseph 'Rambo' Hunter were extradited to the United States on Tuesday. Photo: The Nation

'Rambo' Gang of Five extradited to America

September in the same operation that snared the alleged contract killer and US drug dealer Joseph "Rambo" Hunter were extradited to the United States on Tuesday.

Escorted by armed police commandos, Britons Philip David Shackels and Scott Alan Stammer; Slovakian Alexander Lnu; Filipino Allan Kelly Perata; and Taiwanese

FIVE men arrested in Phuket in Ye Tiong Tan Lim were taken from Bangkok's Khlong Prem Prison to Don Mueang International Airport at 10am to board a plane to the US.

The five were arrested in Phuket along with Mr Hunter, a former US Navy Special Forces officer who allegedly ran one of the world's biggest drug networks.

- The Nation / Phuket Gazette



Brother Pom right on queue

By Irfarn Jamdukor

THE leader of the Central Festival Phuket taxi group, who stands accused by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) of queue hopping, told officers not to worry about how he runs the shopping mall's taxi network.

"This is not a big thing to fo-

cus on... I would like to let the DSI know that they don't need to worry about me taking advantage of my members. We live like brothers. I have never, and will never jump the queue," said Pom Sukkasem.

Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Spe- Lt Col Somboon cial Crime Unit 3,

had received reports from taxi operators at Central Festival alleging that Mr Pom was taking advantage of the queuing system.

We learned about this problem after speaking with Central

Festival management, Phuket Land Transportation Office officers and members of the taxi group," Col Somboon said.

The accusations came after Mr Pom returned from court in Bangkok claiming that the extortion charge against him were not being pursued by the prosecutor.

At that time Col Somboon

clarified, "The prosecutor ordered investigators to get more evidence to support the extortion charge. That does not mean the case has been dropped."

In regard to the allegations of queue jumping, Mr Pom this week explained, "I have one slot and so does my wife.

"But more imporexplained on November 12 that he tantly, we have an agreement with the taxi group that if they need a loan to pay the queuing fee or for something else, they can use their queue spot as collateral," he said.

Queuing fees are 2,400 baht a



Pom Sukkasem, head of the taxi cartel at Central Festival, told DSI Lt Col Somboon not to worry. Photo: Gazette file

"All loans, given at zero per cent interest, must be paid back in three months," he said. "If they aren't, the driver loses his spot in the queuing system."

When someone is looking for a

short-term loan, Mr Pom says he is usually the person who gives them money.

"However, that agreement is part of our old system, and will not be valid once we, the Andaman

Taxi Service Co-operative, becomes legal," he added.

The new system will allow only one car per person and only one queue space per car, Col Somboon said earlier last week.





Island rallies for Philippines

From Page 1

... are willing to help."

Apl.de.ap was born and raised in the Philippines until the age of 14, so rapping in his mother tongue earlier that night, he brought the house down with the Black Eyed Peas' promotional single *Bebot*.

All funds raised for the event went to Give2Asia, a charity chosen by apl.de.ap.

"I like to go with organizations that I feel are hands-on. I feel like when I give, it's not lost in the system," apl.de.ap said. "I've been working with Give2Asia for a while now with the Apl.de.Ap Foundation.

"I like to do hands-on personally... because [with] everything we've done, I've always been there: from groundbreaking to building the classrooms.

"So I see what's happening, so I don't feel lost. I feel like something is going on," he said.

Apl.de.ap explained that he plans to be on site in the Philippines in about two weeks.

The rapper made it clear that immediacy in providing care for those suffering was of utmost importance. Nonetheless, it was also important to

think long-term, about rebuilding.

"We need to act faster, all the help should be there sooner. But it's so huge that it takes a while even for outside help to get there. But we need to act faster... people are starving, they [also] need water," he said.

Apl.de.ap encouraged everyone to continue to give to the Philippines, either through Give2Asia, or other organizations.



Apl.de.ap plays a set in Phuket to raise funds for his mother nation. Photos (Page 1, above): Pozeidon (N) / Xana

"You know, any organization right now, just give back," he said. But for him, seeing exactly where that money goes is important.

"I don't want things slipping through the cracks, not getting there, pork barrel. I'm like, 'Yo,

get that there man.' If you're a good person, you [get that to] those in need of help."

The pork barrel scandal in the Philippines saw Janet Lim-Napoles accused of siphoning millions of US dollars of public funds into ghost non-governmental organizations through the Priority Development Assistance Fund allocations.

"You shouldn't forget about that,

don't forget about what's going on. And right now, unfortunately, we need to focus on what's needing to be done, but we don't want to forget what's going on in the Philippines at the same time," apl.de.ap said.

"I think the pork barrel is definitely on the side... [it] shouldn't get in the way."

Half of the earnings from apl.de.ap's current tour are now being redirected to charity efforts. However, 100 per cent of the proceeds from the nearly spontaneous event on Sunnday night, not part of apl.de.ap's tour, are being donated to Give2Asia.

Apl.de.ap with his Give2Asia fund is also thinking about the rebuilding process.

"Right now, it's kind of difficult to deliver [supplies], but when it comes to rebuilding, that's where I come in," he said. "So far we've built 50 schools. So now we need to build more, 'cause all the schools have been destroyed."

Apl.de.ap thanked Xana Beach Club for organizing and hosting the show. He also gave a shout out to Inspired Event Phuket.

"Thank God for all the people that are concerned, that made this happen," apl.de.ap said. "We called a couple of people that were coming and decided to do this: I was like, 'All right, let's do it. It's about raising funds and helping people out."

"We were absolutely thrilled with the energy that apl.de.ap put into his set at Xana," said PR Manager Annabell Fox. "It's great to see the people of Phuket pull together here, and right across the island, to help those in the Philippines."

The event raised 121,800 baht at the door. These funds were matched with a donation by the Banyan Tree Global Foundation.



Hundreds joined the event.

'iBless Philippines' established by local Filipinos

THE Filipino community in Phuket banded together last Sunday as over 500 people joined the "iBless Philippines" event at the basketball gymnasium at Saphan Hin to raise funds for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan.

Volunteers at the event sold "iBless Philippines" t-shirts and collected cash donations, as well as emergency necessities. By the end of the day organizer needed a six-wheeled truck to haul away all of the donations of clothing, food and emergency supplies.

"There are about 660,000 people who were affected by the storm. They have been displaced, and have no access to food, water or medicine," one of the event organizers, Bernardita Sanchez, said.

- Irfarn Jamdukor



Rotary Club steps in

THE Rotary Club of Patong Beach has established its Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Disaster Relief Fund to provide aid to the victims of the disaster.

Half of the funds raised will be sent directly to the Disaster Fund of Rotary District 3860, based in the affected area, and the other half will be used to buy "family survival packs" from Disaster Aid Canada.

"These are boxes with tents, survival gear and water purification systems for a family of seven," Chairman of International Projects James Domville said. "We'll be sending five of those at this point."

"We have a very effective and simple way of helping if donations are channeled through our charity fund, as I can immediately transfer funds where they are needed, and it can be done in a day," he said.

With over 4,000 Rotarians on site in the affected area in the Philippines, the necessities bought

with the funds sent directly to the district can be quickly dispensed to those in need, Mr Domville said.

The Patong club had raised over 226,000 baht as of Wednes-

"During the Haiti earthquake disaster, we raised well over 300,000 baht. We are hoping to match that this time," he

said.
Mr Domville asked anyone making a donation to call him on his mobile at 089-872 9156 or email him at beaujeu1@yahoo.com with details the of donations so a receipt can be

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Punching Power

Euro Bungy



Mr Nussaree unpacked the panties.

Locals catch panty sniffer mid-snatch

AN OFF-DUTY security guard was caught red-handed stealing women's panties off a clothesline in Phuket Town Tuesday night.

"Residents [of Phol Place apartments] saw a man lurking near the building, and they kept an eye on him. When they spotted him stealing undergarments off the clothesline, they seized him," explained Sub Lt Surasak Pipitkul of the Phuket City Police.

Officers arrived to find Nussaree Hayeebilung, 38, with 10 pairs of women's panties and two bras.

Mr Nussaree confessed to police that this wasn't the first time he had stolen panties.

Asked what he did with the undergarments, Mr Nussaree explained, "When I'm finished sniffing them, I toss them away."

Mr Nussaree was charged with committing theft at night.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Officers quick to investigate Patong resort's runoff pipe

By Saran Mitrarat

A LEADING Phuket resort has been ordered to remove a pipe that released runoff rainwater directly onto the sand at Patong Beach.

The news came on November 14 when officers from the Regional Environmental Office (REO) and Patong Municipality inspected the Impiana Resort, on the Patong beachfront road.

"We asked people in the area, and were told that the hotel installed the pipe at the request of beach chair operators in front of the resort," REO inspection officer Khanchit Soontrakorn said.

"Every time there was heavy rain, the rainwater flowed down from the resort onto the beach, right where the operators rent out beach chairs," he said.

"Often, there was so much rainwater that it formed huge puddles in the sand, which didn't look nice, so the beach operators asked the hotel to try to do something about it," he explained.

Mr Khanchit said that his officers tested the water coming out from the pipe and confirmed it was not wastewater.

"The water coming out of the pipe formed a light foam, which



REO officers asked that the rainwater-runoff pipe (inset) be removed. Photo: Patong Municipality Office

indicated some form of detergent was being carried out with the rainwater, so the hotel agreed to remove the pipe and install a separate chamber to collect rainwater runoff from the resort's swimming pool terrace," Mr Khanchit

"A pump will be installed to empty the water from the cham-

ber into the hotel's main wastewater drain when the chamber is full," he explained.

"We will return next week to make sure the pipe has been removed and that the runoff chamber has been installed," Mr Khanchit added.

The inspection came after REO chief Dr Pornsri Suthanaruk

received a complaint, with photos of the pipe, from a Phuket expat.

"Thank you for notifying us about this. If anyone sees wastewater, or any other form of pollution that needs action, please take photos and report it directly to us by calling 076-219329 or 076-219415," Mr Khanchit said.





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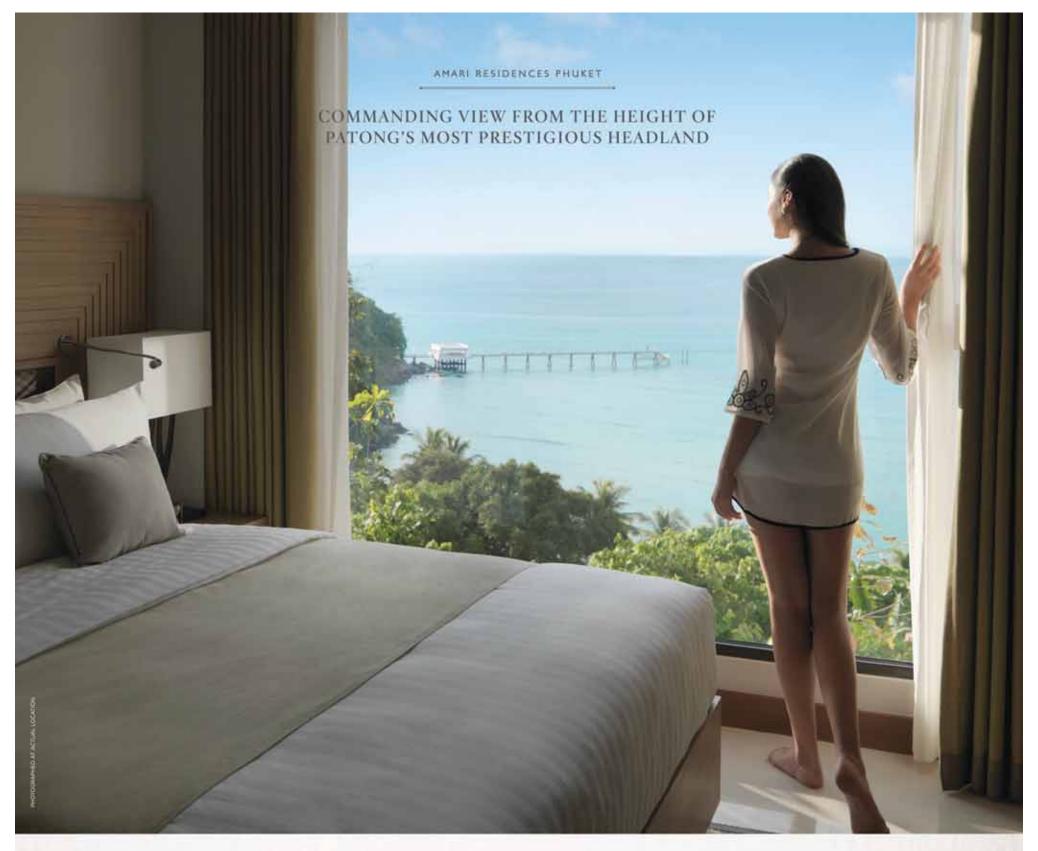
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TCT voices doubt over **B500** tourist entry fee

THE Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) has raised concerns over plans by the government to introduce a 500-baht fee for tourists to enter the country.

The plan aims to cover emergency medical expenses incurred by foreign tourists.

However, TCT President Piyaman Tejapaibul does not believe the plan would benefit the tourism industry, The Nation reported.

"Instead of attracting more and more tourists to visit our country, the plan would hurt tourist figures," Ms Piyaman said.

"Each year Thailand gets a lot of revenue from the tourism industry - but the government has never used money from this industry to develop and support tourism," she said.

The Public Health Ministry is driving the scheme, which would see tourists pay 500 baht to enter the country for those staying in Thailand from three to 30 days; and 30 baht for less than three days.

Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong said that currently the ministry had to shoulder about 200mn to 300mn baht per year as the financial burden for providing emergency medical services for foreigners.

Each year, the ministry estimates that about 23mn foreign tourists from around the world visit Thailand.

It is expected that if the plan were approved by the Cabinet, the ministry would be able to collect about 10bn baht per year.

Political storms looms

THE opposition is vowing to press on with its protest campaign to oust the government, claiming it will muster a crowd of one million in Bangkok by Sunday.

Meanwhile the red-shirts, generally pro-government, are also readying for a long rally in the capital to protest against any ruling by the Constitution Court that damages the government.

The leader of the anti-government protest based around Democracy Monument, Suthep Thaugsuban, had earlier announced a raft of civil disobedience measures aimed at forcing the government out.

But the tactics, which included a three-day national strike and withholding of tax, were a failure, with few Thais heeding Mr Suthep's call to action.

At a rally last Friday, Mr Suthep, who resigned as a Democrat MP to lead the protest, announced an "escalation" in tactics, including urging protesters to sign a petition to impeach the 310 MPs who supported the amnesty bill, blowing whistles at senior public officials, boycotting products and services related to the Shinawatra family and urging government officials nationwide to stage a general strike and join the protest.

But many protesters told The Nation they did not believe the measures would be enough to oust the Yingluck Shinawatra administration.

"We agree with the measures, but we don't think that they will be effective," a group of nurses from Nakhon Sawan said.

They expected more from the escalation and wanted to support the cause as much as they could, but said they were afraid that politicians would not be pressured



Protesters have maintained a presence in Bangkok since the controversial amnesty bill was heard in the senate. Now, opposition claims a million protesters could be in the capital by Sunday. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

by civil disobedience. "We are feeling hopeless," one nurse

This sentiment was shared by many other protesters, including Niyom Kitjanawanchai, a small failed amnesty bill. business owner. He said the current protest did not have the power to dislodge the government. A revolution or intervention by the military may be the last and only solution, he explained.

As well as the Democrats, the Business Club for Democracy has launched a separate petition to impeach the 310 MPs who voted in favor of Pheu Thai's

The group says it has already collected the 20,000 signatures required to start the process.

Meanwhile, the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship is planning its own pro-government

The red shirts believe the Constitution Court may rule to dissolve the Pheu Thai Party over its attempts to amend the Thai constitution.



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Ital-Thai out of Dawei port project

ITALIAN-THAI Development (ITD) has pulled out of Myanmar's massive Dawei port development after failing to secure the finance needed to continue with the project.

The company, the largest construction firm in Thailand, ceased its operations at the site on November 20.

"We're now closing our camp at he Dawei site and have been asked to stop operations and leave there before November 21," a source close to the project told *The Nation*.

The framework agreement ITD signed with the Myanmar Port Authority on November 2, 2010 was for the development of the Dawei deep-sea port, industrial estate and road and rail link to Thailand, on a build-operate-transfer basis.

According to the agreement, ITD was awarded a concession lasting 60 years and a land lease extending up to 75 years.

The project, which is located in the Dawei Special Economic Zone



PM Yingluck looks over a model of the Dawei port project. Photo: The Nation

in southern Myanmar, 300 kilometers from Thailand's western border, was estimated to cost around US\$8.6 billion (271.8bn baht).

It is expected to cover 205 square kilometers of land – 10 times larger than Thailand's Laem Chabang deep-sea port.

Despite the setback, Thailand is set to maintain involvement in what will be an important project

for regional development.

Over the past two years, the Thai government has adopted the role of intermediary to draw foreign investment for the scheme, especially from Japan.

The country envisages Dawei as a key component of the East-West Corridor, which will complete Thailand's vision to become an Asean logistics hub.

Down graft road

Critics question US\$757mn World Bank project to Vietnam contractor

By Nguyen Phuong Linh

FOR a company short on capital with a background in textiles, property and bottling water, Bitexco wasn't the obvious choice to build a US\$757 million highway backed by the World Bank in Vietnam's first-ever public-private partnership.

There was no tender or bidding for the project, even though the communist government had committed to a level playing field in public-private projects.

Investors say the no-bid contract – and the World Bank's support for it – has set a bad precedent for a country trying to shake off a reputation for entrenched graft, bureaucracy and vested interests.

World Bank officials described the support as part of the push by Jim Yong Kim, the bank's president, to embrace private sector participation in development.

"This innovative approach will enable us to help Vietnam build the expressway faster, bringing economic development benefits to people sooner," said Victoria Kwakwa, Vietnam Country Director for the World Bank.

The World Bank has offered the Vietnam government a grant and low-interest loans for the road



BENEFICIARY: Bitexco General Director Vu Quang Hoi, from condos and bottled water to highways. Photo: Reuters

region

project, the value of which are yet to be determined.

Several NGOs have cautioned that Kim's new strategy to partner with the private sector carries

risks of poor governance if not implemented properly.

In Vietnam, the lack of competitive bidding in the road project was criticized.

It's not the first investment by Bitexco that has enjoyed the support of the government. It has been involved in construction of 10 hydropower plants with a total investment of US\$820mn, mostly from bank loans guaranteed by the government, which for a private

firm is rare in Vietnam.

"Bitexco is one of the many companies in Vietnam with political color but due to many factors, including involvement of multilaterals, the governance will be monitored by a lot of people which provides us comfort," said Rodrigo Franco, the president of Manila North Tollways, a company in the Philippines that has evinced interest in the project.

Reuters

In brief...

