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INSIDE TODAY

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25 Baht

■ 'IT WAS RISKY... BUT THE CAPTAIN INSISTED WE LEAVE'

Honeymoon catastrophe

■ Tourist paralyzed
after speedboat takes
on dangerous waves

By **Saran Mitrat**

A SWEDISH honeymooner was partially paralyzed from a fall as her speedboat to Phi Phi Island tackled choppy waters.

"I still have pain in my back. I can move my legs a little bit, but I cannot move my feet at all," Karin Josefsson said. "My husband also hurt his back, but not severely."

Mrs Josefsson and her husband, Conny, arrived in Phuket on January 14.

"We have been married for a year and are finally taking our honeymoon. My husband has been here before and told me how beautiful the island is. I love scuba diving, and the Phuket people and beaches are so nice," said Mrs Josefsson from her hospital bed.

The Josefssons boarded a speedboat...



Continued on Page 3

Doctors at Bangkok Hospital Phuket put two metal rods and nine screws in Karin Josefsson's back.

**Swedish killer
sentenced to
life in prison**

JOHAN Sebastian Ljung was sentenced to life imprisonment on January 24 for the stabbing murder of Maxim Schantz in Phuket two years ago.

Swedish murder suspect Tommy Soderlund, also on trial for the slaying of Mr Schantz, is scheduled to be sentenced on March 3.

Full story on Page 3

**Police vow to
protect voters
from violence**

PHUKET's top cop has promised to protect those casting their votes in the national elections on Sunday, despite not having enough officer to properly man all 363 polling stations.

Instead of providing the legally required two officers per station, a 41-person quick-response task force will provide support for the single officers placed at Phuket polls.

Full story on Page 6

Advisory

Booze Ban

A BAN on alcohol sales will be in effect from 6pm Saturday to midnight Sunday for the February 2 national elections.

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This Week



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Phuket Grocery undergoing expansion on east side. **Page 13**



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Australian marine reps tour Phuket for future prospects. **Page 17**



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Michelin starred chef cooks a home meal at JW Marriott. **Page 40**



Boats
Learning to live and love life on the sea, literally. **Page 44**



Sport
Phuket FC win four for four in pre-season thus far. **Page 51**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Landlord, son gunned down over curry shop

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A LANDLORD and her son were gunned down in front of their family home in Thung Thong last Saturday amid a heated dispute over continuing a lease for a local curry shop.

Police arrived at the scene at about 4:30pm to find Boonlet Thanom-anantakun, 42, standing next to the house with a .38 caliber handgun still in his hand.

The bodies of Puangrut Thiratanayaporn, 58, and her son Worapatr, 36, lay in the driveway.

"Mr Worapatr, who worked as a front desk staffer at a hotel in Patong, had been shot in the chest, right arm, through the back and once in the head," said Maj Sakchai Chunyong of the Thung Thong Police.

"The body of his mother was lying meters away. She had been shot in the neck, the left arm and once in the left hand."

Officers found a number of spent .38 caliber bullet casings scattered at the scene.

Mr Boonlet's wife, holding her 2-year-old son, watched as the horrific events unfolded.

"Over a week ago, they had an argument about us not keeping the restaurant clean enough. The land-



Police inspect the scene where Mr Worapatr and his mother were shot.

lord said she would not let us continue to rent the place and the lease would expire at the end of this month," she said.

"Boonlet went to talk to Mrs Puangrut to ask her to continue renting the shop to us. Meanwhile, Mr Worapatr came home from work and he joined the conversation.

"They talked for a while, then Boonlet pulled his gun out and shot Mr Worapatr until he fell to the ground.

"I was so shocked. I think Mrs Puangrut was too; she didn't move at all. Then Boonlet reloaded the gun and killed her next."

Ms Puangrut's husband was at home, but kept himself in the house throughout the shootings.

Even after police arrived, he remained inside the family home.

"We believe he is still in shock. We will question him later," an officer at the scene said.

Motorbike crash kills beach-bound Swede

A SWEDISH man on his way to the beach was killed when his motorbike went off the road in Thalang on January 22.

A friend who was following on another bike said the pair were headed to Nai Yang Beach.

"He overtook my motorbike and lost control," the friend said. "The bike fell over and he struck the metal guard rail. He died instantly."

