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'EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS'

DISGRACED

Kiwi police volunteer busted for dealing meth to teens and tourists

By Saran Mitrarat

POLICE volunteers across the island are still reeling from the arrest of long-time expat and well-known Tourist Police Volunteer Garry Halpin for dealing drugs to tourists and local teens.

Mr Halpin, 52, was arrested last Saturday night at his rented home at the Chalong Villa and Spa. The New Zealander was found in possession of over 18g of ya ice (crystal methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia, a digital scale and cough syrup.

'Garry was a Tourist Police Volunteer who always helped the Chalong Police to communicate with tourists. He worked closely with police, and used this connection to convince foreigners that he could do what he wanted, right or wrong," Lt Col Jarun Bangprasert of the Phuket Provincial Police said.

The arrest followed police receiving a tip-off from 25-year-old drug suspect Lersak Thaitae, who was arrested in Rawai on December 13. Mr Lersak told police that he sold ya ice to Mr Halpin, who would then turn around and re-distribute the drug in the

Police quickly scrambled a sting operation and had Mr Lersak call Mr Halpin.

"He was told that there wasn't much left in the batch. However, there was enough for us to come in and make an arrest," Col Bangprasert said.

Wal Brown, another well-known and long-serving...

Continued on Page 8



Garry Halpin (right), now facing charges for dealing meth, escorts former police volunteer Stein Dokset after the remains of Mr Dokset's ex-girlfriend were found in a bin of acid in February, 2012.

Cops target foreigners out at night

POLICE revealed a plan to target foreigners at checkpoints across the island as high season begins.

The move is designed to rein in the increasing number of tourists and expats who are taking part in criminal activities.

Full story Page 3

Karon surf deadliest on Phuket

KARON Beach was named Phuket's deadliest beach last Friday during a status review at the Karon Police Station.

Nine people drowned at the beach between October 2012 and September 2013. Most recently an unattended 9-year-old boy drowned in light surf.

Full story Page 2

Search for missing girl continues

THE mother of missing 7year-old girl "Nong Dear" quickly dismissed rumors that her daughter's body had been found. She and others in the Chalong area continue their search.

Full Story Page 5













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This Week

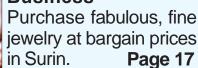


Property

Meet a man with a vision of Phuket's property future. Page 16



Business







Food

Visit gourmet heaven with the chef of French presidents. Page 34





Environment

Greener Tesco Lotus says no to evil, plastic bags. Page 36



Wednesday



Take an artistic journey

Sport

from hedonism to Buddhism. Page 39







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Karon Beach named Phuket's deadliest

By Saran Mitrarat

KARON Beach was marked as the deadliest beach in Phuket after eight people drowned between October 2012 and September 2013, said Karon Police Superintendent Weerawat Jantarawichit last Friday.

"We have put up signs in many languages warning people about the dangers, but they have not been successful - this is very concerning," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut said in a meeting with Col Weerawat.

Though eight of the 33 people who drowned in Phuket during the one-year period died on Karon Beach, hundreds were safely pulled from the waves, explained Kata-Karon chief lifeguard Uten Singsom.

"Lifeguards saved over a thousand people in the province during that period," Mr Uten said.

The day after Karon was named the deadliest beach, a boy aged 9 died in the relatively calm surf, sparking further warnings from Mr Uten.

"Children should never be left unattended near the surf, even if no red flags have been posted to mark it as a dangerous area to



Chief lifeguard at the island's most deadly beach, Mr Uten, continues to ask beachgoers to be cautious and obey guards. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

swim," Mr Uten said.

"Right now, there are a lot of tourists at Karon and Kata beaches, which makes it difficult for us to keep an eye on children swimming among them in the surf," Mr Uten said.

The boy was identified as Awiruth Sae-tun, the nephew of a beach masseuse. Lifeguards found Awiruth unconscious, semisubmerged in the water.

"We brought him ashore and

administered CPR," Mr Uten said.

After Awiruth's eyes flickered, he was rushed to hospital, but traffic delays made it a long drive, and a medical team at Patong Hospital was unable to revive him.

"This case should be a sad lesson learned for people who bring children to the beach. Never take your eyes off your children, even if there are no red flags – it might be the last time you see them alive," he warned.

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Taxi driver arrested for assaulting tourist

KARON Police arrested a taxi driver last Saturday for threatening and assaulting a tourist with a piece of bamboo.

Narongsak "Petch" Kongsawat, 19, was arrested at the taxi rank in front of the Centara Grand Beach Resort, Phuket, at about 4:30pm.

"Police identified themselves, showed the arrest warrant and took Mr Narongsak to the police station for questioning over an incident on December 8," Lt Col Sopon Borrirak of the Karon Police said.

Lithuanian tourist Arminas Macys, 41, alleged that on December 8 he was threatened by Mr Narongsak because he was taking a taxi that was not part of the rank in front of the resort.

"I had asked for hotel staff to call me a taxi, but there wasn't



Mr Narongsak points at a copy of his national ID card after his arrest.

one available, so I walked out of the hotel to get a taxi about 50 meters away," Mr Macys told

"While I was opening the taxi door, a man rushed me and started pulling on my arm, ordering me not to take the taxi. He also pointed

to the taxi rank in front of the hotel and waved a piece of bamboo while threatening me," Mr Macys said. "He told me I was an impolite person, and then started hitting me with the bamboo stick."

Mr Narongsak has denied threatening and attacking Mr

In light of the incident, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut asked that Karon Police take swift action against any taxi drivers who threaten or assault tourists.

"Not many drivers threaten tourists, but those who do, are creating an enormous problem and affecting the image of all taxi drivers in Phuket. Police need to set an example, so they understand we are serious," Governor Maitri said.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Police to target foreigners

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

FOREIGNERS passing through checkpoints at night will be stopped and searched as part of a new effort to ensure the safety of people and property on Phuket, police announced on Tuesday.

The police initiative is motivated by two recent ATM robberies perpetrated by foreigners and the fact that the number of foreign suspects in criminal cases sharply increased this year, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy

Commander Peeravuth Karachedi.

Officers at police stations throughout Phuket were instructed last week to begin stopping and searching foreigners

could be used in a robbery, officers will question the driver in detail," Col Peerayuth said.

"There is no need to carry around this kind of equipment at night," he added.

Two Vietnamese men are suspected of using a blowtorch to rob

> an ATM at the Boat Lagoon of 1.6 million baht on November 7. Police believe they left Thailand the following day.

On December 3, a Mexican and two Colombians used a blowtorch to rob an ATM in Patong of nearly 300,000 baht.

They were later apprehended in Bangkok.

From January to November this year, 247 foreigners in Phuket were suspects in criminal cases, Col Peerayuth noted, while the "If we find any equipment that number for 2012 was 193 and for



A recent increase in foreigners involved in criminal activity on the island has led police to target those travelling at night. Photo: Gazette file

2011 was 194.

"We have to be more strict in enforcing the law as the number of tourists and expats in Phuket is increasing every year," said Col

Peerayuth. "We have both good and bad foreigners here, and it's our job to try to prevent the bad ones from doing criminal acts in our country."

Farangs acting Working without a work permit 55 Drugs Traffic violations 35 Expired permit 30 to stay Offense against 28 property Offense against 11 life or body Crime not stated 11 Entered the country 10 illegally

Public lighting deals deadly electric shock

'We have both good

and bad foreigners

here, and it's our job

to try to prevent the

bad ones from doing

criminal acts'

- Phuket Provincial

Peerayuth Karachedi

Police Deputy

Commander

A CONSTRUCTION worker died from an electric shock on December 11 when he leaned against a barbed-wire fence to urinate.

"The fence was accidentally electrified by a frayed power cable," said Lt Peerasit Noopayan of the Cherng Talay Police.

A nearby light pole was leaning to one side, and the frayed wire which supplies it with electricity came into contact with the fence, electrifying it, a rescue worker said.

Called to the scene, a workers' camp behind the Cherng Talay administrative office, police and Kusoldharm rescue workers found the man – known only as Mr Dang – unconscious on the

"He had a small black spot on his abdomen where the skin was burned," said Lt Peerasit.

Friends told police that Mr Dang had been relaxing after work when he said he needed to urinate. He walked to the nearby fence, and then suddenly fell down, Lt Peerasit said.

"His friends shook him to try to wake him up, but he didn't respond, so they called the police," Lt Peerasit said.

Efforts to revive Mr Dang with CPR at the scene were unsuccessful. He was then taken to Thalang Hospital, where medical staff tried for an hour to resuscitate him before they pronounced him dead.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

British beggar beaten on Bangla

A BRITISH beggar who was verbally abusing tourists who weren't giving him money was attacked on Soi Bangla last Saturday night.

Patong Police and Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived at the scene to find Aziz Javid, 29, sprawled out on the road with a crowd of onlookers standing around him.

"He was suffering from a minor head injury and had a black eye. Rescue workers administered first aid and then took him to

Patong Hospital," said Capt Nattaya Suwanpong of the Patong Police.

A tourist who witnessed the attack told police that



No charges were pressed.

Mr Aziz was asking tourists for cash. Some were giving it to him, but some were not, explained Capt Nattaya.

"He shouted and cursed at people who wouldn't give him money," she said.

Mr Aziz angered one group of tourists to the point that they attacked him, knocking him to the ground, Capt Nattaya added.

Mr Aziz was released from hospital about two hours after being admitted.

"No complaint was filed at the police station, so we are not investigating the case at this point in time," - Thawit Bilabdullar Capt Nattaya explained.







Candle-lighting ceremony at Patong Beach last year. Photo: Gazette file

Tsunami victims to be honored

THE Phuket community will honor those who died in the devastating tsunami that struck the island nine years ago with a ceremony at the Tsunami Memorial Wall in Mai Khao followed by the traditional "Light Up Phuket" candle-lighting ceremony on Patong Beach.

The ceremony on December 26 at the Memorial Wall will begin at about 8:30am. At 9:30am, a minute of silence will be observed, followed by a multi-faith service.

At 6:30pm, the annual "Light Up Phuket" candle-lighting ceremony will be held on Patong Beach.

Each year, thousands of people turn out to dig holes in the sand and place lit candles within to remember tsunami victims.

This year, the memorial event will be held at Loma Park, starting at 6:30pm. – *Saran Mitrarat*

Phantom owners of ghost resort haunted by deed

By Saran Mitrarat

THE absent owners of an abandoned resort in the foothills overlooking Patong have been given three months to respond to an order to allow access across their 200-million-baht plot of land – or face a court order to do so.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak delivered the news on December 12 at The Crest resort on Phra Barami Road, where derelict buildings have been left to crumble for at least four years.

At the inspection of the fiverai site, local resident Utaiwan Van-Zandt explained to Vice Governor Somkiet that she filed numerous complaints over the years after the resort was built and access to her land was cut off, depriving her of the opportunity to develop or sell her land.

"The land is worth up to 40 million baht per rai due to its complete view over Patong," Ms



Ms Van-Zandt (right) lost access to her land when the resort was built.

Van-Zandt said.

Sayan Chanachaiwong, who took up the post as Kathu District Chief on October 28 this year, assured Ms Van-Zandt that this time her grievance would be heard.

"The pathway across the resort

land was marked on the Chanote issued by the Land Office to the resort owners. This proves that the pathway was there before the owners built the resort," Mr Sayan explained.

"That means, by law, the

resort owners must continue to provide access across their property for the people who own land behind it," he said. "We cannot order the owners to pull down any buildings, but they must provide access across their land."

Though Mr Sayan advised mediation before taking the case to court, it might be impossible, as officials continue to struggle to contact the owners of the company who were building the resort.

Patong Municipality's Environment Division officer Sarawut Nimsung explained that Patong Municipality officers were still searching for the owners of Aranya and Charn Co Ltd, which is the registered Thai company based in Bangkok that is building the project.

Mr Sarawut was unable to give details as to why Patong Municipality continues to have difficulty in tracking down Thai nationals who are registered company shareholders.



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Reforms planned for taxi rank at Kata Noi

REFORM for the 60-vehicle taxi rank operating at the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort is on the horizon, said Katathani President and CEO Sombat Atiset last Saturday.

The hotel is working together with the Karon Municipality and Karon Police to establish a balance where everyone can "live together", explained Mr Sombat.

"We are working with the Kata Noi Taxi Service, and might get results within the next week," he said.

The price structure at the taxi rank will follow the standard prices established by the Phuket Land Transportation Office.

"The important thing is that the drivers wear a standard uniform, are well groomed and are polite to their guests," Mr Sombat said.

"The important thing is that the island-wide island-wide to the interpretation of the i



with the Kata Noi Sombat Atiset hopes the Kata Noi taxi rank will Taxi Service and serve as a model for other taxi groups.

"If the Kata Noi Taxi Service project is a success, it will be the model for similar operations in Karon," he added.

The move to organize the taxi rank in Kata Noi comes as the island-wide December 31 deadline looms for all taxi ranks to register with police.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



Rumors rife over Nong Dear

By Saran Mitrarat

POLICE this week refuted rumors circulating across Phuket that the body of 7-year-old Natthapa "Nong Dear" Papkaew had been found.

"Don't believe the rumors on Facebook. They're not true. Our officers have yet to uncover any information that may lead to Nong Dear," said Capt Thada Sodarak of the Chalong Police.

Nong Dear's mother, Jaroon Papkaew, had heard the same rumors. "My little girl has not been found," she told the *Gazette* on Monday.

Capt Thada also debunked rumors that Nong Dear was a victim of confessed child-killer rapist "Nui" (see page 10).

rapist "Nui" (see page 10).

"It can't be Nui," Capt Thada said on Tuesday. "CCTV footage in Bangkok placed him in Bang Na on the same day that Nong Dear disappeared."

A mass search for Nong Dear was launched on December 6 after she disappeared near her family's home in Soi Koktanode, Chalong. Capt Thada said police had examined CCTV footage in the area where Nong Dear was last seen.

"The footage revealed nothing," he said.

Ms Jaroon still holds out hope of finding her daughter alive.

"I still believe that she's alive. If she were dead, we would have found some trace of her by now," she said.

Ms Jaroon last week consulted a spirit medium after police efforts failed to yield any results in the search for her daughter.

"I know police are working hard, but they are still unable to find my daughter," Ms Jaroon said. "I didn't know what else to do, so I approached a spirit medium as an alternative way to find my beloved girl."

During the ceremony led by the medium, Ms Jaroon lit candles and incense and offered food to spirits at the big banyan tree opposite Wat Tai.

"The medium told us that Nong Dear was still alive, but something was preventing her from showing herself to those searching for her. She is in some



When her search for her daughter led Ms Jaroon to start clearing grass near Wat Tai, bystanders like the man above hurried to help her. Nong Dear (inset) has been missing since December 6. Photos: Gazette file; supplied

mysterious or hidden place within the empty field across from Wat Tai," she said.

"The police and rescue workers might not believe in this kind of thing, so they need information

and proof before they come to inspect the area."

Ms Jaroon took matters into her own hands and started clearing the grass in the empty field, searching for her daughter. "Residents were happy to quickly join in and help me clear the grass. They are all supporting me," Ms Jaroon said.

"Even if the search seems futile, I will not lose hope."

Swedes' murder trial nears close

TOMMY Viktor Soderlund, one of two Swedish nationals charged for the stabbing murder of Maksim Schantz two years ago, reiterated his plea of not guilty at Phuket Provincial Court on Monday.

Mr Soderlund, in court to testify, repeated his plea of not guilty and gave his version of events that led to the killing of Russian-born Swedish national Mr Schantz in August 2011.

Although the *Gazette* was prohibited by the court from revealing details of Mr Soderlund's testimony, a court officer confirmed that the trial was set to continue on December 23, when Mr Soderlund's alleged accomplice Johan Sebastian Ljung will be called in as a witness.

Mr Ljung was also present at Phuket Provincial Court for his own trial on Monday.

"The judge is reviewing the case and evidence, and has set January 24 as the date for handing down a verdict [in Mr Ljung's trial]," a court officer confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung both stand charged with premeditated murder and collaboration in robbery, as well as carrying a knife and an unlicensed firearm with ammunition.

The court made its ruling to try the men separately after Mr Ljung accepted the charges, but Mr Soderlund denied them at their court hearing on November 2 last year.

- Saran Mitrarat





Typhoon victims iBlessed

By Irfarn Jamdukor

FUNDS and relief goods collected in Phuket for victims of Typhoon Haiyan under the iBless Philippines campaign have been sent to the Philippines, and more fund raising events are in the works.

"We sent 139,468 baht and 2,700kg of emergency relief goods to the Philippines on November 29," said Bernardita Sanchez, an iBless committee member, who spoke to the Gazette.

Some of the iBless members accompanied the shipment, handing over the cash and goods to three organizations - the Kabalikat Civic Communicators Association, Guardians' Center Foundation, and the Diocesan Social Action Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose

"We wanted to deliver some of the donations personally, so we

went to Iloilo province ourselves," she explained.

"The people there were happy that we were visiting them. It made them feel that people are continuing to support them," she said.

"We would like to thank all Phuket locals, tourists and expats who supported us and made donations," she added.

Ms Sanchez explained that 38,600 baht of the money raised by iBless came from a fund raising event at Saphan Hin on November 17.

The remaining funds came from private donations and from local Filipino musicians who performed in bars and pubs, giving mini-concerts to raise money.

Another iBless fund raising event is schedule for December 29 at Molly Malone's Irish pub in Patong. Details of the event will be released when available, Ms Sanchez said.



About 2,700kg of Phuket donations arrive in Manila.



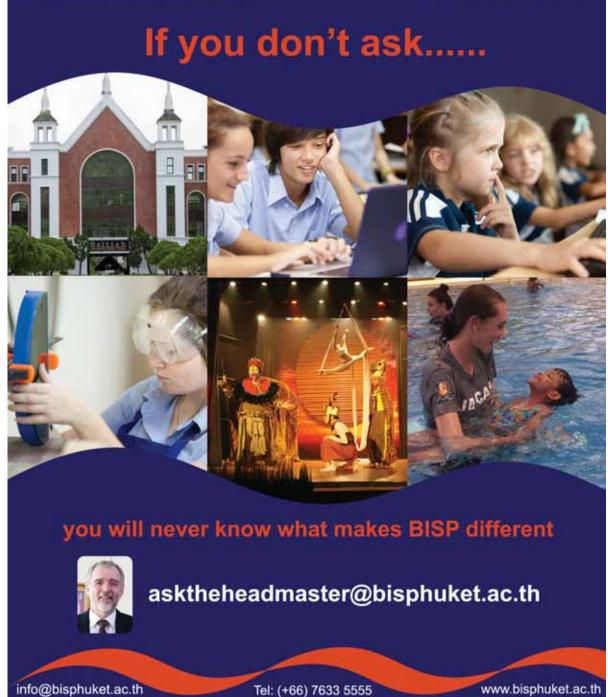
iBless volunteers distribute goods in Iloilo.





Almost 140,000 baht of donations were raised in Phuket. Members of the team on site. Photos: iBless Committee





Kathu Chief backs clear beach project



The proposal calls for over 500 meters of Patong to be free of all business, including umbrella renters and hawkers. Photo: Gazette file

THE new Kathu District Chief vowed last week to pick up the reins of the Patong "beach clear" zone, which was set in motion by the District Chief who preceded him, Veera Kerdsirimongkol.

In July Mr Veera requested that the Patong Municipality clear all vendors - including sun bed operators - from a large section of Patong Beach. Mr Veera's parting wish for Phuket after receiving an "urgent transfer" out of the province in October was that the "incoming District Chief keep pushing for the beach clear zone in Patong".

Mr Veera's replacement, Sayan Chanachaiwong, explained to the Gazette that he had been briefed on all the projects in motion within the district to ensure a smooth

mid-term transition.

"Some of the projects might take some time to study, but others we can pick up immediately where Mr Veera left off," Mr Savan said.

"I am continuing the push for the Patong beach clear zone. Additionally, we are working on managing taxi ranks, parking areas, sun bed operators and jetski operators," he said.

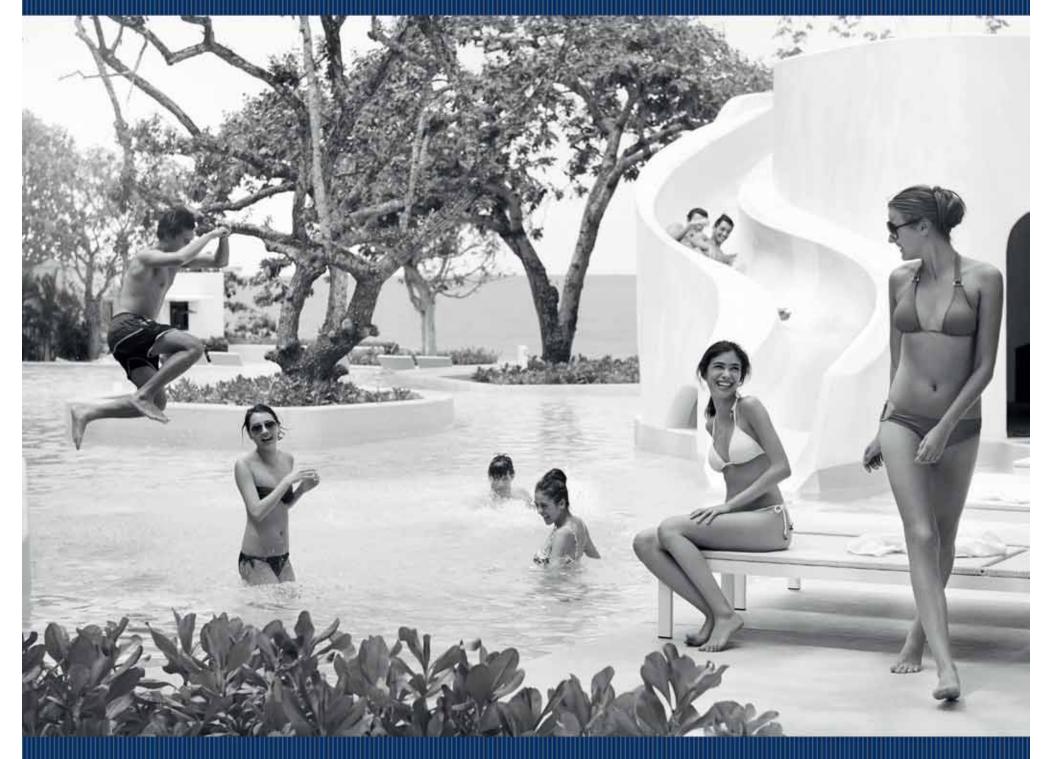
Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, Patong Police, Department of Special Investigations (DSI) and Patong Municipality are all participating in the project.

"This is all being done in accordance with the Governor's plan to improve Patong and make it more livable," he added.