Myanmar monks march against OIC visit to Yangon

OVER 1,000 people, including Buddhist monks, on November 15, took to the streets of Yangon for the second time this week to protest against a visit by delegations from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

"We stage the protest only after taking permission from the authorities of four respective townships. The OIC has nothing to do with our country, Myanmar. The people do not like their visit and go on the demonstration," said a Buddhist monk U Parmaukkha.

- Eleven Media Group

Woman shot dead in Cambodia sweat shop protest clash

OPPOSITION Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) leader Sam Rainsy has called on the police to find and capture the person who fired the deadly shot that killed 49-year-old food vendor Eng Sokhom during the crackdown on protesters at the SL garment factory in Stung Meanchey district, Phnom Penh. on November 12.

- The Cambodia Herald

Lawyer accused of sodomising guard awarded damages

A LAWYER wrongfully arrested and accused of sodomising a security guard 12 years ago was awarded RM16,500 (165,000 baht) in damages by the Malaysian High Court on Tuesday.

Anthony Fernandez, 58, sought RM5mn (50mn baht) in aggravated and exemplary damages, and mental torture, in a suit against the Government in 2003 for wrongful arrest and defamation.

He was wrongfully accused of sodomising Norashid Yusof, then 23, in bus station restroom in 2001. – *The Star*

Sulu pirates suspected in Sabah slaying, kidnap of tourists

NO RANSOM demand has been made so far for the abducted 58-year-old Taiwanese woman Chang An Wei who is believed to have been taken away by Filipino gunmen to southern Philippines.

"We have not received any calls as of now. We are still continuing our investigations," Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Hamza Taib said.

Although her whereabouts are yet to be ascertained, police believe the Abu Sayyaf-linked gunmen could have taken her to one of the Tawi-Tawi chain of islands, a known hideout

for kidnap-for-ransom groups.

Chang was kidnapped from the Pom Pom Island Resort after her 57-year-old husband Hsu Li Min was shot dead early Friday.

According to police sources here and in Tawi-Tawi, hostages who are brought over from Sabah were usually kept in jungle hideout in islands before they were moved to the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Jolo island.

The demand for ransom would come when the hunt for the gunmen eases a bit and when they feel the hostage was secure in a safe place, they said. They added that the kidnappers themselves might not be directly linked to the notorious Abu Sayyaf terror group but to splinter factions whose business was kidnap-for-ransom.

The sources also said that the same group of gunmen involved in previous kidnappings of Sabah were the main suspects in the Pom Pom case.

"We will only know the real identities of the gunmen or group involved when negotiations for the release of Chang begins through a middle man," said a source involved in previous kidnappings.

— The Star / ANN



Police hunt shooter in Paris after attack at

POLICE were hunting a lone gunman on the loose in Paris on Monday after he opened fire with a shotgun at the offices of a leftwing newspaper and a major bank before hijacking a car to take him to the Champs-Elysees avenue.

A photographer's assistant was seriously injured. The victim of the shooting, wounded close to the heart, was fighting for his life, reported Reuters.

FBI warns of US Govt breaches by hacker group

ACTIVIST hackers linked to the collective known as Anonymous have secretly accessed US government computers in multiple agencies and stolen sensitive information in a campaign that began almost a year ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warned this week.

Palestinians cast first vote in UN General Assembly

A ROUTINE UN General Assembly vote held special significance for the Palestinian delegation on Monday, as it cast a ballot for the first time, an act the Palestinian envoy said brought his nation a step closer to full UN membership.

Al Qaeda members may be among migrants, says

By Francesco Guarascio

AL QAEDA members may be among thousands of migrants crossing the Mediterranean by boat from Africa to Europe, posing a potential security risk for the European Union, Italy's Foreign Minister Emma Bonino said on Monday.

Italy is seeking more help from its EU partners to tackle a crisis that has seen thousands of African migrants arrive in Sicily this year and hundreds of deaths en route.

'We... have suspicions that among the immigrants there are jihadist elements and members of al Qaeda," Mrs Bonino told a news conference during an EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels which discussed the

She said that at the moment she would not talk about a terrorism threat, but rather "a security threat" posed by the jihadists.

Italy wants the EU to launch a mission against human trafficking and organized crime in the Mediterranean under the bloc's common security policy.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said foreign ministers had discussed the security implications of illegal migration for the 28-nation EU.

Italy has increased patrols in the seas between Libya, Tunisia and Italy since more than 360 mainly Eritrean migrants drowned in early October when their boat



One of the frequent groups of migrants leaving Africa was picked up en-route to Europe by an Armed Forces of Malta patrol boat. The navy ship rescued 128 men from the raft after it was spotted. Photo: Reuters



capsized off Lampedusa. A second boat sank a week later, leaving an estimated 200 people missing.

The island's reception center

has struggled to deal with a deluge of migrants fleeing civil war and unrest in Syria, Egypt and other Arab and African countries, which has swelled numbers making the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean sea, often on rickety and ill-equipped boats.

More than 32,000 migrants from Africa and the Middle East have arrived in Italy and Malta so far this year, according to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with many leaving from the lawless ports of Libya.

The EU is expected to take decisions in December on what to do to help southern European states deal with mass migration from Africa.

Reuters



Suicide bombers attack Iranian

TWO suicide bombings rocked Iran's embassy compound in Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least 23 people including an Iranian cultural attache and hurling bodies and burning wreckage across a debris-

A Lebanon-based al Qaeda-linked group, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, claimed responsibility and threatened further attacks unless Iran withdraws forces from Syria, where they have backed President Bashar al-Assad's war against rebels.

Security camera footage showed a man in an explosives belt rushing towards the outer wall of the embassy in Beirut before blowing himself up, Lebanese officials said. They said a car bomb parked two buildings away from the compound had caused

the second, deadlier explosion. The Lebanese army described both blasts as suicide attacks.

In a Twitter post, Sheikh Sirajeddine Zuraiqat, the religious guide of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, said the group had carried out the attack. "It was a double martyrdom operation by two of the Sunni heroes of Lebanon," he wrote.

Lebanon has suffered a series of sectarian clashes and bomb attacks on Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim targets which have been linked to the Syrian conflict and which had already killed scores of people this year.

Tuesday's bombing took place on the eve of more talks between world powers and Iran over Tehran's disputed nuclear programme.

- Reuters



PROPERTY Heaven on earth Gazette New luxury development launched above Patong

ONE WITH NATURE: This artist's perspective shows what the view from the club house overlooking Patong Bay will look like when the project is completed mid-2014. Photos: Supplied

AMARI Estates Phuket Co Ltd (AEP), under the Italthai Group, have launched sales for the "Amari Residences Phuket" - a luxury condominium and pool villa project being developed atop a scenic seaside hill overlooking Patong.

This latest west coast offering adds to the developer's growing

properties, complementing the recent successful launches of Amari Residences Hua Hin and The Oriental Residences Bangkok.

Speaking at a press conference, AEPCEO Yuthachai Charanachitta said he is proud of the project, which will be constructed on a prime 18-rai (24,000 square meters) plot. Mr Yuthachai said

that the project is primarily aimed at "those who are interested in

owning 'summer houses' which are perfectly packaged with the best of location, landscape architecture, decoration and natural surroundings".

"The panoramic views of the sea

and the shoreline as seen from the hilltop hotel rooms [will] put everyone under a spell... enough to recharge your batteries for work," he added.

He went on to elaborate why Phuket was the ideal location for this

"To Thais, the image of Phuket portfolio of world-class luxury has been upgraded to be a 'dollar

zone' which generates about 200 billion baht [annually] for the nation, thanks to the tourism businesses catering to some 10 million tourists from all over the world who visit this island each year," he said.

"Phuket is also considered a regional hub of trade, investment, tourism, health care and medical services with

the good potential for the market to expand and for many more people to visit Phuket after the Asean Economic Community takes effect in 2015. Therefore, properties, hotels and resorts of all kinds on this island have become valueadded assets."

Amari Residences Phuket has gained positive responses from customers and interested investors due to its outstanding qualities, especially the stunning scenery of its location and the expertise of the project management team.

Mr Yuthachai says the project is being sold as "hotel-branded residence" which ensures true relaxation in a resort-residence setting, but also with the amenities and services of a hotel, adding that co-owners will be able to generate income from their rooms through a leasing management scheme offered by the ONYX Hospitality Group, which is backed with over 20 years' expertise in hotel and resort management in Phuket.

For those who are willing to put up their condo for lease year-round, but with a clause that allows owners to use their own or other resort-owned rooms for up to 60 days annually, the group guarantees a return of at least six per cent of the investment by the end of the initial three years.

Aside from its investment prospects, another attractive selling point of Amari Residences Phuket is its unique architectural and interior designs.

Sopit Sucharitkul, an architect for the project explained that the design of the exterior and interior was solely inspired by nature - mountains, beaches, sea water, corals and waves.

Every unit was designed and decorated with modern-style furniture from internationally renowned brands from Chanintr Living, as well

as American high-end furniture brand McGuire, chosen for to its captivating forms and multi-functionality. In addition, the interiors will be decorated with golden teakwood furniture in a classic style which gives strong yet warm feelings, with every bedroom to feature Kingsdown mattresses.

All in, the project will offer 160 units, which includes 148 condo units and 12 exclusive pool villas. The condo units are classified into one-bedroom and two-bedroom units with the space of between 44-102sqm, prices ranging from 7.1 million baht to 14.9mn baht.

The exclusive pool villas, each



The 'hotel-branded residence' will offer 148 condo units as well as 12 exclusive pool villas.

spanning 286sqm, are priced between 60-70mn baht.

Ownership abides by a 90 years' leasing contract. The project is managed under the international standards of hotels with all necessary facilities: a club house with swimming pools, a sunbathing deck, a fitness center and a pool bar which provide exclusive services for customers around the clock.

With construction already underway, the project will be ready to move in by mid-2014.

- Phuket Gazette

For more information, please visit: italthaigroup.com



Yuthachai Charanachitta



Email: nsgphuket@yahoo.com www.namsang.co.th

Collaboration key to CBD growth

AS PHUKET grows into an international hub ahead of ASEAN economic integration in 2015, collaboration between local authorities and the private sector aims to transform Wichit District into the island's Central Business District (CBD) with infrastructure improvements and residential and commercial properties aimed at catering to tomorrow's cosmopolitan lifestyles.

At a press conference held at Tri Property's Zcape III Sales Gallery last week, Mayor of Wichit Mr Kreetha Chotiwichphiphat said Wichit Municipality was working closely with developers in the area such as Tri Property, Central Festival Phuket, Anuphas and others to ensure the district's infrastructure is adequate for the future demands put on it.

"As Wichit grows into Phuket's CBD, it is important that the public and private sector work together to ensure the environment is preserved and the infrastructure can support the increase in road and pedestrian traffic in the area, as well as factors such as water and waste management," said Mr Kreetha.

"There are many angles to Phuket's development as a regional hub in the ASEAN community. Tourism, commerce and residential development are all part of the island's rapid expansion, which raises many challenges in preserving the environment and making it sustainable," said Mr Kreetha.

"We are fortunate that local developers

have been forward thinking in their approach to developing the area and their collaborative efforts to turn Wichit into Phuket's central business district," he said.

Tri property CEO Adisorn Vivakanond said Zcape III Condominium, which will be located just 300 meters from Central Festival and accessible from four different access points along the main roads, was conceived to fit in with the area's expansion as a business district, offering convenient and affordable accommodation for inter-executives as well as investment opportunities.

"We see Phuket's central district as a perfect premium asset for any investor as it will offer a convenient place to be, right in the heart of Phuket and surrounded by the island's best commercial, retail and lifestyle venues," said Mr Adisorn.

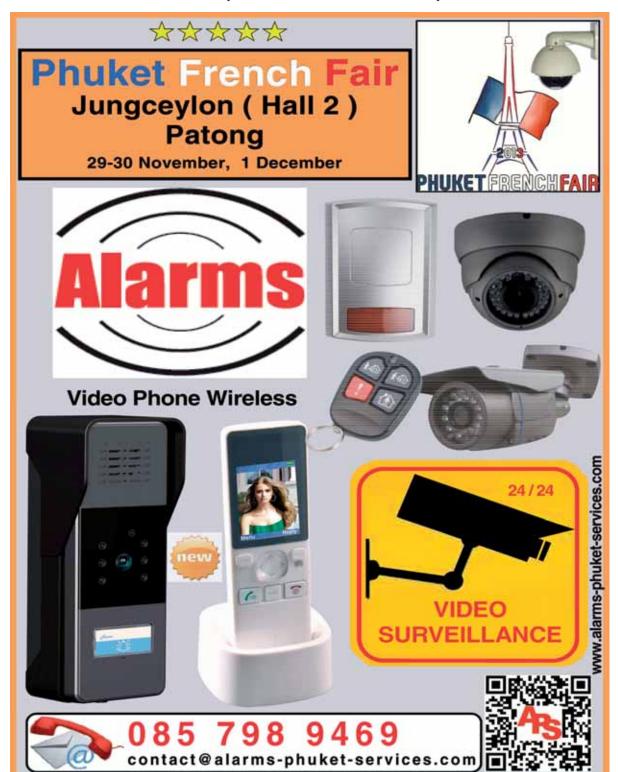
Phuket is ranked by Thailand's Agency For Real Estate Affairs (AREA) as the second most popular location in Thailand for residential real estate investment. According to May or Kreetha, land prices in the CBD are some of the highest in Phuket, at around 30 million baht per rai.

Asked if the area faced a bubble in the real estate market, Mayor Kreetha said that the time had passed for building houses due to the high land prices. However, he said there was still room for steady growth in condominium and commercial developments.





From Left: Tri Property Chief Operations Officer Bandid Chotiwannaporn and CEO Adisorn Vivakanond; Phuket Real Estate Association President Thanusak Pungdet; Wichit Mayor Kreetha Chotiwichphiphat; Wichit District Council Chief Somsak Boonkaew and Tri Property CFO Chaiwat Tuntiwiwat.



Blue Marine rebrands

CENTARA Hotels & Resorts announced that it has acquired the management contract for The Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket, and will officially assume control of the property from January 5, 2014.

Located on the cliff at the northern end of Patong Beach, the resort is owned by Patong Cliff View Co Ltd and will be temporarily renamed as "The Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket managed by Centara Hotels & Resorts".

Some renovations of the resort were completed in October last year, and further renovations are now underway so as to harmonize the property with Centara's four-star Hotels & Resorts core brand.

Upon completion of the current renovations, projected to be by October 15, 2014, the resort will formally be rebranded as the Centara Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket.

- Phuket Gazette







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Stuck in the middle without you

SO MUCH of the Asian post global financial crisis economic success story has focused on the emerging aspirational, middleclass real estate sector. Lump all the Cs into a tasty cocktail with cars, country clubs, credit cards and yes, condos. Now slowly take a sip while enjoying the tropical sunset.

But our twist of fate today takes us not to a "same same but different" market, that of the mid-scale buying pool of foreign property buyers. Go ahead, dust out the cobwebs of your mind, turn back the clock to the dawn of the new millennium, for those were the days baby.

Expat buyers from Hong Kong, Singapore, London and a slew of other locations scooping up properties as fast as the bakers' dozen could churn them out. Flip the Byrds up on digital radio and let's "Turn Turn". The Phuket dream burned hard into the night from High Street to Lan Kwai Fong.

We all know what happened next, just like some dirty family secret that finds its way out from under the front door mat: Crash and burn. Even Billy Idol couldn't resuscitate the lifeless corpse after the fact. The bomb bay was empty and the collective development and brokerage community could only shoot blanks.

Resales became the norm: stress, distress and just plain ache and misery. Am I exaggerating? Maybe a bit, but I have the scars to prove the link to the island's property past. Little did we all know, things were going to get

Property Watch By Bill Barnett

small, and cheap, and even smaller.

In reference to the post Summer of Love 1960s songs waxed poetically, where have all the flowers gone? Phuket's real estate industry wondered where all those buyers were of two bedroom resort apartments or modest pool villas? Elvis had left too long ago to leave footprints that could be traced.

We've somehow managed to reel right through ownership laws or

the years of deep discounting, payment terms and project delays. Even the monkeys got tired of picking coconuts off the island's trees and took a boat into Phang Nga Bay. No one really knows where they

Phuket's vast stock of midmarket real estate still to this day remains a formidable issue. There is a shelf life for investment buyers versus end users of property; give it five or seven years and owners drained of patience and hope ultimately decide to sell at whatever price. Luckily, currency now trades in their

favor and not dissimilar to a treeclimbing panther, at least they make it halfway back up the sloping giant's trunk.

That's today's debacle for property in the mid-range. Cheap and small or awesomely ultra expensive remain the constant extremes of trading. In the Blues Brothers movie, the boys spoke about a "wish sandwich" - two slices of bread and you wish you had some meat. Welcome to the middle.

Those who grew up in North America or Europe have shattered illusions of a dream about property that would always appreciate.

Sub-prime has blasted them with a shotgun to the head, and the only

truism today remains "there are no rules". What can

again unleash the flurry of mass foreign buyers again? Changes in Thailand land

long-term mortgages? Or has the world simply turned one too many times on its axis and things may never be the same. Rolling like a stone into the "Festive Season", I am reminded of the ghosts of Christmas past and Christmas future. Oh boy did Dylan get it right about those times a changin'.

The only option now might be to fire up the toaster, throw in the bread and spread some jam on top to make a tasty breakfast. A new day has dawned and who knows what might pop up for dinner.

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



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: The 'perfect Phuket' vision began with idylic scenes like above, but scenes like below portray the downsized downsides of today's 'bustling' post global financial crisis era. Photos: Gazette file





Demand slows for realty: Fitch

RESIDENTIAL developers face the prospect of slowing growth as the expected weakening in consumer purchasing power is likely to suppress housing demand, according to Fitch Ratings.

Banks have tightened up on lending to individuals, as household debt had soared to almost 80 per cent of gross domestic product as of the end of June. This could raise the mortgage rejection rate and delay the purchasing land, Colliers International Thailand

decisions of new customers.

Launches in the first nine months rose 28.5% by units and 36.2% in value from the same period last year, according to the Agency for Real Estate Affairs.

Most of the new projects are condominiums, and many are likely to be completed this year. This would take this year's condo completions to a record level, according to CBRE Research Thai-

In Fitch's view, the impact on large listed developers with strong brands and well-diversified product portfolios should be limited, given their ability to adjust their product mix to maintain their take-up rates.

However, there may be some

construction delays due to the

and some large developers.

chronic labor shortage.

The shift in developers' stratees to the changing environment is also evident through the slower launches in September, as well as a shift of focus to the higher income segment.

With continued urbanization and economic growth, this risk of widespread oversupply should not be imminent. A glut may surface only in some locations, especially in areas where developers are targeting lower-middle to low-income home-buyers.