The friend gave the victim's name as Mikael Nilsson, 51.

Police were called to the scene, on Road 4026 - the main bypass road to the airport - at 11am. They found no helmet and said the only wound on Mr Nilsson's body was



Mr Nilsson died at the scene.

a bruise on his neck.

"We believe he died as a result of striking his head against the guard rail, but the cause of death will be determined by Thalang Hospital," said Lt Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai Police. - **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Phuket shivers on coldest day in five years

JANUARY 23 was the coldest day Phuket has seen in five years, the Southern Meteorological Center confirmed.

"The minimum temperature in Phuket was 19 degrees Celsius. Our normal lows at this time of the year are 21 to 24 degrees," said Metta Armeen, the director of weather surveillance at the center.

A high pressure system from China had pushed cold air over Thailand, and the northeast monsoon winds helped to push it farther south, bringing chills to the island, he explained.

- **Saran Mitrarat**

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Swede gets life sentence

By Chutharat Plerin

SWEDISH national Johan Sebastian Ljung was sentenced on January 24 to life imprisonment for the stabbing murder of Maxim Schantz in Phuket two years ago.

He was also ordered to pay 12.5 million baht in compensation to the victim's family.

Mr Ljung, 28, and Tommy Viktor Soderlund, also 28, were arrested by police in a hotel room at Surin Beach, on Phuket's west coast.

The pair confessed that they tracked Mr Schantz down through Facebook because they were angry with him for informing Tourist Police of a scam they were operating from an internet cafe in Pattaya.

Mr Soderlund was arrested in connection with that incident, while Mr Ljung managed to avoid getting caught, police said.

The Swedes followed Mr Schantz to Phuket, and eventually rented a house across from Mr Schantz's home in The Lantern housing development in Koh Kaew.

In preparation for their attack, the pair packed a knife, a gun and a plastic band for tying their victim's wrists, police said.

Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung tried to force Mr Schantz back into his home to carry out their plan, but the victim put up a fight.

That's when Ljung plunged a knife into Mr Schantz's neck, killing him, police said.

Both men confessed to their role in the killing. However, they denied any intent to murder Mr Schantz.

The handing down of the sentence followed a media blackout on reporting witness testimonies delivered during the trial as the court deemed it could unfairly

'I want to hear him [Tommy] apologize to me and my son. Johan apologized to me once when I visited the pair of them in jail – but Tommy never did'

– Murder victim's mother



Mr Ljung was convicted of the murder of Maxim Schantz. Photo: Dean Noble

support the defendants.

Mr Ljung has 30 days to appeal the sentence.

Maxim's mother, Yvonne Schantz, 55, found relief in the sentence handed down (see page 8).

Mrs Schantz, who has been staying in Pattaya, will stay in Thailand for the sentencing of Tommy Soderlund, scheduled to be handed down by the Phuket provincial court on March 3.



Protesters forced the closure of many government offices on the island. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Protesters will not shut down any emergency services: leader

EMERGENCY services throughout Phuket will remain untouched by protesters, a key protest leader on the island vowed last week.

"We aim to shut down every government building to encourage officials to support us instead of working for Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the corrupt government," protest co-ordinator Suratin Lian-udom said.

"But we will not touch any emergency service departments in those offices."

Police stations and hospitals on the island remain open, confirmed Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong (see pages 4-5).

"The protesters understand our duty to the people," he said.

However, most of the other government offices in Phuket have shut down under pressure from protesters.

"Even though our offices are closed, emergency services are available," Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation-Phuket Chief San Jantharawong said.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town remains open and operational.

– Chutharat Plerin

Nine screws put in tourist's back after boating incident

From page 1

...destined for Phi Phi with about 24 other passengers on January 19.

"The waves were too high and too strong, but the captain insisted we leave. I had not seen any other boats leave that morning," Mrs Josefsson said.

"Six of us sat at the front of the boat. The ride was so rough that... my husband and I fell down onto the deck."

"I was immediately in pain and could not feel anything below my waist. I shouted at the driver to turn around, but he refused. I showed him that I was in pain and could not move. Finally, we headed back to Phuket."