- Saran Mitrarat

December 21 - 27, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 7





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Monkey biz at drug den

POLICE raiding a kratom den in Phang Nga earlier this month ran into some serious monkey business when they discovered 19 caged macaques.

After receiving a tip that beverages made from the leaves of the illegal *kratom* tree were being brewed in a house in Takuapa, police moved in.

"Not only did officers find three men drinking a kratom beverage, two large vats of the illegal drink and 6kg of kratom leaves, but they also discovered 19 caged macaques," said a Takuapa police officer.

"Macaques are a protected species," the officer explained.

Pongsiri Tongdaung, 21; Teerapon Sanga, 22; and Phuthai Supandee, 46, confessed that they sold kratom products to people who lived in the area.

Suchon Tongduang, the father of one of the men, admitted that the macaques belonged to him.

"He told us that he sold them in Surat Thani for 1,500 baht each," the officer said.

Mr Suchon was charged with possession of protected animals and the three other men with possession of a Category 5 Drug with intent to sell.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Jetstar launches direct Melbourne-Phuket flights

JETSTAR Airways has launched its non-stop service between Phuket and Melbourne, connecting Phuket to one of its most important source markets just in time for the tourism high season to kick off.

"The first flight of the service directly to Phuket left the ground on December 14, making it the first direct low-cost carrier service for travellers between the two destinations,' said a Jetstar spokesman.

The direct flights between Phuket and Melbourne will operate every Saturday and Sunday with a third day to be introduced in April.

The second Australian city to be joined to Phuket by direct flights will be Sydney, start-

ing in February next year, when Jetstar will fly state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliners between the two cities.

"The 787 burns 20 per cent less fuel, has much larger windows and has extra humidity in the cabin providing additional comfort and reducing the impact of jetlag," said the spokesman.

Additionally, for the holiday season, Jetstar has expanded its schedule from Singapore to Thailand, offering up to five daily flights between Bangkok and Singapore on the

"Thailand is strategically one of the most important destinations in our network, and



Direct flights from Oz to Phuket. Photo: Jetstar

this is reflected in both Jetstar Asia's and Jetstar Airways' continued capacity growth in the region," Jetstar Asia CEO Bara Pasupathi - Phuket Gazette

Tarnishing the Tourist Police

From page 1

...police volunteer on the island, was angered by the arrest.

"It doesn't make sense. Garry is an astute man. He has lived here for about 17 years, he speaks fluent Thai and assisted the Tourist Police for at least 10 years. Anyone who works with the police here knows you can't get away with anything like this," he said.

"There are a lot of great guys doing a lot of great work as police volunteers - with Phuket Immigration, the Highways Police, Tourist Police or like me with Region 8 Police – but it takes just one guy to damage our reputation.

"Instances like this also make it very difficult to get new volunteers," he added.

Personal circumstances may have played a crucial part in Mr Halpin's downfall, Mr Brown speculated.

"I heard he left his wife last week and moved into the villa three days before he was arrested," he noted.

Phuket Tourist Police Inspector Urumporn Koondejsumrit confirmed that Mr Halpin did not



Garry Halpin (right) was a Tourist Police Volunteer for 10 years. Photo: Facebook

re-apply to continue serving as a volunteer this year.

He has not been a Tourist Police Volunteer since April 1, but I have seen him at Chalong Police Station assisting officers," he said.

Maj Urumporn confirmed that background checks are conducted on all volunteer applicants.

"We check for arrest warrants and criminal records of every nationality before we approve them,"

"We even test them for drugs each year when they apply to renew their volunteer permits. We tested Garry last year, and he was clean," Maj Urumporn said.

Chalong Police Superintendent Kritapas Dazintharasorn said he was aware that Mr Halpin assisted his officers in affairs involving foreigners, but added, "If asked about my feelings on this matter – I have no comment."

However, Chalong Police

Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaidoung praised Mr Halpin for his good work over the years.

"He worked with us for many years and he was willing to come to the police station 24 hours a day to help," Lt Col Jumroon said.

"But with this, nobody is above the law," he added.

Although arrested by Phuket Provincial Police, Mr Halpin was handed over to his colleagues at the Chalong Police Station to be formally charged with the possession of a Category 1 Drug with intent to sell.

"He has accepted the charges," Col Bangprasert said.

Mr Halpin was denied police bail, but at the time this article went to print he had yet to be arraigned at Phuket Provincial Court.

'Bail for a drug-dealing charge could be set as high as 2 million baht," one court officer said.

Mr Halpin remains in custody at Phuket Provincial Prison.

- Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

See Editorial 'Hold the icy judgments' on page 18

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Phuket Provincial Hall re-opens

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at the request of anti-government protesters last month, officially reopened on Monday.

On November 27, thousands of protesters massed at the hall, presented Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut with a bouquet of flowers and a giant whistle, and asked him to shutter the building. He obliged, but carried on working at various locations outside the hall.

The main government building in Phuket unofficially re-opened last Wednesday,

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PHUKET Provincial Hall, closed though the entrance gate remained closed, said an officer from the Public Relations department.

On Monday, however, the front gate was open.

"The entrance gate is open, which means everyone can come inside. All the officers are back at work - and we have a lot of work to do," said Wassana Soonthornsiri, an officer at the Ministry of Finance, Phuket Office.

Phuket Provincial Hall hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. - Saran Mitrarat

nsurance



Phuket land grab suspect arrested

POLICE charged Somsak Yongyuth, 45, with encroaching on a protected forest on Monday after he was found building two houses amid mangroves in Wichit.

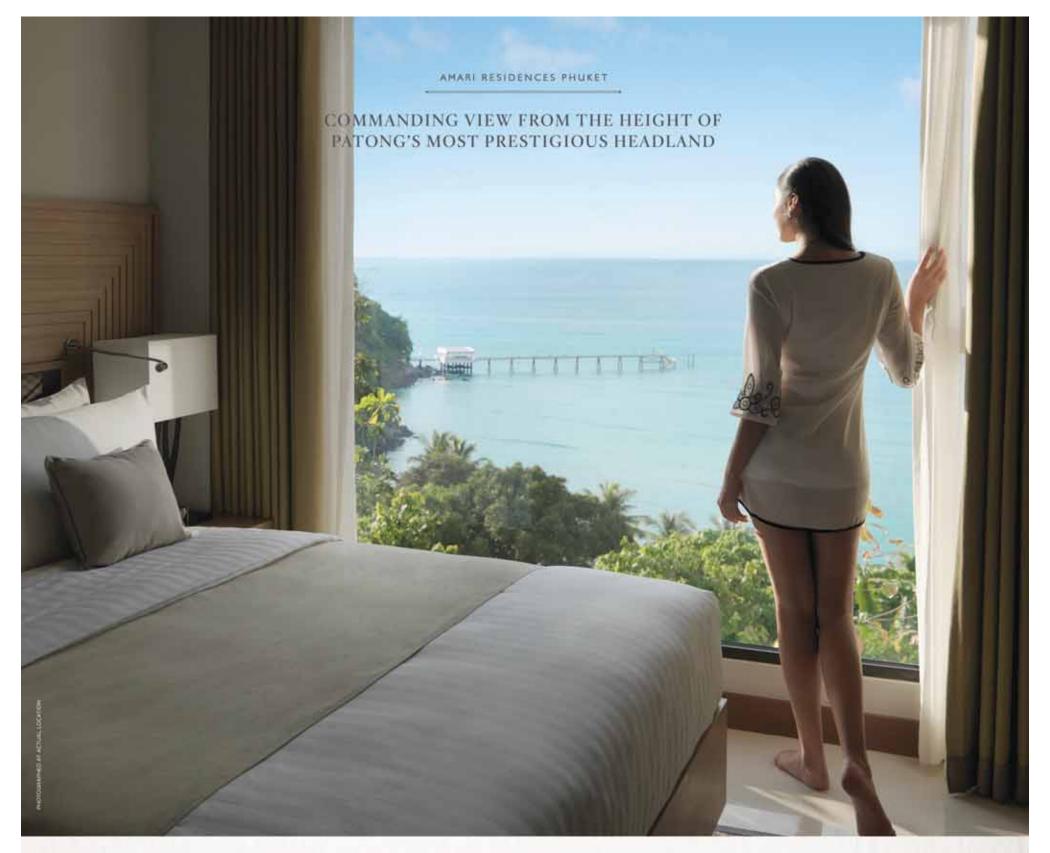
The arrest came during a raid at a site near Klong Mudong.

"Officers used GPS to confirm... that the land was within the boundaries of a protected forest," Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak said.

Mr Somsak said he was renting the property and had permission from the owner to build, but could not name the owner.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

December 21 - 27, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 9



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Army refuses to take role in political battle

THE ROYAL Thai Army, which has long served as political powerbroker in Thailand, has apparently refused calls from the opposition to join the side of "the people" against the Yingluck Shinawatra administration.

Last week Gen Prayuth Chanocha, the Army chief, refused a meeting requested by Suthep Thaugsuban, leader of the People's Democratic Reform Committee, which is currently campaigning to end the political influence of the ruling Shinawatra clan in Thailand.

Gen Prayuth has insisted that the Army will not interfere in the current political situation. A spokesman on Monday said the armed forces "must always remain neutral while continuing to maintain peace and social order", The Nation reported.

The general faces pressure from many quarters to take a stance in the current political con-

Col Thanathip Sawangsaeng, the spokesman, said Gen Nipat Thonglek, the permanent secretary for Defence, had received a letter signed by former Army chief Gen Wimol Wongwanit, former Air Force chief ACM Gun Pimarnthip and former Navy chief Adm Wichet Karunyawanit.

The three called on the caretaker government to resign and all sides to join the country's reform before an election.

The letter also called on the military to announce that they would stand by the people. The three military chiefs, who also claimed to represent other retired military officers, said the armed forces could support the people without staging a coup.

Bangkok monster caught nation Serial child rapist, killer arrested after 6-vear-old's remains found

Serial child rapist, killer arrested after 6-year-old's remains found

A MAN suspected of raping and murdering a six-year-old girl in Bangkok confessed to raping at least 10 girls, police say.

The suspect, identified only as Nui, spotted the girl, "Nong Cartoon", asleep alone in a pickup truck earlier this month.

He took her to a secluded area, raped her and then strangled her, The Nation reported.

"I was drunk and had a sexual urge," Nui said.

It was not the first time Nui had been caught abusing children. On August 23 last year he was released from prison after serving a fouryear sentence for child abduction.

Nong Cartoon's father had taken his daughter to a concert on December 6. When she got tired, he left her in his friend's pickup truck to sleep while he returned to the concert. When he returned, she was gone.

She had fallen into the clutches of Nui, who confessed to police that he had killed her. Nui was arrested in Nong Khai, where he was working as a crew member for a Thai country music band.

Nui's confession dashed the hopes of the girls' parents that they might find her alive, and in a



The man identified by police only as 'Nui' confessed to raping at least 10 girls and killing four. Photo: The Nation

desolate area on Soi La Salle, a those of the missing girl. human skull was found last Sun-

The suspect was tracked down day. DNA tests were ongoing to after media showed security cam- t-shirt and alerted police that it was determine if the remains were era pictures of him walking the type used by band crewmen.

alongside his latest victim.

Viewers noticed the suspect's

pposition demands delay in elections for reform

ELECTION Commission (EC) member Somchai Srisuthiyakorn said on Tuesday that the EC is ready to postpone the election from February 2, if political parties reach an agreement to delay it and if it is permitted under the

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban continues to make it clear that the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), who met with the EC to call for a postponement of the election did not reject the election. He says that the postponement can open the way for political reform which could take at least a year or a year and a half to finish.

Mr Suthep told his supporters on Monday night at Rajdamnoen rally site that the PDRC opposed the election, as it would be organized under the existing system.



Mr Somchai (left) says postponement of the election is possible. Photo: The Nation

The former Democrat MP explained that the PDRC wants a free and fair election in order to get good MPs and a good

government. However, if the election date cannot be postponed, the PDRC should help campaign for a fair election, in which there should be no vote buying, Mr Somchai said on

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sek Wannamethee said advance balloting for the February 2 election will take place between January 13 to 26.

Mr Sek said Thai embassies and consular offices would announce the time and places for advance ballots on the www.khonthai.com.

Advance balloting can be held at polling booths to be determined by embassies and consular offices or by mail, Sek said.

He said the Foreign Ministry has sent handbooks for organizing the advance voting to foreign embassies and consular offices.

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Cold-disaster zones named in North ahead of holiday season

TWO districts in Chiang Mai have been declared cold-spell disaster zones after the temperature there plunged between four to seven degrees Celsius on Monday, a senior official said.

Phatthanida Sadudee, chief of the Chiang Mai Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office, said Omkoi and Fang districts have been declared cold-spell disaster zones, reported The Nation.

Monday saw the mercury on top of Doi Inthanon drop to three degrees Celsius.

Ms Phattanida said the cold spell was affecting 95 villages in six tambons of Omkoi and two villages in Fang.

She said that her office had



Frozen dew at Doi Inthanon. Photo: The Nation

handed out blankets and sweaters to the people in affected areas and the people living in highland areas have been warned to brace themselves for the cold.

Kerry in Manila

Maritime security in South China Sea tops official agenda

By Lesley Wroughton

US SECRETARY of State John Kerry arrived in the Philippines on Tuesday, seeking to modernize economic and political ties with one of America's oldest allies in Southeast Asia.

Mr Kerry's two-day visit took him to the capital, Manila, for talks with government officials and the business community.

As he did on his previous stop in Vietnam, Kerry discussed maritime security with authorities in the Philippines, which also has territorial claims in the South China Sea. "They will certainly discuss the specific issues pertaining to the South China Sea," a senior State Department official said.

The issues discussed ranged from helping the Philippines strengthen its capacity for tasks such as finding out who is in its territorial waters and why, to legal issues over the country's challenge to China's claim on what



John Kerry (right) speaks to the press with Philippines' Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario. Photo: Reuters

official added.

"In the near term there's a need for practical measures to prevent incidents or manage them if they

is known as the nine-dash line, the occur in a way that avoids escalation," he official said.

> Regional tension with China has escalated over the territorial claims in the South China Sea. Separately,

China and Japan are embroiled in a dispute over islands in the East China Sea. The United States has said it is not taking sides in any of - Reuters the disputes

In brief...

Indonesia instates ban on handing money to beggars

THE Semarang City Council in Central Java is expected to approve a bylaw by the beginning of 2014 that will outlaw the donation of money to homeless people.

Once approved, the bylaw will allow people to be fined for giving money to beggars or street kids. Beggars who receive money will also be open to punishment under the new law. A similar bylaw has already been introduced by the Jakarta administration.

- The Jakarta Post

Coca-Cola splashes out in Myanmar

AFTER a 60-year hiatus in Myanmar, Coca-Cola is pushing ahead with plans to build more factories in the country. Coca-Cola has already jointly built two factories with local soft drink company Pinya, and recently began bottling two of its flagship brands: Coca-Cola and Sprite, which are now on the market.

- Eleven Media Group

Death sentences for Vietnam corruption

AROUND THE

A COURT in Vietnam sentenced two former executives of a stateowned shipping firm to death on Monday for embezzlement.

Duong Chi Dung and Mai Van Phuc, respectively the former chairman and the chief executive of Vinalines, were found guilty of siphoning off 20 billion dong

(30.34mn baht) and mismanaging state funds to the detriment of the country's economy.

In a case that caused losses of 554.6mn eight

other officials received sentences of between four and 22 years for embezzlement and "intentionally violating state rules on economic management with serious consequences", according to the verdict read in court.

Mr Dung and Mr Phuc each ordered to repay 166mn

The verdict comes as Vietnam's government seeks to restructure its hundreds of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in an effort to revive an economy grappling with high levels of debt, much of which rests with its own companies.

As part of a plan to create state-owned national champions in the mold of South Korea's "Chaebol", Vietnam wanted to develop Vinalines into one of the world's top shipping companies.

But like many SOEs, which

enjoyed almost unfettered access to credit, Vinalines, or Vietnam National Shipping Lines, expanded disastrously into non-core businesses including real estate and stock broking.

It was hit hard by the global economy slowdown from 2008 and ran up debts of 64bn baht by

> the end of 2011, the government noted in an official report.

Last year, the chairman of the debt-ridden state-owned shipbuilder

Vinashin was jailed for 20 years for violating state regulations on economic management. Vinashin's debts were more than 128bn baht.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung made a public apology in parliament in October 2012 for his 'weakness in economic management, especially in the supervision of the operation of state-owned groups".

The Southeast Asian country's economy grew 5.25 per cent in 2012, the slowest pace in 13 years and well below what economists see as its potential.

Despite Vietnam's recurring problems with SOEs, lawmakers last month approved an amended constitution that affirmed that the state sector must "play the leading role" in developing the economy.

- Reuters



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In brief...

Japan to strengthen military, boost Asia ties to counter China

JAPAN will boost its military spending in coming years, buying early-warning planes, beach-assault vehicles and troop-carrying aircraft, while seeking closer ties with Asian partners to counter a more militarily assertive China.

The planned 2.6 percent increase over five years, announced on Tuesday, reverses a decade of decline and marks the clearest sign since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office a year ago that he wants a bigger military role for Japan as tension flares with Asia's other big power over islands both claim.

Gunshots sound in South Sudan after 'attempted coup'

GUNFIRE rang out again in South Sudan's capital Juba late on Monday hours after President Salva Kiir said his forces had quelled an "attempted coup" by supporters of his sacked deputy.

Kiir earlier said fighters loyal to former vice president Riek Machar had attacked an army base into the early hours of Monday morning, but the military was in control. He imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

After the streets emptied, and thousands of locals took refuge in UN compounds in Juba, UN official reported hearing fresh shooting.

Death causes court to put partial halt to World Cup stadium

A BRAZILIAN labor court ordered a partial stop to construction on the Arena Amazonia in the jungle city of Manaus after the death of a worker who fell off the stadium's roof raised safety concerns ahead of the 2014 football World Cup.

Public prosecutors asked for work "in all areas involving altitude" to be stopped pending investigations to guarantee workers' safety. The worker, Marcleudo de Melo Ferreira, 22, died in a Manaus hospital on Saturday.

China says six of 'terror gang' arrested after deadly riot in Xinjiang

CHINESE police have arrested six people they suspect of taking part in a riot near the old Silk Road city of Kashgar, in the restive far western Muslim region of Xinjiang, in which 16 people were killed, the regional government said.

The arrests, reported by the Xinjiang government in a statement on an official news site late on Monday, came a day after Chinese police shot and killed 14 people during the riot. Two policemen were also killed.

The government statement called the inci-

dent a "pre-meditated, violent terror attack".

"The gang repeatedly gathered to... promote extremist religious ideology, manufactured explosive devices and guns, conducted test explosions several times and planned to carry out violent terrorist activities," the Xinjiang government said.

On Monday, China's Foreign Ministry stopped short of directly blaming Islamist militants but said a "violent terror gang" attacked police with explosives.

The Xinjiang government said the terror gang

made up of 20 members was formed in August and was led by a person they named as Hesen Ismail.

Reuters was not able to independently verify the charges. Foreign journalists are often harassed and sometimes denie areas in Xinjiang.



Kashgar makes it on the map. Photo: CIA

and sometimes denied access to sensitive

US judge rules surveillance program is likely unlawful

By David Ingram and Mark Hosenball

THE US government's gathering of Americans' phone records is likely unlawful, a judge ruled on Monday, raising serious doubts about the value of the National Security Agency (NSA)'s metadata counterterrorism program.

"I cannot imagine a more 'indiscriminate' and 'arbitrary invasion' than this systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every single citizen," US District Judge Richard Leon, appointed by Republican President George W Bush in 2002, wrote in a 68-page ruling.

The US Department of Justice said it was reviewing the ruling in a case brought by Larry Klayman, a conservative lawyer, and Charles Strange, described in court documents as the father of a cryptologist technician for the NSA who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011. The judge ordered the government to stop collecting data about the two plaintiffs, who were Verizon Communications Inc customers. Verizon declined comment.

"We believe the program is constitutional as previous judges have found," Department of Justice spokesman Andrew Ames said in a statement.

Judge Leon suspended enforcement of his injunction against the program "in light of the significant national security interests at stake in this case and the novelty of the constitutional issues" pending an expected appeal by the government. A US official said an appeal



Judge Leon was unsure of the value of the data collected from mobile devices. Photo: Black Plastic

AROUND THE WORLD

was likely.

Judge Leon expressed skepticism of the program's value, writing that the government could not cite a single instance in which the bulk data actually stopped an imminent attack.

"I have serious doubts about the efficacy of the metadata collection program as a means of conducting time-sensitive investigations in cases involving imminent threats of terrorism," he wrote.

That is important, he added, because for the program to be constitutional, the government must show its effectiveness outweighs privacy interests.

Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed the massive phone record collection to US and British media in June. Documents provided by Mr Snowden showed that a US surveillance court had secretly approved the collection of millions of raw daily phone records in America, such as the length of calls

and the numbers that are dialed.

In its defense, the NSA says the data collected are key to spotting possible terrorism plots and do not include the recording of actual phone conversations. Judge Leon wrote, however, that the program likely violated Americans' right to be free of unreasonable searches.

Gen Michael Hayden, former director of both NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency, said the metadata made a contribution to weaving the "tapestry of intelligence" and that judges "are not really in a good position to judge the merits of intelligence collection programs." — Reuters



EU says door remains open to Ukraine, reassures Russia

THE European Union said on Monday it remained ready to sign a trade agreement with Ukraine, despite a snub by President Viktor Yanukovich, and it tried to reassure Moscow that closer EU-Ukraine relations posed no threat to Russia.

Brussels also sought to paper over apparent divisions in its approach to Ukraine, as the Dutch foreign minister slapped down a senior EU official for announcing on Twitter that he had suspended



Pro-Eu protesters Photo: Reuters

work on the trade pact.

Yanukovich stunned the EU last month by abandoning at the last moment plans to sign a far-reaching trade and cooperation pact in favor of closer ties with Russia.

Extra: read all about it

PROPERTY Gazette

TESCO Lotus today (December 21) officially opens its first "Extra" format store in Phuket. The rebranding follows the recent renovation of its main Sam Kong store off the bypass road.

Addressing changing customer needs by offering "more of everything under one roof", the Extra Phuket store will offer "Extra Range, Extra Shops and Extra Service" but at the affordable prices the popular hypermart chain is known for, including an additional 9,000 new product lines in all departments, a new pharmacy, optician, "digital shop" and "money center", in addition to innovative services such as staff on roller skates to assist customers.

"We are building on the success of our eight Tesco Lotus Extra stores to date. Customer feedback for our extra stores has been very positive as we offer extra range, extra shops and extra service in a pleasant shopping environment," said Tesco Lotus Property Director Sompong Rungnirattisai.