However, the competition among large developers is likely to intensify and may put pressure on prices and margins. - The Nation



Fitch Ratings is one of three NRSRO credit rating agencies, along with Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Photo: solvencyiiwire.com

Do as I do, not as I say

By David Mayes

NO, I have not gotten so fed up with the financial world that I have started writing about parenting. However, there is a very good investment strategy out there which needs to be looked at in detail if you really want to use it properly. It is called "follow the smart money", and while it initially may seem very contradictory to my usual approach of going against the crowd, you will hopefully see by the end of the article that it is just another way of doing exactly that. Part of the strategy involves paying attention to what management of a given company are doing, but today I am focusing on following what the investment banks are doing in their own accounts (as much as is

You may not know about the history of Wall Street, but there has been a repeating cycle which has gone on for quite some time and was well documented long before I

ever arrived on the planet. There is a big conflict of interest between a bank and its customers if it is simultaneously issuing advice on a given stock issue while trading it within its own account for a profit. It's kind of like paying the guy across the poker table a fee to help you play when he has a stake in the very same pot. In practice this is how it worked - banks issued sell recommendations on companies they wanted to increase their position in without driving up the price on themselves. Once the position was established, the research department would issue a buy recommendation to offload the shares onto their clients and drive up the price. Inventories depleted now and the stock price high, they could create a panic, issue a sell recommendation, and replenish their inventories from the public who was now willing to supply those same shares at fire sale prices.

This practice eventually caused enough outrage to become outlawed, and now the investment banks are by law required to maintain a firewall between their research and trading desks, meaning it is forbidden by law for them to have any communication whatsoever. If you actually believe that this is what happens in reality, and of course I have absolutely zero proof that it doesn't, then you are far less jaded than I am. What the law has done, in effect, has given the banks an alibi to continue on with the same practices. They can now buy in their own accounts while simultaneously recommending clients to do the opposite since those two functions are prevented by law from communicating. Of course two independent business units can come to opposite conclusions. Yeah, right.

This actually creates a very good opportunity for you to invest like they do, going against the crowd, who likely is following their research. Of course there may be instances where their trades are on the same side as their advice, so I am not advocating buying on every sell signal and vice versa. What you can do, is look at the SEC filings to see what they are actually doing with their own holdings. It might shock you to see that some banks have increased their gold or mining stock exposure by over 100% since their research departments have come out with sell recommendations.

This strategy is not fool proof by any means. The markets are highly competitive and the banks are in fact competing against each other, and very often get it wrong themselves. Thus I do believe the playing field is more level now than it ever has been, but humans are very clever in finding ways around rules. I would do your own homework first, and simply look at what the smart money is doing to confirm your own idea. Or you could look at the filings to see what they are doing first and then try to do your own research and discover the logic behind their ac-



Wall Street Photo: Urban

tions. In any event, I think you are much better served by studying what Wall Street is actually doing than by what it is advising you to do.

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

Don't let your retirement get derailed



IF YOU have diligently saved and invested throughout your whole working life to build a good sized nest egg to help see you through retirement, you might be wondering what are the chances something could go wrong. Unfortunately, the chances are pretty good.

Ameriprise Financial recently surveyed 1,000 employed and retired Americans between the ages of 50 and 70 and found that 9 out of 10 respondents had experienced at least one retirement "derailer". The average respondent experienced four, costing them a total of US\$117,000 in lost retirement savings. And while respondents mentioned a number of derailers, there are some particluar retirement derailers that I feel are more dangerous than others, especially for someone already retired.

Boomerang children or grandchildren

The financial crisis, lackluster job market and rising cost of living has sent many children or grandchildren home. While at the same time, the high cost of education, especially in the US, means that many young people are weighed down by student loan debt. However, you need to remember that while your children or grandchildren are young enough to still have time on their side to help make it through any financial difficulty, you don't meaning you should probably never co-sign a mortgage or a student loan for another family member. Moreover and if a child or grandchild truly needs to return home, think care-

fully about how their return might impact your finances (e.g. higher utility bills) and suggest an arrangement that would be a win-win for everyone (e.g. they help with utility bills and chores around the house to make your life easier).

Pension income falls

If you think your pension is completely safe, think again – the private sector is increasingly dumping defined pension plans, while even the public sector is struggling to fund the pensions of public sector workers. For these reasons, you need to plan on having income from more than one source in case the unthinkable happens with your pension.

Asset value declines and low interest rates

Asset value declines can come in the form of your portfolio dropping in a market correction or crash or the value of your home falling. To make matters worse, periods where asset values decline often coincide or are followed by periods of low interest rates, as governments attempt to restart their economies by holding down rates – meaning your retirement income takes a hit. Fortunately, proper diversification can help lessen the impact from this double whammy and keep you on track.

Miscalculated withdrawal rates

If you are already retired, perhaps you have been advised that a 4% withdrawal rate is safe (while the 3% to 3.5% level is "absolutely safe"). This means if you have a \$1 million investment portfolio, you can safely withdrawal \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year. However, financial advisers are increasingly questioning such withdrawal assumptions in

The best way to avoid retirement derailers?

The easiest way to be prepared for derailers while in retirement

the wake of the dot com bust, the financial crisis, historically-low yields or interest rates, higher life expectancies and uncertainty over retirement entitlement programs or future tax rates. In other words, a 3% to 4% withdrawal rate is just a general rule of thumb and your withdrawal rate could be higher or need to be lower.

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is to do the following before you retire: spend less, save more, work longer.

In reality, one or more of the above and rather simplistic suggestions may not be available to you - especially now that you are already retired.

With that said, there was a silver lining from the results of the Ameriprise Financial survey in that that 74% of respondents who had a financial adviser also had a written financial plan to act as a road map for the future meaning they felt more confident about their retirement. Do you have a written financial plan for retirement?

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

Looking for a place to stay?

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Being connected helps save lives

WE OFFER our sincerest condolences to the families of the many victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines last week, and commend the multiple relief efforts still underway here in Phuket to help residents on the islands of Samar and Leyte, the most badly affected areas.

Among those who deserve praise are some familiar names, such as Phuket's Rotary Clubs, along with the island's Filipino community and the people behind the special benefit show by Black Eyed Peas rapper "apl.de.ap" (see pages 1 and 6).

Although it is far too early to ascertain an accurate death toll, initial estimates by some local officials in the city of Tacloban, the capital of Leyte province, appear to have been drastically, albeit fortuitously, overinflated.

Nevertheless, it now appears that the death toll is likely to surpass 4,000. Many of those people could have survived had they realized the true dangers of the approaching storm. Haiyan produced a catastrophic sea water surge of the kind we have seen in tropical storms so many times before – most notably by Cyclone Nargis, which left 138,000 dead in Myanmar's Irawaddy delta in 2008.

The death toll from such storm surges can be drastically reduced. The number of fatalities from Hurricane Katrina, which wreaked havoc on New Orleans in 2005, was effectively minimized because authorities in the US did a better job of warning people and conducting evacuations.

This latest tropical storm tragedy raises, yet again, numerous issues ranging from the effectiveness of Filipino authorities to issue warnings about the impending dangers, as well as the government's preparedness to deal with the aftermath.

Of interest from a much broader perspective is the "nature of disaster", especially in this digital age of instant information. With so many people rapidly sharing Facebook posts, furiously punching out Twitter tweets and competing for attention with numerous other social media applications, it seems that we humans, as a species, are quickly developing a new form of collective global consciousness – even as an estimated one billion people still do not own a mobile phone and even fewer, about a third of the global population, have no internet access whatsoever.

Not surprisingly, all too often those who fall victim to disasters like Nargis and Haiyan – not to mention the 2004 tsunami disaster – fall into that latter category.

One of the greatest challenges confronting humanity at this critical stage is to stabilize the global population and ensure that the least fortunate among us have access to potentially lifesaving information, and are no longer forced to live in squalid conditions in high-risk areas.

Phuket Gazette

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Surf safety starts with self-sacrifice

etters

Re: Gazette online, German tourist dies in Phuket surf, November 18

When will these people learn not to swim in two-meter high waves? Surely they must know it is dangerous, or is it the "won't happen to me" attitude? Either way. It's not worth paying your life for.

> Graeme Gazette forum

A consul in need

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Who deserves a consul?, November 17

I am a South African, but I doubt that we need a consul! The hotel where I reside has mainly Burmese chamber "maids".

The one who does our apartment has not been to school. She told us that the hotel owner offered to send her to school, but she says her family needs the money, so she prefers to work.

I think the Myanmar government should take a greater interest and a Myanmar consul would be a good move.

Dave Gazette forum

Landing by lanterns

Re: Gazette online, Lanterns not cleared for Loy Krathong lift-off in Phuket, November 17

As a pilot, I was happy to read this yesterday [Nov 17]. However, last night I saw a sky saturated with these dangerous lanterns all the way down the west-coast beaches – a nightmare for pilots.

It seems no one cares about the safety of others at all. And that the police do nothing.

Maybe some day the airlines will need to suspend all flights into Phuket on Loy Krathong, and for 24 hours on either side of it.

I hope it will be done.

Dennis Kelly Gazette forum

to the Editor

It's a moral duty to

report pedophiles

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police arrest American fitness instructor for child sex assault, November 18

Great to see the Thai police arrest him so quickly. If you suspect anyone of child abuse in Thailand, even if it's your pal, you must report it to the Thai police.

Nipper Gazette forum

Patong Beach pipes end in brown gurgler

Re: Gazette online, Patong hotel ordered to remove water-runoff pipe from beach, November 15

I was walking along the bridge at the south end of Patong Beach and could see the water bubbling up a blue-green-purple color, which is oil or gas of some type going into the bay. The amount of pollution going out into the bay from the river is unbelievable.

I want to stop people from swimming in the area, especially the kids; it's just disgusting. Can you imagine what's going into their mouths.

Have you noticed that there is no sea life there?

Gazette forum

Fielding a midnight cowboy phone call

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Why I'm keeping my dumbphone, November 10

I was at a Thai disco in the middle of the rice fields in Isarn, where I live. There were about

500 people, and at every table there were people with iPhones and the latest up-to-date communication items. They watched the show on stage with one eye and the other on their equipment.

When the singer took out his iPhone from his pocket and checked something during his performance, I was stunned. Not sure I like the high-tech age.

One Expat 14 Years Gazette forum

Walk the walk

Re: Gazette online, Patong Police chief told to clear parking spaces for tourists – or be transferred, November 13

Good luck to him. I hope he succeeds. The whole beach road could do with a clean-up.

As a pedestrian, I find it substandard. The pavement at the southern end rarely gets cleaned. Once upon a time, the "promenade" was almost a pleasure to walk along. Now, it is almost an obstacle course, dodging motor-bikes travelling along it... A good idea at the time, but not something to be proud of now.

Gazette forum

Good for the goose...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Preserving the essence of Phuket, November 17

I consider this an article of double standards. You were happy to be a tourist (long term) in other countries, yet begrudge tourists and expats in your home country?

The over-development and poor-infrastructure planning is due to greed and laxity by local government officers, none of whom are foreigners, I think.

Have a good look at who is getting rich here; you may find they are very close to home.

> Pollywaffle Gazette forum

Tackling power woes needs input from all

FIRST PERSON

PHUKET has become an island that never sleeps. This has caused a very high demand for electricity, but supplying power to the island as a whole is not a problem for the time being.

Phuket has seven substations and four supply lines that bring power to the island from Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand power stations north of

These four main lines currently provide 580MVA (Megavolt Amperes) of supply. However, to make sure we keep pace with the growing demand for electricity, within 10 years we will need to be able to receive 1,200MVA.

To be able to do this, we need to start drawing up plans to install more substations now.

Meanwhile, we have three real

issues that need immediate attention: reducing accident-related blackouts; dealing with construction company's alleged land rights; and aesthetics.

There are so many factors that PEA workers install power cables cause unsched- in Phuket Town underground.

uled blackouts, especially when we have unshielded cables. It is very easy for these cables to short circuit, because of fallen branches, wandering animals or careless construction workers. Even salt buildup over time can corrode the

Every month we are forced to carry out maintenance on these — and would help to avoid our third



34, is the Electricity Supply Assistant Manager at the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA). A Bangkok native, Mr Natthaporn has a degree in engineering from Thammasat University and a master's degree in management from Ramkhamhaeng

University. Here, he talks

about the electrical issues

facing Phuket.

Natthaporn Kochsiripong,

cables. We are actually replacing the cables right now to prevent future blackouts - some areas such as Patong blackout nine times

However, replacing overground cables is not a long-term solution. What we really need to do is bury the cables. Not only will this help prevent unscheduled blackouts,

but it will also make Phuket a much more beautiful place.

Putting cables underground is significantly more expensive than having overground lines, but it's very easy to see the advan-

tages of not having cables above ground when you visit places where we have already buried them, such as Thalang Road, Soi Rommanee, Krabi Road and Deebuk Road in Phuket Town.

This single solution would deal with two of the problems we regularly face – blackouts and beauty

main recurring problem: overzealous developers.

Many times we have encountered developers who have presented land documents that show they apparently own the same land that we have marked on our charts as public land and where we have already installed power lines.

The developers claim they are building on their own land, and when construction begins, they damage some of the power cables that traverse the plot under development. The developers are willing to pay for the damage done, but that does not prevent blackouts from occurring.

Although the usual long wait for clarification of who exactly owns what land will remain, having power cables underground across the island would at least prevent crane and truck drivers from accidentally knocking down power poles.

Countering these problems requires the attention and input from many different government offices, including local administration organizations.



Showing you care can be just a click away. Photo: Facebook

Click to care

SHARING a link on Facebook may save a whale or a starving child in Africa or just down the street, but if the number of clicks truly count, then what people share online and what headlines people look at highlights where our genuine interests are - and it's shameful.

The statistics available through Google Analytics, shown clearly on the Phuket Gazette Forum, are depressing, and I know I am part of that statistical sadness.

Put aside the national and international drama stories, and do vou know what are the "big hitters"? It's not the human rights issues of the Rohingya or the steady degradation of what was once a beautiful and diverse island environment. No, it's snakes – big snakes. Snakes found in houses, washing machines, garages. Now if we were in New York City and a large tropical snake indigenous such as a Burmese Python found its way into my tiny studio apartment and feasted on my cat Charley – that would be news.

Perhaps as most Gazette readers are Westerners, we are still intrigued by that exotic nature of Thailand that seems to come slithering into our homes when we see a snake story, and we can't stop ourselves from clicking on it.

Nonetheless, it's shocking that a story about a fairly common in-

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

digenous animal gets two to four times as many unique clicks (representative of readers) as a story about a refugee people, including women and children, fleeing violent persecution in their homeland.

These people aren't washing up in some distant land, or even elsewhere in Thailand, they are washing up right here on Phuket.

I know many people who genuinely care, who read the stories about the Rohingya and try to help. They sort out what they can do to provide for these people, to help prevent them from falling into the hands of human traffickers.

Those people are special, they care and have a desire to act on their human compassion.

What is shocking is not that more people aren't driven by human compassion to actually act, but that so few people can't be bothered to even educate themselves about the plight of the Rohingya or even the degradation of our environment.

There seems to be plenty of time for reading about snakes, but no time for reading about the issues that directly affect peoples' lives.

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

with Kasikornbank (KBank) to pay my credit card debt, but when I call the call center to sort it out, I only get Thai speaking staff.

Is there a direct dial number for English-speaking staff at the KBank call center I can call?

UK Expat, Phuket

Tassanee Sangthong, Customer Service Officer, Kasikornbank Phuket branch, replies:

To have English-speaking staff at the call center answer your call, dial 02-888-8888 then press "9".

Alternatively, you can dial 02-888-8888 then press "0" to have the operator answer your call, who can then transfer you to staff who can speak English.

To set up a direct debit, you normally need to contact staff at

I am trying to set up a direct debit one of our branches in person.

You will then need to present your passport, the bill the direct debit will be paying and the bankbook for the account the direct debit will be enacted on.

However, I would suggestion ou contact the call center first to get all the necessary information and know what documents you need to bring to the bank branch.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ **IssuesAnswers**

Getting your money to talk | Hotel docking pay, dodging contracts

A hotel in Thalang hired hundreds of staffers with contracts that stipulated that they would receive two days off per week. In a planned violation of these contracts, the general manager has repeatedly discussed his intention to ignore the clause stipulating this schedule.

Can anything be done to prevent the hotel violating these hundreds of staffers' contracts?

Thalang

Yudhakarn Ovasith, chief of the Phuket Labour Protection and Welfare Office, replies:

The hotel cannot change any conditions of the employment contract without reasonable notice. The hotel management must explain what conditions are to be changed and why - and more im-



Both parties are bound by the employment contract. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

portantly, the staff have to agree to the new terms.

Regarding reducing the number of staff days off per week, the Labour Protection Act stipulates that full-time staff must have a minimum of four days off a month. Anything less than that is

If the hotel breaks its agreed

terms of contract, or decides to enforce new terms without the staff's approval, staff members should come directly to our office on Sakdidet Road during office hours (8am to 4pm) to file a complaint.

We will call both parties in to negotiate a settlement. We will ensure fairness.

20 PHUKET GAZETTE November 23 - 29, 2013

YOUR

Phuket

9TH ANNUAL PHUKET INTERNATIONAL SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENT









A DAY OF GIVING



The M venpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket team recently donated much needed blood to the Phuket Red Cross Blood Bank.



The team also donated used towels, together with Phuket Bangkok Hospital, to help the residents of Northeastern Thai villages keep warm this winter.

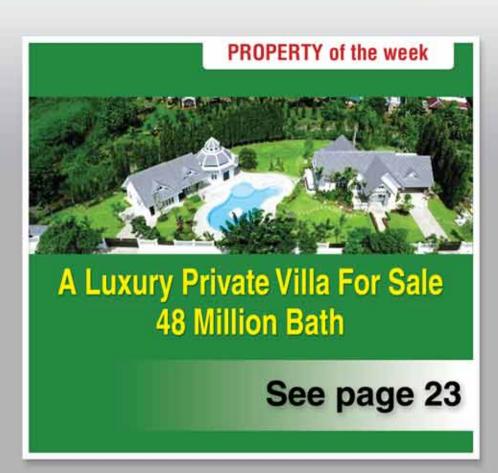
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650sqm. 4 bedrooms, pool, near BIS. Price: 38 million baht. month. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: jin_koy@yahoo.com 5 minute walk to the beach at the northern edge of Patong, City on one side, Jungle on the other, Patong Beach down the street, & ng distance to all Patong's de +/- 270 sq meters 3,000 sq ft (approximately 23,000 Baht per sq meter) Top quality construction, materials, and design. 3-phase, 30 amp wiring throughout. Water storage tank, pump, & central hot water. TEL: English/German/Spanish: 089 196 0940 English/Thai: 089 729 8665 Email: Woody@KhunWoody.com **Best Sea View Deal in Patong**

LAND IN LAYAN



Sale 18-2-61 rai. Chanote or subdivide in smaller plot, road, electricity, lake. Please call 081-787 4383 (English), 081-968 3549 (Thai).