Several minutes after the boat arrived, an ambulance transferred the Josefssons to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

An x-ray taken at the hospital revealed serious damage to Mrs Josefsson's spine.

"The alignment wasn't right, the doctor put a metal rod on each side to support it," she explained.

The two metal rods were held in place with nine screws.

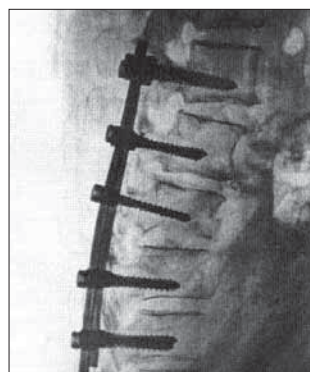
"I don't want to file any complaints or get anyone in trouble. I hope they consider this a lesson learned. I don't want anyone else to face a situation like this," she said.

Mrs Josefsson agreed to file the medical costs through her personal health insurance, as requested by the boat operator.

Specialists from Sweden, Denmark and Norway will visit Mrs Josefsson and evaluate her condition, she explained.

She and Mr Josefsson flew back with the doctors on January 30.

"It might take months to fully recover, but I promise I will be back to Phuket," she added.



An x-ray of Mrs Josefsson back after surgery.

Three arrested for fatal bag-snatch, one at large

POLICE have arrested three of the four suspects involved in the fatal stabbing of bag-snatch victim Dithchart Insom, who was killed on December 16.

One suspect is still at large.

Police were put on the killers' trail after interrogating one of their friends who witnessed the killing.

On January 22, the Phuket Court issued arrest warrants for Traitewit Jinda, 18; Sirirat Promchat, 19; a minor named by police only as

"Som"; and a 27-year-old named by police only as "Boy".

Ms Sirirat was arrested on January 22 in possession of the phone stolen from Mr Dithchart. She was charged with theft. Police next arrested Mr Traitewit in Bangkok on January 24 for gang-murder and theft. Ms Som was arrested on January 26 and charged with theft.

Police are searching for Mr Boy, who is wanted for gang-murder and theft. – Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Patong picks up where natural attractions fail

THE famed nightlife of Patong draws more tourists to Phuket than any other single attraction, according to the results of the *Gazette's* latest online poll.

With the passing of yet another record-breaking year that saw millions of travellers arriving on our shores, the *Gazette* asked readers, "What single feature draws the most tourists from around the world to Phuket?"

Overall, 34.2% of respondents said it was "Phuket's unique mix" of beaches; natural beauty; Patong nightlife; and value for money offered.

However, Patong nightlife topped the poll as the most popular single attraction. Leading the charge were Thais, of whom 71% voted Patong nightlife as the main reason to come to Phuket. In comparison, 26% of tourists and 16% of local foreign residents marked the party hub as their top choice.

Hardly an encouraging result for the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) was that more than 20% of respondents overall said



Patong brings more tourists to the island than the 'stunning beaches' or 'natural beauty' of the surrounding area. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

they didn't know why anyone would come to Phuket.

They may have a point. It certainly wasn't for "the natural beauty of Phuket and the surrounding region", which landed just 7% of the votes, or even the oft-touted beaches of Phuket, which garnered a meager 6.4%.

Even more distressing was that 13% of the tourists visiting the island said they didn't know why they came. Such an appraisal of Phuket's lack of draw was supported by 29% of the local foreign residents and 16% of Thais responding to the poll.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Ensuring

EARLY last Saturday morning, a female tourist spent 45 minutes trying to contact the police. Repeated calls to the Tourist Police hotline 1155 went unanswered until a man picked up and told her he could not speak English and advised her to call the Thalang Police, who put her on hold. The *Gazette's* Chutharat Plerin investigates emergency services for tourists on the island.

TOURIST Police have campaigned time and again that the one emergency number any tourist needs to know is 1155. However, when that number was put to the test last weekend, the results were dismal.

"For the past 45 minutes, I have tried to contact the police. I tried the Tourist Police first, but the man who finally answered the phone told me to call Thalang Police as he didn't speak English," the woman, "Angel" (not her real name), wrote in an email the *Gazette* received at 1:47am.

"So I called the Thalang Police — again with no answer to my repeated calls. When I did get through, they put me on hold," she said.