"Based on our customer research, one of the main reasons customers now choose to shop at Tesco Lotus is because we offer a wide range of products. So we have upgraded every department with over 9,000 new lines and enhanced key areas such



The upgraded Tesco Lotus Extra on the Bypass road features 9,000 new product lines and staff on roller skates.

as fresh food, bikes, toys and leisure, baby needs, new technology, and health and beauty."

The new fresh food department has upgraded its standards with over 700 new product lines and a new international range, while the new "Digital Zone" consolidates all new technology products in a customer-friendly shopping environment.

Clothing has received a special makeover with a new display for F&F, an international fashion brand sold exclusively at Tesco Lotus. There are new clothing racks from Central Europe to F&F global standard. An LCD wall-paneling shows live fashion sets inspiring customers how to wear F&F in their daily life. Finally, "Virtual Fitting Kiosk" allows customers to "Touch, Try and Share" how they look in F&F outfits with their

favorite social media sites like Facebook or Twitter.

The new "Money and Services Center" offers essential financial services including bill payment, personal loans, Tesco credit card and insurance, and a brand new digital shop bringing all the latest high-tech gadgets into one area.

The reopened complex represents 100 million baht of investment, with the final touches on the refurbishment to be completed by the end of March 2014. Still to come, there will be more shops, a new food court and a new world class shopping experience, including Starbucks, Fuji, Giordano and Air Asia. World-famous Japanese apparel store Uniqlo has now opened in the mall as an example of the new offers.

Customer services at Tesco Lotus Extra Phuket are also further upgraded with new checkout designs and the "Green Line" service of opening new checkouts when queues go past the green line. There is a new service of staff on roller skates and Segways to fetch products from any part of the store. In addition, new parking space is zoned for special groups of customers such as the elderly and mothers with children. The car park now has more lighting and CCTV cameras, while the toilets feature diaper changing areas for the convenience of customers with small children.

"We are constantly seeking new ways to serve our customers better. We have taken learning from our Extra stores and enhanced it even further for Extra Phuket. We are confident it will be popular among tourists and residents of Phuket who look for grocery,

Chalong Tesco opens doors



TESCO Lotus on December 13 opened Chalong Phuket Department Store on Chao Fa West Road.

The new store offers a wide range of fresh food and groceries, and non-food, which includes housewares, electronics, toys and furniture. The complex has 72 mall tenants including banks and leading restaurants. The Tesco Lotus store will create 170 jobs in the area.

On the grand opening day, the company donated scholarships to 100 local school children worth 100,000 baht. The store's collection box will collect funds for the Chalong Hospital Construction Fund.

Tesco Lotus also recently launched pilot "No Bag" stores in Phuket and Samui.

Phuket Gazette

See story on p 34 for more details.

essential household items and services in one shopping trip," concluded Khun Sompong.

There will be customer activities including games, shows and give-aways to celebrate the opening of Tesco Lotus Extra Phuket.

- Phuket Gazette

Office space trending upward

COLLIERS' associate director for its research department, Surachet Kongcheep, said Bangkok and surrounding provinces would continue to grow, as the area is an investment and operational hub for most businesses invested in Thailand.

The Bangkok office market is more interesting again, he said, after a great deal of office space had been occupied since the beginning of 2011.

The overall office occupancy rate has increased dramatically in the past two years, while rental rates have also sharply increased, especially for Grade-A office buildings in the central business districts, where some properties are fetching more than 800 baht per square meter.

With a limited office supply in the CBD areas, demand is rising from both multinational and local companies. The average occupancy rate of Grade-A office buildings is now more than 12 per cent higher than in 2010, he said.

Many international brands are looking to open or expand outlets in the shopping malls or retail centers of Bangkok and other provinces, so the retail market is also more attractive than in the past few years, he added.

Although community malls still are the most active category in retail business, many shopping malls are also under construction and some may affect the market after they open their doors.

High-density residential areas in outer Bangkok have become the new locations for retail development, with many large-scale shopping malls having commenced their projects, such as Central West Gate, Mega Bang Yai and Mega Rangsit.

Moreover, some border and tourism provinces around Thailand have also became new destinations for retail development, said Surachet.

On the residential front, many developers have started to launch or have fully launched new projects in provinces around the Kingdom, especially condominium projects.

Apart from some resort destinations and coastal cities, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Udon Thani have become new destinations for condominium development.

Meanwhile, the new extensions of the mass-transit lines are the major drivers of residential development in Bangkok. This is especially true for condominium projects.

In addition, in many provinces –



Rising demand for office space is fueling more development.

and especially business cities – many condominium projects are under construction and scheduled to complete by the end of 2015.

The larger provinces throughout Thailand have shown growth during the past few years, with the gross provincial product of each of them being significantly higher than it was a few years ago, he said.

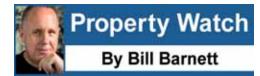
The revenue of the local government offices and the number of people in each province has also increased, especially in some business provinces.

The central government has also launched many new infrastructure development projects to boost the country's competitiveness and make it more attractive.

- The Nation



Not such a long way from home



IT'S that time of year again – Christmas. And while Phuket's idea of a whiteout is sand swept beaches, I find it hard not to get into a sentimental mood as soon as the calendar rolls around to the twelfth month of the year. Somehow the pace quickens in December, year in and year out.

A few weeks ago my travels took me to a place that was my home for what seemed at the time to be eternity. Strange feelings overwhelm my senses as the great bird comes down to roost after the long sleepless journey over the ocean.

Staggering off the plane, while trying not to arouse the curiosity of Homeland Security and TSA, remain key to making it out of LAX in one piece. Firstly, never make eye contact. But for God's sake how do you answer the probing officers' questions coherently while they thumb through all those faraway stamps in the passport?

Lost for words, and more lost in translation, the goal remains a quick exit and the promise of a cool winter morning – remember the last time you stuck your head into a deep freezer? Worse yet is what stands ahead in the middle of the road, blocking a return to normal - jet-lag. There is no cure for that evil menace, and after countless nights of tossing, turning and flipping, it all starts to blend into a cohesive pattern of

By now I've become a reincarnation of These many questions are doomed to be re-

Dustin Hoffman's Rain Man, though my height makes the comparison somewhat tenuous. Being shorter and closer to the ground provides an instinctual advantage to come to grips with an altered reality. In this case my height, in the holiday panic, ensures that I am forced to place shiny metal objects onto the wilting tropical plastic Christmas tree.

During my dazed and confused week, one task on the to-do list was drive by and check out the house where I had grown up. Let's not call it stalking or anything creepy, but with the spirit of the season we can perhaps chalk it up to a whim of nostalgia.

My parents have been gone for a number of years and the house that was our home has traded hands a number of times within recent memory. Sadly, the new owners have not cared for the place in the same way we did all those years ago. Weeds, faded colors and the odor of decay paint a disturbing picture that clouds the senses along with any hope of sensibility.

With one last glance in the rear view mirror, my foot finds the accelerator and attempts to drive away the disappointment of the day. Rolling down the windows is only a vain attempt to stall the inevitable heartbreak. Memories are, after all, a twoway street. Good times, bad times. Pausing at a stop sign to curse the gloomy weather provides a momentary diversion.

Nothing in this life stays the same. Whether it's Darwin and his theory of evolution or the constantly changing channels on TrueVision's network of mayhem – where did the Premier League go and will it be back?



The rosy memories of a childhood home end in dissappointment. Photo: Ellin Beltz

peated, so let's move on.

As time marches on, so does the need to return to Phuket and Thailand. For all its troubling chaos and inevitable charms, a place I can proudly call home. One quick side trip that remains, is a comment on the strange American procedure of making it so damned hard to enter the country, but when you leave they don't even stamp your passport. The act of fleeing the country rests solely on your ability to take off your belt, your shoes, your laptop and even your dignity, and again, don't make eye contact – this will only heighten suspicion.

My seatmate on Thai Airways is of course jet-lag in reverse. And the journey home is exactly where I started from seven short days ago. Driving into my front yard in Cherng Talay, where the weeds have been pulled and paint is not yet peeling, a sense of rightness in the world comes over me. Peace, good will and the return to my very own family puts life back on the right path. Maybe I'm not so far from home after all.

Bill Barnett is the managing director of C9 Hotelworks. He can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com

Sansiri cuts its revenue target for this year's sansiri cuts its revenue targe

presale target from 48 bn baht to 45 bn baht and the revenue target from 35 bn baht to 30 bn baht because of the slower economy and the political turmoil in the final quarter of this year.

Chief operating officer Wanchak Buranasiri said the

sales of 42 bn baht in the first 11 months of the year. It noted that the demand for new homes had dropped both in Bangkok and upcountry as the economy slowed.

"We saw the signs of purchasing power for homes dropping since the third

problems in the last quarter of the year also had a negative impact on people's confidence to buy a home. The average number of potential customers visiting our residential projects dropped by about 5 per cent. As a result, we decided to lower our presale and revenue targets

to match the demand in the market," he said.

We may launch fewer than 40 projects next year, but we are still studying this," he said.

The company still targets presales of at least 45 bn baht and revenue not lower than 30 bn baht for 2014.

The Nation



Sansiri may undertake fewer projects next year. Photo: Supplied



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Phuket's second and largest Villa Market recently opened in Cherng Thalay's Boat Avenue. Another one is planned for the refurbished Boat Lagoon. Photos: Supplied.

n of vision: Boon Yongsakul

By Bruce Stanley

BOON Yongsakul is the Deputy Managing Director of Boat Development Company, the dynamic local entity building some of Phuket's newest commercial projects that will help lift the island's business infrastructure to new heights.

Boon is the latest of the Yongsakul generation to make his contribution to the changing face of the island. "My great-grandfather came to Phuket as a worker in the local tin mines. My grandfather, Kong Yongsakul, was very clever at acquiring many tracts of land in Phuket and around Southern Thailand. He was also an 'angel' investor helping many people start projects. My father, Kanit, built Boat Lagoon and worked for many years to get proper land titles for all our land so that we can proceed to develop," he says.

Perhaps the most famous of the Yongsakul developments, Boat Lagoon is one of the region's premier boating and lifestyle destinations. Opening over 20 years ago, Boat Lagoon helped create Phuket as a destination for yachts and those associated with the marine industry.

"We also built the Phuket Shopping Center on Ratsada Road 30

years ago. It received national architectural awards for its creative interpretation of the island's Sino-Portuguese heritage. Since then, we have looked for designers who create buildings and spaces that are beautiful but also highly functional."

Boon received much of his



By-Pass Biz Town

education in New Zealand. He graduated from the University of Canterbury at Christchurch with a degree in civil engineering and then returned to Bangkok where he enrolled at the prestigious Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration and obtained an MBA in Finance and Marketing.

"My father had developed the Boat Lagoon so after graduation. I joined the Royal Thai Navy as I wanted to learn about the marine industry. The military taught me about discipline and commitment."

Boon plans to create many developments in Phuket.

"We have an extensive land bank of which only a small percentage is being used. For example, we have a partnership with Laguna Phuket to build 2,000 homes in Cherng Thalay as Laguna Park on 400 rai of our land. This week we are proudly opening Boat Avenue Shopping Street at what was the T-junction at the turnoff to Laguna Phuket."

This valuable property sat empty and undeveloped for many years until Boon saw its potential.

"The problem was the feng shui of that corner which was considered back luck. I could see if I built a road through the project to connect with the upscale Sai Taan development behind, that I could turn a T-junction into a four way stop. And with putting shrines to both Buddhist and Muslim deities around the property, I believe success is assured."

Phuket's second and largest Villa Market is opening in Boat Avenue so already his plans seem to be working.

"When looking at a potential project, I have certain criteria it must meet. First, I need to be convinced that it can sell. Then I need to see the demand for the project and finally, I always look to the future that the land and area will appreciate in value."

He is particularly encouraged by the growth of the overseas Chinese and Russian markets. His plans for commercial development include how to attract and sustain these two nationalities. He has invited Hong Kong Seafood restaurant to open a franchise in one of his projects and wants to make business parks that are international in character.

"Phuket has many condo and residential projects coming



Boon Yongsakul - always on the lookout for land with potential.

online with the addition of hotels and resorts. Our aim is to create the commercial spaces to service a growing population who will need all these services required to support this residential sector."

The Yongsakul family control ibstantial property south of the busy bypass road. With the recent acquisition of land next to the Underwood Art Factory. they will have access to develop By-Pass Biz Town, Phuket's first major urban development complete with multi-story commercial buildings that will allow major corporations to work from Phuket.

Nearby, Boon is also developing Grand Boat Plaza, again a commercial project with all services focused on health and relaxation.

"It will have a Thanyapura-like

concept but for Thai people. Plans include yoga and dance studios and a 25-meter Olympic size swimming pool. Our family is very interested in sports as a way to promote health. My father is a triathlete and we have a resort, Borsaen Villa, in Phang Nga province that was built as a training center for athletes."

Boon is also currently managing the redevelopment of Boat Lagoon.

The marina and surrounding services are over 20 years old so it's time to give them a major upgrade. Over the next couple years, we will transform the supermarket into yet another Villa Market, improve all the facilities and services at the marina and make Boat Lagoon a destination for all visitors and residents to the island. Look for a major LED sculpture at the entrance to mark our great new development."

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Beguiled by jewels

By Mark Knowles

ART gallery owner Eric Smulders is well known on the island for his passion for Asian art, but recently he has taken the plunge into the world of fine jewelry. At his gallery in Surin, Soul of Asia, Eric will be displaying and selling 60 pieces of exquisite jewelry featuring precious stones such as diamonds, emeralds, tanzanites, sapphires, rubies and others. But before you think these might be out of your reach, make sure you check the price tag, as all the pieces are selling from up to 80% below their official valuations.

How can this be? Well, Eric is not a newcomer to the business – he spent six years as managing director of Cartier, so, you have to take him at his word when he says: "I know a little bit about jewelry". He has spent the past six months amassing the collection from estate sales and auction houses such as Christie's and

Sotheby's at rock bottom prices and is able to on-sell them to customers in Phuket for unbelievably low prices. All the pieces have valuation certificates stating their authenticity and estimated market price.

Eric says that his ability to find such bargains is largely due to the recent global economic woes forcing many in the jewelry industry out of business.

"In the last few years, many jewelers went bankrupt. Many dealers in, say, rubies and sapphires, have also gone bankrupt because the market has just dried up.



A tanzanite and diamonds set in white gold.

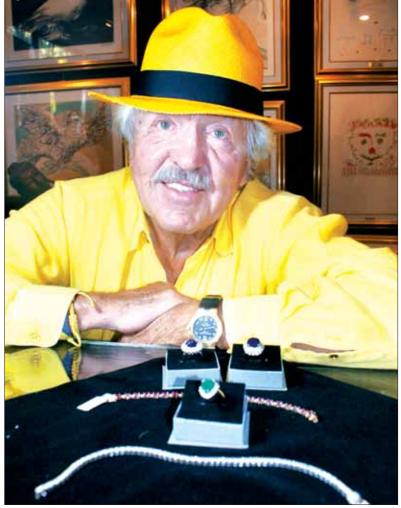
"So out of that has come a kind of new industry that markets these jewels [sourced] from bankruptcy courts, from seized government assets and from jewelers who go bankrupt," he says.

Eric will be hosting a cocktail party tonight, Saturday December 21, to officially start the sale and he is confident the pieces will sell fast. If this new venture is a success he says he plans to integrate it as part of his gallery business on a permanent basis.

"This will be a part of the continuous activity of the gallery. I've always been interested in

> jewelry, especially managing Cartier for five or six years. That was about fifteen years ago. So, I know a lot about this stuff and I know a lot of people in the industry.

We've always had a small collection, and we sell maybe 10, 15 rings per year from the smaller collection, and now of this collection we've already sold about nine of the 60."



Eric Smulders at his Soul of Asia gallery in Surin. Photos: Mark Knowles

Tourism hopes up before holidays

EVEN though the political tension the political turbulence. in Bangkok remains, domestic tourism over the New Year period looks promising with a strong flow of local people expected to travel around the nation – thanks largely to the five-day holiday announced by the caretaker government.

Vilaiwan Twichasri, deputy governor for tourism products at the Tourism Authority of Thailand, last week said that in the period from December 28 to January 1, some 2.48 million Thais are expected to take trips around the country, representing a year-on-year increase of 5%. This is expected to generate tourism revenue of more than 16.34 billion baht.

The figures clearly demonstrate that Thais are still prepared to travel, even though the political turmoil is continuing, but with most of them choosing to avoid going to troubled areas, she said.

During the five-day holiday, the largest number of domestic travellers is expected go to the northern part of the country and especially Chiang Mai – to enjoy the cooler climate.

The TAT projects that some 690,000 local people will visit the North, followed by 600,000 heading to the eastern part of the Kingdom, 300,000 to the South and a similar number to Bangkok.

During the period, the authority projects the number of foreign tourist arrivals will also grow 3-5% year on year to 500,000, generating estimated revenue of 2bn baht.

So far, the organizers of New Year countdown parties in all five regions and covering 13 provinces have maintained their plans, despite

Sarawut Saetiao, president of the Chiang Mai Tourism Business Association, said the tourism scenario in the Northern region was very positive, with hotels and guest houses reporting an average occupancy rate of 90% and the region benefiting from the cooler temperatures experienced at this time of year.

The ongoing political turmoil in Bangkok has not as yet hit tourism in the North of the country, as evidenced by a lack of booking cancellations.

However, he is monitoring the situation very closely and if the political protests continue into next year and violence were to break out, the industry could be hit, especially as Bangkok is the main gateway for foreign tourists before they head off to other provinces nationwide.

Meanwhile, Pol Maj-General Apichai Tiamataya, commander of the Tourist Police Division, said his division would beef up its presence from December 24 to January 2 in major tourism locations such as Phuket, Bangkok, Pattaya, Hat Yai and Koh Samui, in order to maintain law and order.

Pattaya is a congested resortcity in which a host of activities are planned over the holiday season, he said, adding that it is plagued by crime and problems associated with transvestite prostitution at the best of times.

Overall, accidents, alcohol-induced incidents and cases of fighting are normally more prevalent than normal in tourism provinces during the holiday period, The Nation

Toyota opens dealership in Thalang



TUESDAY, December 17 marked the grand opening of a new Toyota Next dealership in Thalang.

The auto complex is located on Thepkrasattri Road and occupies a total of 17,600 square meters of land as well as boasting a 454sqm showroom. The dealership will focus on new and used car sales as well as after sales services.

Mr Akihiro Fujii, the president of Toyota Next, was present for the opening ceremony and was joined by the president of Toyota Thailand, Mr Kyoichi Tanada, among others.

The new complex will feature

an array of solar panels to offset energy use, babysitting facilities and dormitories to house employees.

For more information, visit the dealership at 333 Moo 8, Thepkrasattri Rd, telephone 076-201100 or visit toyotanext.co.th



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Hold the icy judgments

THE arrest of well-known former Tourist Police Volunteer Gary Halpin for the very serious charge of selling the Category I illegal narcotic *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) rocked the Phuket expat community this week.

To many people in the local English-language media, the New Zealander was relied on as a valuable and trusted source of information on numerous high-profile cases in the Chalong Police precinct.

Mr Halpin was a prominent figure in the south of the island, often seen assisting Chalong Police in conducting raids on various businesses, including recent raids on dive shops. In February last year, it was none other than Mr Halpin who escorted Stein Dokset – also a former Tourist Police Volunteer – out of his luxury villa in Kata after the Norwegian was placed under arrest for the murder of his ex-girlfriend Rungnapa Suktong.

News of Mr Halpin's arrest [see page 1] sparked intense debate over a range of related issues on local blogsites. There is a clear desire by the community to have a deeper understanding of how Mr Halpin was arrested by Phuket Provincial Police, not Chalong Police, in a room with a digital scale and over 18 grams of the powerful stimulant.

If the allegations against Mr Halpin are proved true in court, it will likely serve as a blow by association to the reputation of Tourist Police Volunteers (TPV) on the island. Indeed, the reaction to his arrest shows that there already exists a great deal of resentment and distrust among resident expats toward those foreigners who would don a uniform to assist the Royal Thai Police. Allegations of these volunteers being self-serving, power hungry and even corrupt are not uncommon.

However, the vast majority of Tourist Police volunteers we have interviewed or otherwise interacted with over the years have appeared to be well-intended and selfless. Their considerable efforts in assisting foreign visitors in distress go largely unreported and are thus unappreciated by many in the local expatriate community.

Police are rightly emphasizing that Mr Halpin's official role with the Tourist Police had ended well before his arrest. However, that will do little to influence the court of public opinion, which has as its perfect medium the blogosphere, that grand digital masquerade party where virtually all matter of speculation is served up by legions of anonymous contributors with no accountability for their assertions whatsoever.

One thing certain, however, is that none of this banter will likely have any real bearing on the fate of Mr Halpin, whose future prospects now fall squarely into the hands of the criminal justice system.

Phuket Gazette

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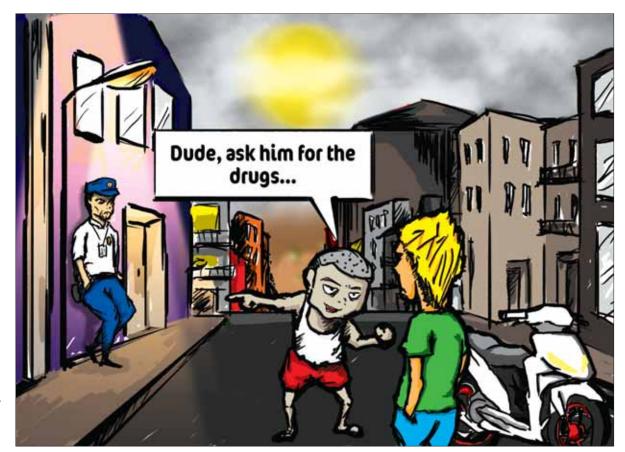
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Sick and tired of timeshare touts

After many visits to Patong this will be my last due to the annoying persistence of timeshare touts. As a regular to the beach area, I am tired of running the daily gauntlet of these people with their constant spiel of "Do you speak English?" and "Do you know about the fireworks?"

I have considered moving from the beach and Bangla Rd area to escape these people but, as a regular paying customer to Patong, do not see why I should. I will add that most other English-speaking tourists I have spoken to are of the same opinion. I wonder if it is known, the damage these people are doing to the reputation of Patong.

Disgruntled tourist Australia

Contractor blues

Re: Gazette Online, Phuket Opinion: Providing justice for aggrieved consumers, December 15

I had a similar but less disastrous situation five years ago.