SEAVIEW THAI HOUSE FOR SALE

Solid golden teak wood in traditional Ayudhaya styles. In great location with birdeye's seaview. On haft rai land, Nor Sor 3 Kor. Asking price 55 million baht. Contact Pym. Tel: 076-123123, 088-752 4532 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-123321. Email: thureewan@gmail.com

MAGNIFICENT BEACH PROPERTY

Houses 20A/B, one property, famous Railei Beach, cliffs, gardens, rentals possible, management. Tropical hardwoods, one of a kind. Please read website carefully before inquiring. Tel: 081-396 5585 (English). Email: fil_lewitt@yahoo.com Forfurther details, please see our website at www.raileibeachclub.com

LARGE POOL VILLA-PA KHLOK

4/5 bedrooms, 2 baths, fully updated. In the back of a quiet and well maintained project. Close to all shopping. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 088-451 2254 (English), 081-535 3119. Email: hundperc@gmail.com



Single house with 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, just 6km from Laguna Beach. 224sqm area. Quiet and surrounded by green nature. Sale: 3.95 million baht. Please call 081-607 8567 or send email to suksavat@hotmail.com

ONE RAI IN **KOH YAO YAI**

Beautiful island. 1.1 million baht. Chanote. 5 minutes to the pier. Tel: 081-892 8208.

PATONG HOUSE ON HILL

House, 360sqm overlooking Patong, 3 separate apartments, good for rent, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 terraces, no furniture. 7.9 million baht, not neg. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@ csloxinfo.com

Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Security 24hrs. View online www.youtube.com: type in "pool house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

REGENT BANGTAO STUDIO UNIT

Foreigner freehold studio in Laguna with rental furniture package, 43sqm. Complete end 2014. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 081-958 3421. Email: kjarukirati@gmail.com

THE SANDS, NAI HARN

2-bed unit, ground floor. 150 sqm. A bargain at 6.6 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com



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. CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

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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.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

APARTMENTS & VILLAS FOR RENT



Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us with your enquiry at:

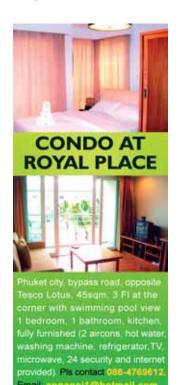
info@resavaholidays.com www.RESAVAHOLIDAYS.com

3-BED, 4-BATH SEAVIEW APARTMENT

Quiet area in Patong, fully furnished, 5 minutes to beach. Monthly or more. Tel: 081-892 8208.

SUPALAI HILL FOR RENT/ SALE

2-storey house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, WiFi. Please call 083-649 1218.



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.

CLOSE TO KAJONKIAT SCHOOL

Villa Suan Luang. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, some furniture. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-134 5817. Email: gung@nattayareal estate.com

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

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

KATA BEACH VILLA

Stunning Kata Beach view, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Long term for 1.1 million baht per year. Tel: 081-003 6902, 085-274 8626. Email: contact@purist.biz

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, 24hr/ 7 day security, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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

E HOUSE APARTMENT



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.

FREEDOM APARTMENT PATONG

Fully furnished in European style, aircon, WiFi, 500 baht per day, 14,000 baht per month. Please call 083-380 6744, 084-845 0541.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Near Laguna, has all in a lush tropic garden. 1-year lease. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



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

4 BEDROOMS WITH POOL

Near Laguna Phuket, large garden and pool-terrace, open style Western kitchen, fully furnished, 5 bathrooms. Available from February 2014. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-461 9234 (Thai). Email: claude baltes@gmail.com

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA PATONG

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, sea view, private pool. For rent monthly. Tel: 080-521 1222, 081-883 9983. Email: Jakrapopw@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

One bedroom apartment, fully furnished, gym, pool, WiFi, cable TV, available on December 15. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms, Chalong area. Starting at 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://palaigreen. weebly.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

ONE MONTH RENTAL

Kathu Heritage Suites. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, terrace. Close to shopping, 29,000 baht + Deposit. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

5 minutes to Rawai Beach, newly renovated, elevator, balcony, mountain view. 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714.

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Condo with aircon, WiFi, TV, fridge, gym & pool. 8,500 baht per month (3-month contract), or sale at 1.4 million baht. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na. ranong@hotmail.com

CONDO IN PATONG

One bedroom, swimming pool, parking. For long-term rent. Tel: 081-892 1621.

Oranee Hildebrand Oranee Hildebrand 176547 Exp: 27 April 14 The discount card for Classifieds at The discount card for Classifieds marketplace Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace Thou baht Good for 1 year 500 baht Good for 1 year

Your key to tast-track placement and easy payment tor 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 Tesco Pringeri Bank 7-Eleven Tesco Pringeri Bank Soi Sal-Yuan 7-Eleven Soi Sal-Yuan Soi Naya Soi Naya Soi Naya Soi Hok-Yang Simply write out your ad

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Property Classifieds

Property Services

HOTEL/ CONDO **MANAGEMENT**

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

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@ amail.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.home renovationphuket.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 repairs 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 have a blocked drain, you 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

VILLAS, CONDOS AT KATA, KARON

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

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

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: 425zeds@ 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

HOUSE FOR RENT

1-storey detached house, 2aircon bedroom, 1 bathroom, furnished, no pets. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

LIVING IN BOUTIQUE **DESIGN**

1 bedroom, fully furnished, cozy and safe area. Tel: 089-668 3639. Email: zhunaumann @gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.BaanPhitakTaweep.com

NAIHARN 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.

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

KATA NEW SEA VIEW APARTMENT

New 1 and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short terms. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Sea view, pools, gym, expensive furniture inside. Email: osa.com@ me.com The best choice for living! For further details, please see our website at http://cooolrent.com

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Luxury pool villas, near Laguna, has all daily, weekly and monthly. Tel: 089-594 4067.

5 BEDROOMS ON BOAT

5 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircons, private and closest to nature. Email: rachai.mon tree@gmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT

Five-star one bedroom apartment with pool in a quiet area. Available 1 Nov-19 Dec 2013. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English). Email: dfeno cchio@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at karonhill.altervista.org

THE NCHANTRA **POOL SUITE**

1-3 bedroom private pool suites for sale and rent. Tel: 076-510011, 081-979 7306 Fax: 076- 614101. Email: info@nchantrapoolsuite.com More information, please see our website at www.nchantra poolsuite.com

SEA VIEW 3-BED VILLA, PATONG

Luxury villa of character w/ Patong sea view. Estate pool, private and secure. 60,000 baht per week; 200,000 per month; 1 million baht per year plus utilities, service extra. Minimum deposit of 20,000 baht. Tel: 086-587 0196 (English & Thai). Email: natawanpaeng @gmail.com

Accommodation Wanted

POOL VILLA WANTED

Wanted in Rawai/Nai Harn area: 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, secure villa with Western kitchen and pool. Must be in a quiet area. 40,000-50,000 baht permonth, 1month 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

BEACH CONDO / NEW YEAR FREE

2 bed/bath, 134 sqm. Serenity Resort, Rawai. Free Christmas / New Year. From 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-846 7770 (English). Email: stefan@stefan.asia

VACATION RENTALS KATA BEACH

Superb 1, 2 & 3 bed apartments, holiday rent at Kata Beach. Email: resortgm@ gmail.com

SERVICED APARTMENT PATONG

Fully furnished with swimming pool. daily and monthly special rate now. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.

HOUSES:1 OR 2BEDROOMS

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

Household Help

CAR CLEANER WANTED

Car cleaner wanted to clean the owner's 3 cars and a bike at Surin Beach. Every Mon, Wed and Fri. Pay 6,000 baht a month. Call Khun Maew on 087-891 1385. Email: sonyaklapko@yahoo. com

Household **Items**

3-SEATER-LEATHER RECLINER

3-seater-leather recliner + computer table, good condition. 25,000 baht. Email: Daniel. t.f.ng@va cationclub.com

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in construction. Fluent Englishspeaking 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 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.

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB GRAPHIC / CSS DESIGNER 1 POSITION

- ▶ Thai Nationality
- Minimum one year experience in web design
- Working knowledge of standard graphics tools, e.g. Photoshop, Illustrator
- Excellence in web design, CSS, web layout, HTML, template design and JavaScript
- Experience in creating pages for portable devices (iPhone, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, etc) would be a plus
- ► Excellence in web/mobile user experiences
- Knowledge of HTML5 would be a plus
- Knowledge of responsive web design a plus
- Knowledge of JQuery a plus
- ► Knowledge of SEO a plus
- Good communication skills including ability to convey creative concepts and rationale to other team members
- Able to work efficiently under pressure with careful attention to detail

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555, ext 705 Fax: 076-615240 Email: Big@phuketgazette.net

THAI COOK WANTED

In Kata Beach sports bar & restaurant. Good working conditions. Salary + tips. Tel: 080-038 2462 (English), 091-159 0122 (English). Email: gary.mathe son@internode.on.net

TWO CHEFS HIRING

Two Chefs are hiring in Kamala, Kata and & Karon. We are hiring Sous Chefs, line chefs, supervisors, bartenders, service. We want both full time and part time. Good salary. Tel: 089-727 5753. Email: jan@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.com

DIVE SHOP IN KATA

Needs Padi OW Instructor. Teach in English and German. Tel: 089-847 9147.

MASSAGE THERAPIST ABROAD

Zueri Home massage in Switzerland is looking for 2 massage therapists (female) to work in Switzerland's biggest city. We bring a 5-star spa to guests home. Are you interested? I am in Phuket doing interviews until November 5. Tel: 093-620 2260. Please contact George by phone or send email to info@ zuerihomemassage.ch

OFFICE MANAGER

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

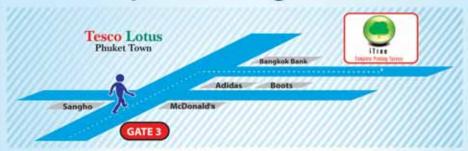
NURSES TO FINNS

Every year, many elderly Finnish people are coming to Thailand. Some of them need help with their daily activities. If you are interested to work with them, please send your application and CV in English + photo ASAP to virpi.perala@suomi kotiphuket.fi Spoken English skills are required

Live in Town?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at

iTree Complete Printing Service



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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP

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

GUEST RELATIONS

English, Korean or Russian speaker+service mind. Salary 12,000-20,000. Dormitory ava. Tel: 085-184 9659 (English), 085-184 9682 (English). Email: tiffany.12321 @hotmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER URGENTLY NEEDED

At The Genius Language School in Patong. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English). Email: aood16 @hotmail.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Resort looking for receptionist. Smart, good spoken English 15,000 baht per month + commissions on sales. Tel: 076-398422,080-6988335 (English & Thai), 081-797 8650 (English & Thai). Email: info.resort@manoh ra.net

BOOKING & OFFICE STAFF

Diving and tour company is looking for an office and booking staff. This is only for those with experience in a similar position. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-980 7570.Fax:076-282 506. Email: oriental@orientaltours.pl

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers (Thailand) Co.Ltd is seeking a qualified insurance candidate to join our team



Assistant Account Executive

- Thai Nationality
- Interact with clients
- Negotiate insurance placements and claims, and liaise with all types of insurance companies
- Well organised, honest, self-motivated and professional together with a strong client servicing approach
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Work is varied and interesting and always rewarding
- A good opportunity to progress as knowledge is built. Training is provided to enhance skills
- *** Interested parties please apply with full resume and expected salary ***

Please contact :

Email: info@lambertbrothers.co.th Tel: 076 273385 Phuket Boat Lagoon 20/13 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand

YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+tips. Tel: 087-384 2743.T Email: info@yacht-charter-thailand.com

DANISH STAFF WANTED

Danish speaking, 20-30 years old, Send your CV and photo to naturejob13@g mail.com

CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person for our call center in Phuket to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. Tel: 089-873 9123. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Email: info@inter callservice.com

COOK NEEDED IN KATA

Farang food, 15,000 baht+ bonus, work from 12 to10pm. Tel: 081-370 5855 (English) . Send CV to jad.nahle@ hot mail.com

ASS' TBRANCH MANAGER 18 K

Assistant Branch Manager required. Salary: 18,000 baht + excellent commissions and benefits. Tel: 085-797 0005 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

CALL CENTER

Newly established. Call Center (outbound) in Chiang Mai looking for Dutch, French, German speaking Agents WP+Visa provided after trial period for relocations room provided in first month. Interested applicant, please apply with CV at jobs@cmmd-intl.com

Tel: 076-282254

Tel: 076-280400

Tel: 076-282403

Tel: 076-344521-2

Tel: 076-290468

Tel: 076-342275

Tel: 076-232398

Tel: 076-258369 Tel: 076-255425

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

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

RAWAI

The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

KARON

EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

/Illage coconut Sisland

Duties And Responsibilities:

Database management

Creative thinking

Collect and analyse internal guest data

Knowledge of marketing tools and concepts

· Fluent in English reading, writing and speaking

· Ability to work as part of a team and individually

Qualification And Requirements:

Strong communication skills Thai or Western national

Monitor and analyse market trends locally and regionally

· Establish new routes market and access them through targeted marketing

Create new promotional material for hotel; internal and external purposes

Explore ways to improve on current product offering to increase profitability

Minimum of 2 years experience in marketing or a related professional area



Zeavola VACANT POSITIONS



Zeavola Resort Phi Phi Island SLH member

The Zeavola is the only 5-star resort on Phi Phi Island and is currently highly successful. In order to improve our performance further, the Zeavola Family is seeking applications from dynamic and talented individuals, who share our passion for providing excellent customer service. You should be highly motivated, confident and enthusiastic about assisting the team to reach new levels of service quality, and financial success.

Island-Based Positions Vacancies

- Room Division Manager / Front Officer Manager
 Restaurant Manager
- Asst. Food & Beverage Manager
- Reservation Supervisor
- Dive Instructor / Dive Master
- Reservation Manager

Profile:

- ► At least vocational certificate or Bachelor's degree
- ► At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- Strongly result-oriented with people management and leadership skills
- Strong English communication skills and computer literate
- Strongly analytical with problem-solving skills and execution of work

Benefits:

- ► Good salary + service charge
- Group insurance, social security, worker's compensation

 Duty meals in staff canteen / officer check at hotel restaurant as per position
- Private dress / uniform laundry
 Transportation to and from Phuket or Krabi by resort ferry
- Accommodation as per position at resort

Please send your CV to hr@zeavola.com or preecha@zeavola.com or call Khun Supattra Petnikom or Khun Preecha Onkong at 075-627000 for an appointment.

Human Resources Department

Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand Tel: 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 and Fax: 075-627025



Admin assistant / Translator

Key Responsibilities and demand qualifications:

- Male or Female
- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree in any field, majoring in English is an advantage
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Translating legal materials and documents from
- English to Thai and Thai to English
- · Accuracy and attention to detail
- Self-motivated and able to work under pressure
- · Perfect enthusiasm in learning new things.
- Proficient in computer skills- Microsoft office skills
- Performing other administrative tasks as required

Salary: Competitive

Location: Hughes Krupica Consulting Company Limited (Phuket)

> Job Type: 9:00 - 18:00 / Mon.- Fri. Full Time, Permanent

Please send your CV in English to email: Chidchanok@hugheskrupica.com or tel: +66 86 9606609

CYCLING GUIDE WANTED

Looking for freelance cycling guide. Tel: 084-185 9448 (English). Email: info@andaman naturetours.com

NEEDED

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

KARON CLIFF

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Western English speaker, able to understand Thai, maintenance experience. Flexible hours, own car and must have license. Send CV to: phuket villasrental@hotmail.com

WAITRESS WANTED

Email: info@phuketfit. com

SALES STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY

A busy Phuket Town gallery requires a Thai national with good spoken English. Excellent salary + commission given. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-con nection.com

PROPERTY RENTAL **AGENT**

Tropical Properties is looking for a Thai national to join our company as rental agent. Good command of English, written and spoken, is a must. Experience preferred. Good salary + commissions for the right person. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropicalreal estate.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY **PHUKET**

RMC Client Services are seeking to employ appointment makers / telesales staff in Phuket. The job role will be to arrange appointments for one of our consultants and market the company's services. OIE 80,000 baht per month plus bonuses. Spoken English must be perfect. Email: kevin.hodges @rm c-clientservices.com

Thai national, waitress in restaurant. Good salary + benefits!

2 BAR STAFF Secret Party Truck. 3 days a

week. 1,200 baht plus tips. Tel: 086-057 7714. ETel: 086-057 7714.

RECEPTIONIST

Good English+Thai nationality. Salary: 11,000-15,000 baht. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: tiffany.12321@hotmail.com

COOK (EUROPEAN FOOD) + WAITRES

Cook + Waitress for Restaurant in Karon, urgently needed! Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385 (English & Thai). Email: tko schig2000@hotmail.com

CHINESE SALES STAFF

Background in sales an advantage, visa documentation and work permit provided for suitable candidates. Please call 9am-4pm, monday-friday. Tel: 076-390939, 087-622 0762.Fax: 076-390938. Email: pauljack son381970@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT STAFF REQUIRED

Bang Tao: 1 experienced restaurant/bar manager (western), 2 experienced cashiers (Thai speak English), 4 waitress (Thai enced Thai chef. Tel: 076-390939, 080-693 3346 (English), 086-760 9608 (English) Fax: 076-390938. Email: paulj ackson 381970 @hotmail.com

DETOX STAFF

Contact: The village coconut island

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Thai National: work as guest relations in spa/ detox. We will train you. English speaking required. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phu ketfit.com

NURSES TO FINNS

Every year, many elderly Finnish people are coming to Thailand. Some of them need help with their daily activities. If you are interested to work with them, please send your application and CV in English + photo ASAP to virpi.perala@suomi kotiphuket.fi Spoken English skills are required

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate urgently require an experienced English speaking copywriter to write property listings. Can work from home in own time. Training given. Average listings: 60 per month. Good commissions paid. Tel: 076-288908.Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

TEACHING AT PSU

Prince of Songkla University International College, Hatyai Campus is looking for 2 lecturers: information technology lecturer and 3D animation lecturer. Please send cover letter and CV to psuic@psu.ac.th For further details, please see our website at www.uic.psu. ac.th

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai national, female, 25-40 years old, self-motivated and attention to details, enthusiasm for learning new things, good communication skills in English and good computer literacy (Microsoft Office). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Send CV to helena@phuket abc.com

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Needed for an international wedding company. We are looking for a motivated person (Chinese or Thai female) to work on the coordinating service, fitting dress and photo tour in Phuket. We pay good salaries for both full time and part time jobs. Applicants must be well educated and have a good appearance at the age 25-40 years. Some experiences as tour guide or in tourism would be an advantage. Tel: 080-717 5380. Samer Wedding Please call or send email to reyoung_sa-mer@outlook. com

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31-room hotel with 1.5 rai land in Nanai 2. Special offer 72 million baht. Please call 087-886 5360.

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Pizza topping refrigerator, stainless steel, containers. Sale: 45,000 baht. For more information, please call 084-845 4743.