Angel went back to calling the Tourist Police, but again no one answered the phone.

"Luckily, I wasn't in any danger, but I am shocked, disgusted and appalled by the lack of response by the police.

"Aren't the Tourist Police supposed to speak English? If I am in danger, who do I call? Certainly not the police in Phuket," she said.

Maj Urumporn Koondejsumrit, chief of the Tourist Police in Phuket, remains confident that tourists in need of help will find it by calling the Tourist Police hotline: 1155.

"I am unaware of this incident and I will look into it," he assured.

"Any calls to 1155 from within Phuket are automatically directed to our Phuket ready room. If you are in Phuket, you will reach us." Maj Urumporn was confused

why any of his officers tasked with answering the hotline would say they could not speak English.

"We have at least two officers on standby to answer the hotline 24 hours a day. These officers all speak at least reasonable English. So I have no idea how or why this would happen," he said.

To help Tourist Police with foreigners whose native tongue is not English, the ready room keeps a list of contact numbers of Tourist Police Volunteers who can assist with translations in 14 languages.

"Tourist Police have 36 foreign volunteers from 16 countries and 18 Thai volunteers. They can't attend to the phone all the time, as many of them are out assisting patrols on the street, but we can call them and ask for their help in communicating with tourists in need," Maj Urumporn said. First and foremost, tourists need to know that the hotline exists,

he explained.

"That's why we have posters displaying the 1155 number at the airport and at the front desk or even guests rooms of many hotels," Maj Urumporn said.

It was information available at the airport that saved a French family lost in the forest just a month ago.

"We realized we were walking into a forest, but we didn't understand how difficult the going would be," said Bill Letshon, 56, who was hiking with his three daughters. "[When] I realized that we were lost, I remembered the



'If tourists use the Tourist Buddy app to call 1155, we will know exactly where they are'

— **Maj Urumporn Koondejsumrit, Chief, Phuket Tourist Police**

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Tourist Police hotline number from a brochure at the airport, so we called the police for help.”

TOURIST BUDDY

The Tourist Police last year launched its free Tourist Buddy smartphone app. The iPhone and iPad app is available for download on iTunes and the Android version is available on Google Play.

Available in English and Thai, Tourist Buddy allows visitors to quickly contact the Tourist Police.

When users first launch the Tourist Buddy app, they are asked whether or not they want the Tourist Police to know their location, delivered through the phone's GPS facility.

“If tourists in danger use the app to call the Tourist Police hotline, we will know exactly where they are [within 10 meters] and will be able to go immediately to the right location to help,” Maj Urumporn said.

ONE NUMBER

No matter what the emergency – requiring police, ambulance or fire brigade – 1155 should be the first number any foreigner in distress should call, Maj Urumporn urged.

“If tourists need to speak to an



Foreigners are urged to call the Tourist Police hotline 1155 for any type of emergency. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

officer in person they can go to the police box at the beach end of Soi Bangla in Patong or come to our headquarters in Phuket Town.

“The local police emergency number 191 remains the top-priority number for native Thai speakers, but not all of their officers can speak English.”

AMBULANCE

Although all calls for medical assistance made to the police hotline 191 will be directed to Phuket's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ready room, EMS nurse Ladda Thongtan agrees that foreigners should call 1155.

“We have our own hotline,

1669, but most people call 191 and any calls requiring an ambulance are put through to us,” she said.

“We have staff who can speak English, but they are not native speakers and might not understand a person in distress if they do not speak clearly.

“If people need an ambulance, it can often be a matter of life or

death, so the sooner we have clear information the faster we can get an emergency team to you.”

FIRST RESPONDERS

Ms Ladda explained that the Phuket EMS ready room will contact the nearest hospital to the scene of an accident to dispatch an ambulance, or contact one of Phuket's rescue foundations if they are closer.

The Kusoldharm Foundation covers Phuket Town, Patong and Thalang, while Ruamjai Kupai covers Chalong, Rawai and the south of the island. Both have rescue teams on standby 24 hours a day, but both admit that their English-speaking skills are limited.

“Call us at 076-246304 for any emergency service,” one Kusoldharm rescue worker said.

“We have staff who can speak some English available 24 hours, but it is best to have a Thai speaker on hand so we can understand exactly what is needed.”