But never pay in full up front! I paid in 20 per cent increments and fired the contractor after 80 per cent. This left me money for my lawyer (we did not go to court), and money to have it finished correctly. There were immediate cosmetic problems and an early pump failure.

It is a sad, sad thing to deal with. So many "contractors" who lie, cheat, and then run away!

KC Phuket Gazette forum

Call a spade a spade

Re: Gazette Online, Phuket Drift: Pickup makes move, flips, crashes, December 13

Maybe it's time we stopped referring to incidents like this as accidents. There was nothing accidental about it – just poor driving.

Mister Ree Gazette forum

Letters

to the Editor

Beach chair advice

Re: Gazette Online, New Kathu District Chief vows to continue beach free-zone project, December 12

The best thing is to move the beach chairs back, so there is always about 10 meters of free space between the chairs and the water. Easy to implement and check up on.

Sherlock Gazette forum

Charm of Old Town

Re: Gazette Online, Phuket Opinion: Pushing for an Old Town revival, December 15

I fully agree with Khun Don. Even a simple *khao pad* tastes so much nicer in the old town atmosphere than anywhere else on the island

Baan Teelanka Facebook

Insurance that sells

Re: Gazette Online, Compulsory healthcare for foreigners a matter of choice: Poll, December 10

There are 24 million tourists projected to arrive in Thailand next year. 24 million multiplied by 500 baht equals 12 billion baht.

I read that Thai public hospitals had a total of 200 million baht of unpaid bills by foreigners (this includes Burmese), so the 500 baht is an obvious scam.

If 20 baht were charged per tourist, that would be 480 million baht, leaving 280 million for administration. 20 baht insurance: a real marketing gimmick for the TAT.

Earmuffs Gazette forum

Traffic light at Tesco

Re: Gazette Online, Tesco Lotus opens new Phuket department store in Chalong, December 13

I am very happy about the opening, but they have to put a traffic light there or it's going to be crazy to go in and out.

Concerned Gazette forum

Photos in poor taste

Re: Gazette Online, Health woes blamed for Swedish expat suicide in Phuket, December 12

Is there a real need to show everyone pics of the tools this poor man used to take his own life?

There are enough sick bastards around in this world as it is; this sort of thing really shows the media's true colors. RIP, Khun Per Torben Lingren

> Local Expat Gazette forum

Gun-shy in Patong

Re: Gazette Online, Man caught exposing his 'big gun' to Patong ladies, December 13

It's when the ladies have a big gun in their pockets in Patong that you worry.

> Ross Connor Facebook

Taxis above the law

Re: Gazette Online, Another Phuket taxi driver arrested for assaulting a tourist, December 14

I was threatened last week in Kata, at a taxi stand. I made a point of taking a photo of the taxi and said I'd report the driver to the police. The drivers laughed and said they were police themselves.

I decided it was better for my health to leave as I believed them.

Hotgem Gazette forum

Teaching that it's not rude, it's just culture

FIRST PERSON

THERE are a lot of businesses on Phuket – restaurants, hotels and shops – that serve tourists. In order to succeed in this competitive environment, we have to offer good products, communicate well, be creative and deliver excellent service. To serve our customers well the most important thing we have to do is understand their culture.

Phuket tourists come from all over the world, so we need to be able to understand diverse cultural preferences. Understanding our customers is key to creating a positive experience in our shop.

Every time a busload of tourists comes here, I give a short speech, and I tailor it to the nationality of our guests. With Malaysians and Chinese, it's usually funny. With Europeans and Americans it tends to be more educational, with information about the tsunami and history of Phuket.

We also change our displays depending on which group is coming – for a Chinese group, we'll put panda and elephant shirts on our mannequins.

Most importantly, we match our service style to our customers.

Malaysian and Indonesian tourists are usually boisterous and relaxed shoppers, but they are afraid of being cheated. Phuket prices are expensive for them, so our strategy is to assure them that our products are high quality and offered at good prices. They get bored if we are too formal, so we try to entertain them by making jokes as we talk about the products. They especially like to buy colorful shirts, and they buy for



Madunan Chehteek, 47, is a native of Yala who left school at age 15 and came to Phuket to work at age 19. He held various positions at Phuket resorts, working his way up to receptionist, then was a tour guide for five years. He opened his shop, the Madunan shirt and souvenir shop, on the bypass road in 1997.

Here, he explains how understanding customers' cultural backgrounds is the most important element in providing them with quality service.

their families. Since their families are big, they usually buy a lot.

The Chinese tourists are the loudest. They're very friendly, not shy or formal at all, but they are picky shoppers. They inspect things very carefully. They like to try on a lot of things and compare items. Once they decide they like something, they focus on getting the best price. The older shoppers value price over quality, but the younger ones go more for quality.

European and American tourists like to shop alone. They don't feel comfortable if staff follow them around the shop. They will ask a staff member if they need help with something. They especially like to buy handicrafts or items which are symbols of Thailand, like handmade bags and elephant shirts.

When it comes time to pay, they line up politely at the cashier's desk. I'd like to ask the Malaysian and Chinese shoppers to do the same thing, but I don't think I can.

ucts. They especially like to buy colorful shirts, and they buy for to have staff standing by to take service.

care of them. And they always want a discount. They say, "We are Thai too!"

We can easily make Arab shoppers feel happy and like they are with family when we say "Assalammulaikum" when they come in. Another way we help our Muslim shoppers feel comfortable is by requiring our staff to dress modestly. Female staff must wear a head scarf, long sleeve shirts and long pants.

In our weekly staff meetings we talk about cultural issues and teach our staff how to serve customers in each group. We make them understand that different behaviors are not bad or rude behaviors but the product of culture, habits and lifestyles that the staff have to learn about. Every year we take our staff on a field trip to a shop in a different province so they can get new ideas about how to serve and understand customers.

This understanding is key to the success of any business based on service



And not just the water: fluoride lurks here too. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

Beware the water

I'VE been losing sleep lately thinking about all the poison I've subjected myself to during 12 years in Thailand – alcohol, sugar, fatty and acidic foods, traffic smog, secondhand smoke and perhaps the biggest culprit of them all: water.

I'm referring to fluoridated water, and the "forced-medication" of the planet's prime life supply – drinking water.

The practice, which the US Centers for Disease Control once called "one of the 10 greatest achievements of the 20th Century", is now one of the most heated health debates of our time, called by activist groups such as the Fluoride Action Network an "outdated form of mass-medication; an unnecessary, ineffective and unsafe practice".

The more I researched, the more alarming I realized the topic was...is. Governments around the world are adding artificial and highly toxic forms of fluoride – sodium fluoride, fluorosilicia acid and sodium fluorosilicate – to water and food supplies.

According to the British Fluoridation Society, as of November 2012, roughly 5% of the world's population was receiving artificially fluoridated water; 70% in the US, 80% in Australia, and 100% in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Fortunately, according to an employee at the Phuket Provincial Waterworks, Phuket's tap water is not artificially fluoridated. However, that doesn't mean it's fluoride-

Island View

By Steven Layne

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

free. The Thai Dental Association, in one test of locally-bottled water, found trace amounts between .08 and .16mg per liter.

And you can't escape with bottled water either – a 2010 Chulalongkorn University study showed that all commercially bottled water sampled in Bangkok had fluoride levels ranging from .04 mg to Thailand's maximum allowed amount of .7mg per liter. Whether this was artificial or natural fluoride is not clear, but I'm willing to bet that, at least for the brands with higher concentrations, it is artificial.

Most European countries have outright banned water fluoridation.

Proponents of water fluoridation are quick to cite unqualified and even invalidated studies about how fluoride prevents cavities and tooth decay. But does it really?

Try reading more current studies about the causes of skeletal fluorosis and all of its advanced conditions including osteoporosis and osteosarcoma (bone cancer). While you're at it, read about the effects of fluoride on the thyroid and pineal glands.

Or easier still, just read the warning label on your tube of toothpaste.

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

You can eat them, but you can't put them in a tank

I have been given a wide variety of answers to the following question. While scuba diving, is it legal to hunt or collect fish, clams, lobsters and so on off the coast of Phuket for personal consumption?

ScubaDrew

Phuket

Thanet Munnoy, chief of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Phuket office, replies:

It is legal to catch some species of fish and marine animals for personal consumption, or for selling as a food items. Dead fish are allowed to be sold for consumption. However, it is illegal to take the animals from the water alive to be sold as pets.

You must be very aware of the regulations that prevent fishing in

certain areas and fishing for certain species. For example, many sea creatures have different matting seasons, and it is illegal to catch any species during its mating season.

Other animals such as dolphins, dugong and some species of sharks are protected year-round.

There are also restrictions on the kind of fishing equipment you can use. You are not allowed to use chemical agents or dynamite, but as you are in the water, that is probably not a consideration for you anyway.

More importantly, you can't use anything that will stun the marine animal, and you can't use gill net systems tied to rocks on the seafloor – as they can cause serious damage to the corals when they are dragged up.



The splendid reef-dwelling Mandarin fish. Photo: Luc Viatour/www.Lucnix.be

Finally, you have to make sure the area you are fishing is not in a national park or a marine preserve.

There are significant penalties for breaking these laws. The most severe is up to four years in prison, a fine of 40,000 baht or both for catching a protected marine species.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ IssuesAnswers 20 PHUKET GAZETTE December 21 - 27, 2013

YOUR

Phuket



17TH ANDAMAN MOTOR SHOW



From left: Shoongiat Chotithamaporn, PR & Tourist Marketing Division Manager - Central Festival Phuket; Oranee Hildebrand, Managing Director - Phuket Gazette; Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak, Phuket Vice Governor; Kritphanat Patwarasit, Managing Director - ND Productions; and actor Thanawat "Pope Wattanaputi open the event. See story on page 40.

CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET'S 9TH ANNIVERSARY



From left: Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Central Festival Phuket VP Property Management & General Manager; Chef Peter Webber (2nd row); Nirut Sirijanya, Actor; Lertvit Pumipitak Central Retail Corporation Senior VP, Business Development Department; Pattanapong Aikwanich, Managing Director Baan Sukhothai; Panat Pookpho, Central Department Store General Manager; Chanok Kaewseenuan, Managing Director The Skin Doctors; Kittisak Pinmuang, Sea Tours Sales Manager; and Redouane Mebarek, Russian Federation Deputy Honorary Consul.

IN-SEA GRAND OPENING



Paparwin "May" Pachantabutr (3rd left), restaurant director, received a congratulatory flower basket from valued guests during the grand opening of the new seafood buffet restaurant "In-Sea" on Chaofah Road. Siriporn Tangsunthornkajit (first left), co-partner, joined in to welcome the guests.









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

2 POOL VILLAS **NEXT TO PIA**



Ready to move in. Villa 1: on 1,100sqm land, 16.9 million baht. Villa 2: on 2,200sqm land, 21.9 mlllion baht. Brand-new, each with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool. Guest bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Perfectly located in a development with underground electricity and security, only 800m from Mission Hills Golf Course, less than 10 minutes to airport, Phuket International Academy and Ao Por Grand Marina. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@ yahoo.com

rooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb_

Aircon, balcony, pool. 3rd floor, lift. Includes car (Ford Laser Tierra) and motorbike (Yamaha Nouvo). Leasehold 3x30 years. Price: 3.9 million baht approx. Tel: 081-893 2566 (English).

Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht

A Luxury Villa REDUCED to 42 MB. from 48 MB.

This villa sits on 1.8 rai in Kathu, comprising 1 main villa, 1 detached apart-

ment, 1 leisure building, fitted kitchen, 5 ensuite bedrooms, 9 bathrooms

Separate office/maids quarters. A large swimming pool and much more. 5-10

mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong.

Secured by CCTV alarm system and electronically controlled gates. This

villa has to be viewed to be appreciated. View online www.youtube.com:

type in "big house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-29

7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng), Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com



Private home in Kathu on 650sqm, 2 storeys, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 1 office, 4 bathrooms. Spacious living/dining area with access to a large pool and Jacuzzi. The kitchen is fully fitted, the house is 85% furnished. 5-10 mins to 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

HABITIA KOH KAEW



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

LAND FOR SALE LAYAN

11 rai, beautiful flat land, Chanote. Near beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-927 4027 (English), 089-813 1447 (Thai). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

PROPERTY INSURANCE **Lambert Brothers** Insurance Brokers

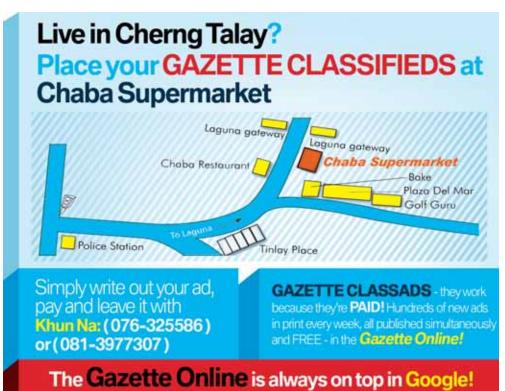
- Property Insurance
- Construction
- Public Liability Professional Indemnity,
- Director and Officers
- · Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor insurance

Contact: Paew, Piya or Tux Phuket Boat Lagoon info@lambertbrothers.co.th el: + 66 76 273 385

w.lambertbrothers.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.





Property Classifieds PHUKET GAZETTE

Properties For Sale

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

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



The land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tumbon Bornok, Prachuap Kirikhan, 20km from Prachuap Kirikhan town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 085-894 6118, 086-615 9719 or send email to nana1225@gmail.com, lamkookaiiz@yahoo.co.th

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

LAND FOR SALE

1 rai + 81sq wah, 192sqm, Rawai, Soi Salika. Ready to build. Tel: 089-645 5049.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

CHEAP LAND **FOR SALE**

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

CONDO IN **SUPALAI PARK**



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

LAND CHANOTE PHUKET

1 to 5 rai, Sa Koo, 10 minutes south from airport. 5 minutes to beach. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016. Email: kanchanajit09@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND & HOUSE **FOR SALE**

Location: Amphur Phanom. Suratthani, near Khao Sok National Park.

-Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

Land for sale

Prime plot of Koh Yao Yai

Plot 1:

64 Rai, 3.2 MB./Rai

Plot 2:

71 Rai, 4 MB./Rai

Plot 3:

51 Rai, 6 MB./Rai Koh Yao Noi 4-2-72 Rai, 18 MB.

> Tel: 081-921 5981 Email: samxact@gmail.com

HOTEL 1KM FROM BEACH PATONG

24 rooms, nice, 500sqm land, pool, sea view, Chanote, freehold, 49 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc. residence@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

URGENT SALE/RENT



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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

PALM BREEZE CONDO **FOR SALE**

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 6.xx million baht. No agents! Tel: 081-956 1077.

BEACHFRONT LAND

10 rai of land in Ao Yon. Fantastic sea views. 6 meters from beach. 40 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 0475 (English & Thai).

PRIVATE SALE OF HALFARAI

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

LAND FOR SALE LAYAN

11 rai, beautiful flat land, Chanote. Near beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-927 4027 (English), 089-813 1447 (Thai). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW CONDO IN PATONG

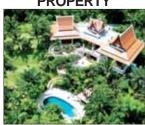
Fully furnished with all furniture, aircon, ready to sale and rent on short / long term. Please call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786.

PATONG LOFT CONDO



1 bedroom, fully furnished, 67sqm living area. 2.48 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

SEAVIEW PROPERTY



Layan 3.2 rai land. Please call 081-968 3549 (Thai), 081-787 4383 (English).

HOUSE IN KAMALA SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. 90sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, kitchen, living room, garden and car park. Tel: 089-973 2688. Email: art_ta99@hotmail.com

QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai style pool villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in small community of 4 homes, is very private and serene. In a desirable location with a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Don't wait; it will definitely go this high season 2013. 5.9 million baht. Contact Luke Remmers. Tel: 081-270 5145. Email: rgartland@comcast.net For further details, please see our website at www.phuket realestate.com

LAND 1KM FROM **BEACH KAMALA**

Nice, 700sqm Chanote, electricity and water supply, foreign neighbors. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@ gmail.com

PRICE DROP

3 bedrooms, Pa Khlok house 4.2 million baht. For sale: 3.5 million baht, 400sqm. Please call 086-836 7292 for photos and details.

Classified Advertisements

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

_ _ _ _ (heading)
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Please note that ads are now being accepted for the January 11 issue onwards. The deadlines for placing ads in the Dec 28 and Jan 4 issues have already closed.

Four storey townhouse on a small hillside 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, & valking 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**

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent



house in phuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is **Wellta**

4BR VILLA WITH POOL AT CHALONG

Available on 7-25 December 2013: 120,000 baht, 12-31 January 2014: 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

RAWAI BEACH

Studio, kitchen, balcony. Weekly: 4,000 baht. Monthly: 8,500 baht. Tel: 086-0577714.

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.

3-BEDROOM APARTMENTS AT BANG TAO

3-bedroom apartments with swimming pool. Available on 28 December 2013- 28 January 2014. 250,000 baht. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

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.

CHEAP RENT KOH KAEW

1-bedroom house on Boat Lagoon canal. 3,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big living area. No furnished, build-in kitchen and car park. Locate behind Kajonkiet School on Chao Fa West Road, just only 5 minutes to Central Festival. Available in January 2014. For short or long term rent. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, gym, cable TV, security, WiFi, maid, 54sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkreal estate@aol.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms for vacation or long-term rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai), 089-724 6026 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindproperties.net

BANGKOK SHORT TERM APT RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 130sqm apt on Suk Soi 7. 3 months @30,000 baht + deposit. BTS. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.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 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA, BANG TAO

4 bedrooms, villa with pool and at Bang Tao. From 200,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@ bizphuket.net

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

STYLIST HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished 3-bedroom house for long-term rent in a gated community. Internal 230sqm & covered external 60sqm. Must see. Tel: 076-219892, 089-472 5834 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-219893. Email: charupan@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KARON FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2-bedroom house with everything in the heart of Karon. Long-term rental, 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Walking distance to shops, beach & restaurants. 300m from Hilton Hotel. Call 080-690 5248 or send email to lil@ladolce vitare.com.au

SEA VIEW POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stunning property offers amazing ocean views! Large pool, private garden, Cape Yamu, only 15 minutes to BIS/PIA schools. Long term only. 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

LUXURY POOL

3/4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3-storey, fully furnished luxury pool villa in Rawai/Nai Harn. Available on January for long-term rental: 52,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-267 1282 (English). Email: david_rosa mond@yahoo.com

VILLA-RAWAI

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

CHALONG POOL VILLA



2 bedrooms, fully furnished, shared pool, landscaped gardens, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, water supply. 12-month contract, 30,000 baht. Sorry, no pets or kids. Tel: 083-102 0876 (English & Thai). Email: info@saisabaaivilla.com

LUXURY 4-BEDROOM VILLA BANG TAO

4-bedroom luxury villa for rent at Bang Tao. From 280,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@ bizphuket.net

3BR VILLA WITH POOL BANG TAO

3-bedroom villa with pool for rent at Bang Tao. From 180,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@ bizphuket.net

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

2 villas in modern style. one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco bonta@gmail.com www. villacheloni.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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





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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Network property office Tesco Panik Sol Sai-Yuan Paringari Burawana Villa Davinci Restaurant Crepes Restaurant Sol Nays Sol Hok-Yang

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 simultaneous 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

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

HOSPITALITY MGR. AVAILABLE

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

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

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

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE WANTED

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

VILLAS, CONDOS AT KATA, KARON

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

WANTED VILLA FOR LONG-TERM

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

APARTMENT/HOUSE NEEDED

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

Accommodation Available

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished, safe, cozy area. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.BaanPhitakTa weep.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3-bedroom private pool villa located minutes from the famed Laguna area. Available for xmas and new year period. Tel: 084-842 2262 (English & Thai). Email: lita.hine@hotmail.com

NAI HARN BUNGALOW

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

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

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

5 BEDROOMS ON BOAT

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

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

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.comThe best choice for living! For further details, please see our website at http://cooolrent.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 Ham area: 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, secure villa with Western kitchen and pool. Must be in a quiet area. 40,000-50,000 baht per month, 1-month bond, 2-year contract. Tel: 088-760 5003 (English). Email: collettegaleano@gmail.com

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL

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

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

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

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. com

VACATION RENTALS KATA BEACH

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

HOUSES:1 OR 2 BEDROOMS

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

Household 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

TEAK OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Solid teak extending garden table and six adjustable armchairs, with parasol. Export quality, bought in Bangkok. 45,000 baht. Tel: 081-373 5913 (English). Email: mike@mike pearson.net

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

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

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel Patong Beach RAT-U-THIT 200 PEE RD. SIAM COMMERCIAL POST OFFICE POST OFFICE SIAM COMMERCIAL POST OFFICE PAID! I-tundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and FREEE - 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)
 _ _ _ _ _ _

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.

Please note that ads are now being accepted for the January 11 issue onwards. The deadlines for placing ads in the Dec 28 and Jan 4 issues have already closed.

Island Job Mart

THAI COOK WANTED

Thai food+European snacks. To work cafe bar Karon Beach, must be able to speak reasonable English. Tel: 081-891 9461.

WEBMASTER/ **GRAPHIC/IT WORKER**

Knowledge in photo and video and good English skills required. Thai national only. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please contact rico@princessyachts thailand.com

ALMALI RESIDENCE

Needs Supervisor Maid, English speaking required. Good salary. Tel: 091-654 6249. Email: secretary@almalire sidence.com

GERMAN TEACHER URGENTLY

German teacher at The Genius Language School, Patong, Phuket. 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood 16@hotmail.com

REPORTER

► Photography skills

► Driver's license

MARKETING ASSISTANT WANTED

English-speaking Marketing Assistant with good computer and internet knowledge wanted. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please send CV to rico@ Princessyachtsthailand.com

GUEST RELATION

Good English+Thai nation. Salary: 15,000 - 22,000 baht. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: recruit@chamberof secrets.

SENIOR & JUNIOR COOK

To assist Head Cook in maintaining a successful and profitable F&B Department - Degree in F&B Management or related degree, trained in traditional Thai and Western foods. Thai national, fluent in English. Starting salary 14,000 to 17,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Tel: 086-6041 333 (English). Please send CV to gm@ccs hideaway.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the

following position:

▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)

Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story

► Ability to communicate clearly in English

► Able to manage own time effectively

▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

- Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- A good sense of organization and respect for details
- Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna at Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

YACHT

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

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

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has experienced over 35 years as professional in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, which co-operate with our business partnership company as a headquarter in Europe.