HIGH-QUALITY CAFE EQUIPMENT SALE

Used industry-standard restaurant equipment & furniture. Excellent condition. Only 2 years old. Many more items than listed here. View all in Phuket town. Contact for appointment.



Well running Italian restaurant and pizzeria with wood fired oven for sale in Khao Lak. 3 million baht, no key money, monthly pay rental, prime location, including all equipment. Tel: 076-484645, 084-058 8804, 084-629 7767 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-410624. Email: stardustbar@hotmail.com

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Unique retail space for rent, at The BOX Park in Cherng Talay. Space of 30sqm with a little balcony. Highly visible for all traffic, aircon, parking, SCB ATM, coffee shop. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-797 0005 (English & Thai). Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

PROFITABLE BAR

For sale. Beautiful, newly renovated bar in the heart of Karon (Patak Road). Yearly turnover 3.5 - 4 million baht. Tel: 086-283 7020 (English).

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3 years on contract or more. Ao-nang, Krabi, great location amidst lush garden surroundings. Full furniture and equipment, ready to move in. For more information please call 086-270 8223, 087-887 7857.

MASSAGE BUSINESSES

Patong main road. 1.5 and 2 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

Notice

GLEN C RILEY, 64, PASSED AWAY

PEACEFULLY ON NOVEMBER 11 AFTER A LONG ILLNESS. HE WAS A LONG-TIME AUSTRALIAN EXPAT, AND IN YEARS PAST, WORKED AS A GENERAL MANAGER FOR SEVERAL LOCAL HOTELS. HE WILL BE MISSED BY MANY.

MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

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2.5 G Dual VV-I. For sale. Like new! August 2012, 13,600km. Black metallic. Sell by original owner. 1.025 million baht. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492 (English & Thai).

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2006 Honda City ZX, Silver, 4-door, automatic, 130,000 km. Price: 275,000 baht. Contact Jo Wasana. Tel: 089-716 0265. Email: jowa sana@yahoo.com

TOYOTA CORONA 78,000 BAHT

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LUXURY CA

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Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver,

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Tel: 087-263 6706

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SALE YARIS "S" 2006

HONDA CIVIC 2006

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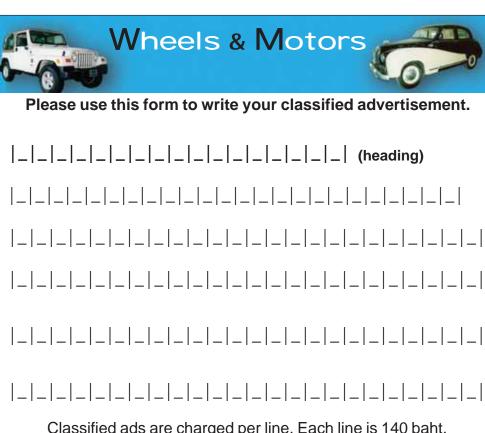
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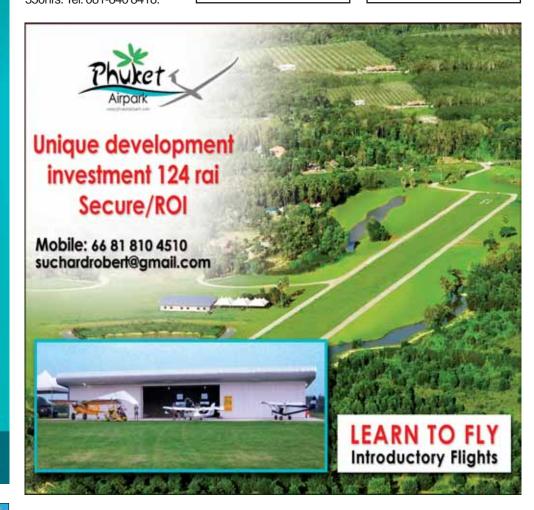
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November 23 - 29, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 33

LIFESTYLE WORKSHOP



Centrio Condominium Phuket recently treated their VIP customers to free tickets for the latest blockbuster movie – Thor: The Dark World. Customers received their tickets during an exhibition at Centrio's sales booth at Central Festival last week.

WELCOMES AUSTRIAN CELEBRITIES



Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket General Manager Peter Komposch (left) welcomed Austrian celebrity Hans Hansi Hinterseer (right), a famous singer and actor in Austria.

LOY KRATHONG ON THE BEACH AT AMARI PHUKET



The Amari Phuket team, led by Deputy General Manager Ms Tipaporn Koonphol, and Manager Marketing Communications Ms Penprapa Chooklin, welcomed hotel guests and media to participate in the Loy Krathong Festival celebrations at the resort.

PSU PHUKET SCIENCE AND MATHS TEST



Students Passapong Susangrat (left) and Tonphan Wongcharoenwattana (right) received their awards from Associate Professor Pun Thongchumnum, Ph.D.

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Think globally cook locally

By Maciek Klimowicz

FIRST on a speedboat, through the deep blue waters, east from Phuket, then in a song taew, across the lush green jungle of Khao Yao Yai – and finally I'm there: a stone's throw away from a fisherman's village, surrounded by rubber trees, talking to a chef. Or should I say – a celebrity. With his recent appearance on the Iron Chef Thailand TV show, Scot Flaxman, Chef and F&B Manager at Glow Elixir Khao Yao Yai Resort shouldn't complain about a lack of attention.

But if it's attention he's after, why did he escape the flashy living of London, Singapore and other metropolises and settle in this remote piece of paradise? And what keeps him and his resort's kitchen going?

You've been and worked in many places before, yet you ended up in the Phuket region. How did it steal your heart?

A long time ago the company I was working for catered for "The Beach" movie premiere party. And it was such a phenomenal, inspiring party that I decided to visit Thailand. So I got together with 10 chef friends of mine and we all came to Phuket for two weeks.

And we enjoyed it so much – the food, the climate and the atmosphere, that we came back the following year and the following year and so on. And after doing this for four years I just never wanted to go home. That's when my sister asked me why don't I move to Thailand, and so I did.

So from place like London, full of life, people and bars, you moved here to Koh Yao Yai and ended up in a remote location. How does it feel?

I was born in a very small mining town in Zimbabwe. I travelled, I lived in Singapore, visited Hong Kong regularly, but in the end it's nice to come back to a quiet place where you can give personal attention to people. There's such an impersonal feeling about being in the city. Most of the people you meet you will never see again. That's what I like about coming back to a place like Koh Yao Yai. Take away the beach, the beautiful weather and everything else, it gives me a chance to give the guests that personal touch.

I like to greet guests when they arrive. I remember years ago I went to stay at the Le Merridien in Khao Lak, and there the chef welcomed us in the reception and for me that was such a fantastic

experience to meet the chef when you check in.

There are a lot of aspects to being a chef. Some chefs think they can run the kitchen and run the restaurant from their office. Other chefs are in the kitchen where they throw tantrums and scream. For me, being a chef is the interaction, the feedback from people.

What are some of the biggest challenges of running a restaurant in this location?

Supply and delivery. For example, when I first came to work here we had pork on the menu. But this is a Muslim island, all of our staff are Muslim and to get the pork here, we could not use the public ferry. We could not use the speed boat or any mode of public transport from Phuket, unless we rented a long tail or speedboat and the cargo would come straight to the beach and off-load here. So I decided to take pork off the menu rather than incurring massive costs. But it's also about embracing the local community and not alienating ourselves. And this small gesture went a long way. We buy what we can from Koh Yao Yai to support the local community and the families of the associates who work here. But if we can't get it here, we get it from Phuket. And some things you can't get there

What do you get locally?

We get as much fruits and vegetables locally as we can. We get palm sugar, curry pastes. Instead of making one of my chefs prepare paste for two hours a day, we buy the local stuff. We buy as much coconut cream as there is but that's still not enough so we have to ship some. We also grow our own galangal, lemon grass and lime leaf tree, and we're starting a nursery so we can grow more of our own products. And you can taste it – fresh is the way to go. And we get all of our seafood from local fisherman, directly on the beach. We like to cook Koh Yao Yai style, the way locals prepare food. We have dishes here that taste different from anywhere else in Thailand.

How did you end up on Iron Chef?

We had a guest staying here last spring. And she asked if I was interested in being on Iron Chef. And I'm a big fan of the entire show, so of course I was interested. I have done everything to try the whole spectrum of being a chef. I've done hotels, restaurants, fine dining, private chefing, catering, everything. Some chefs have



PERSONAL TOUCH: Chef Scott likes to greet the guests of the resort.

60, I want to be able to say I tried everything.

How does it compare – cooking in a resort and cooking on TV? I didn't find it any different from cooking for a restaurant. You just have to focus on what you're doing and block out everything else. When I asked my chef friends for advice, they said: 'Just forget about the cameras, you're in your own kitchen, doing your own thing, just carry on'.

Why do you think cooking shows are so popular these days?

I think everybody wants to cook but some are afraid to. And people are interested in looking behind the scenes. Ten years ago we didn't have open plan kitchens. Now they are very popular, people want to see what you're cooking.

Did this experience change the way you run the kitchen

in the resort?

My kitchen has changed totally, the resort has changed totally, the island has changed. Nobody from Khao Yao Yai has been on TV before so when I chose a chef from here to come with me to Bangkok, it was a huge thing on the island, a huge thing for the community. And for me it was great. I wanted this exposure for my chefs. It was a great opportunity to push the whole team and to let them know everything can be done. In Thailand, I get a lot of 'can not' attitude. I can explain to a chef what I want and they will be puzzled and reply 'can not'. But when you show how it's actually done, they realize they can. So the appearance in Iron Chef opened up a lot of creativity in our kitchen and this is what cooking is all about. It's not about sticking to the recipe that has been around for 50 years but about putting your style onto something.



UNIQUE TASTE: Khao Yao Yai cuisine has a distinct, local character.





their niche, I don't. When I turn FRESH AND LOCAL: Chef Scott buys seafood from local fisherman.

November 23 - 29, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Nov 24-Dec 1, 2013, 5am-11:30pm, Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013 at Laguna Grove, Laguna Phuket

The Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest gets underway on November 24 with the 20th Laguna Phuket Triathlon, and culminates with the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket a week later on December 1. Between these back-to-back world-class triathlons, take in the excitement of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest. Rub shoulders with visiting pro athletes; take part in training camps led by triathlon experts; and enjoy social events at our hotels. To register visit: challengelagunaphuket.com or contact Nantanee Chuaychu on +66-76-362300.

Nov 28, Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet and Party 6-10:30pm at Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort

Please join us in celebrating our 10th annual Traditional American Thanksgiving Feast and Party. Please book early by contacting Chef Charly: 076-288996, chef@ friendshipbeach.com. For more info see: friendshipbeach.com

Nov 29, 2013, 7-11pm, Indian **Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal** in Karon Sea Sands Resort

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. For reservations, contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464, email: info@navrangmahal.com

Nov 30, 8pm to late, Blue Party 2013 by Andaman Cruises



The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is renowned for its daytime sailing action and its incredible nightime party scene.

Phuket's yachting scene is looking forward to Andaman Cruises' annual celebration called the "Blue Party". The stylish event will be featured by DJ Romain Pelletti and take place at Ao Po Grand Marina on Saturday, November 30, 2013 from 8pm until late. Guests will be able to explore Phuket's Most Exciting & Stylish Contemporary Yachts and enjoy great dancing on the pier to the sounds of the DJ. Entry is free and there's a welcome drink and complimentary finger foods until 10pm. Cocktails, beers and wines will be available at the cash bar.

Nov 30, Thanyapura Junior **Challenge Triathlon 7am-12pm**

As part of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013, the Thanyapura Junior Challenge will be hosted by the Thanyapura Triathlon Academy. This triathlon event will give opportunities to the participating young athletes to experience the world class sports facilities at Thanyapura, including our 50m Olympic standard outdoor pool with biking and running routes set within the surrounding nature of Khao Phra Thaew National Park. Contact Julie Wang on 076-336 000 or email sportcamp@thanyapura.com, for more information see: thanyapura.com

Dec 1-6, 27th Phuket King's Cup Regatta, 6am-10pm

Recognized throughout the Eastern Hemisphere as the premier sailing event of its kind, the 27th Phuket King's Cup Regatta will host a week of incredibly close racing in the beautiful Andaman Sea off the coast of Southern Thailand from December 1-6. 2013.

Dec 1, Challenge Laguna Awards - After Party, 10:30pm-1:30am

XANA beach club is hosting two after parties for Laguna Phuket's 20th Triathlon. The Challenge Laguna Awards After Party on Sunday, December 1, will see the triathletes celebrating their sporting achievements in style, with entertainment provided by DJ Nemo Cools. Admission is free, and open to all, and those attending the awards will also receive a free drink token to be redeemed at XANA against beer, glasses of house wine and cocktails on arrival. For more

between the two luxury resorts.

December 7: Anantara Phuket Villas and Anantara Vacation Club present "Infinity Sunset Grill" with Thai cuisine over the Andaman Sea for Thailand's most stunning sunset.

December 8: JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa "The Best of the West vs the Feast from the East Buffet", a bounty of sophisticated tastes from the JW Marriott's 11 restaurants and bars stations for you to savor!

Dec 12-18, 10am-9:30pm, The 17th Andaman Motor Show

Do not miss the 17th Andaman Motor Show, which is the best motor fair in Phuket. The event dates are December 12-18, at Central Festival Phuket. There will be a variety of cars, car accessories, and finance options, with special deals on offer for visitors to this show. Not only will you be with a superstar, beautiful cars and pretty girls, but you'll be able to join the Andaman Photo Contest 2013 free of charge, with prizes worth up to 30,000 baht. Presented by Chor Creative Organizers.

Dec 16-18, 6-11:30pm, Asia **Superyacht Rendezvous**

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is a prestigious invitation-only event for supervacht owners, captains and their VIP guests. This year's event takes place December 16-18 at Kata Rocks.

Dec 5, His Majesty the King's Birthday.

HM The King's 86th Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

information, contact Annabel

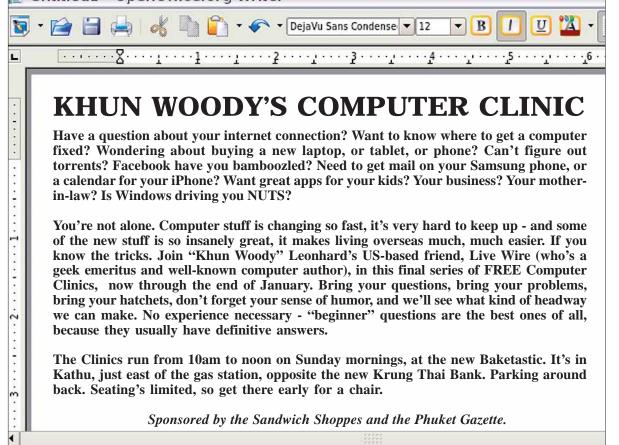
Fox on +66-76-324101 or see

the website: xanabeachclub.com

Dec 6-8, 6-10pm, North Phuket **Culinary Arts Festival 2013**

December 6: North Phuket's longest dining table at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa and Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa. Spanning over 300 meters

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Life & style Centara gives back to community









CENTARA Grand Beach Resort recently celebrated its third anniversary by inviting 100 pupils from Wat Suwan Kirikhet School in Karon to enjoy a day of fun activities at the resort.

Centara Grand Beach Resort

BOAT

Area General Manager Denis Thouvard said he was delighted to welcome pupils and teachers from the primary school to celebrate the resort's success.

"This year we have chosen to share our past three years of suc-

cess with the younger generation of our community," he said.

Hotel employees supervised the students as they participated in a range of activities including, threelegged races, swimming and team work exercises.

"We think it is important for the hotel employees to show our younger neighbors what working in the resort is all about. I hope in turn this may help inspire them to join our industry when they are older and deciding what career

Phuket today

they want," said Mr Thouvard.

"This anniversary was also a unique opportunity to thank our staff for their hard work and loyalty to the resort over the past three years," he concluded.

Phuket Gazette

- Phuket Gazette



KR KATA ROCKS

Superyachts

ROYAL DUTCH SHIPYARDS

Mr Farraday's breakfast

I USED to teach English at a Thai university that offered courses called English for Special Purposes (ESP). These were designed to prepare students for different

occupations: tour guides, flight attendants, business people and so on.

One of my favorites was called English for Hotel Personnel. Foreign teachers were sometimes asked to write dialogues. I never got asked to write dialogues for this or any other course, and you'll soon see why. The dialogues usually went something like this:

Room Service: Good morning, room service, may I help you?

Guest: Yes, good morning, I'd like to order breakfast, please.

RS: Yes, sir. May I have your name and room number, please?



One fried American coming right up sir. Photo: Rhoda Bae



G: Richard Farraday, Room 302.

RS: Thank you, Mr Farraday. Would you like the Continental, American, or Thai breakfast?

G: American, please.

RS: Very good, sir. That's one American breakfast for Mr Farraday in Room 302. How would you like your eggs, sir? G: Fried, please.

RS: Very good, sir. Would you like them sunny-side up or over easy?

G: Sunny-side up, please. With sausages. RS: Thank you, Mr Farraday. Your breakfast will be up soon, sir. Have a nice day.

Now, I ask you: Is that boring, or what? Students will fall asleep halfway through it. You probably did, too. I fell asleep twice while writing it.

What this dialogue needs is some pizzazz. And it was because the English Department knew I would add pizzazz that they never asked me to write dialogues. They knew I would turn in something like this:

Room Service: Good morning, room service, may I help you?

Guest: Yes, this is Richard Farraday in Room 302. I'd like to order breakfast please. RS: Yes, Mr. Farraday. Would you like the Continental, American, or Thai breakfast? G: American, please.

RS: Very good, sir. Male or female, sir? G: Beg your pardon?

RS: Your American, sir. Would you like a male or a female?

G: I'm afraid I don't understand.

RS: Sir, you ordered an American breakfast. I need to know whether you want a RS: Very good, sir. Belly up or over easy?



Ordering breakfast may be more difficult than you would think, especially if you're dealing with one of the Old Curmudgeon's former pupils. Photo: Angerman

American male or a female.

G: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm terribly obtuse this morning, haven't quite woken up, you know. Well, errrrmmm, I suppose a female would be more tender. Yes, make that a female.

RS: Excellent choice, sir. Young or old? G: Young, of course. Wouldn't want to have to gnaw away on some tough old

RS: And how would you like her prepared, sir? Fried, boiled, baked, grilled, or cooked in a tasty casserole?

G: Fried, please.

G: Belly up, I guess. Oh, and please send up some ketchup. Americans always taste better with ketchup.

RS: Yes, they do, sir. We'll be sending the little girl up as soon as we can thaw her out and fry her. Have a nice day, Mr. Farraday.

It was my talent for writing snappy dialogues like this that made the English Department really sad when I retired.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be scolded for writing such a politically incorrect column at s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's writing snappy dialogues.