A rescue worker with Ruamjai Kupai concurred.

“Our number is 076-283346. We have some staff who can speak English, but they are not on duty round the clock. If you need help, we suggest you call the Tourist Police or EMS first,” he said.

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Police vow to protect Phuket voters

Saran Mitrarat

DESPITE a shortage of officers, the Phuket Provincial Police have vowed to protect voters from any violence with a special task force.

The force of 41 officers will be made up of five fast-response inspectors, 18 undercover officers and 18 officers on standby.

"Officers manning the polls have been instructed not to interfere with peaceful protesters, even if they are blockading the polls. However, should an emergency break out, backup officers will be ready to respond," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiwuangnont.

Last Sunday, protesters marched on advance voting stations and forced them to close. Only one lone voter was able to cast his ballot, at the Thalang voting location.

"We cannot reveal who that person was, but he arrived and voted before the protesters turned up at about 9:30am," said polling station chief Chaiya Khamsaad.

Protesters at Phuket Community Hall and Phuket City Hall were more successful, arriving before 8:30am to prevent the polling stations from opening at all.

Director of the Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Kittipong Thiengkunakrit had officials close the stations to avoid any violent confrontations.

'We don't want any problems at the polls, and we will avoid any possibility of a fight.'

– Kittipong Thiengkunakrit, Director of the Phuket Election Commission (PEC)

"We don't want any problems at the polls, and we will avoid any possibility of a fight," Mr Kittipong said.

Though Thai law requires two police officers per polling station on the national election day, Phuket stations will only have one.

"We asked for two officers per station, but there are 363 polling



Crowds of protesters gather outside Phuket Provincial Hall to protest the national February 2 election.

areas on the island and not enough available officers," said Mr Kittipong.

Anyone defying the law – for example, selling alcohol during prohibited times or buying votes – will be arrested, Mr Kittipong said, noting that it was also against the law for candidates to

provide transportation for voters to polling stations.

"It is also illegal to prevent people from voting in the elections. The penalty for doing so is five years imprisonment, a fine up to 100,000 baht or both," said Mr Kittipong.

At the time of publication Mr

Kittipong was in a meeting with Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak to strategize a response to the potential election blockades on February 2.

"At this stage we are not ready to reveal any further information about our plans," Mr Kittipong told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

Mission launched to replace AWOL buoy

A SEABOUND 10-day mission departed from Phuket on Monday to replace a tsunami warning buoy in the Indian Ocean.

The original buoy was severed from its anchorage months ago.

"It took time to obtain the budget for this project. This is the soonest we are able to send our staff out," said Surachai Srisarakham, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) Chief Somsak Khaosuwan chaired the mission launch, which is to be carried out by experts on board the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center research vessel MV Seafdec.

"Experts will travel 1,000 nautical miles west to the tsunami-detection unit's Bottom

Pressure Recorder [BPR], which sits at a depth of 3,500 meters at 9 North, 89 East in the Indian Ocean," he said.

"The team will bring up the BPR to check that it is in working order and change the batteries. They will also install the new buoy."

The group of experts include staff verified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the US, noted Chief Somsak.

"Tsunami warning systems must be in proper working order at all times. We cannot afford to miss a warning," he said.

"We would like everyone to know that we have a good warning system in place, and the two other buoys still in position are working well."

– Chutharat Plerin



NDWC Chief Somsak Khaosuwan speaks to the press about the tsunami buoy replacement.

Two busted for drugs, one armed

POLICE arrested a man found in a Phuket Town hotel for possession of drugs with a street value of more than 200,000 baht on January 22.

"We were informed by undercover police that this man was selling drugs to teenagers in the area," said Lt Col Jarun Bangprasert of the Phuket Provincial Police.

Officers found Autthapon Somboonprom, 30, in possession of 338 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and 65.65 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Mr Autthapon confessed to the charge of possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

Mr Autthapon's arrest followed the January 21 arrest of a man in Rassada for possession of 40 pills of *ya bah* and a handmade gun with ammunition.

Patrol police arrested Panawat Puekbuakaw, 33, at 12:30am in front of the Tesco Lotus minimart on Sri Suthat Road, explained Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

Police found 20 pills of *ya bah* in a plastic bag in his pants, and another 20 pills at his rented home in Rassada.