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Job Description:

- Command of German language
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- Team worker and cooperate with other related department Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai Nationality
- Fluent German Language in reading + writing
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Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
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Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
email: info@vsdma.com

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Thai for Hotel at Nanai Road. must speak English and use computer, good wages and commissions, paid for holidays. Please call for details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

ENGLISH TEACHER URGENTLY NEEDED

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate @aol.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

THAITEACHER NEEDED

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

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Resort looking for receptionist. Smart, good spoken English 15,000 baht per month + commissions on sales. Tel: 076-398422, 080-698 8335 (English & Thai), 081-797 8650 (English & Thai). Email: info.r esort@ manohra.net

3 WAITRESSES FOR **RESTAURANT**

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai nationals Only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.

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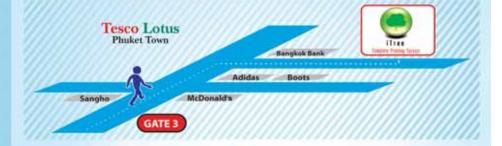
- Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
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- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

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

RESTAURANT SURIN

Needs staff, one bar person, one waitress, second chef. Must speak English. Tel: 083-033 3562.

DANISH STAFF WANTED

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

RUSSIAN SALES LADY WANTED

Needed for real estate. English spoken and writing. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bay shoreprojects.com

ACCOUNTANT & ADMINISTRATION

TLI is looking for honest and hardworking Thai, qualified accountant and 2 admin assistants, Thai national, fluent English. Tel: 083-102 2910. Email: belinda@tropical-landscaping.com

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Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa is looking for chef, sous chefs, bartenders, and service staff. We want both full time and part time. Good salary with work permit. Tel: 081-905 8353. Please call or send email to hrbangtao @ oceanresortgroup.net

SALES ASSISTANT (RETAIL)

To assist customers in finding items, provide excellent customer service at all times and build good guest relations. Good spoken English and pleasant personality is a must. Base salary 20,000 baht + commissions. Please send your resume to nina@tiger muaythai.com

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

Required to start January/February 2014. Successful applicant will be Thai national, computer literate, responsible for setup and running of Yacht Sales office. They will have excellent spoken and written English, be able to work without direct supervision and able to handle basic accounting and data entry. Please send CV and salary expectation. Tel: 081-894 1530. Email: andrew @multihullsolutions.asia

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

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F&B/RESTAURANT MANAGER (1 position)

in charge of two restaurants / two bars – continuously working on further enhancing the service experience for our guests via team training programs and improved service procedures

- 3 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- fluent in English language
- leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai national

EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER (1 position)

able to run the HK department to International standards – catering to the high expectations of our International clientele

- at least 3-5 years experience of 5 or 4 star hotels in assistant or chief housekeeper position
- able to run the housekeeping department independently
- Thai national 30-40 years old

RESERVATION SUPERVISOR (1 position)

• 2-3 years experience in similar position

comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – we are looking for the best team leaders – please send your resume with picture to

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CYCLING GUIDE WANTED

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

OPERATIONS MANAGER

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

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 Tel: 093-620 2260. Please contact George by phone or send email to info@ zueri home massage.ch

GUEST RELATIONS

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

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket. We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success. The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai nationals are desired. The positions require good command of spoken and written English. Contracts Manager: The successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contracts work in a construction environment. Administrative Assistant: Solid skill with MS Office and previous construction experience is a plus. Tel: 076-617763. Please call or send email to david@ dmg-thailand.com

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia-Pacific region. For August or as soon as possible, we require the following:

Art Technician

Qualifications

- · Thai nationality
- · Ability to communicate in English
- · Interest in the visual arts and the workings of an art department
- · Able to work in team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials

A/R Accountant

Qualifications

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

Head of Refectory

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in food related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experiences to ensure quality dishes are served
- Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- · Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- · Leadership in food-related training
- · Team player with service mind

Chef

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in food-related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experience to
 ensure quality dishes are served
- · Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- · Leadership in food related training
- Team player with service mind

HR Officer

Qualifications

- Thai national Male/ Female
- Age not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Administrative, Business laws or related fields
- Should have good knowledge of day-to-day processes of HR department and should be proficient in using computers.
- Ability to read, speak and understand English
- Cooperative team member, maintain good staff relations and service-minded person

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Tel. 076 335555 # 2113 Fax. 076 335573 E-mail: kojchapanl@bisphuket.ac.th, sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

DETOX STAFF

Thai national: experienced detox consultant, OR we can train you in detox. Must speak and write English.Tel: 085-783 0141.Email: info@phuketfit. com

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 @phuketabc.com

KARON CLIFF

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

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Design studio is looking for a creative and focused individual to join our expanding team. Responsible for keywording images, analyzing market trends, planning photography shoots, and assisting in general office administration. Successful candidate will have an excellent command of English. Contact Jaey. Email: photomorphic images@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Thai male wanted, in Patong, must know English and have computer skills. Tel: 081-088 1451

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 @siam realestate.com

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Bulletins

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Kata Beach, fully equipped and furnished, cheap rent price, very beautiful. Please call 081-895 5852 or send email to phuket8757@gmail. com

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Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Please call 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.com

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Established 2 years ago. Priced to sell 850,000 baht, Rawai, Nai Harn. Tel: 085-348 5137 (English & Thai), 082-532 2712 (English). Email: normprice50@hot mail.com Check the website at www.mermaidbargrill.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Cricket farm in Phuket. Smart investment, please contact Ottar. Tel: 089-521 6862.

Bar & Restaurant Equipment



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.

C 081-5375970

pui@widediscovery.com

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

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuk YES, I want to receive the Pi for a full year - <u>52 issues!</u>	HIKET CASETTE			
I hereby authorize payment agains ☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Spe ☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic	et my Visa			
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Card #:	Exp. Date: Security Code:			
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Please Deliver To:				
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Street address				
_ _ _ _ _ City	_ _ _ _ _ _ _ Zip Code			
Country: _ _ _ _ _ _ _	_ _ _ _			

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Successful restaurant, Koh Yao Noi. "Je t'aime" is a beautiful restaurant in the small island, Koh Yao Noi, half an hour from Phuket. The restaurant is very successful with its French/Thai fusion kitchen, and currently number one at Koh Yao Noi and in Phang Nga province on Tripadvisor. The restaurant seats 35 people, and has 7 years left on the leasing contract with a low monthly cost. Tel: 076-597495. Email: je taimekohyao@gmail.com

HOTEL/RESTAURANT FOR LEASE

Patong, 30 rooms, 40 seats + terrace. Fully equipped kitchen. Yearly profit: 2 million baht++. Rent: 162,000 baht per month. 1+3+3 lease left. Reduced price to 5.5 million. Includes Thai company limited with 3 work permits, directly from European owner. Option to include car in deal. Tel: 087-498 3407 (English).

2 BARS FOR SALE

Bangla Road, Patong, 3 years lease. 2.5 million baht and 4.7 million baht. Tel: 087-184 6739.

KATA SHOP HOUSE FOR SALE

3 storeys, 1 bedroom with western kitchen, second bedroom for staff, beautiful decoration for spa on first floor with sauna. Fully furnished. Urgent sale 10 million baht. Negotiable! No agent. Tel: 081-956 1077.

ONLINE BUSINESS FROM NOW

Farang offers partnership! About financial participation we must speak. Email: adventur aintern@hotmail.com

BANG TAO RESTAURANT + BAR FOR SALE

Sold last year for 975,000 but new owner moved back home. Selling now for 600,000 baht. Great time to buy. Please call 081-787 9767. Email: woodlee1976@hotmail.co.uk

SHOP ON PHI PHI FOR SALE

One-unit shop with three floors and roof-top terrace. 8 years remaining on lease. Great location on T junction in the center of town. Please call 081-719 3375 (English) or email for details at phil price@hotmail.co.uk

RESTAURANT CHERNG TALAY

1 rai, new premises, near by road, opposite Cherng Talay Soi 16, long-term rent. Please call 081-918 1071 (English). Email: boonguea @hotmail.com

BAR FOR RENT SOI TIGER 1



Soi re-opening soon, opposite Tiger live band. Bars for rent, good business opportunities in the best location in Bangla Road, Patong. Tel: 083-640 4400. Email: asiau bin@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR RENT



Fully furnished restaurant for rent. Professionally equipped kitchen. 30-35 seats. Tel: 076-290402, 089-593 0307. Fax: 076-290401. Email: info@siampalmresidence. com

PIZZERIA FOR SALE



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

GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT FOR RENT





4 storeys: restaurant on the first floor, 7-room guesthouse on the 2nd to 4th floor. 10 minutes from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-345604, 084-189 3509, 089-971 3301.

BANGLA ROAD SHOP

Shop house available in Soi Bangla. Good for restaurant / coffee shop / bar. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829 (English & Thai). Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla, Patong new Tiger. Own the best bar. 2.7 million baht. Departure cause. Tel: 085-796 6144.

REAL ESTATE AGENCY FOR SALE

Long established real estate agency for sale. Prime office position in Laguna. Established 2006. Website and office included only 4 million baht. Tel: +44-078-8528 0100 (English). Email: markhailey1@hotmail. com

BAR/LOUNGE SALE BANGLA

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BAR & GRILL NAI YANG

Bar & Grill, Nai Yang Beach. 160sqm with seating for 40. Only 70m from beach. Everything included. 900,000 baht. Offers considered. Tel: 084-852 4257 (English). Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

POPULAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE

This outstanding little restaurant is located on the main beach road in Kamala. Fully equipped kitchen, inside aircon dining area, outside dining area, bar, charcoal BBQ station and a woodfired pizza oven. The cozy, elegant design is very inviting for customers. Google for Grill Bill Kamala! Tel: 081-089 0543 (English). Email: iii_sun ny_iii@yahoo.com

UNIQUE OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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

MASSAGE BUSINESSES

Patong main road. 1.5 and 2 million baht. Please call 081-303 2202.

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All New Seabreeze Café Fresh, live action cooking Sumptuous Seafood Buffet: Every Tuesday and Saturday @ THB 899++per person Seabreeze Delight Buffet: Every Monday and Thursday @ THB 699++ per person Our international a la carte menu is available daily 18:30 to 22:30 Kids eat free Under 12 years when dining with an adult Complimentary soft drinks With all buffet dinners Stay Free flow beverage offer Fresh

40FT SEA CONTAINER

For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Please contact Rob for more information. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

COWBOY SHOW

The art of the western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257 or send email to mikeroper2003@hotmail.

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Train model. 1:22.5 scale, steam locomotive with sound, 2 passenger cars, 100ft of tracks. For more information, please call 091-

040 8869.

Tel: 083-362 4144.

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TRANSLATION CENTER **BLUE CANYON PHUKET GOLF**

We translate all documents (Business, Contract, Websites, Menu and etc.) from and into English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Thai. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.

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Private home in Kalim. 1.5hr sessions, 1-2 days weekly. For more information, please call 083-250 1966.

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LPGC 23YR

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BLUE CANYON

Family for 820,000 baht. Includes transfer. For more information, please call 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

Shop Equipment

DEEP FREEZER BOX

Sanyo. 80 x 60cm, 85 H, about 300 L. On 4 wheels Beige / gray. Price at Makro 9,000 baht. For sale: 4,000 baht. For more information, please call 076-354444, 089-729 1113 (English). Email: richard_melen@hot mail.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

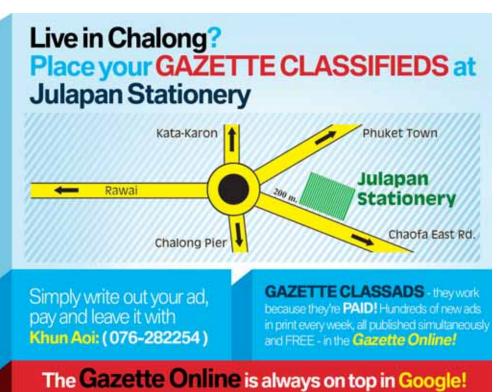




- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 bah
- Keyboard: Casio. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
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Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)







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Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

2012 TOYOTA CAMRY



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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1.6G, year 2010. 36,000km, black. Excellent condition. 580,000 baht. Please call 084-745 5546.

SALE YARIS S 2006

Full options, Toyota service. For sale: 320,000 baht. Negotiable! Please call 081-968 3549.

TOYOTA VIOS SPORTIVO 2012

Vios Sportivo, December 2012, 1.5 VVTI auto. Black. Sattelite navigator, spoiler, rear sensors, 4,900km. One owner. 575,000 baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 080-718 1226 (English), 082-286 5171 (English&Thai). Email: nanai sauna@yahoo.com

TOYOTA VIOS 1.5 2005

Silver, 67,000km. For sale: 275,000 baht o.n.o. Please call 081-086 9921 (English).

RARE CLASSIC

Mercedes 280 CE Coupe. Regularly serviced, all good. Bodywork needs attention. Offers around 200,000 baht. Tel: 095-530 4214 (English). Email: robbiecorbo@gmail. com

2003 TOYOTA VIOS S

120,000km only. New MP3 stereo and tyres. Full factory extras. Sale: 280,000 baht. Please call 082-423 1247 (English).

NEW TOYOTA AVANZA FOR SALE

Only 4 months used, black color, super custom. Red license plate. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

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2013, like new, 2.5 liter, full option, 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

SIVER PROTON SAGA 1.3



Year 2011, automatic, 1 owner, 15,000km with insurance. Sale: 300,000 baht. Tel: 086-476 9612.

DAEWOO AND MIRA

Daewoo Espero, automatic transmission in running condition. Sale: 65,000 baht. Daihatsu Mira manual, comes with TV and DVD player. Quick sale at 69,000 baht. Please call 086-810 2683.

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Sale Honda Civic 1.8 E (A) AS, silver/blue color, V-Tec, 123,000km, top condition, serviced by Honda, accident free, private used only. Price: 580,000 baht. For more information, please call 086-518 6880 (English), 089-990 4625 (Thai). Email: harryvo igt8@gmail.com

PORSCHE CAYANNE

Porsche Cayanne Turbo Diesel. One owner, as new, only 7,000km. Very high spec, including ceramic brakes, 21' sport wheels, GPS. 8.5 million baht o.n.o. Please call 081-537 1356 (English). Email: clem@wdrace. com

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Simply write out your ad,

Khun Anand: 076-396911

pay and leave it with

081-536 5550

SUZUKI KATANA MOTORBIKE

Farang owned Suzuki Katana, restored and in nice conditon, new tyres, Green book. Only 190,000 baht! For more information, please call 090-763 5672. Email: t-botnma@online.no

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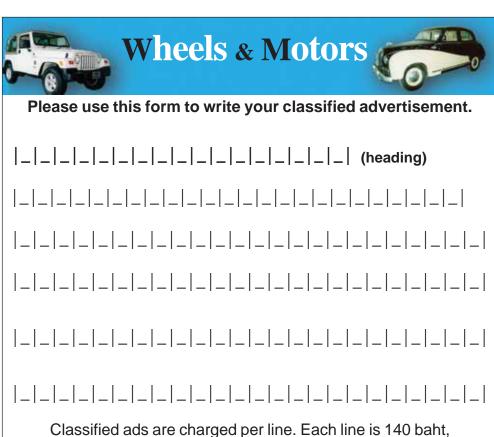
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December 21 - 27, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 33

PATONG BEACH AIRSHOW



DAVINCI KATA OPENING



From left: Jana Sasikova, Violetta Malyshko and Anna Zadorozina.

SANSIRI THANK YOU MEDIA PARTY



The Phuket Gazette team won the bowling competition during Sansiri's "Thank You Media" party night. The team received prizes from Mr Uthai Uthaisangsuk (2nd from left), Senior Executive Vice President of the Business Development and Project Development Division at Sansiri Public Company Limited.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Phuket Gazette, who sponsored the event.



Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony included carol sing-alongs performed by the resort's management team and led by General Manager Mr Tatcha Riddhimat (1st right). The ceremony was followed by a festive cocktails party. Guests were delighted and filled their hearts with the joy of the festive season.

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Life & style Eat like a president

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE are times when you simply can't turn down an invitation. When the personal chef of the President of the French Republic invites you for a dinner, it is one of those times. Even more so when it's Bernard Vaussion, a chef who served under six consecutive French presidents, who came to Phuket to cook a presidential dinner set at the Trisara resort.

Vaussion spent 40 years in the kitchen of the Elysee Palace, the last eight as the head chef. During that time, he prepared countless dinners for the most powerful men and women on the planet, among them President of the United States Barak Obama or His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. But when I ask him what he's going to miss the most about his job in the palace, he doesn't even mention the glamor and replies without a second's delay.

"The people, my team who are like my family. I'll miss the team spirit of the kitchen of the Palace Elysee." And quite a kitchen it is at 500 square meters, filled with kitchen equipment dating back to the times of French Kings. A kitchen where all meals for the president are prepared.

"There's one kitchen in the Elysee but there are two types of menu. One official and one more personal and family style," explains the chef.

"Sometimes the president asks the cooks to prepare something Japanese, or Italian. But the president does have some more down to earth food too. Maybe not burgers and French fries but an every day meal, for sure."

When I ask him if he has ever seen any of the first ladies preparing scrambled eggs for their husband, he replies "No, never. None of the first ladies I've met ever did that."

It seems that food in the Palace Elysee is a very masculine affair, and in the end, it's always the president who decides what's served. "At the beginning of each week I prepared menus for all the official dinners, private dinners, flights and so on," says Vaussion. "I give a choice of a few starters, main courses, deserts and in the end it was the president who made the choice and signed each menu every week."

Certainly the president of France must be a resolute man,

but even for him, to choose from what Chef Vaussion has on offer must be a difficult task. Especially that he has to keep in mind not only his, but his honorable guests' preferences. And this is one of the reasons why the Club des Chefs des Chefs was formed - the world's most exclusive gastronomic society, associating the personal chefs of various heads of state.

"We meet once a year, talk, create relationships which allows us to call each other when there is a state visit, and prepare a menu according to specific preferences," explains Vaussion. An undertaking that is not only difficult but also of great importance – after all it's at the dining tables where some of the most important decisions concerning the future of our planet are made.

"Very often, I saw difficult relations between heads of states made more friendly thanks to the quality of food, great wine, beautifully decorated table and perfect service," says Vaussion, before assuring me that the Club des Chefs des Chefs' slogan "Politics divide people, food brings them together" is well reflected in the diplomatic reality.

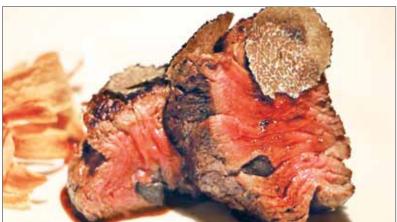
And it's the reality of ever changing French cuisine that is reflected in the menus and dining habits of the French presidents. It was president Giscard d'Estaing who moved away form the traditional, heavy diet of French Kings and towards the more modern, lighter style. Much later came Nicolas Sarkozy who left his mark on the menu by removing the cheeses in order to make dining as quick as possible. Current President François Hollande brought the cheese back but budget cuts made the Elysee's sommelier think twice before serving the best wines for average occasions. And on the topic of wine – Chef Vaussion isn't very much impressed with the palaces cellars: "The collection isn't actually that impressive, it's just 15,000 bottles of wine."

I wrap up our conversation asking about the menu for the evening and if we, casual people, can count on the same quality as the heads of states.

"The quality of the food tonight will be the same as in the palace because Trisara's team is very skilled. And the dishes are the same as I used to serve to different presidents," replies the chef and proves his words an hour later serving the guests at the "Eat like



Crab fondant with avocado.



Truffled beef fillet.



Cherry foie gras.



Red mullet a la provencale.



Consomm Madrilene. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

a president" dinner – some of the best dishes the kitchen of the Elysee Palace has to offer. Having tasted the *Fondant de Tourteau* a L'advocat, Foie Gras Micuit

aux Cerises or Filet de Boeuf *Truffe* made me realize that some politicians might be power hungry, but they certainly are never left hungry."



Chef Vaussion spent 40 years cooking at the lys e Palace.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Dec 24, Traditional Christmas Eve Buffet – Locavore Style, 6 - 9:30pm

Enjoy our Christmas dinner buffet featuring slow-roasted grain fed Australian sirloin, Christmas turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce, roasted leg of lamb, Norwegian salmon, rock lobster and a selection of Christmas desserts. At Locavore Restaurant, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort. Adults: THB 1,950++ per person. Children: THB 950++ per child aged 4-12. For reservations, please call Food and Beverage at 076-360600, ext 2470, or email: fbs.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th. Prices are subject to a 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

Dec 24, Christmas at Two Chefs 6 - 11:30pm

Large traditional Scandinavian Christmas buffet at Two Chefs Bar & Grill at our Kamala and Kata Beach restaurants, at 6pm and 9pm. We will be serving: Christmas ham, pickled herring, roast beef, smoked salmon, ribs, meatballs, Janssons frestelse, ris ala malta, saffron rolls and much more for only: 1,450 baht. For more info, please visit our website, email or call us. Warm welcome!

Dec 24-25, Festive Season Dining Bliss at Dusit Thani Laguna, 6-10pm

December 24: Have a traditional Christmas Eve with a special poolside Christmas buffet that includes seasonal favorites like roast turkey, grilled seafood and festive desserts. Children are catered for with their own special buffet corner and gifts from Santa. The Christmas Eve buffet dinner is priced at 2,900++ baht per person.

December 25: Choose from a chef@friendshipbeach.com



magnificent four-course traditional Italian Christmas set dinner at La Trattoria Italian Restaurant. Priced 1,500++ baht per person or a sumptuous Christmas Seafood and BBQ buffet dinner on the beach, at the seaside restaurant, Casuarina Beach Restaurant & Pub. Priced at 1,900++ baht per person. A special discount of 50 per cent for children aged from 6-12 years will be applied to all festive dining programs. For reservations, contact our F&B team at 076-362999, ext 7303 or see: dusit.com

Dec 24, Friendship Beach Christmas Eve Party & Dinner Buffet, 6:30-11:30pm

Please join us in celebrating another traditional Christmas Eve Party and Dinner Buffet. Appetizers, roast turkey, baked ham, all the trimmings and desserts. Live Music, Dj and plenty of good spirits and fun at Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort. For reservation and more information contact chef Charlie on 089-728-5304 or email: chef@friendshipbeach.com

Dec 24, Christmas Eve at Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, 6:30 pm - 10pm

Celebrate Christmas with traditional favorites such as carved turkey, Australian sirloin, classic christmas cookies and delicious fresh seafood, while enjoying free flow house wines, spirits, beers, soft drink and juices. Be entertained by carol singers and live music performances throughout the night. For more info contact Pawita Pratumkaew on 076-349800, or email saleschp@chr.co.th.

Dec 25, Traditional Christmas Dinner at the Islander, 1-9pm Enjoy our traditional threecourse Christmas Dinner at The Islander Restaurant, Soi Patong

course Christmas Dinner at The Islander Restaurant, Soi Patong Resort (off Bangla Road) Patong. Menu includes a prawn cocktail starter; main course roast turkey with all the trimmings; Christmas pudding with custard for dessert; plus a glass of house wine (red or white) – all for 895 baht. To be sure of a seat, please book early with the cashier or call Khun Kanha on 081-893-6072.