Life & style House and Garden False names and fuchsias



FEW botanical names start with the letter "F", but "flower" and its adjective "floral" are key to any discussion of gardening. After all, who wants a garden without colorful blooms? Many plants have the prefix "false", it's not a pejorative tag, but one which indicates a similar appearance to other, unrelated plants. Take the *cuphea* or false heather. With its low growth, small leaves and pink flowers, it bears a passing resemblance to the heaths and heathers of cooler climes. A useful border plant that needs full sun.

Then there is the false bird of paradise, usually referred to as the heliconia. Nowadays, heliconia hybrids come in such a range. Some have small upright bracts, either red and white, chrome vellow in the case of psittacorum, other massive pendulous varieties, usually in shades of red and yellow (rostrata), almost rival the unique splendors of the actual bird of paradise plant. Useful for group plantings, they do best in moist, even swampy areas. In some areas of Phuket, they have naturalized in the vicinity of ditches. Remember, however, that each stalk blooms but once: cut it back to ground level after flowering. There is also the false acacia (robinia pseudoacacia), the false aralia (schleffera elegantissima), and the false indigo (amorpha), though none of these, to the best of my knowledge, are cultivated in Phuket

Again, fuschias are more a feature of temperate or subtropical gardens. But I have seen

shaded areas of nurseries, and they are such beautiful and unique plants that they deserve a mention – though they rarely get one - in books on tropical gardening. There are more than 110 species and most come from Central or South America. Some are small trees – for example F. arborescens which has panicles of pink/purple sepals – but most are shrubby and can be grown in pots.

There are literally thousands of cultivars, often strikingly bi-colored and with unique pendulous flowers which have the corolla (sepals) in one color and the projecting tubular flower (petals) in another. The blooms are produced in terminal clusters and in the right conditions, namely, rich, moist soil and shelter from strong winds, will flower profusely. A real Western favorite.

Among species which might do well here, provided they have some protection, are \vec{F} . boliviana, which has narrow tubular sepals enclosing scarlet petals and F. magellanica which has become popular in Ireland, especially in Cork, where it forms attractive hedges covered with drooping red flowers.

The fuschia industry is a massive one which has produced more than 8,000 cultivars worldwide, most of which are derived from F. magellanica, or the native West Indian variety triphylla which has coral red flowers. My local garden center in the UK used to stock at least twenty cultivars, either hardy or tender, double or single. Some, with a trailing or pendulous habit were most suitable for hanging baskets – for

container specimens here in instance "Marinka" which has dramatic red-veined leaves and deep red flowers. "Thalia" has dark olive leaves and small, rich, red tubular flowers, and "Tom Thumb" is a red and purple dwarf variety which rarely grows more than eighteen inches tall.

> The double varieties include "Madame Cornelissen" which has red and white flowers, "Rose of Castille" with a deep purple center and pale pink sepals, and "Eva Boerg" which has similar colors. Personally I prefer the more elegant single-flowering forms, especially recent cultivars such as "Annabel" which has white or cream sepals and a pale lilac center.

> Fuschias can be propagated from seeds or cuttings, have a neat growth habit and look good both as single specimens in pots or planted in groups. They will need a loam-based potting mix, and moist but not waterlogged soil. I would be interested to hear from any readers who have successfully cultivated this exotic and delicate flower.

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



FUSCHIA: There are more than 110 species and most come from Central or South America Photo: EoinGardiner



Bird of paradise plant. Photo: KENPEI

Tip of the week

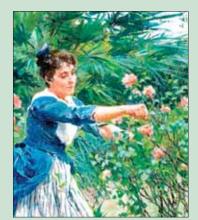
More on cultivating from cuttings

FROM personal experience, the easiest flowering shrubs from which to take hardwood cuttings are: the chalice vine (which often has rootlets on its stems anyway); both hibiscus schizopetalus and mutabilis; calatropis (Indian milkweed); pereskia bleo (wax rose); acalypha (red cattail); and most ixoras.

Of course, it partly depends on your own garden's conditions, even more on the luck of the draw. Don't expect a 100 per cent success rate.

Softwood cuttings are taken during the growing season from relatively soft, flexible new growth. Discard flowers, buds and side-shoots, and slice stems into 3-4 inch pieces, each with at least two nodes (growing points).

Use rooting powder to assist the process of propagation. Because these shoots are fragile, make a hole in the soil and insert the cutting. If you need to keep the humidity high, enclose each container in a plastic bag and place in semi-shade.



Take softwood cuttings during the growing season. Photo: Bonhams

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Dog of the week

IF YOU are looking for a large, strong dog to help guard your house from intruders, then Troy is the right dog for the job. He weighs about 20 kilograms, he loves to run and swim, and he would protect your family like no other. He's very sociable with other dogs and loves to play fight with all the female dogs at Doggie Heaven. He has also been sterilized, fully vaccinated and groomed.

Sadly, Troy was found on the street, laying in a hole, in very

bad condition – he was riddled with the mange bug so his shin was very badly swollen. He was so weak and hungry, and was finding it hard to get around to look for food. Lucky for Troy he was rescued and taken to Doggie Heaven, where he has been recovering for the past five months. With the help of medicine, good food and lots of love, he's now looking very much the handsome dog.

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in the Laguna area. If you'd like to adopt Troy or another animal please contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com or visit doggieheaven.net



Life & style In focus Fist of God: surviving Yolanda

By Jeff Ruffolo

CEBU, Philippines: I am a survivor. And I have been as wounded as any person who has been raped and abused – unwanted and unasked.

To describe to you what it was to survive – and that word is not used flippantly – the superstorm that was Yolanda (International name: Haiyan) was a descent not only into madness but a journey from the 21st century to the 13th century in a matter of moments.

Yolanda was a mad, evil thing that rose up out of the depths of darkness to pounce onto the islands of the Philippines and carve a path of destruction that is unlike anything mankind has ever seen.

Think of the sheer power of Superstorm Sandy that came ashore in New Jersey and pulverized one community after another. Think of the awesome impact of Superstorm Katrina that laid waste to New Orleans. Then... put both of them in a blender, mix well and dump the remains onto the oceans southeast of the Philippine islands and allow it to bubble and rise up to destroy everything in its path – then you will have a small taste of what Yolanda was like.

It was not the finger of God that touched down onto the Earth... but the fist.

It happened in this way for me and my family only a few days ago.

I live in Guangzhou, China and married my true love, the former Cris Evert Lato last year. We have twin children, Nicholas and Antoinette, who as of this writing are 4-months-old. I am an American and Cris a Filipina, so in order to allow the twins to have their birthright of US citizenship, Cris and I (mostly her) compiled a massive dossier that included all ultrasounds, records of our 14 trips

back and forth from between the Philippines and China – all to prove to the US government that our relationship was real.

As such, these documents had to be presented to the US Consulate in Cebu. I flew from China down to Cebu for this express purpose of visiting the American Consulate, which we did a few weeks ago. Once that was done, I had a chance to spend a few extra days with Cris and the kids.

Fast forward to the Wednesday before Yolanda arrived. Cris and I were in Alaya Mall, an upscale shopping center in Cebu when it was flashed that a major storm was coming directly towards the city.

Rushing home, we frantically called Cris' mom in Leyte, a province located on another island located northeast of Cebu and she immediately grabbed her bag and headed out to get onto one of the last ferries down to Cebu City.

The reports were coming in fast and furiously now. The storm was named Yolanda and the Philippine government reports were already warning everyone in Cebu to take shelter. All schools in Cebu were closing and the three major grocery stores/malls were being overwhelmed with panic buying.

I jumped into a taxi and zoomed over to the store to pick-up whatever canned goods and bottled water I could - but you could forget about any bread, eggs or other perishables – by the time I got to the supermarket, those were long gone. I saw dozens of families rushing up and down isles dumping everything they could into



Residents rush to safety past a fallen tree during strong winds brought by Typhoon Haiyan that hit Cebu City, Philippines. Photo: Reuters/Zander Casas

shopping carts only to find they had no money to pay for it. I was fortunate to have bought the last cooked chicken the store offered.

Thursday was a "dead day" as Yolanda made her ever so slow advance toward Cebu. Cris' mom spent a lot of time with the kids which freed Cris and I to make preparations on her house which fortunately was built quite solidly – unlike the shanty homes with tin roofs that surrounded her backyard.

Then Yolanda pounced descending onto Cebu on Friday morning at 9am, making landfall onto Leyte and the other small islands surrounding it.

Then it hit Cebu City.

When it did, the power of this single storm nearly instantly exploded every electricity transformer in Cebu, sending the second largest city of the Philippines with more than two million souls – into complete darkness and by

10am we all had made a one-way journey into the 13th century. There was no power, no internet service and for most people in Cebu, no running water.

The full power of Yolanda then came onto us like an unwanted guest at 3pm. The sky turned an evil black as Yolanda swirled above us. I went out onto the front patio to look at the full power of nature on display and when I gazed upward at Yolanda, she looked down onto me. It was the most terrifying experience you could ever imagine as this evil thing looked at me, took me as naught, continuing along on her pathway of complete destruction.

Yolanda vented her full fury onto the northern part of Cebu, churning and grinding away at everything made by the hands of man. Nothing physically made by humans could withstand the awesome power of Yolanda. And nothing did.

Our family huddled together in the darkness for several hours... then Cris, her brother and I braved going outside to try and find some hot food. Walking over to a small street, we hopped onto a gaspowered tricycle that took us to the main boulevard near the house. Nothing moved except for the shuffling of humans along the sides of the road. Cris bought two whole roasted chickens and some tomatoes. I managed to find four potatoes and some sodas to bring back. We had dinner by candlelight. Romantic it wasn't.

By 4am that Saturday morning, Yolanda had sucked out all of the oxygen in her move northeast and

out of the Philippines and what was left was this thick, anxious "air" that burned the lungs.

Not able to sleep, I went back to the front porch and sat outside in front of a single candle that drew in all of the insects from the surrounding area - seeking the comfort of this single light.

As time slowly passed, I could hear the zombies of Cebu rising from what was left of their tin-roofed homes. Moaning and slouching in their quiet dismay, they passed by without a glance – neither of us wanting to acknowledge each other. One became two and slowly the group of undead residents emerged, seeing the remnant of the broken trees that were dispersed all around. They too had survived Yolanda and as dawn broke, their humanity was slowly returned to them.

Machetes started whizzing through the air as dead wood was furiously being chopped into firewood. As wood chips flew through the air, I thought of the people of Cebu and of the Philippines. What an amazing group of people they truly are. The Filipinos are the ultimate survivors and are made of tough stuff. They have been colonized and subjugated by the Spanish, the Americans and the Japanese in the past... and not one month ago lived through a 7.2 magnitude Earthquake only to face the ultimate evil of Yolanda.

We lived another day. Thousands of their countrymen were not so fortunate, especially the city of Tacloban in Leyte. Yolanda plucked their lives away from them as you might pick fruit from a tree.

My family made it through, but we collectively will never be the same. Yolanda was a Mad Harriett from the darkness of Hell.

May she rest in peace.





Music helps blind kids

A CHARITY concert "The Night for Blind Children" will be held at the Goethe Institut Auditorium in Bangkok on Saturday January 18, 2014 to raise money for the Foundation for The Blind in Thailand, under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen.

The collected funds will support blind children's further education in music and musical instruments at the Bangkok School for the Blind.

The concert will feature artists from various backgrounds such as Dr Apichat Jariyavilas – a psychiatrist from Bumrungrad International Hospital, ToTo, Ponsinh Boutkaska – Marketing Director at Major Cineplex, Toon Chotika Kamwongpin – winner of the Best New Artist and Best Female Solo Artist Kom Chad Luek Award & Season Awards, Aey-Satawat Medhanee – singer and actor and Nong Ploy Sarocha – a former student of the Bangkok School for Blind.

The concert program spans from classical music (Bach, Beethoven) to English and Thai pop.

Admission is free but donations are welcome.

Phuket Gazette

For further information contact Nuttawut Lertsrimongkol at Nuttawut.Lertsrimongkol@Gmail.com or +668 35420124

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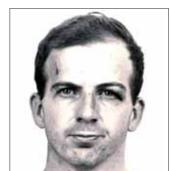


NOVEMBER 23

534 BC Thespis of Icaria became the first recorded actor. 1889 The first jukebox went into operation in San Francisco. 1910 Johan Alfred Ander became the last person to be executed in Sweden. 1963 The BBC broadcast the first episode of Doctor Who.

1990 The first all woman expedition to the South Pole began.

1992 The first Smartphone IBM Simon was introduced.



KILLER 19 6 3Photo: Dallas Police; Warren Commission

CELEBRATIONS 19 89Photo: Pulaw

NOVEMBER 24

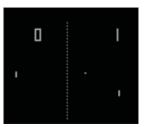
1835 Creation of a horse-mounted police force called the Texas Rangers 1859 Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species. 1963 Lee Harvey Oswald was murdered by Jack Ruby. 1965 Joseph D sir Mobutu seized power in the Congo.

NOVEMBER 25

1491 The siege of Granada, the last Moorish stronghold in Spain, begun. 1703 The greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain. 1795 The last king of Poland was forced to abdicate and was exiled to Russia. 1839 A cyclone slammed India. 300,000 deaths resulted from the disaster.



SAILOR 1520 Photo: Library of Congress



GAME 19 72 Photo: Bumm13

NOVEMBER 26

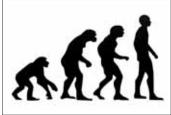
1778 Captain James Cook became the first European to visit Maui. 1789 Thanksgiving Day was observed in the United States for the first time. 1949 The Indian Constituent Assembly adopted India's constitution. 1998 Tony Blair became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom 2008 Terrorists attacked Mumbai.

NOVEMBER 27

1095 Pope Urban II declared the First Crusade at the Council of Clermont. 1835 The last two men were executed for sodomy in England. 1934 Bank robber Baby Face Nelson died in a shoot-out with the FBI. 2005 The first partial human face transplant was completed in France.



SMART 19 9 2 Photo: Bcos47



EVOLULTION 1859 Photo: Tkgd2007

NOVEMBER 28

1520 Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean. 1895 The first American automobile race took place. 1912 Albania declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire. 1964 NASA launched the Mariner 4 probe toward Mars.

NOVEMBER 29

1783 A 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck New Jersey.

1929 US Admiral Richard Byrd became the first person to fly over the South Pole.

1944 Albania was liberated by the Albanian partisans.

1972 Atari announced the release of Pong, the first commercially successful video game.

 $1987\ Korean\ Air\ Flight\ 858\ exploded\ over\ the\ Thai\text{-}Burmese\ border,\ killing\ 155.}$

Superyachts ahoy

Still time to register, take part in the 2013 Asian Superyacht Rendezvous

THIS year's Asia Superyacht Rendezvous – the 13th annual edition – is fast approaching, and the organizers continue to process new registrations for the three day event, scheduled from December 16-18.

Reinforced by gracious sponsors to ensure an unforgettable experience, the prestigious event will feature some of the world's finest superyachts.

With host sponsor Kata Rocks

at the helm, guests can expect nothing short of the infinite luxury this venue delivers – breathtaking views, heavenly food and 5-star service guests are in for a treat, indeed.

A new addition to the schedule this year is a Crew Party, courtesy of Sevenstar Yacht Transport, an opportunity for crew members from all

over the world to meet, mingle and interior and stylish structure. dance the night away.

FEADSHIP are returning for the 13th year as the principle sponsor, bringing with them over 130 years of boating knowledge and engineering expertise under their belt.

Southeast Asia is fast becoming an ideal destination for Superyachts and this year's Asia Superyacht Rendezvous looks set to be bigger and better than ever before.

Some of the beautifully crafted superyachts that are already confirmed in attendance range between vintage superyachts, decked out with original features, that have been

lovingly maintained and brand new superyachts with state of the art technology systems.

They all bring their own particular style and elegance to this diverse event. The 34meter sailing yacht, *Shamoun* is an example of absolute luxury and outstanding craftsmanship. The 36-meter sailing yacht Yanneke *Too*, is returning this year, with her exquisite

The glorious 50-meter Dunia

Daru luxury charter Phinisi sailing yacht, modeled on traditional Indonesian boat design, is



The 34-meter sailing yacht, Shamoun is one of the beauties that has confirmed attendance. Photos: Supplied

a truly exquisite vessel.

Participating again this year is the recently refurbished, 42-meter Maverick, brought back to life with its delightful Susan Pilao art-deco influenced interior. With such an eclectic mix of vessels, this is an event not to be missed for any supervacht enthusiast.

- Phuket Gazette

The 2013 Asian Superyacht Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV. If you are looking to be involved, the organizers are still accepting registrations for participation in Asia's most fun superyacht event, welcoming any boat over 100 feet to come and participate in what promises to be a spectacular event. To receive an invitation to this exclusive event, or if you have any questions about how to register, please contact pr-comm@asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com. Full details of the event including sponsor information, can be found on the official event website: asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com



The 36-meter sailing

yacht Yanneke Too

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Life & style New world order: Apple, Amazon Google, Samsung

THE computer industry is changing on internet speed, and the old stalwarts – particularly Microsoft and Intel - are having a hard time keeping up.

I'm not talking about finances: Microsoft and Intel continue to rake in enormous amounts of cash, posting record-breaking quarters over and over again.

Intel used to make "big iron" in the PC sense - fast, powerhungry, hot-running muscle cars of the CPU set. The older generation of Intel chips were (and are) just fine for desktop computers. But they don't cut the mustard for newer, mobile, smaller devices. In response to upstart competition from the likes of ARM, Intel has finally started showing that it can produce chips that don't use so much power, don't throw off heat like a smelter. The latest "fourth generation" chips, code-named Haswell, work just as hard as their third generation progenitors, but they do so with half the power



consumption and a big reduction in heat. Computers with Intel Haswell chips typically run 50 per cent longer using the same battery as the earlier generation, and they don't need such massive fans. That's a big advantage with laptops, netbooks, tablets and even phones.

Microsoft's a different story altogether. After turning out its worst operating system in years (quite an accomplishment, that), Microsoft saw its Windows sales fall seven per cent, and it's likely that's just the beginning. With all-new management in place, or coming soon, Microsoft's going to turn around Windows. It just isn't at all clear how that turnaround will happen, or whether the 1.4 billion experienced Windows users on (and off) this planet will be able to live with nextyear's Windows 9. Or 10. You should assume that many members of the press are pushing hard, so far with mixed results.

Surprisingly, Microsoft's still making tons of money on Office. We just heard that Microsoft has signed up 2 million people for its Office 365 Home Premium subscription – notable because it requires customers to pay US\$100 a year, every year, for as long as they want to be able to edit their files. That's significant. Office still rules the roost for most companies. While there are decent competitors – LibreOffice on the desktop, Google Apps in the cloud, iWork on Apple gear - the alternatives still have problems opening and working with Office documents, and they aren't as powerful as Office.

While Windows and Microsoft consumer products are languishing - the Xbox was just knocked out of first place in the game



The digital landscape is being carved up at a rapid rate. Photo: Dullhunk

console category; the Surface tablet is a joke; Windows Phone can't get any traction – Microsoft's cloud services are on a roll. Azure is a billion-dollar business.