"We also found a handmade gun and two shotgun cartridges inside a cupboard in a bedroom upstairs," Lt Col Prawit said.

Mr Panawat was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug and possession of a firearm and ammunition without permission.

"He confessed to the charges," Col Prawit said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Thai roads third deadliest

By Saran Mittrarat

THAILAND currently ranks third in the world in annual road death rates, with 38 fatalities per 100,000 people. Only Niue (a Polynesian island-nation) and the Dominican Republic have higher rates, said Thanapong Jinvong, Director of the Academy of Road Safety at the National Health Foundation.

In an effort to change that statistic, over 300 people from throughout Southern Thailand attended a two-day seminar last week aimed at making roads safer.

"Someone dies in Thailand from a road accident every half an hour. In Phuket, we have one death every three days. It is imperative that we find a way to reduce the death rate," Dr Thanapong said.

"We've set a goal to reduce the number to 10:100,000."

Phuket's success in reducing road deaths made the province the ideal location for the road-safety seminar, said Wiwat Seetamanotch of the Phuket Provincial Traffic Accident Support Team.

"We've managed to reduce road deaths from 200 in 2007 to 111 in 2013," Dr Wiwat said. "We expect to have fewer than 100 road deaths this year."

Phuket's heaviest fatality rates occur between 6pm and 10pm, and again from midnight to 1am, explained Dr Wiwat. In the



Officials from the 14 southern Thai provinces gathered for two days to develop road safety strategies.

evening, people are tired and want to get home quickly; late at night, accidents are often caused by drunk drivers, he said.

The more we know about what causes road accidents, the more we are able to prevent them, Dr Thanapong stressed.

Dr Wiwat listed many of the accident-prevention measures put in place in Phuket since 2005: installation of more traffic lights; operating some traffic lights 24 hours a day; changing gradients on dangerous

curves; changing road surfaces to increase friction; adding rubber strips; putting reflectors on guard rails; installing speed cameras; and adding warning signs.

"We've also had success convincing people to wear helmets. For the last three years, Phuket has ranked number two in Thailand for helmet use," he said.

Police are doing their part by stepping up the number of people stopped for riding without helmets or driver's licenses.

One of the most critical goals is to change how Thais think about accidents, Dr Thanapong said. Thais have traditionally felt that accidents occur because of bad fortune or mysterious forces. An Assumption University poll showed that 26 per cent of a survey group believed accidents could not be prevented.

"We need to change those mental constructs," he said. "People need to realize that road accidents can happen anywhere and at any time."



Even the nines weren't enough to save the day. Photo: PR Dept

Plate auction misses mark

THE Phuket Lucky License Plate Auction fell short of its 30-million-baht goal this year with bidders handing over just 23mn baht for vanity plates.

The two-day auction organized by the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) was held last Saturday and Sunday and sold more than 300 license plates.

The highest bid, 1.03mn baht, was for *Gor Mor* 9999, said PLTO Chief Terayout Prasertphol. "This was significantly less than the plate went for less year, which was 1.4mn baht."

"Not only did we miss our goal, but we raised less than last year," Mr Terayout noted.

Proceeds from the auction go to a road safety fund operated by the Land Transport Department in Bangkok. — Saran Mittrarat



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Villagers were concerned the floating barge dredge would affect water quality in the canal.

Locals dredge up solution to marina access

A 12-MILLION-BAHT project to dredge the Koh Kaew Canal and deepen the existing approach channel from Phang Nga Bay will begin in March.

The six-month project was approved at a public hearing led by Governor Maitri Inthasut on January 23.

"Our officers found that the canal is not deep enough for big boats or yachts and could cause problems when they travel to Boat Lagoon, Royal Phuket Marina or the village fishing pier," said Somkiet Kheawoi, the Director of the Marine Department's Development and Maintenance Regional Office.

Two options for the Koh Kaew Canal project were put to the vote.

The first option was to dredge the existing 1.6km canal and the existing 3.6km approach channel from the bay to two meters deep at low tide.

The second option entailed deepening the existing 1.6km canal and cutting a new 1.8km approach channel from the bay, also to two meters deep at low tide.