Dec 31, New Years Eve at Two Chefs, 6-11pm

At all our Two Chefs Bar & Grill branches, we will be serving a four course set menu at only 1,595 baht (as well as our la carte menu). At our Karon restaurant, well known local band Pitch Control will entertain you with some great tunes until the late hours. For more information, please visit our website or follow us online: facebook.com/twochefsthailand. For reservations, email or give us a call on 076-284155.

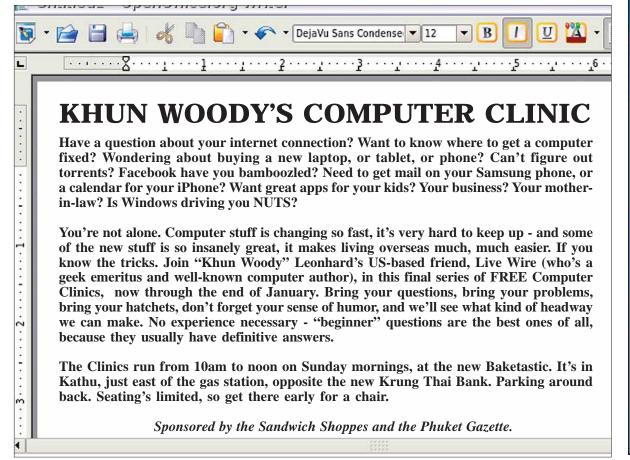
Dec 31, New Year's Eve buffet @ Xana Beach Club, 7-11pm

This exclusive buffet includes free flow of drinks and a delicious menu including starters: Rock Lobster and Prawn Bisque, a 'Pate & Terrine Station', a 'Fresh Seafood Bar' with oysters, cerviche, sushi and sashimi and carpaccio, as well as a 'Flamb Corner' with foie gras. Mains include lobster, lamb chops, tiger prawns, chorizo, scallops, all followed by twelve sumptuous deserts. The price is 7,000 baht ++ per person, and includes free entry to the NYE party with international DJ Jeremy Healy (normally 1,000 baht). For more information, contact Annabel on 076-324101 or email info@xanabeachclub.com

Dec 31, New Year's Eve Gala Dinner, 8pm-12am

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort invite you to experience a very special evening to celebrate the last day of the year with the wonderful sound of our live band and DJ. A gala buffet featuring fresh seafood on ice, live cooking stations and an array of Thai and international favorites will culminate in a spectacular fireworks show as the new year begins. Adults: 7,000++ baht per person; 3,500++ baht per child aged 4-12. Space is limited. For reservations, call 076-360600, ext 2470. Prices are subject to 10% service charge and 7% government tax.







Tesco says no to plastic bags

TESCO Lotus has reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the environment with its new "no bag store" concept for Express format outlets, having recently launched two pilot stores – in Koh Samui and Phuket.

Tesco Lotus Head of Public Affairs Charkrit Direkwattanachai remarked: "Tesco Lotus has been able to save the use of eight million plastic bags and this year we aim to reduce 12 million plastic bags through our long standing scheme to reward customers with 'Green Points' every time they turn down a plastic bag.

"Now we are launching Tesco Lotus's first 'No Bag Stores' in Phuket and Proud to not use plastic bags. Samui as a trial to further demonstrate our commitment to Phuket's worldfamous natural environment."

The 'no nag' store in Phuket is a Lotus Express on Ban Sai Yuan Road, the

Kata beaches, a prime tourist area. To encourage customers to join the spirit of "no bag", the company is offering 20 Green Points for a basket of shopping without using plastic bags. The Green Points system



works through Clubcard, the Tesco Lotus loyalty card. Clubcard points are converted to cash coupons and mailed to customers every quarter. Additionally at Ban Sai Yuan, an addiroad between Nai Harn and tional 20 satang per "no

bag" transaction will be donated to the local Wat Sawang Arom school.

Mr Chakrit said that feedback from customers has been overwhelmingly positive, and the trial looks set to continue and rolled

> out to other stores in prime tourist areas to protect the local environment.

> "As Thailand's leading 'green retailer', we want to convince customers to shop without plastic bags. Hence we are piloting the 'no bag' stores' in Koh Samui and Phuket," he said.

Alongside the plastic bag campaign, Tesco Lotus is also the first retailer to reward customers who buy 'green products' such as energy saving ightbulbs and biodegradable utensils, giving 25 Green Points for

every product sold. Tesco Lotus also has an ongoing energy conservation and carbon reduction program, including investing 1.2 billion baht in 2012 energy-saving light-bulbs





Customers at Tesco Express prove that shopping without plastic bags is easy. Photo. Supplied

and electrical equipment.

In addition, Tesco Lotus has opened a "zero carbon store" in Bangpra, Chonburi, the first of its kind in Asia, which offsets 100 per cent tion projects that help

alternative energy sources such as solar and wind.

Tesco Lotus also has various natural conserva-

of its carbon emissions with communities around Thailand, such as recently completing a project to plant nine million trees in national parks around the country.

- Phuket Gazette

sustainability for future

By Patrick Campbell

RECENTLY, the Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, held an "Open Week" conference with a wide range of activities and lectures. One of the highlights was a talk given by the eminent Korean environmentalist Professor Dai-Yeun Jeong, entitled "Beyond Sustainable Development: Towards Ecological Modernisation"

Supported by many visual aids projected onto a large screen, Professor Jeong gave a detailed and largely historical overview of environmental changes that have impacted our planet in the last two centuries. Starting with the onset of industrialization, he outlined the changes wrought by man in terms of pollution and damage to our fragile ecosystems. Improved standards of living were achieved, but at a huge cost: the sacrifice of nature and her self-regulating systems. The result? Local problems such as water and soil pollution: global issues such as climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain and eutrification.

As he constantly empha-

sized, "nature is our house" and needs solicitous management. In a startling statistic, Professor Jeong argued that the earth already needs to be three times as large in order to have the carrying capacity to cope with the escalating problems of waste, pollution and their concomitant effects. Korea, for example, a densely populated peninsula of over 50 million people, needs to be 9.5 times bigger. Put another way, the earth has two billion people it does not need.

The latter part of the two hour lecture was devoted to our growing awareness of Gaia's plight and the twentieth century development of the notion of sustainable development. This concept argues that in order to sustain life on a planet with finite resources, and to preserve its natural heritage for future generations, human needs must be met without undermining the sustainability and the carrying capacity of organic systems. Such sustainable development should ideally involve the economic and social as well as environmental domains.



Environmentalists say sustainable development is the only hope for our home - Earth.

This initiative gained momentum in the 1970s. As a result, there are now many international organizations involved – including the United Nations. The "Rio Environmental Conference" in 1992 proposed a global action plan which would involve governments and big business as well as individuals. Both a top-down and bottom-up approach was required to address the leading issues of population expansion, crop production, waste disposal, natural disasters and so on. Recent initiatives have included "Fair Trade", "Bird Friendly" and "The Rainforest Alliance".

Counter arguments maintain that the very notion of sustainability is hopelessly impractical; that in a technologically driven world, the sacrifice of nature is inevitable, that population increases, energy requirements, the production of food and so on will make increasing demands on our planet. We just have to cope somehow.

That is a doomsday scenario that environmentalists do not accept. Their view is that we must use both innovations in technology and enlightened economic and social policies to help us overcome these concerns. To extend Professor Jeong's metaphor, our house is already on fire: we need to put it out – and quickly – before it is destroyed.

Land of smiles Monitoring Obama

RECENTLY there's been an international uproar over revelations that the US National Security Agency has been secretly listening in on the phone calls of major

world leaders, notably German chancellor Angela Merkel. But in a tit-for-tat move worthy of a really bad spy novel, the littleknown Central Asian Republic of Barfistan has been monitoring the phone calls

of US President Barack Obama.

Barfistani whistleblower Akhmed Tattlovsky shared with me the following exclusive transcript of a recent Obama phone call:

Obama: Malia, this is Dad. How did you do on your algebra test? Malia: Oh, I did real good,

Malia Obama. Photo: USAF Obama (correcting her grammar): You

did really well, Malia. Malia: Yeah, that's what I just told you,

Obama: What do you mean by really well, Malia? A? A minus? B plus, perhaps? Malia: I did good, Dad. But I have to do

an oral report on current events for my social studies class, and it would be a big help if you told me what you really think of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Obama: I can't tell you that, Malia. It



would be a breach of national security. I can hear John McCain ranting right now. He'd want to impeach me and water-board you. Maybe water-board your

sister Natasha, too, just for the fun of it. Malia: Daaaaaad! I'm your daughter! **Obama**: No can do, sweetheart.

Malia: Dad, give me just one tidbit on Netanyahu. I'll scoop the whole class and ace out the semester.

> Obama: Okay, then. Bibi and I are on the warmest personal terms, although there are variations in our world views based on the different strategic and geopolitical considerations that exist between the United States and Israel. However, nothing will ever weaken our eternal alliance, nor diminish in any way the indis-

soluble bonds of affection and respect that unite our two great nations.

Malia: Dad, where did you learn to BS like that? Okay, then, Putin. Vladimir Putin. To me he looks like a shifty-eyed weasel. Dish me some dirt on how you feel about him.

Obama: He's pretty good at judo, but I think I could beat him at basketball.

Malia: Dad, you're no fun. Okay, then, one last thing. Why does the NSA spy on



Obama takes some time out of his busy schedule to help his daughter with her homework.

Obama: The NSA doesn't 'spy' Malia. It observes. It monitors. It surveils.

Malia: I didn't know "surveil" was a verb, Dad.

Obama: It is now.

Malia: I'll ask my English teacher and get back to you.

Obama: Just bring me some As, sweet baby. That's in social studies, algebra, and English too. Over and out.

I complained to Tattlovsky about the lack

of anything even remotely interesting in this transcript, and asked him if he had ever eavesdropped on Angela Merkel. Yes, he had. And did she prefer beer or schnapps with her wiener schnitzel? He had no idea. But he did mention that Putin likes borscht. With revelations like that, you wonder why the intelligence services bother.

S. Tsow can be scolded for abetting this breach of US national security at s.tsow@outlook.com



Life & style Cultivating Christmas cheer



WRITING a gardening piece for the festive season is a bit like choosing yet another Christmas present for an old friend. How do you come up with something different?

I don't think I can offer much in the way of scribal innovation. After all, Christmas has been celebrated for almost 2,000 years. Moreover, most of the floral traditions associated with the birth of Christ relate to plants that don't grow in Thailand though you may find some nasty plastic imitations.

But Eastern religious traditions also have their sacred or at least talismanic plants – for example the bohdi tree under which the Buddha achieved enlightenment while meditating for six years. Consider also another variety of fig, the Banyan (ficus benghalensis) which is revered in India as the resting place of the Hindu God Khrishna, or the lotus which is a symbol in Thailand of purification and faithfulness, a majestic flower able to rise above its murky, muddied environment. I know, I just planted one in a pot today.

As for Christmas (literally "Christ's Mass" or the celebration of the Eucharist or communion), it embraces pre-Christian as well as later traditions, a fact borne out by its natural symbols. Thus the tradition of having a Christmas tree, which is usually a variety of fir or spruce in Europe and the Americas, is widely considered to be pagan in origin, a relic of a pre-Christian ritual associated with the winter solstice, a celebration of nature which

made use of evergreen boughs. Now an almost universal feature of Christmas.

Worldwide, it was 19th century German society that popularized its modern use and added decorations. Thailand, short of cool-climate conifers, cultivates an admirable alternative in the shape - quite literally – of the Norfolk Island pine. If you want a specimen, your local nursery may well have some for sale at this time of year.

Other symbols will be harder if not impossible to find. In our household, we always went out and cut branches of wild holly, laden with masses of red berries. Holly, one of the few temperate plants to have glossy, spiny leaves, is beautiful in its own right, but has iconic significance as an emblem of the crown of thorns, stained by the blood of Christ. But again it has pre-Christian associations: a branch of holly above the door lintel was a means of protecting your dwelling against witches and

Mistletoe, which does occur in certain forms in Thailand, has likewise been linked to pagan Druidic rituals in Britain. A parasitic plant, the female produces translucent white sticky berries. These are spread by birds trying to wipe their bills clean on boughs. As a result it flourishes on host trees, and eventually forms large round clumps. Not until the 18th century was it linked to Christmas, when the custom developed of "kissing under the mistletoe", a practice whereby young men and women meeting beneath a hanging sprig, were required to embrace. As a child, I recall there was always a bunch, strategically suspended, above our hallway.

Teeth Whitening Center

If the Christmas tree is now a ubiquitous emblem of the festive season, so too is a relatively new arrival, the poinsettia. Right now, you will find that just about every garden center has stocked up, especially for Christmas, with samples probably brought down from Northern Thailand. The crimson or scarlet bracts (though there are also white and cream versions) are again related to the crucifixion, but have acquired deeper resonances through a miraculous event in Mexico. A poor young girl, brought some insignificant green plants, gathered in the wild, as gifts to her local church, whereupon they burst into blazing bloom.

Nowadays, you will find that most households – from Boston to Bangkok – have a poinsettia gracing the festive table, along with another table-topper, the so-called Jerusalem cherry. A member of the solanum family, it has attractive but poisonous orange, yellow, and of course, red fruits.

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



The modern Christmas tree tradition has pagan origins. Photo: Lotus Head



Mistletoe can be found throughout Thailand. Photo: David Monniaux

Tip of the week Thriving or surviving

IN NATURE, climate is the overriding influence on what types of plants can be found within a certain area. Several climatic factors affect growth: humidity, daylight hours, season length, rainfall, temperature, and even wind patterns. However, in books on gardening, temperature is key: it is the factor that plants are usually judged against.

The United States Department of Agriculture devised a rather than thrive.

system of eleven plant hardiness zones based on minimum temperatures. Now accepted by most horticultural writers, it helps the reader to select suitable plants for his/her patch. In Southern Thailand for example, you should ideally select species with a rating of 10 to 11. Plants grown outside their preferred zonal range – say eight or nine – will probably survive in Phuket



Temperature and climate are key. Photo: Bonhams

Dog of the week

MEET Chill. He weighs about with a very relaxed temperament.

He would like nothing more than to find a loving family to take him into their home and give him the best Christmas ever.

It seems he has been someone's pet before since he is very polite and well behaved. One day, he was out on the street taking himself for a walk and a man captured him and threw him into the back of a truck. Since then he's been living in a place that's like a dog jail and not enjoying life.

About a month ago he hit the 12kgs and is a male poodle mix jackpot, got out of this jail and has been recovering at Doggie Heaven rescue center in Laguna. Now that he is fully recovered and feeling strong and healthy, the folks at Doggie Heaven would like to help him find a real home where he is loved and looked after by some animal

Please consider adopting him.

Tel: 0848773566 or contact doggieheaven.net to see some more photos of Chill and his recovery process.



Chill is ready for a new home.



Pursuing happiness

BREEZE at Cape Yamu is presenting Richard Skene's exhibition of contemporary art, entitled The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom, from Saturday, De-

cember 21 to Sunday January 5 with an opening reception tonight, Saturday December 21, from 6 to 9 pm.

In addition to having a Thai flavour, a common theme of Richard's collection is the "pursuit of happiness", which is one of the three "inalienable rights" in

the United States of America's Declaration of Independence, and a key

Richard Skene

principle of Buddhism.

That such superficially conflicting forces of capitalism and religion share the same destination suggests the path to happiness may not be

straightforward, and short cuts may be counterproductive.

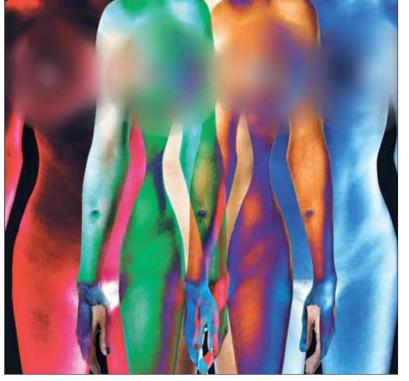
For example: while Thailand is a welcoming, tolerant and spiritual place, Bangkok provides abundant opportunities for hedonism. So, like the Yin-Yang, the "City of Angels" is a centre of energy, within which seemingly contrary but

complementary forces co-exist. Those who deviate from the true

path may, after a period of trial and error, reach the same conclusion as William Blake, who wrote "The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom".

In short, the collection represents a visual journey - from Hedonism to Buddhism in Bangkok. The result is a stimulating and provocative collection, comprising graphic design, photography, video and light installations. The artworks are beautifully simplified and stylised, incorporate wit and wisdom, and reveal influences from Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst and Roy Lichtenstein.

Richard was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and lives in Bangkok,



This piece, entitled Pussy Galore, has Pop Art influences. Photos: Supplied

backpacker in 1990 and returned to work in Bangkok in 1995. Since then, I've had the privilege of working in Bangkok, Phuket and Koh Samui for over eight years, so I have a close affinity with Thailand and a great respect for Thai culture.

"I am delighted that Breeze agreed to sponsor my exhibition "I first came to Thailand as a in Phuket as I believe the

restaurant's contemporary style and funky character complement my collection," says Richard Skene.

- Phuket Gazette

For more information please visit breezecapeyamu.com and see richardskene.com or contact Khun Ong at Breeze on 086-334-3333 or sawittree @capeyamu.com.

BISP students perform Hoodwinked to full house

IN EARLY December, another successful musical theater production was staged at the British International School Phuket (BISP). Hoodwinked, a funny musical tale based on the story of Robin Hood, was performed three times to an audience totaling 1,000 people over three afternoons. At the dress rehearsal, the young actors, aged between eight and 11, were a little nervous as the curtains opened and the auditorium filled with their friends and teachers from the rest of the primary school.

Mr Neill Thacker, BISP Head of Arts and *Hoodwinked* producer and director said: "The dress rehearsal is the hardest performance as this is the most nerve-racking moment in any show. The other primaryaged children in the audience loved the costumes and the songs."

So, with the dress rehearsal out of the way, it was on to the real shows performed for parents, siblings and others from the Phuket community. Mr Thacker said: "Our students did not disappoint – that's for sure! The performance levels rose for the remaining two performances as the adrenalin kicked in and the nerves were left outside. The audience were in fits of laughter at so many of the very funny jokes, one-liners and all of the puns."

Once again, Hoodwinked goes down in history as another success for the arts program at BIS Phuket. The bar keeps getting raised higher and higher each year, particularly after The Lion King whole-school musical production, watched by many Phuket residents earlier this year and which gained rave re-

"This is because the artistic standard and confidence of our BISP students is getting higher and higher each time they perform. It was wonderful to see some newcomers to the stage for Hoodwinked and also to see some of the children who had had minor roles in the past, emerge and flourish this year in leading roles. Thank you to all staff, students and parents involved as it was really a huge team effort," Mr Thacker said.

Auditions are now complete for BISP's much-anticipated next whole-school musical production of Grease, and the rehearsals are well underway. Grease will be performed at the end of March 2014, with tickets going on sale on March 3, 2014. For more information contact: nthacker@bisphuket.ac.th



The full cast of BISP's production 'Hoodwinked' which is based on the tale of Robin Hood. Photos: Supplied



Hearts, engines roar at motor show



There's a lot to please the eye at the Andaman Motor Show. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

BUILDING on the momentous success of superstar, Tanawat "Pope" Wattanaputi. previous years, the 17th Andaman Motor Show, held from December 14 to 18 at Central Festival Phuket was no disappointment.

The region's most popular and anticipated automobile exhibition was officially launched in roaring fashion on a jampacked ground floor of the island's prime shopping mall.

Presiding over the opening ceremony was Phuket Vice Governor Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak, who was joined on stage in the official launch countdown by Phuket Gazette Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand; ND Productions Managing Director Kritphanat Patwarasit; Central Festival Phuket PR & Tourist Marketing Division Manager Shoongiat Chothithamaporn, as well as event ambassador and Thai drama

Kritphanat Patwarasit, MD of ND Productions (center), the organizer of the 17th Andaman Motorshow Phuket remarked:

"I am very pleased about about having had the opportunity to organize this event, and I am also very pleased about the great turnout."

"We have had an impressive variety of car brands, including Nissan, Mitsubishi, Ford, Mazda and many others. We have up to two hundred cars, worth a total of no less than three hundred million baht," he said.

"So it was a big, successful event and the fact that it is hosted here on Phuket hopefully helps to increase the island's recognition and tourism." - Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV are proud sponsors of this annual event.

Superyachts meet again

THE Asia Superyacht Rendezvous was held last week in the waters off Kata with a stunning array of sail and motor superyachts on display.

Sun, sailing and socializing reigned throughout the event and sponsors Feadship and Boat International Media joined the Rendezvous organizers in thanking owners, captains, crew and invited guests from around the globe who attended the many social events and parties at host venue Kata Rocks, overlooking spectacular Kata Bay.

In all, ten jaw-dropping superyachts were anchored in Kata Bay for the Rendevouz, including motor yachts M/Y Maid Marian 2, M/Y Moonsand, M/Y Maverick and the 50m M/Y Sapphire.

These stunning motor yachts

were a sight to behold; beautiful engineering mixed with elegant interiors making these vast yachts truly exquisite.

Six breathtaking sailing yachts joined them: the magnificent S/ Y Argo and the beautiful sailing yachts S/Y Capricorn will join for the first time, as well as the dazzling S/Y Intrigue along with the stunning S/Y Schooner Sunshine - and the hosts were honored to have the luxurious S/ Y Yanneke Too, as well as the very powerful S/Y Shamoun, return to the prestigious event.

Activities over the three days included two days of friendly but competitive sailing races, the "Feadship Challenge" model boatbuilding and cocktail party, pirate treasure hunt and ending gala Phuket Gazette The annual Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV. and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 85 and 59).





Jaw-dropping yachts and jaw-dropping views during the Rendezous.



Party on water, party on shore - Kata Roks ensured perfect conditions for fun and relaxation during the event.

Patong Carnival Fun Fest concludes

THOUSANDS of curious tour-ists and Phuket residents lined offices, Phuket schools and stunt pilot Les Vorosmarthy Sunday, December 15, to usher in the annual Patong Carnival, held each year to unofficially mark the beginning of the tourism high season.

This year, branded the "Patong Fun Fest", the carnival got underway with the traditional parade. snaking its way from Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, Pracha-nukhro Road and Thaweewong Road (the beach road) to the Laem Petch football field opposite Loma Park.

The parade comprised 35 floats representing well-known tourism businesses on the island,

the streets of Patong last youth clubs. stunned the crowd along Patong

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak led the opening ceremony.