While Intel and Microsoft have fiddled, Apple's shot through the roof. Its number-one product, the iPhone, dominates the mobile phone industry: Apple makes more profit from the iPhone than from all of its other businesses combined. Sales of iPads tapered off while the world waited for the new iPad Air, and the Retina screen-based new iPad Mini, and those are now officially selling like hotcakes. While Apple doesn't make nearly as much money off its more traditional offerings, the new MacBooks (Air and Pro), the black cylinder Mac Pro, and new OS X Mavericks show that Apple's still got the power.

Apple's setting a new standard in software: Free. If you own a Mac, upgrading to OS X Mavericks is free (compare that to US\$149 for Windows 8.1, which absolutely nobody wants). If you buy a new iPhone or iPad, the iWork, iLive and Aperture suites are free. Even if you own an old, pirated version of iWork, upgrading to the new, genuine version is free. Yes, free. Apple makes its money on the hardware – and by offering solid software free, it's putting the squeeze on Microsoft's two largest cash cows.

Google is tackling the new markets on many fronts, while still making enormous profits on advertising. ChromeOS, a competitor of sorts to Windows and OS X, is now widely available on several machines. The ChromeOS shtick: Get rid of the bloated, buggy, holey operating system and just run a web browser on your computer. The details are a bit more complex, of course, but the bottom line's fascinating: 10,000 baht or so for a fully functional laptop computer that doesn't have security problems. Google's aiming straight at Microsoft and Apple.

Google Apps – the for-business version of its Mail, word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software – isn't selling as well as Office 365, but it's less than half the price, and does what most companies need, minus compatibility with Office documents. (Confusingly, Google Apps are free for personal use, but cost US\$50/ year per person for the corporate version. Also, confusingly, the

Google Apps package is called Google Docs. For most businesses, organizations, and individuals in Phuket, Google Apps works great.)

Amazon's not only running out ahead in the small tablet market the new US\$230 (7,000 baht) Kindle Fire HDX is a wonder, even if you can't buy it in Thailand it's pumping billions of dollars into new server farms, and even branching out into creating their own content, including TV series. Amazon may well hit \$70 billion this year, and sales are currently running 24 percent higher than last year. They're growing much faster than any of the competition. Amazon sales are only a little bit behind Microsoft's, and they now have more employees than Microsoft.

And then there's Samsung. Yes, they sell washing machines and rice cookers, but they also have a phenomenal record with Androidbased tablets – to the tune of 30 million phones a month. The Galaxy S4 alone sold 40 million units in its first six months. This past quarter, Samsung made a profit of \$10 billion. Its sales will go over \$200 billion this year.

Rumors abound that Samsung's going to build its own operating system, in competition with Google's Android. That will get interesting.

Two conclusions for people who live in Phuket:

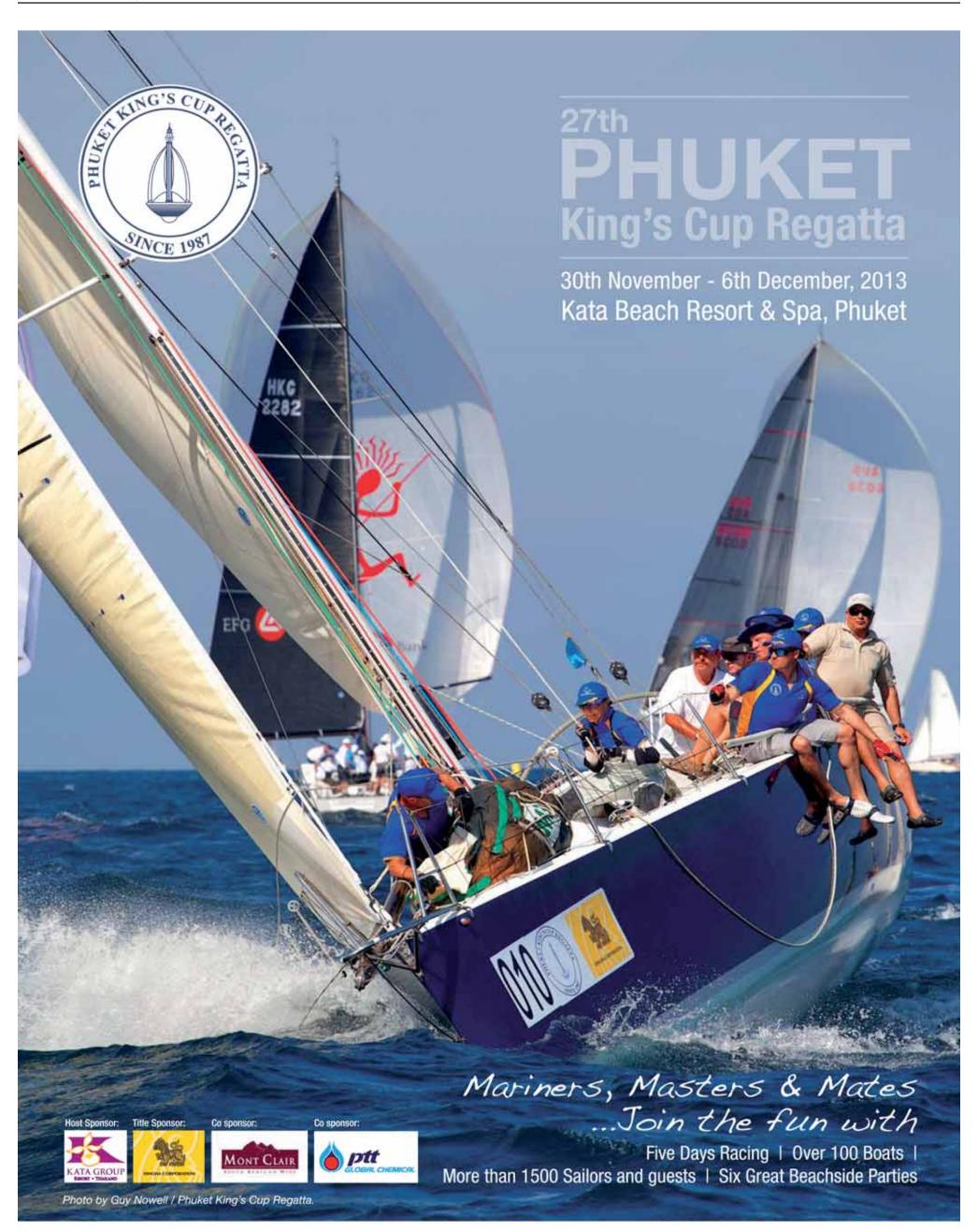
First, the term "computer" used to be more-or-less synonymous with "Windows," but that just isn't the case any more. Instead of fussing with the intricacies of Windows XP, you would probably find it instructive (and entertaining!) to try some of the more modern products – most of which are available right here in Phuket.

Second, your internet line is your most important computer asset. Forget the hard drives and the big screens and the fancy quadcore whatchamajiggers. All of the new products hammer the internet hard. You'd be well advised to get your line upgraded.

Khun Woody's US-based friend Live Wire is bringing back regular weekly, Sunday-morning computer clinics, at a new venue – Baketastic in Kathu. (Location: opposite Krung Thai Bank, just east of the gas station, 10:00 to noon.) If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, a tablet or phone or TV, or just about anything associated with computers, drop by. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Add's Baketastic.



November 23 - 29, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 43



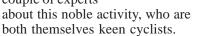


Life & style Cycling: back to basics



WHEN I started writing the Blazing Saddles column a year ago, I made a massive and possibly unwarranted assumption... that everybody knew how to ride a bike. Certainly I, in my blissful state of ignorance, assumed that I did. I mean I'd been doing it since I was a nipper, back when dinosaurs ruled the Earth... so what was there to know about riding a bike?

However, as I've learned a little more about the graceful art of pedaling during this year of writing about it, I've come to realize that there is in fact a great deal more to riding than meets the eye. To celebrate the first anniversary of Blazing Saddles, I decided to consult a couple of experts



Doctor Sayam on a challenging

Firstly, I cycled over to a leafy back lane in Rawai where Garnett Symonds, Doctor of Osteopathy and Homeopathy, hangs his cycling shorts. Garnett is an energetic 63-year-old whose wiry frame and youthful appearance are strong testament to the beneficial effects of what he preaches.

Garnett told me that cycling should be viewed as a lifelong sport that can be enjoyed without stressing the body, particularly as we age. One hour of cycling at 30 kilometers per hour burns about 1,000 calories and we should aim to achieve a minimum of three hours of this moderate intensity activity every week to promote good health.

Cycling involves whole body

action – the back muscles stabilize the spinal column and position the pelvis. Shoulder muscles reduce the load on the back and pressure on hands and wrist. The buttocks take up to 50 per cent of the load. Stomach muscles are counterpart to the back muscles, stabilizing both the pelvis and back.

Dynamic positioning of the pelvis is important, as if it's wrongly angled, pain in the shoulders, back or

lower limbs may follow. A correctly angled pelvis allows the spine to take on its natural S-shape, but when wrongly angled it will take on a posterior tilt, becoming convex and less resilient.

Clearly, good posture is a

critical component of proper cycling and how you sit and where the seat is in relation to the handlebars contributes to this posture. Wearing padded cycle shorts protects your perineal area from the bike seat avoiding pain, numbness and tingling in this area which is a common cycling complaint, usually caused by nerve compression.

Garnett stressed that warm-ups and stretching before cycling and then during the cool down should become part of your routine, helping to prevent muscle injury

and raising body temperature and circulation prior to cycling. When stretching, pay particular attention to your calf, quad and hamstring muscles.

Aim to mix up your regular cycle routine doing say a thirty minute high-intensity hill workout one day, followed by a long slower

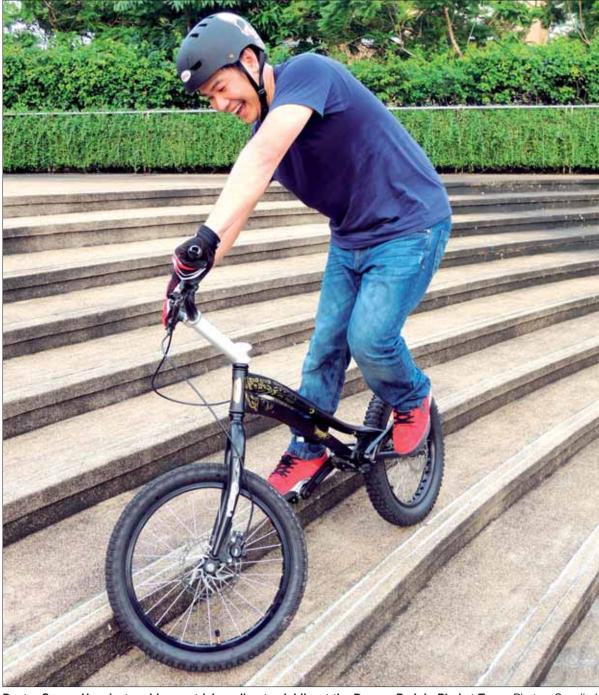
but fun ride in Northern Thailand. distance on a flat surface the next time, and followed by sprints and recovery sessions the next. Complement the riding with gym work with high repetitions of exercises using light weights and don't forget that stretching, swimming and yoga are also excellent complementary

> forms of exercise for cyclists. After Rawai, I headed over to the Dragon Park in Phuket Town to catch Doctor Sayam Hanpipat hopping from step to step on his new track bike. The extremely youthful-looking 38-year-old Head of Cardiac Rehabilitation at Bangkok Phuket Hospital was not content with regularly cycling up Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain, so he had recently taken up this trick cycling in order to build up his strength, body core, concentration and balance.



Doctor Sayam taking a break on a mountain road.

Dr Sayam explained that adopting a regular cycling regimen, like any regular exercise program, requires a complete change in many aspects of your lifestyle. For example it's important that you eat enough high quality foods to



Doctor Sayam Hanpipat on his new trick cycling track-bike at the Dragon Park in Phuket Town. Photos: Supplied

fuel your new endeavors, ideally eaten in many small portions throughout the day. This should include plenty of high quality protein, plus lots of fruit and vegetables. If you are training for a major event, you can also build into this some extra carbohydrate loading for at least ten days prior to the challenge

> You may find you need extra rest and sleep as you are now doing more exercise, to allow your body to rebuild muscle and connective tissue which gets broken down by riding. Hydration is also vital, particularly in a hot, tropical climate like Phuket. Again, this should be done continuously, drinking at least eight large glasses of water spaced out over your full waking day.

Doctor Sayam is particularly supportive of the mental aspects of regular cycling saying that it is a great way to reduce stress and elevate your ongoing mood through the release of endorphins, your brain's naturally occurring "happy chemicals". He



Eating a healthy balanced diet is important to get the most benefit from your cycling. Photo: Keith Weller

likens the concentration needed to cycle well and safely in Phuket to a meditation, saying you have to be extremely focused and so vour mind cannot entertain other arbitrary thoughts.

My own experience of cycling in Phuket confirms all that these two experts say about the ongoing mental and physical benefits of regular cycling. Of course, in Phuket we have to be very careful of how, where and when we cycle, but keep in mind these precautions and cycling can be one of the best things you can do for yourself.

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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:

"Everybody should believe in something. I believe I'll have another drink." – W.C. Fields

"Ah, sweet pity. Where would my love life have been without it?" – Homer Simpson

Taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

Across:

- 9. Zone I come around to cut costs (9)
- 10. Firm, possibly curt, nod from director of music (9)
- 12. A yes can be simple (4) 13. Friend, rent a portable goods
- platform (6) 14. Fume! Far out thing to warm the lug! (3,4)
- 15. Slim with organic compound for three months in pregnancy (9) 17. Man, it even could be the
- most important bout (4,5)18. Adult quit a disturbance
- almost, concerned with water (7) 19. Much obliged! Inn backed new astringent substance (6)
- 20. Blackleg turning back taxis (4) 23. Article maybe it got in a
- concern (9) 25. Upset, i.e. vex, cute administrative officer (9)
- 26. Note arranged to harmonize (4)
- 27. Resort set back in floods (6) 29. Mangle Welsh one who
- bears a striking resemblance (7) 32. Possibly enters very little in bribe (9)
- 34. Write possibly it's ten remorseful sinners (9)
- 35. Forewarning of number in port (7)
- 36. Rather earlier (6)
- 37. Turn back, live in sin (4)
- 38. One caring foolishly for lack of knowledge (9)
- 39. Unimpeded scope for organic feeding (4,5)

Down:

- 1. Mean diet causes derangement (8)
- 2. State of health of social code (12)

- 3. Did act in charge intending to give moral instruction (8)
- 4. Vendor to see around fifty Pounds, right? (6)
- 5. Not scams arranged by Caledonian (8)
- 6. Stupidly dives in ice, proving nothing (10)
- 7. Raquet broken, runs to US money (7)
- 8. I bet for pal. Outcome, makes money (10)
- 11. Eat up whatever color (5) 16. Additions in taxes arranged
- about right (6) 19. Not upset by heavy weight (3)
- 21. Emotionally dependent, hanging on to the divine; not little Diana (8,4)
- 22. Quit an arrangement,

charming! (6)

- 23. Disinfectant against strange
- pest I caught (10) 24. Unrepentant, I'm
- conscience-stricken (10)
- 25. Echo saints to the letter (3)
- 28. Rest hurt perhaps by small
- guiding rocket engine (8) 29. And were about right for a
- globetrotter (8) 30. Determined to sever old
- alignment (8)
- 31. They ran about in
- Galway town (7) 33. None could be right in
- fraudulent US corporation (5)
- 34. Sop for new verifications (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

The stars suggest that your distrust of someone in the world of work is unfounded. Projects can only move forward when you give wholehearted support and an honest conversation should enable this to happen. Tuesday and Wednesday are the most auspicious day for open discussions and finalizing agreements. Those Sagittarians with a birthday during the coming week can find more outlets for their creativity in the year ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Stepping outside the square this week will allow you to approach challenges with fresh energy. The stars indicate that Capricorns won't get far with their usual approach to problems and situations that are less than straightforward. A fire sign can give you useful perspective, but another earth sign's interest is not as genuine as you believe. A calmer cosmic climate encourages more harmony in the realm of romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Standing up for your ideals can cost Aquarians unnecessary time or money during the last week of November. This is an auspicious

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): week to let go of something that you thought was more important than it really is. If this advice affects a romantic relationship, the stars suggest that meeting a partner halfway can bring you closer to more commitment. Finances are most fortunate on Sunday and Monday.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Pisceans should be at peace during the last week of November, with the spotlight falling on rewards being reaped, both financial and by establishing new contacts. There are hints that an air sign you recently met in the world of work is ready to take a business relationship to the next level. Your romantic outlook is mixed; those involved with another water sign may hear something that is hard to accept this weekend.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Making waves will not benefit Arians this week. The stars suggest that impatience can cause you to try and force things to happen, particularly in the world of work. An earth sign colleague appears to be taking their time, but results should be seen by the end of the month. Those tiring of playing the waiting game in the realm of romance may decide to accept defeat.

YOUR

horoscope

By Isla Star

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Trying too hard to get on the good side of someone is highlighted. The stars recommend allowing this person more space to make up their mind. If this advice relates to work or business, your track record should be enough to prove you are capable. Where romantic relationships are concerned, a water sign's reluctance to become involved can dissolve towards the end of November. Money matters are luckiest midweek.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Living in the moment can bring more tranquility for those Geminis who have been suffering from stress. The astral atmosphere encourages you to stop and think this week, with focus on another air sign providing the motivation for considering more spiritual matters. In the realm of romance, those who have been holding back where a potential relationship with an earth sign is concerned see a green light this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Some minor dramas on the home front can interfere with your week at work. Those Cancerians who have been ignoring warning signs where family members are concerned are advised to spend quality time listening to everyone's point of view. Sunday and Monday are the most auspicious days for reaching understanding and making compromises. On the financial front, it would be wise to refuse loaning money until November has ended.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

The spotlight shines on plans to escape from the holiday season next month. Many of those born under the sign of Leo will be sowing seeds for taking an extended break, and this will involve taking care of unfinished business. This week is an auspicious time to arrange work delegation and find a reliable housesitter. Travel is forecast to add some sparkle to a romantic relationship that has grown stale.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The stars indicate that there can be hidden extras in financial agreements between now and the end of the month. Virgoans who were convinced they had found a decent deal are advised to examine the small print more closely before signing on the dotted line. Property matters are particularly affected by this advice; December is a more auspicious month for relocation. Dazzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your free-spirited nature can be compromised by others' demands during

the last week of November. Librans who thought they could take a spontaneous trip are likely to be faced with barriers, either at work or on a personal level. The stars advise trying to be less focused on your own needs and there are signs that early December will be an easier time to get away from it all.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Your intuition guides you towards the right decisions this week.