"The villagers voted for the first option," confirmed Mr Somkiet.

Governor Maitri explained that the government was willing to spend the money on dredging the canal serving the two private marinas in order to improve marine infrastructure.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

'Celebration of Life' for beloved DJ Doris on February 5

PAUL Norris, the renowned 'DJ Doris' from Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM, will be honored in Phuket with a "Celebration of Paul's Life" memorial on Wednesday.

The event will be held at the Irish Times pub at Jungceylon in Patong, starting at 7:30pm.

Mr Norris died in an early-morning motorcycle accident on January 12, a tragedy which prompted an outpouring of grief among friends, family and fans.

On Monday, 91.5FM hosted a special DJ Doris Show from midday to 4pm.

"People have been coming in to the studio to record their tributes and special

messages," Byron Jones of 91.5FM said.

A memorial service for Mr Norris was held in his home country of Scotland on Monday, at 11:30am at Falkirk Crematorium.

Stan Norris, Paul's father, posted on Facebook a special message of thanks to the scores of people around the world who sent personal messages of condolence.

"Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind messages and posts. It has been a very difficult time for all of us and we have found great comfort through reading them," he wrote.



REMEMBERED: 'We are overwhelmed by the love shown to Paul (pictured) from people all over the world,' Paul's father wrote. Photo: Facebook

Mum mourns slain son

Swede Maxim Schantz remembered as good and loving

By Chutharat Plerin

THE mother of Maxim Schantz, who was murdered in Phuket two years ago, came to Phuket for the sentencing of one of the men accused of killing her son, Johan Sebastian Ljung (see page 3).

"Maxim was a very good son. He was beautiful. He had his father's eyes," Yvonne Schantz, 55, told the *Gazette*.

"I had two children: Maxim and his sister. My daughter was six months pregnant when Maxim was killed."

"Maxim was very happy when he found out about his sister's pregnancy. He wanted to see the baby – he loved them both so much."

"She has now given me a grandson, I wish that he could be Maxim reborn. Such a thought makes me happy – I miss my son. I miss him so much."

Maxim and his mother first visited Thailand about six years ago. Soon after, Maxim moved to the Kingdom.

After his murder, Mrs Schantz gave up her work in Sweden and started staying in her Pattaya apartment for longer periods so she could follow the trial more closely.

"I used to have a business in Sweden. Now, only my husband is working there," she said.

Mrs Schantz's last conversation



Mrs Schantz came to Phuket for the sentencing of her son's killer.

with her beloved son was on July 30, 2011, two days before he was killed by Mr Ljung and Tommy Soderlund at The Lantern housing development in Koh Kaew.

"He called asking me when I would come to visit him in Phuket. I told him I would come sometime

in the next week. I was in Pattaya," she said. "If I had come to Phuket on Sunday [July 31], my son might not have been killed."

The man sentenced to life by the Phuket Court called Mrs Schantz on August 2, the day after he killed her son.

"Johan was the one who called and told me that my son was murdered," Mrs Schantz said.

"He called at about 2am. I could not believe that my son was dead."

Mrs Schantz rushed to Bangkok where she was able to catch a flight to Phuket at about 5am. The Swedish Embassy called to inform her of the death later that morning.

"That was the only time I was contacted by them [the embassy]. I only knew about the trials through news websites," Mrs Schantz said.

Mrs Schantz arrived at the court in Phuket with a photo of Maxim. She wanted Mr Ljung to apologize to her and her son, but due to scheduling confusion, she missed his sentencing.

"Unfortunately, I was not in the room when Johan was sentenced. They told me the sentencing had been postponed until the afternoon, but actually it was not," Mrs Schantz explained. "I wish I could have been there."

Nevertheless, Mrs Schantz was happy with the outcome.

"I hope Tommy gets the same. I hope they both serve their prison terms in Thailand," she said.

She was unmoved by the 12.5 million baht compensation the court ordered Mr Ljung to pay.

"I do not care about the money... I only want them to be locked up," she said.

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In brief...

Southern insurgents kill elderly monk in Pattani ambush

INSURGENTS killed an Army ranger and a monk while wounding two people in a gun attack in Pattani last Saturday. Several hours later, a police officer was killed and four others wounded in a bomb attack in Yala.