"I am so glad that every government office works together as a team to make this event happen. I am certain the festival will help promote our island and give our tourists a memorable impression," Vice Gov Somkiet said.

This year, the six-day festival was expected to generate up to 100 million baht for the local economy.

As a warm-up to the annual

Beach with his repertoire of spins, stalls, slips, barrel rolls, snap rolls, wing-overs, loops, waterfalls, Immelmanns and upside-down everythings.

As usual, the annual carnival attracted a star-studded lineup to perform live on stage for partygoers. Live entertainment was performed on two stages. Stage one was a beachfront stage next to the police box at the end of Soi Bangla and Stage two was at the Laem Petch football field next to Loma Park.

- Phuket Gazette



Traditional outfits presented during the parade. Photo. Jeremie Schatz

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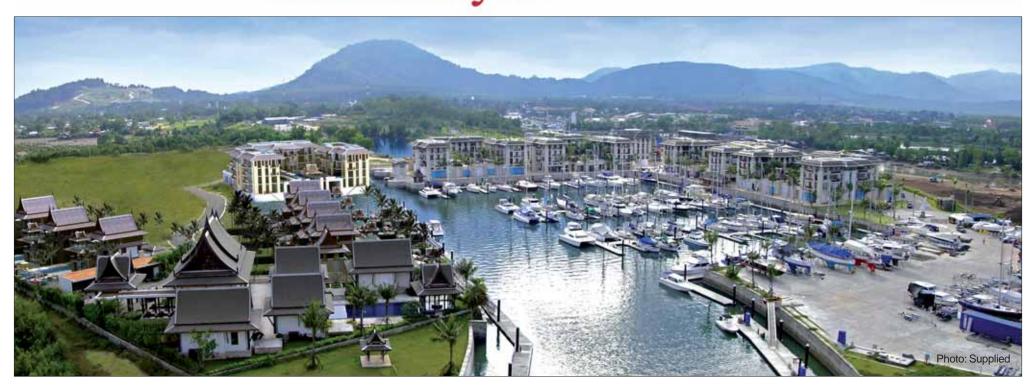
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or email: soulofasia@soulofasia.com

Music by famous saxophone artist Lek Hisashi



Boating bonanza

The 2014 Phuket International Marine Expo will be the biggest and best yet

FROM small trailer-boats to luxury sail and motor yachts, and everything in between, the onwater line-up for the upcoming Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) is set to be the best yet.

The event's 11th edition will take place at the Royal Phuket Marina from January 9 to 12, 2014.

A number of new businesses, never-seen-before at PIMEX will exhibit this year, with charter agents and equipment and services suppliers having reserved prime indoor space.

Confirmed are South East Asia Sales and Service, Marina Systems International, Toyobo Thailand, Stauff Thailand, Raymarine, Respo Trailers, QBE Marine Insurance and Seiwa from Italy, along with an Italian delegation of companies together with the Italian Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Ocean Marina, Royal Phuket Marina and Krabi's newly opened Port Takola Marina will be offering berthing and residential property.

Partnering with SMART Property – the region's leading luxury property shows - a number of



Dozens of top marine companies from around the world will be showcasing their products at the expo.

regional and international investment opportunities will be showing in the hall, including Knight Knox, Megaworld and Hamilton Grand, who will also be joined by Vista Del Mar and RPM La Reserve from Phuket.

Safer Phuket

On January 9 and 10, a conference will be held at PIMEX by the organizers of the newly launched initiative Safer Phuket.

The inaugural Coastal Waters Safety Summit will see seven key Thai government departments and authorities come together for the first time to identify the best way that they can build a program that supports Safer Phuket and its vision of international standards and service within Phuket's tourism and marine industries. This is a landmark event that can have a significant impact on all aspects of marine safety.

PIMEX will be Russian-language friendly

This year's international marketing

Motorboat & Yachting and Captain Club. Phuket and PIMEX also had a strong presence at the DOMEXPO international property exhibition Moscow. The largest show of its type in Russia, this year it featured a Thailand Pavilion sponsored by PIMEX's local media partners the Phuket Gazette, which showcased PIMEX to this key target market.

language yachting publications -

Furthermore, a number of key PIMEX exhibitors have confirmed they will have Russianspeaking staff to ensure the best possible experience for Russian visitors.

- Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV are proud sponsors of PIMEX. Display space is still available for the show, in-water exhibition space is approaching 90 per cent full and booths and open plan spaces are open for booking in the air conditioned hall. For inquiries, please contact Exhibition Director Andy Dowden, on 081 892-7670 or email info@phuketboatshow.com or visit phuketboatshow.com





plan has had a strong marketing

focus on Russian visitors, recog-

nizing the changing demographic

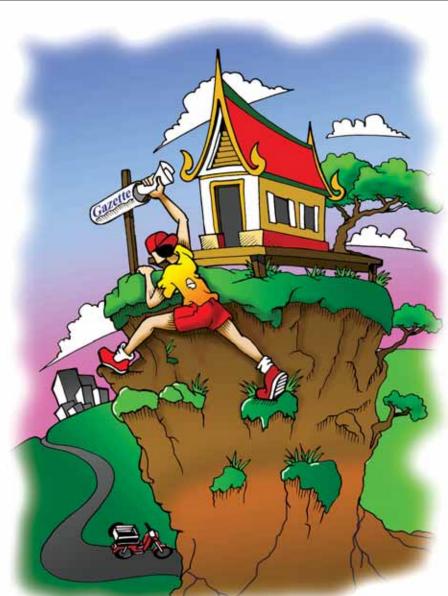
To reach out to Russian custom-

ers, the organizers have partnered

of PIMEX's visitor profile.

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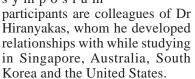
Practitioners gather in Phuket for first annual Colorectal Symposium

By: Jeremie Schatz

LEADING medical professionals from all over the world gathered at Bangkok Hospital Phuket over December 8-10 for the first annual Colorectal Disease Symposium.

Organized by the director of the Colorectal Disease Institute at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Dr Art Hiranyakas, the symposium consisted of panel discussions, guest speakers and live surgeries. Topics included different

types of colorectal diseases, research techniques and various surgical approaches and treatments. About 130 people registered from all over the world Thailand and including attendees from Chiang Mai, Northeastern provinces and Bangkok. Many foreign-based symposium



Following Dr Hiranyakas' relocation to Phuket from Bangkok, he recently established the Colorectal Disease Institute. Dr

Hiranyakas explained that he created the institute in order to, "Contribute to the world society of colorectal surgeons, improve patient outcomes and improve the quality of the services here [at Bangkok Hospital Phuket]."

Dr Hiranyakas and his colleagues arranged the symposium in hopes of changing the image of private hospitals. "In Thailand, private hospitals haven't been established as institutions that can produce new knowledge or conduct any research but

> we want to be one of these institutions," said Hiranyakas. He hopes the symposium will attract the attention of other doctors and surgeons who will be interested in collaborating on research projects.

It was not a coincidence that Dr Hiranyakas ended up directing the institute

in Phuket. "The main reason for having this type of institute here in Phuket is that the population in Phuket is quite different from the other parts of Thailand because we have a large Caucasian population."

"The majority of that [retired] population come from European countries and North America and the incidence of cancer above the age of 50 is quite high.'

Being of Western origin is not necessarily to blame but having a western diet is shown to contribute to increased cancer rates and; "That is well reported in the medical literature," said Dr Hiranyakas.

'Stick with Thai food since you're here in Thailand because we know a little bit about the causes of the cancers and the main factor is what we eat. Thai food is considered a healthy food because we have lots of herbs and lots of vegetables and those are antioxidant and can prevent cancer."

Spices such as basil, curry, ginger and chili are often found in many Thai dishes and are known to be high in antioxidants. They are believed to play a role in preventing the development of certain chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, rheumatoid arthritis and cataracts.

But it is not just cancer that the Colorectal Disease Institute and symposium participants are concerned with. "There are lots of diseases relating to the colon, starting from infectious diseases to cancers," said Dr Hiranyakas. Hemorrhoids, inflammatory bowel disease and fistulas (a type of abscess) are among other diseases of concern.

The first annual symposium will



Director of the Colorectal Disease Institute at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Dr Art Hiranvakas. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

continue into subsequent years as it was considered a success with registration reaching full capacity and a bounty of diagnostic, treatment and recovery information shared among the group.

Following his completion of the General Surgery Board Examination in 2002, Dr Hiranyakas was appointed Instructor of Surgery and later served as Assistant Professor of Surgery, both at Prince of Songkhla University, Songkhla, Thailand.

For more information, check out phukethospital.com/Health-Centre/ Colorectal-Surgery-Center.php

iver cancer: prevention is pr

TODAY, we look at liver cancer, currently the most deadly cancer among Thais aged between 40 to 70 years and affecting more men than women. World statistics show that its most common form, hepatocellular carcinoma or HCC, is the fifth most diagnosed cancer.

Because liver cancer develops rapidly and its symptoms only start to show at the later stages, a high number of patients die from the disease every year, pushing it into second place in the number of deaths from cancer.

In Thailand, it is estimated that 60 per cent of liver cancer cases are secondary to chronic hepatitis B. Current statistics show that some five per cent of the population is infected with hepatitis B and those who are in the chronic stage of the disease are 20 times more likely to develop liver cancer.

Hepatitis C is also a cause of liver cancer and accounts for about 10 to 20 per cent of cases diagnosed in Thais. People who received a blood transfusion before 1989, with a history of injecting narcotics through a syringe, and those who have been tattooed with unclean needles are all susceptible to hepatitis C infection.

Cirrhosis caused by alcoholism and fatty liver is another major cause of liver cancer.

At present, screening for liver cancer can be conducted by a combination of an Alpha-fetoprotein blood test (AFP) and diagnosis by a CT scan or MRI. If a patient is found to have high AFP and the results of imaging diagnosis indicate liver cancer, this is considered a valid indicator and a biopsy is not necessary.

There are several treatment options for liver cancer, the first being permanent cure. This is a very viable option if the liver of the patient is still functioning well, if the tumor is no bigger than five centimeters, and if the cancer has not spread to any nearby veins or other organs.

Liver transplantation is the best approach for those who have both liver cancer and cirrhosis, because transplantation can cure both diseases at once. However, this option can be effective only if the cancer is small and has not spread to surrounding organs. If the cancer is large, there is a high possibility of the recurrence of the disease after the transplantation. In Thailand, liver transplantation is not popular because the surgery has to be conducted in hospitals equipped with specialist surgeons and experienced medical teams and is a very costly procedure. Compounding this problem is a severe shortage of liver donors.

Radio Frequency Ablation uses heat energy to destroy the liver cancer cells and is suitable for patients with a relatively small cancer of under 3cm and if the cancer is located away from the aorta.

Percutaneous ethanol injection

surgery which can bring about a is perhaps the most popular option, primarily because it is not costly and produces very few side effects, yet is very effective. However, this approach is only an option if the cancer is small.

In conclusion, there are many options for the treatment of liver cancer, depending on the stage of the disease, the size of the cancer, and the function of the liver and doctors and patients should work together to achieve the optimal result. However, as with all disease, prevention is better than cure. Screening and vaccination are highly recommended, as is low or zero alcohol consumption. Those with a chronic infection of hepatitis, whether it is virus B or C, should seek out proper treatment. A regular abdomen ultrasound can help to find cirrhosis or the early stages of liver cancer before it is too late. - The Nation

Assoc Prof Teerha Piratvisuth and Dr Nathavut Sirimontaporn are specialists in liver disease and gastroenterology at Samitivej Sukhumvit Hospital. For information. call the Liver and Digestive Institute at (02) 711 8822-4.



Symposium attendees watch

a live surgery.

Low or zero alcohol consumption is one way to help avoid liver cancer.

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Your fortnightly pith:

"To escape criticism – do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." Elbert Hubbard

"At the end of the game the king and the pawn go back in the same box." – Italian proverb

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

- 9. Wearing down article, torn it, it split (9)
- 10. Socially acceptable Lao until, upset, wailing (9)
- 12. Almost within reach (4) 13. One who frightens races
- around, right? (6)
- 14. Slight second one who puts up money (7)
- 15. Hybridize more for modern style of passenger vehicle (9) 17. Hedonistic note, cure pain carefully (9)
- 18. For each in Rome possibly the supreme ruler (7)
- 19. Cone is manipulated for mathematical function (6) 20. In the middle, look, a piece
- of Thai shrimp paste (4) 23. French Queen moved about unknown rate of occurrence (9) 25. Bring rate worked out for exchange of goods (9)
- 26. Sounded rude, was sorry (4) 27. As spelled out to us, I'd a workroom (6)
- 29. Slackens off, no less, about nothing (7)
- 32. Those who choose the team for the French in sectors (9) 34. Raving to a careless
- helmsman! (9) 35. Agreements to account cables (7)
- 36. Recount sale of goods (6) 37. Small identifying marker for an animal (4)
- 38. Exactly, really lit out (9) 39. Coral? So it can be a purgative? (6,3)

- 1. Be carnal about shellfish (8)
- 2. Spare the sort-out in the

upper atmosphere (12)

- 3. Find record on top (8)
- 4. Noisy sleeper more painful out North (6)
- 5. Skin traders are more furry, son! (8)
- 6. Quiet Se or upset interrogator (10)
- 7. Kate may be away from home to get a prepared meal (4,3)
- 8. Out North, nice grant could be delightful (10)
- 11. One new croak from an
- independent group! (5)
- 16. Spring up, bud! (6) 19. Self-effacing company
- unknown (3) 21. Cooked meal in a tin to
- provide nourishment (12) 22. Exist, be eager to fit in (6)

- 23. Or fast sell-out steals a march on (10)
- 24. Sooner, flat could be off the market (3,3,4)
- 25. Sound of disapproval for body odor nothing (3)
- 28. Maybe does try second and demolishes (8)
- 29. Most beautiful, lost vile disposition (8)
- 30. Stray around horse pound, messy! (8)
- 31. For those who keep tally of points, twenties about right (7) 33. Allowed learner here, French tenor (5)
- 34. Nice to fix attention (6)

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

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Capricorns have the ability to motivate others this week, with signs that you can help a water sign friend get back on the right track. Where business is concerned, your willingness to work during the holiday period can result in lucrative opportunities for the New Year. Those with a birthday in the coming days are forecast to become wealthier during the year ahead. Wear the color cinnamon brown to enhance your charisma.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Getting to grips with work during the holiday season can prove a challenge for those born under the sign of Aquarius. The stars advise that careful planning should allow you to have some fun, while taking care of necessary business. Those who have been hoping to make a romantic connection with an earth sign should have their patience rewarded before the New Year. Your lucky color this week is holly berry red.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Shifting sands can cause Pisceans to feel unsettled during the week ahead and the stars advise allowing yourself enough free time to relax. The holiday season can bring

some stress if you try to please everyone and it would be wise to put your own needs first. Set some time aside to consider what you really want to happen next year. Your lucky color this week is silver.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Your confidence and energy are revived this week. The astral atmosphere will encourage those born under the sign of Aries to tackle challenges that they felt were beyond them earlier this month. A lack of interest in Christmas festivities can be revived when another fire sign gets in touch. Those with an air sign partner can be confused by this person's idea of a holiday gift. Your lucky color this week is cranberry red.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Life is looking up during the last part of December. Those who have been under the weather lately should perk up in time to enjoy some seasonal festivities. In the realm of romance, meeting a fire sign under the mistletoe is forecast to cheer up single Taureans, with good chance of this leading to a relationship. Money matters are lucky on Monday. Your lucky color this week is snow white.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Those Geminis who have opted to give Christmas a wide berth this year are forecast to find enough like-minded company. However, the stars recommend that you should not forget to contact family far away. Work is on your mind this week, with focus on untapped energy becoming a source of income. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Wear the color apple green to encourage good luck.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



week is plum.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos are predicted to receive several last minute invitations to celebrate the holiday season. Those who have been down in the dumps lately will be cheered by this, but you are advised to choose carefully when accepting. Your presence at work related celebrations will be noted, and your absence even more so. Romance with a fire sign becomes more serious. Wear the color dark chocolate to enhance your charisma.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Family relationships should be handled carefully by Virgoans this week, especially where air signs are concerned. The stars indicate that a situation could come to a head during the Christmas period, and it would be wise to take distance. Finances fall under unsettled cosmic conditions; where new investments are concerned, it would be better to wait and be safe, rather than sorry you rushed into something. Your lucky color this week is tangerine.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Your generosity can be misinterpreted this week. Librans who believed they were doing someone a seasonal good turn may be in for a dose of disappointment. If this relates to romance, the stars indicate that another air sign is less interested than you hoped. Where work is concerned, trying to point a water sign in a better direction can backfire. Wear the color cherry red to encourage luck with money.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



A need to get away from it all strengthens during the holiday period, but the

stars advise that Scorpios should be able to pull enough strings to make this happen early next year. There are hints that the Christmas spirit will catch up with you later in the week when a fire sign friend extends an invitation that is too tempting to turn down. The color ivy green can bring good luck.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



This is not an auspicious week to count on commitments from others.

Sagittarians who are impatient to see results related to work are advised to wait until the start of the New Year. Your social life can also be affected by this uncertain astral atmosphere - if you are let down by people over Christmas, it would be best to accept that with seasonal goodwill. Your lucky color this week is chestnut brown.

International Sport

World Cup shadow over 2013

By Mike Collett

THE FIFA World Cup finals are not taking place until the middle of next year but they cast a long and, at times, disturbing shadow over Brazil and the world of football in 2013.

As countries battled to qualify for the finals, Brazil was convulsed by protests in more than 100 cities about the vast amount of money being spent to stage the tournament.

Angry Brazilians targeted the Confederations Cup warmup event in June to gain maximum publicity for their grievances about the paucity of government funds for health, education, public transportation and welfare while billions were being spent on stadiums.

The building of those stadiums has caused no end of problems too, falling behind schedule to cause more headaches for world governing body FIFA and Brazil's World Cup organizers.

An accident which killed two workers in Sao Paulo in November means the stadium being used for the opening match in June will not be ready until April. Fan violence at Brazilian championship matches is another worrying development.

The authorities are under no illusions about what could happen off the field next year, but what may happen on it will preoccupy the rest of the world.

Under Luiz Felipe Scolari, Brazil are emerging as favorites to win the World Cup for the sixth time. Victory on home soil would go some way to alleviate the pain of what is still regarded as a national tragedy – failing to win in 1950, the last time the World Cup was held in Brazil.

Scolari has spoken at length about how the crowds at the Confederations Cup inspired players like Neymar, Fred and Paulinho to take the trophy with a scintillating 3-0 victory over world champions Spain in the final at Rio's Maracana.

Spain will be back to defend the title they won in South Africa in 2010 and attempt to become the first European side to win a World Cup in Latin America.

Vicente del Bosque's side qualified comfortably, coming through their preliminary matches unbeaten, and remained top of FIFA's world rankings throughout the year. But Spain face tough competition from Brazil and the improving South American sides of Argentina and Chile, and also from much closer to home.

EMERGING GERMANS

This year's outstanding European side were Germany who ended the international year on a high while Bayern Munich regained the European club title.

Joachim Loew's youthful squad cruised through their World Cup qualifying campaign, winning nine and drawing one of their 10 matches to raise expectations they can become world champions for the first time since 1990.

Ranked second to Spain in FIFA's world list, Germany's inventive midfield boast attacking talents like Mesut Ozil, Mario Goetze and Thomas Mueller and are able to take the pressure off a sometimes less than impressive backline.

They ended the year with a 1-0 win over England at Wembley, the same venue at which Bayern beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in an all-German Champions League final full of drama and attacking football. The game had a twist in the tail as Arjen Robben, who missed a penalty when Bayern lost to Chelsea in the 2012 final, scored his club's late winner.

Bayern, who also claimed the German title and cup, and Dortmund had emphatically proved Germany's club superiority over Spain in the semis.

Bayern thrashed Barcelona 7-0 on aggregate while Dortmund beat Real Madrid 4-1 in the first leg to go through 4-3 on aggregate. Whether these results reflect a switch in the balance of European power from Spain to Germany will be seen next year.

FERGUSON RETIRES

There was a shift in power at another of Europe's great fortresses when Alex Ferguson retired after



Brazilian team coach Luiz Felipe Scolari speaks at an international soccer forum in Rio. Photo: Pilar Olivares

almost 27 years as Manchester United's manager.

In a career unlikely to be matched for the foreseeable future, Ferguson, who first came to prominence at Aberdeen in the early 1980s, won 49 trophies as a manager, including 13 Premier League titles and two Champions League successes.

Ferguson's departure, after United were crowned champions, left former Everton manager David Moyes in charge and his first few months proved problematic as the Old Trafford club struggled to keep in touch with the Premier League leaders.

Another exit from the English game could herald the start of a new era – at least that is what Real Madrid are hoping.

In August, they paid a world record fee of 86 million euros (\$ 117 million) for Tottenham Hotspur's Welsh midfielder Gareth Bale who joined the previous most-expensive player, Cristiano Ronaldo, at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Real had lost out to Barcelona in the La Liga title race and parted company with their manager, Jose Mourinho, as a result.

Lionel Messi of Argentina and Barcelona, who won the World Player of the Year award for the fourth time, and Portugal's Ronaldo continued their battle to be regarded as the greatest of their generation, but another man surpassed their achievements.

In September Ronaldinho helped Atletico Mineiro to the South American championship meaning he completed the golden trio of winning the World Cup (Brazil 2002), the Champions League (Barcelona 2006) and the Libertadores Cup.

Another player, or now ex-player, involved in many a big money move was David Beckham, who called time on his career at the end of the 2012-13 season at title-winning

Paris St Germain. Beckham is now looking at buying a franchise in the United States, where a once-great club was reborn this year.

New York Cosmos, the trailblazers of the old North American Soccer League (NASL) with Pele, Franz Beckenbauer and Carlos Alberto in the 1970s, returned to action after an absence of almost three decades and won the title in their first season.

Two tiny soccer-playing nations were happy for a brief appearance on the world stage. In January, Cape Verde Islands reached the African Cup of Nations for the first time and fought through to the quarterfinals before losing to Ghana.

Tahiti, the Oceania champions, qualified for the Confederations Cup and came up against Spain who beat them 10-0 at the Maracana in one of the more unlikely competitive internationals of recent times.

Reuters

Vitaly Klitschko Vacates WBC Belt



Klitschko celebrates holding a Ukrainian flag. Photo: Maxim Shemeto

By Karolos Grohmann

VITALY Klitschko has vacated his WBC belt but was named champion emeritus on Monday, leaving the door open for the champion to one day return to the ring.

Klitschko, the ruling World Boxing Council champion, is unlikely to box again as he joins thousands of protesters in weekslong demonstrations against the government in Kiev. "I thank the WBC and its president Jose Sulaiman for the support in our battle for democracy and freedom in Ukraine," Klitschko said in a statement.