Scorpios who have been struggling with work related dilemmas will be relieved to find closure. Those who are caught up in a romantic triangle should finally see that they have no choice but to put this situation in the past. If you are single and seeking, introduction to another water sign this weekend can result in a worthwhile contact.

International Sport All Blacks keep perfect year

By Patrick Campbell

IN A pulsating match at Twickenham, England fought back from a half-time deficit of 17-3 to lead 22-20, before a late try and converted penalty kept New Zealand's "perfect year" intact, with their thirteenth successive victory.

It was the old story of a ruthless, street-wise team able to convert their chances with a precision England's inexperienced team could not quite match.

If they win as expected against Ireland in Dublin next week, the All Blacks will become the first country in the modern era to win every test in a calendar year. Some achievement!

During this sequence, the current All Blacks side, arguably the greatest ever, have averaged 33 points per game.

England, on the other hand, came into the game having won their last six games at "Fortress Twickenham", though the erratic manner of their recent victories against Australia and Argentina suggested they had little chance against the world champions.

In the event, they put the visitors under pressure for long periods and the youthful pack, although lacking two Lion props, more than matched their illustrious opponents.

New Zealand got off to a devastating start when Kieran Read, surely the best number eight in world rugby, hemmed in near the touchline by three England players, still managed to off-load to the irrepressible Julian Savea who scored from close in.

Off-loading is an area where the southern hemisphere side are streets ahead, an area where England must improve if they are to cherish hopes of winning the world Cup in 2015.

The irrepressible Read scored a second try in the sixteenth minute after an unlikely break by Owen Franks, and the home side looked to be heading for a heavy defeat.

But to their credit, England refused to buckle, and a sustained forward effort resulted in a try for Joe Launchbury. They had already been unlucky: denied a forward-inspired push-over score when the video referee judged the ball to be invisible beneath a pile of bodies.

Owen Farrell, who kicked six out of six penalties, put England briefly into the lead in the second half, but the world champions showed their composure with yet another sweeping attack out wide, finished off with another superb



All Blacks pose with the trophy after beating England 22-30 at Twickenham. Photo: REUTERS/Andrew Winning

off-load, this time from center Ma'a Nonu, to winger Julian Savea. England, with new hooker Tom Youngs on the pitch, conceded three line-outs and frittered away any chance of a fairytale comeback.

Still, there were many positives for England. Apart from losing two first choice props, two wings and entering the fray with only one acknowledged winger - the out of form Chris Ashton - they scarcely missed a tackle and subjected the much vaunted All Blacks forwards to a torrid afternoon.

Stuart Lancaster summed up the mood in the England camp when he said:

"We are desperately disappointed." We were sixth in the world, third now. Pushing second, where I think we should be."

The coach, who singled out Billy Vunipola and Billy Twelvetrees for special praise, now needs to uncover some world-class finishers to complement a superb pack.

Easier said than done.



Kings Cup: on the lighter side

By Peter Cummins

SINCE the inaugural Phuket King's Cup Regatta in 1987, the popularity of sailing, yachtracing and cruising has had an exponential surge in Thailand, especially among the younger Optimist and Laser sailors, with Thailand excelling in international and world championships – even aiming for berths in the Rio Olympiad.

Curiously, looking at the broader picture, it has been the recent America's Cup challenge in the San Francisco Bay that placed yacht racing clearly on center-stage of spectator sports. There, the American defender, Oracle, created sporting history by over coming an almost-insurmountable deficit, to defeat the New Zealand challenger.

This exciting, high-tech – almost spaceage - "Battle of the Titans", was watched by millions world-wide. Although these flying machines, capable of speeds that would warrant arrests in most of the world's major cities, are not for the average sailor, the potential is virtually unlimited.

Or, as the multi-sailing, gold medalist tactician on Oracle, Ben Ainslie, said it after the event: "The incredible panorama of the America's Cup brought home to millions the challenge, skill, freedom and sheer beauty of yacht racing – for most, particularly the American public – for the first time.

Meanwhile, back to our more mundane annual event, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, held each year in Phuket, to celebrate HM the King's birthday, on December 5, starting in 1987. Since that inaugural event, we feature a few "snippets" occurring over the years, under various headings.



The King's Cup Regatta is not just about racing... but fun. One can never forget, Aussie

Ancient Mariner

One of the earlier sailings of the nowfamous regatta involved a dog. An itinerant live-aboard mariner, on a round-theworld transit, decided to enter the regatta and had to lighten his catamaran somewhat, he unloaded his paraphernalia which included numerous potted plants, items of furniture, a dog and a cat, placing them in his tender, anchored nearby.

The ancient mariner then entered the race, finishing third. But, on return to the anchored dinghy, he was heart-broken to find his faithful dog had "abandoned ship".

He went onstage to receive his trophy which was a King's Cup replica and a large box. Out of the box jumped his sea-borne pooch, joyfully re-united with his master.

The story: One of the competitors spotted a dog swimming in the middle of the Andaman Sea, forlorn and lonely, whereupon the skipper diverted and collected the paddling pooch and brought it ashore.

The outcome: dog and master were re-united; the gallant rescuer was granted redress for his good deed and won the event; and the ancient mariner sailed away to his next port-of-call, complete with his "family". Moral of this story: if one is on a Cat, look after your dog!

May Day, My Day

The ultimate distress call for any vessel in trouble: In earlier regattas, the fleets used to sail to Koh Phi Phi, usually into the teeth of a strong northeasterly. One sailor, famous for his solo excursions, sailed his catamaran alone to the island. Very alert Thai Navy personnel spotted the lone sailor from

a helicopter monitoring the fleet. The dreaded "man overboard" May Day signal was relayed to the shore-based race committee. No problem: it was the notorious - and adventurous - Swedish sailor, Anders Widen, doing what he did best: Solo sailing into a 25-knot northeasterly – or whatever wind was around. The personable Swede came ashore safe (sane) and sound on Phi Phi. thanks for the vigilance of the Royal Thai Navy and the race management committee.

McCook's Marathon



Over 100 boats are set to compete in this year's Kings Cup Regatta. Photos: Gazette files

Scott McCook, with then-crew Singaporean Alice Lim, who somewhat short of funds, decided to sail their Hobie Cat 16, to Phuket from Singapore, raced in the Beach-launched Catamaran Division of the Regatta, won all five races and then sailed back to Singapore. "No big deal," said Scott later, "just another day in the office". Alice claimed that at times during their torrid journey, she felt a little left out on a "limb", after the adventure.

David vs Goliath

When Lasers were included as a major class in earlier King's Cups, hard-bitten veteran Reg Chambers – no man to fool with on land or sea – was feathering up to windward all, 130 kilos of man and boat. Coming on a collision course were 40 tonnes of keel-boat. Don't mess with our Reggie. "Starboard" was the call from the Laser. The keel-boat, with a few choice expletives, honored the sea law, tacking clear of the Laser. "Thank you", cried Reggie who continued on to win the Laser Class in that event.

Journos edited

Two journos, great friends, were covering an earlier King's Cup for their respective dailies, the "Bangkok Post" and "The Nation". These were the halcyon days, pre-internet. Both finished their stories in hard copy, handed them to one of the beautiful girls (of course!) for transmission via facsimile.

Next day, in the press office was an agonizing cry, in living stereo, from both journos. I've been plagiarized, they uttered simultaneously. The lovely lady, in her wisdom, had transmitted the two stories to the wrong newspaper. Both our editors back at the news office, wondered why we had mentioned our rival newspaper, so many times in the story and why a byline from the rival. Maybe Rupert Murdoch could have worked that one out.

The friendship of the two "hacks" remains firm but now they use internet.

One and only...

Another journo's saga, to round off these inane observations. One writer, dedicated (of course) to covering every aspect of the regatta, made a wrong decision. That was, to go out on the course, for some up-close photography. He chose the sponsor's craft, where the bar opened, as soon as the fleets were off and racing. By the end of that day, becoming very friendly with the skipper, our journo had a "few for the road", back at anchorage. By then, he had lost his camera somewhere and lost his mind totally.

As he was about to disembark, the skipper noticed that the lovely duty nurse had gone ashore and forgotten her first-aid box, clearly marked with a big red cross. So, at the skipper's request, our hero staggered ashore, carrying the first-aid box.

Half-way back to "safety", the drunken journo, cradling his first-aid box, weaved his way into the Kata Beach Resort. All would have been well, except that there was a party of very big – and loud – people heading to the beach.

"Look at that old fool," shouted one of the uncouth tourists. "He is such a drunken idiot, he has to carry his own 'survival kit' – a firstaid emergency survival package".

Our erstwhile hero did not let the group down but managed to do a glorious fall, still clutching the first-aid box. The hotel nurse was very impressed, with the journo's performance and the safe return of her precious

This, then, is a "jaundiced" look at a few of the memorable moments happening during my 27 years of covering the Phuket King's Cup Regatta. There will, no doubt, be a few more anecdotes to report you after this year's event from November 29 to December 6, 2013.

The Phuket Kings Cup Regatta is proudly sponsored by The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's Phuket Today, the island's only English language nationally televised program

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Big race for little boats

THE final event of the the Phuket Dinghy Series is set to take place today, Saturday November 23 and continue on Sunday. The race series, which aims to encourage young local sailors, will be hosted at Panwa Bay by the 3rd Naval Area Command, Royal Thai Navy. The Phuket Dinghy Series is part of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, and 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. The pre

event series race has now entered its 4th successful year and is sponsored by PTT Global Chemical. The race helps inspire many young talents in Phuket and other Southern provinces into the sailing sport, one of the most environmental friendly activity popular in most countries with seashore.

- Phuket Gazette



A first step for kids into the world of sailing.

Ling doubles down at ITF tourney

CONTINUING her outstanding two matchpoints before finally performance during the first week of play, Zhang Ling of Hong Kong was once again victorious in the second and final tournament of the Chang ITF Pro Circuit tennis competition at Thanyapura last weekend.

Ling had a great comeback victory over Lu Jia-Jing of China – seeded Number 4 – with a score of 0-6, 7-6 (2) and 6-3.

Despite a slow start, with many unforced errors made in the first set, Zhang Ling finally collected herself to keep control of the ball with consistent and wellaimed shots. Ling overturned sealing her victory in the the championship of the 2nd ITF Phuket tournament.

- Phuket Gazette

Results of the 2nd tournament Nov 9 - Nov 16

Singles

winner - Zhang Ling (Hong Kong). runner up - Lu, Jia-Jing (China).

Doubles

winners - Nicha Lertpitaksinchai/ Peangtarn Plipuech (Thailand). runner up - Lu, Jia-xiang/Lu, Jia-Jing (China).



Despite taking the first set, Lu Jia-Jing (pictured) could not hold Zhang Ling in the singles finals last weekend. Photo: Shela Riva



Children have a ball with pro tennis

from Phuket International Academy it up close. Day School (PIADS) joined to get

THANYAPURA recently organized ball kids during the games. It was a met two international players, a "Ball Kids and Tennis Clinic" event unique opportunity for the children Dianne Hollands and Katerine during the ITF turnament. Eight kids to be part of the finals and witness Westbury, who gave some useful

A tennis clinic was also event for the children. experience on the tennis court as arranged in the afternoon where kids

tips to help create a memorable

- Phuket Gazette



we are triathlon!

Sport Sport Sport Sport Buakaw breaking it down

By Somchai Huasaikul

MUAY Thai is Thailand's signature sport, and its most famous active practitioner is Buakaw Banchamek, the rock-hard pugilist from Surin who first stepped into the ring at the tender age of eight and has been fighting regularly ever since – last Monday (November 18) right here in Phuket.

Thailand has produced some great fighters over the years: Khaosai Galaxy reigned supreme as the super flyweight world champ in the late 80s and early 90s, then Somrak Kamsing became an instant legend by becoming the first-ever Thai to win an Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in 1996.

Back in the day, Muay Thai was a Thai passion too arcane for the vast majority of foreign martial arts fans too appreciate, so the only path to international stardom for Muay Thai fighters was to make the difficult transition to "Muay Sakhon", western-style boxing, which is the path both Khaosai and Somrak took.

However all that changed with the advent of mixed martial arts (MMA) and its premier showcase, the Ultimate Fighting Challenge, or UFC. As MMA developed, it rapidly became apparent that mastery of the knees and elbows as weapons of attack and defense were vital skills for success, and foreigners began to flock to the Kingdom to study the discipline, which is now taught in many countries around the world and is quite possibly Thailand's greatest cultural export, after Thai food.

Any discussion of who is the greatest Muay Thai fighter ever has to include Buakaw, who has appeared in over 400 fights, starting in Muay Thai and then transitioning to "shootboxing", a version of kickbocking in which he has attained international stardom by becoming the third person ever to win multiple titles in the premier K-1 World Max Championships. He has also played major roles in three **Do you maintain a special diet**

popular Thai movies, both showcasing his rock hard physique and cementing his image as the "Thai Rambo".

Before his exhibition match on Monday night, the *Phuket Gazette* caught up with the champ during his visit to the Saensook Community, a low-rent, seaside area on the East side of Phuket Town where foreigners seldom ever venture. Buakaw is immensely popular among residents in places like the Saesook community, not only as a pugilist, but as a cultural icon: a symbol to the poor of just how much is possible though determination and hard work.

Hundreds of people from throughout the community turned out to see the champ, who gave a short speech and then posed with pictures, held babies and passed out cartons of milk for children before taking off his shirt to expose his chiseled physique.

Then he did a short but fierce focus pad demonstration with his trainer as hundreds of people looked on. The show finally ended when a savage kick by Buakaw propelled his overwhelmed trainer into the crowd, knocking over an excited old man and, in turn, a few small children who had the misfortune of having been standing behind him. Show over.

After that, the Phuket Gazette had a rare chance to interview Buakaw in a small home along Klong Saensook.

PG: How is your training going? You look like you are in pretty good shape.

BK: I feel like I am in good shape and that is because I never take a break from training.

So how many hours a day do you train?

I start first thing in the morning. It works out to about seven hours a day.



THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION: Buakaw puts on a focus pad demonstration for the excited residents of the Saensook Community in Phuket Town. The activity came to an abrupt end when a powerful kick sent his trainer into the crowd... fortunately, all were quickly back up on their feet and smiling. Photo: Somchai Huasaikul

that helps to keep you in such good shape?

I just have a normal diet, eating regular foods in moderation at normal meal times and avoiding fat. I can eat normally and not worry about it as long as I keep the training up, day in and day out.

Do you ever take a break from training to let your body recover?

I only take a break from training after I eat, but then after that it's right back to training.

You have been training since the age of eight. How many fights have you been in during that time?

About three hundred or four hundred by now.

That's a lot. You are not getting bored with it?

I guess I am bored with it in a way, but I still find it fun and I still have the strength to continue doing it and giving everyone a chance to watch me perform.

When is your next K1 fight?

It will be December 30 in China. It is against a Chinese fighter, but I don't remember his name right now. But my next fight, a Muay Thai match, will be in Khon Kaen on December 10. My opponent will be the German fighter Enriko Kehl in the Max Muay Thai series.

You certainly keep yourself busy, but at age 31 you will have to start thinking about retiring from fighting at some point. What do you think you would like to do after your fighting career ends?

I am already in the process of opening my own Muay Thai training camp to teach younger fight-

You have appeared in three films already. Would you like to do more acting?

I would like to, but it is just a question of timing. If my fight training schedule will allow it and the opportunity arises I would like to do it again.

You have been fighting since age 8. What were you like as an eight year old boy?

I was just a typical cheerful and happy boy, like any normal ban nok (country) boy. I was not hot tempered, a bully or anything like that.

You have fought in many different countries. How many? Oh, so many and in Europe many

In which countries do you find that Muay Thai has become especially popular?

Muay Thai has become famous all over the world now, everyone is interested in it wherever I go. Holland and Japan are two countries where it has become particularly popular.

I looked you up on Wikipedia to try and find out a bit about your personal life, but did not find very much. Are you married? Do you have any children?

Everybody has a personal life, and I have mine, but I like to keep my fighting career and my personal life separate. When it is time to train, I train, and when it is time to take care of my personal life that is what I do, but I really do not want to talk about it.

What do you think about the rise of mixed martial arts (MMA) and the relative demise of muay sakhon (western boxing) in Thailand?

Thailand is not producing too many western style boxers these days, fewer than in countries where it still remains popular.

Have you ever considered transitioning into MMA?

I have had some MMA training, but it is hard because there are so many different techniques involved.

Why did you choose the Saensook Community to visit today?

Some members of my team told me that I have a lot of young supporters in this community. So I wanted to thank them for their support with this visit.

Well they certainly enjoyed it. Best of luck in Patong and in all your future fights!

Fans of Buakaw can keep up with his busy schedule at facebook.com/ buakaw.banchamek.9 or Twitter: @BuakawBanchamek



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Tri-Fest: let the games begin!



IT'S here and it's going to be big! The much-anticipated Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013 will kick off with the legendary Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) on November 24 (see schedule to right), which is celebrating its 20th anniversary and will finish with the Challenge Laguna Phuket a week later on December 1.

The seven days in between will be filled with numerous training sessions competitions and social activities at the destination resort.

The enduring appeal of Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the unique challenges of Challenge Laguna Phuket are attracting entries from leading international pro athlete personalities, as well as amateur athletes worldwide.

- Phuket Gazette

LAGUNA PHUKET TRIATHLON

SCHEDULE Sunday, November 24

START

- . 6:30 a.m. Start Pro Athletes . 6:35 Start Wave 1
- Start Wave 2
- Start Wave 3

Beach in front of **Outrigger Laguna Phuket** Beach Resort



- · 6:55a.m. (approx.) First athlete swim finish
- . 8:10 (approx.) First athlete bike finish
- 8:55 (approx.) First Triathlete Finisher
- · 12:45p.m. (approx) Last race finisher

Laguna Grove



For full schedule go to challengelagunaphuket.com/schedules-guides

Less spectating, more supporting



Triathlon Tips By Jürgen Zack

ENDURANCE events like triathlon and running competitions are individual sports. You have to make it from start to finish on your own. But there is a "Team Factor". The athlete with a good support crew might have an advantage over the competition.

If you consider supporting your loved one, a friend or your favorite athlete, here are a few guidelines to be the best supporter you can be:

Gather information about the race upfront like time schedule, course details, rules and competitors. Nothing is more annoying than a supporter who has no clue.

Bring useful items like sunscreen, extra water bottles, energy bar, favorite treat for

Communicate with your athlete before the event to find out where you can be useful. Some require assistance with pumping up their tyres or need split times (bring a watch). Others like a neck massage before the start or need just someone to talk to.

Deal with anxiety and nervousness by being positive! Avoid negative thoughts and doubts, and encourage your athlete. Even if a race doesn't go as planned, cheer them up!

Make your job as a supporter, a pleasant experience for you, for your athlete and for everybody else involved. Who knows? You might be the competitor next time!

Tip provided By Thanyapura's Triathlon Senior Head Coach, Jurgen Zack. To contact the coach email: triathlon@thanyapura.com



Your cheering may help them get to the finish line faster . Photo: familymwr



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