"The WBC offer gives me the theoretical possibility to return to the ring but that is something I currently cannot imagine. My focus is on politics in Ukraine and I feel the people there need me."

The 42-year-old has won 45 fights with 41 of them knockouts

and has only lost twice. His most recent fight dates back to September 2012 against Manuel Charr and he has long contemplated retiring from the sport.

His younger brother Vladimir holds all the other major world heavyweight titles.

"My brother will take care of the sporting success and I will support him in that as he has supported me in my fight in Ukraine," Klitschko said. – **Reuters**

Romo pick seals Cowboys' collapse

By Somchai Huasaikul

PLAY in Week 15 of the National Football League (NFL) saw another crop of really exciting games that helped clarify the playoff picture and reveal which teams are trending in the right direction as post season play approaches.

Perhaps the most exciting game of the week was the highly anticipated match-up between the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers, who started backup quarterback Matt Flynn in place of Aaron Rodgers, still out with a broken collarbone.

Tony Romo and company got off to a great start, but as happened so many times before in his roller-coaster career, interceptions late in the game killed his team, this time allowing the Packers to come from behind to silence the Dallas crowd with a stunning 37-26 win.

The Cowboys, going into the game 7-6, were in a must-win situation playing at home. A huge first half saw them sitting with what should have been an unassailable 26-3 lead in the third quarter. But the experienced Matt Flynn began to find his rhythm in the second half, eating away at the lead and raising concern among the long-suffering Cowboys fans, who have probably endured more agonizing losses over the last decade than any other NFL fan base. Sadly for them, their worst fears came true, with Romo throwing two interceptions in the final three minutes, allowing Packers running back Eddie Lacy to seal the win by scoring on an in-your-face one-year plunge with under two minutes left.

The final interception that allowed the Packers to set up that play was extremely illadvised, as it came on what appeared to be a clock-killing running play. But like so many times before, the otherwise gifted Romo

seems to completely lack the ability to simply throw the ball away when under duress.

Even Cowboy coach Jason Garrett appeared to throw Romo under the bus in the post-game interview for checking out of the run play late in the fourth quarter and throwing yet another excruciating pick.

However, he later said, Romo, who is currently under a US\$ 108 million contract, would "bounce back well" from this latest fiasco.

Many NFL analysts also criticized Garrett and his offensive coordinator for calling a play that would even give Romo a pass option when all they needed to do was run out the clock. The Dallas defense, ranked last in the league, also needs to take blame for another sieve-like second half performance. To give an indication of how bad they have been this year, they are the only team in decades to have multiple games in a single season in which the opposing team did not even have to punt.

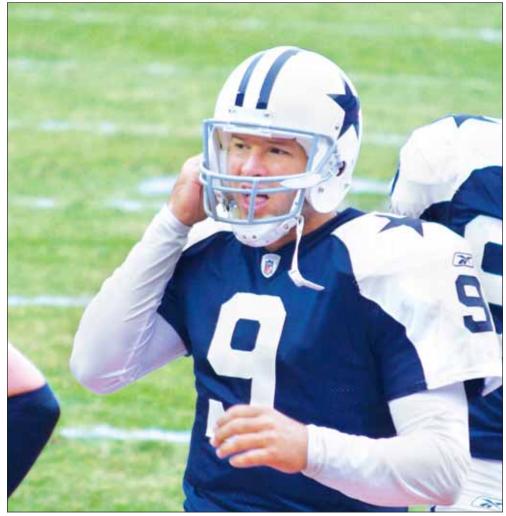
Former Dolphins superstar quarterback Dan Marino, who now works as a commenter, said: "If you're going to be a big-time quarterback in this league, you have to find a way to make throws and make plays in the second half. That's a disgraceful loss."

The Packers moved to 7-6-1, keeping their playoff hopes very much alive, especially with the possibility that Rodgers could return next week. The Cowboys fell to 7-7 and stayed a game behind Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Fish not Squished

In the most exciting AFC East match-up, the Miami Dolphins barely held on to win at home 24-20 over archrivals the New England Patriots, who would have clinched their eighth AFC East title in 11 years with a win.

But no matter who they play, the Pats always seem to get into games that are



Tony Romo is on a US\$108 million contract with the Dallas Cowboys. Photo: Bigcats lair

decided in the final seconds. With just over a minute left to play, NE quarterback Tom Brady drove his offense all the way to the Dolphins' 14 before throwing three consecutive incomplete passes and then getting intercepted on a desperation throw into the end zone with just two seconds remaining.

The win was the first by the Dolphins (8-6) against the Pats (10-4) after seven consecutive losses.

For complete coverage of all the action, Week 16 matchups, and the playoff picture, see

Top seven sporting breakthroughs of the year

1. Marc Marquez, MotoGP champion

The 20-year-old Spanish rookie became the youngest MotoGP champion when he held his nerve to finish third in the final race of the season in Valencia to pip holder Jorge Lorenzo to the title.

Six race wins, nine poles and 16 podiums made him the second rookie to win the Premier Class in motorbike racing, among a plethora of records he set.

2. Brianna Rollins, 100 meters hurdles world champion

The American turned heads when she clocked the fourth fastest time ever for the 100 meters hurdles at the world championship trials in June, shortly after turning professional.

She showed that was no fluke by taking world championship gold in Moscow one day before her 22nd birthday, pushing holder Sally Pearson of Australia into second place.

3. Paul George, NBA's Most Improved

The Indiana Pacers surprised many in the NBA by reaching the Eastern Conference Finals for the first time in nine years in May with Paul George at centre stage.

Having lost forward Danny Granger to injury for the entire campaign, George stepped up and averaged a career-high 17.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game in the 2012-13 season.

His duels with Miami's LeBron James in the Finals were a particular highlight.

George won the NBA's Most Improved



Marc Marquez of Spain races during the practice session at the Ricardo Tormo racetrack in Cheste, near Valencia. Photo: REUTERS/Heino Kalis

Player award, was handed a first All-Star selection and has continued that sterling work at the start of an impressive 2013-14

4. Gibraltar becomes UEFA member

The rocky territory became UEFA's 54th member association in May and its national team held Slovakia to a creditable 0-0 draw in a November friendly.

Gibraltar had gone through a bitter 14year court marathon against Spain's objections to their footballing ambitions.

5. Scott ends long Australian wait for **Green Jacket**

Australia has produced numerous great golfers but none tasted success in the U.S. Masters at Augusta until Adam Scott this year.

After eight runner-up finishes by his

fellow countrymen, three achieved by Greg Norman, Scott finally ended the wait for a prized Green Jacket by overcoming Argentine Angel Cabrera in a playoff in April when he sunk a 15-foot putt on the second extra hole.

6. Jose Fernandez, National League Rookie of the Year

The Cuban pitcher made an unexpected jump from the minor leagues to the Miami Marlins bullpen at the start of the season and the rookie tossed up some special numbers for a struggling team.

Fernandez posted a 12-6 record and his 2.19 earned run average was second in the National League behind Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw's 1.83.

The Marlins right-hander was also one of the finalists for the National League Cy Young Award.

7. Nairo Quintana, second place at the Tour de France

The Colombian was asked by Movistar to help team leader Alejandro Valverde finish on the podium at the Tour de France in July but the young rookie was quickly promoted when his Spanish colleague fell off the pace.

The 23-year-old rode a brilliant race to finish second overall and also claim the white and polka-dot jerseys for the top young rider and the best climber.

Quintana's performance in the three-week race, during which he also won a stage. marked him out as a future winner of cycling's grandest prize. – Reuters

December 21 - 27, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE

Sport Sport Thai women on top at SEA Games

THAILAND'S women athletes were a driving force behind the country's gold-medal talley at the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar, picking up three gold medals in the mountain bike and boxing competitions last week.

In the women's mountain bike event, Vipavee Deekaballes made Thailand proud, crossing the finish line first in 2.37.191 minutes in the 1.5km downhill race. Indonesian Risa Suseanty and another Thai, Sattayanun Abdulkaree, secured second and third places in 2.38.707 and 2.42.635 minutes respectively.

Suebsakun Sukchanya had to be content with bronze medal in the men's event after clocking 2.24.125 minutes. Indonesian bikers made it a one-two finish.

HRH Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, riding Htate Kwet, scored 53.810 points to finish in 10th place in the equestrian individual dressage event. Praveen Natr Mathavan from Malaysia on Sein Win Mal captured gold with 67.405 points.

"I felt a bit nervous with so many

things in my head, from the horse itself and the game plan for the competition. At one point, I made a mistake and had to refocus on other things I had to do.

"The horse's quite strong and sometimes didn't obev what I wanted it to do. I'm thankful for all the support everyone gave me here as well as those warm words I got in Facebook and IG," said Princess Sirivannavari, who had represented the country in the badminton competition in the biennial tournament.

Thai shuttlers made it to three finals yesterday. World No 18 and Dutch Open champion Busanan Ongbumrungpan failed to make her mark and went down to Indonesia's Manuputi Belaetrix 9-21 21-13 21-13 in the women's singles showdown.

In the boxing competition, the country's female boxers agonizingly failed to make it a hat-trick of gold medals after Sudaporn Seesondee fell victim to a dubious decision and had to settle for silver in the 60kg class at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.

Two-time champion Sopida Satumrum initially set the tone for the Thai camp by overcoming Vietnam's Ngvyen Thi Yen with a split decision to successfully defend her title in the 51kg class.

"I'm quite satisfied with my form and winning the gold medal. But, I want the association to find more tournaments for us in order to gain experience at the international level. We've seen little action in the ring recently," Sopida said after winning her third gold in the tournament.

Peamwilai Laopeam replicated Sopida's feat in the 54kg category after she also won her third gold medal in the event with a unanimous decision over Indonesia's Ester Kalayukw.

"I'm very happy with the success today. But, I'm not quite happy with my overall performance. I think I've made little progress. Perhaps it's because we lacked competition. I'll let the association decide my future," said Peamwilai.

Sopida, the last Thai fighter to box last Saturday, was unable to make it a perfect day for Thai



Parawaadee "Ploy" Kittaya training in Phuket before the games. Photo: S Riva

boxing after she went down to a split decision against her Vietnamese opponent, despite having dominated the bout.

Last Friday, Thailand ruled the pool with four gold medals. Swimming queen Natthanan Junkrajang, who captured five gold medals in the previous edition in Indonesia two years ago, won the country's first gold in the women's 100m freestyle event. The other three gold came from Radomyos Matjiur in the men's 100m breaststroke. Benjaporn Sriphanomthorn in the women's 400m freestyle and a women's quartet, including Natthanan and Benjaporn, in the

4x100m freestyle relay.

Also winning gold medals for Thailand's women's swim team was Patarawadee Kittaya, who won the 100m Butterfly 2013 Heats event as well as the 4x100m Freestyle Relay Final, along with Jenrira Srisaard, Benjaporn Sriphanomthorn and Natthanan Junkrajang.

An accomplished swimmer, Parawaadee "Ploy" Kittaya trained for several months at Phuket's Thanyapura under their swimming Head Coach Randy Simons.

The 27th SEA Games began on December 11 and will conclude on Sunday, December 22.

- The Nation / Phuket Gazette

War Elephants own takraw, boxing in Myanmar tourney

THAILAND reigned supreme again in the sepak takraw and boxing competitions, among many other fields at the 27th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games being contested in Myanmar.

In Sepak Takraw, the men's and women's teams outclassed their opponents to win gold medals last week. Thailand's women - comprising Kaewjai Poomsawangjit, Sasiwimon Janthasit and Wanwisa Jankaen – tamed Laos 21-6 and 21-14 in the round-robin final to grab the gold medal for the seventh time.

The men's side, featuring Siriwat Saka, Pornchai Khaokaew and Pattarapong Yupdee, later emulated their female counterparts by beating arch-rivals Malaysia 21-16 and 21-8 to claim the gold medal for the 12th consecutive time.

"I have to give credit to the Malaysian team who came into the match with a good game plan. We could have lost if we had made mistakes but we were very lucky to win the first set which made things a lot easier for us. But this victory is definitely achieved by the long experience of our veteran players," said the national men's team manager, Kamol Tankimhong.

"The men's team met the target by winning both the men's team and regu team. The next target will be the Asian Games in South Korea next year. We will call 24 players for training and select the best based on individual performance. It won't be easy as they are all very close talent wise," Kamol added.

Pichai on cloud nine after boxers' success

Thailand Boxing Association President Pichai Chunhavajira grinned from ear to ear after Thai boxers returned home last week with an outstanding haul of seven gold medals, two silvers and a bronze from the boxing category of the 27^{th} SEA Games.

Remarkably, all 10 fighters that the country fielded returned with a medal. Thailand's male boxers once again underlined their supremacy by winning five gold medals from the six weight classes that featured Thai fighters in the finals. Hard-hitting Apichet Saenset was the standout performer, scoring a hat-trick of technical knockouts to bring home the gold medal in the 69kg class.

The only Thai to miss out on a gold medal in the men's competition was Donchai Thathi, who went down to Filipino fighter Mario Fernandez in the 56kg division by a unanimous decision.

In the women's competition, the Thais clinched two out of three weight classes in which they featured in the finals.

Sopida Satumrum and Peamwilai Laopeam both tasted glory in the event for the third time in the 51kg and 54kg categories respectively. Sudaporan Seesondee had to settle for a silver in the 60kg class.

The Thai boxers' gold-medalwinning exploits at Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex in Nay Pyi Taw left Pichai, who flew in to support the fighters, purring. "Taking seven gold medals was something that exceeded our expectations. We were expecting six golds."

Pichai promised to send the fighters to fight abroad more often after many of the boxers complained that they lack international exposure.

"We'll try to find at least two events for our boxers in the build-up to next year's Asian Games in South Korea. We'll have a discussion with our coaching staff to try to find a way to correct the mistakes," he said.

The 27th SEA Games began on December 11 and will conclude on Sunday, December 22.

- The Nation



Thailand and Myanmar boxers duke it out. Photo: SEA Games



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Sport Sport New blood for new year

Phuket FC retain 9, to sign 17, spend B50mn for 2014 season



HEAD START: The towering Tales heads the ball in last Monday's training session; Coach Teco looking on in the background. Photo: Steven Layne



FOLLOWING a month-long break, Phuket FC last week assembled its new-look squad for pre-season training in preparation for the coming Yamaha League One (YL1) season, which is set to commence in February, 2014.

Meanwhile, the club's chairman and president announced a projected season budget of between 45 to 55 million baht – about the same as the 2013 season, but with less players on the roster.

Of the 31 players last season, the club has retained only nine for the 2014 season including seven Thais and two foreigners as follows: goalkeepers Ninuruddin "Ming" Nide-ha and Adisak "Ting" Doungsri; striker Eakartit Somjit; defenders Sakareya "Ya" Kolae and Yasuke Sato (Japan); and midfielders Cristian Alex (Brazil), Alef Poiji, Watchara Kriaram and winger Wuttichai Sooksen.

Up to 17 new signings are expected to be finalized in the coming weeks, while six highprofile signings were formally announced last week, bringing the projected roster to 26.

including two Brazilians and four Thais, were officially introduced to local media ahead of the preseason's first training session last Monday, December 16.

Headlining the new signings are two talented Brazilians experienced and towering center-back Tales Ricarte dos Santos and young yet skillful midfielder Eber Henrique F de Bessa, or just "Eber".

Standing 197 centimeters tall, 29-year-old Tales was transferred to Phuket from 2012 and 2013 Singapore League Cup champions, Brunei DPMM FC.

Speaking at a press conference last Sunday, Tales remarked: "I've come here to get results, and so that's what my focus will be... I'm looking forward to working with my new team and hopefully we will have a shot at the Thai Premier League."

Meanwhile, Eber, 21, was signed on loan from Phuket FC partner club and 2013 Serie A (Brazil's top-flight football league) champions, Cruzeiro ES.

Eber has won a total of 11 youth championships in Brazil with America Miero (6) and Cruzeiro (5), and has also competed in Canada



Cristian Alex (left) stretches with tryout Ney Fabiano. Photo: Steven Layne



AT EASE TROOPS: Most of the players on the 2014 roster have already assembled and commenced training in Phuket. Several more will be arriving to the island in the coming weeks. Photo: Steven Layne

Phuket FC's other Brazilian on loan from Cruzeiro, Cristan Alex - who joined in the club midway through last season – has also been confirmed on the 2014 roster and reportedly will be joined in Phuket this season by his wife and daughter from Brazil.

The Thai signings' highlights include striker Wasan Natasan, 32, who most recently played for Thai Premier League side Bangkok Glass, and was a top scorer (36 goals) for three seasons on TPL team Chiang Rai United from 2010-2013. Wasan is a native of Chiang Rai.

Also with Chiang Rai on his resume is 32-year-old midfielder Rattapon Attawong.

A third new Thai signing is young-yet-promising 21-yearold striker Anusak Laosaengthai, who joins Phuket on loan from SCG Muangthong United. Last season, Anusak played on loan for Ayuthaya FC, and has also played for Thai Port FC and Airforce United.

A fourth new Thai signing is Prachaya Hong-In, a defender from Pattaya United, who has also worn the colors for Isaan United and Trat FC.

Although fans are thrilled that skillful Japanese defender, Yusuke Sato was confirmed on this season's roster, many more fans are also saddened that Ivorian stalwart Nenebi Slyvester did not re-sign, having loyally served the club for four seasons (2010-2013).

Speaking at Sunday's press conference to present some of the new players, Phuket President Pamuke Achiriyachai justified his decision to continue with Brazilian Head Coach, Stefano "Teco" Cugurra Rodrigues, despite a less-than-sensational record in last season's conclusion.

"Teco joined midway through the season and had to work with what the old coaching team left him, so it's not fair to measure



Wasan Natasan welcomed aboard by Chairman Pamuke. Photos: Supplied



him on this alone. We want to give him a chance to show what he can do... He'll have the first three games to prove himself," Pamuke said firmly.

Coach Teco later told the Gazette: "The pressure is on, but that's what football is about. We're going to start training hard for the next month and I think we'll have good prospects."

The coach, who is expecting his wife to give birth to his son as this paper goes to print, confirmed that the club plans to sign

at least one more Brazilian and most likely a Myanmar national as an Asian reserve for Sato.

The current Asian Football Conference regulations allow a team to field one Asian player in addition to three non-Asians at any given time.

"After we confirm the new Brazilian and Myanmar players, that will bring our final number of foreign players to six – two Asians and four Brazilians. Altogether, we'll have 26 players," he concluded.

Sport ____



Grimes' efforts throughout the season pay off with a place on the podium at the last race. Photo: Suppanat Khumsorn

Grimes' year-end

LAST weekend marked the final race of the year for Ben and Sam Grimes at the Bira International Kart Circuit in Pattaya for the last round of the Thailand Rotax Max Challenge.

Sam's improvement throughout the year was evident to everyone this weekend and he finished a very creditable 5th out of the 11 drivers that took part – also achieving his first podium this season.

Ben had a rocket start from 4th on the grid to get up to 2nd and

was keeping the leader in his sights but got overtaken and the three trailing drivers lost touch with the leader with Ben finishing in 4th – just one and a half seconds behind the race winner.

Sam too was right behind Ben but one mistake (the first mistake he made all weekend long) cost him severely in the final.

Both boys, however, enjoyed good pace and the fastest laps between the two were very close together, usually within half a tenth of each other. In the final, Ben set the second quickest lap of the race, just a tenth off, whilst Sam was the 5th quickest man out on the track, with his time just two and a half tenths off.

The two boys start up again next season in January at Sepang for the Malaysian Rotax Invitational. The schedule will be similar to this year's and hopefully Ben and Sam will also compete in Europe a few times next year as well.

- Phuket Gazette

Taking advantage of the warm-up



Tennis Tips

By Roger Cochrane

WHEN we get onto the tennis court to ready ourselves for a match there are bound to be some type of nerves flowing through our veins. That's natural.

As we hit the first few tennis balls in warm-up we begin to become consumed with how our forehand, our backhand, our serves, etc. are feeling at that moment. That's a mistake. Instead, we should make sure we spend the majority of our on-court warm-up being ultra-aware of the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents. Every player on planet earth has shots they do not enjoy hitting. The skill we have to develop is to maximize these precious few minutes and being able to spot the flaws in our opponent's game.

Be sure to hit your opponent some high shots, some low shots, some shots that move him or her to the right or the left. One thing you are watchingfor is to see if they become immediately frustrated when they miss any of these shots. This frustration may be a sign that you've hit the jackpot in finding the type of shots they don't like hitting. If so, you now know what shot you can hit to them on the big points, or when the opportunity presents itself.

The most famous current example of this is Rafael Nadal's continuous success against Roger Federer. Rafa hits a large percentage of shots high and to Roger's backhand. Roger has a good high backhand, but it's not nearly as good as many of his other shots, so Rafa takes full advantage of this and continually hits to this location when playing against Roger. This is the major reason as to why



Take note of and exploit your opponents weak spots.

Rafa holds a career 22-10 record against Roger.

There are absolutely no rules in tennis that say you must hit your best shots to your opponents best shots and see who is the better player. Strategy and overall awareness of your opponents can very often be the difference between a win and a loss in a close match

Plus, the "beyond the obvious" approach of using the warm-up to spot the weaknesses of others will very often allow you to keep your focus away from being obsessed with your own forehand, backhand and serve and consequently allow you to play better tennis.

Being able to spot your opponents' weaknesses and exploiting them in matches may not win you many friends on the tennis court, but it will win you tennis matches.

Happy Hitting!

Tips by Phuket's TSLC's Tennis Head Coach Roger Cochrane (tennis@thanyapura.com)

The Heroes are dancing their way to the top

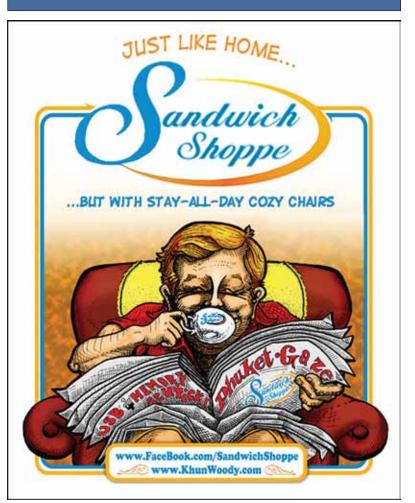
WE CAN BE HEROES: The 'Hero' team from Phuket Town's Ban Bangneaw Municipal School celebrate after winning the South Regional Finals of the Royally

endorsed "To Be Number One Teen Dancercize" competition at Jungceylon last weekend. They will go on to defend their national championship win from last year's

finals in Bangkok next month. The Aha team, also from Ban Bangneaw School, also took first in the pre-teen event.

- Phuket Gazette





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