A two-man team of paramilitary rangers were escorting a monk in a car when six assailants on three motorcycles opened fire with automatic weapons, killing the monk, Yan Phromenukool, 75, and Ranger Sakchai Jiamram.

Well-known protest leader, Suthin, killed in daylight gunfire

POLICE are trying to locate people who shot videos and took pictures, widely distributed online, of anti-government protest leader Suthin Taratin being gunned down in broad daylight near Wat Sri-iam.

A forensic expert has confirmed that Mr Suthin was shot from two directions.

Minister scrambles for cash to pay for rice-pledge scheme

THE Finance Ministry invited 32 commercial banks on Wednesday to tender loan conditions so that the government can raise the funds needed to pay out farmers who sold rice to the pledging scheme, a source at the ministry disclosed.

The scheme has incurred massive financial losses in recent years partly because it is unable to sell rice at a price higher than the 15,000-baht-per-tonne rate that it promised to participating farmers.

Violence looms over polls

Government drives forward with snap national elections

THE decision to go ahead with the February 2 election would only put pressure on the caretaker government because it would provide "ammunition" for the protesters, a leader of the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) said on Monday.

The protest leader told *The Nation*, on condition of anonymity, that this decision would be advantageous for the PDRC as it would give them reason to continue. He said that if the government decided to delay the poll, the PDRC would have no reason to keep rallying.

In response to the PDRC's persistence, the red-shirt United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) was to hold a nationwide mass rally on Friday, red leader Nattawut Saikuar said.

Violence linked to the anti-government rallies in Bangkok continued on Monday with the body of a man in a protest t-shirt found in Chatuchak.

A grenade was also lobbed at the home of a PDRC member and a giant firecracker was hurled at the Students and People Network for Thailand's Reform rally site.

The government and the Election Commission (EC) have been at loggerheads over delaying the election. The commission has been saying the poll should not be held due to the anti-government rallies, while the government has been arguing that delaying it would not end the protests either.

After failing to reach a consensus with the EC on Monday over rescheduling the poll, the government announced that the snap election would go ahead as scheduled despite the recent flare-up of violence.

Voters should be prepared to document any intimidation from



Protesters rally outside of the gates of the Army Club where Ms Yingluck met with EC members. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE nation

anti-government PDRC supporters and file a police complaint if they're prevented from casting their vote on Sunday, said Sawatree Suksri, a Thammasat law lecturer.

She urged voters not to enter into a violent confrontation with protesters, but to gather and record evidence of intimidation and obstruction, and to report it to police.

Caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Phongthep Thepkanjana said on Monday that delaying the poll would not solve the problems the

country faces and could open the door to more trouble.

The protest leader speaking with *The Nation* said that while Pheu Thai Party would most definitely win the poll, its legitimacy would certainly be questioned, raising fears that clashes may break out as they did last Sunday, when advance voting was held.

There could also be problems such as a delay in the endorsement of the winner and the inability of the House to convene.

Moreover, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra – who is Pheu Thai's top candidate – is being investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Commission in relation to the rice-pledging scheme.

Additionally, PDRC leader

Suthep Thaugsuban announced Monday night that another 195 prominent individuals were ready to support his reform agenda.

Election Commissioner Somchai Srisuthiyakorn analyzed scenarios for the government to consider. He said there were plenty of problems already and more were likely after ballots are cast.

Meanwhile, a new problem emerged shortly after all 50 district chiefs asked to step down en masse as heads of the EC in their areas in Bangkok, citing fears for their safety and huge pressure from both political camps.

Bangkok City Clerk Ninnart Chalitanont said the EC would have to appoint new committees within 20 days before the election date if the other chiefs resign.

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Philippine poor fight forced slum eviction

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A QUIET street in Quezon City became a battleground on Monday when squatters were evicted by force from land owned by the National Housing Authority (NHA).

The residents at the slum rained bottles, rocks and pillboxes on demolition teams and anti-riot police squads.

Eleven residents were later arrested after they reportedly destroyed a patrol car assigned to the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit. It was later discovered that two of those arrested did not live in the area.

Before the clash with police, residents of the disputed property began setting up barricades and making "weapons," including plastic bags containing human waste, as early as 5am.

Trouble broke out when five trucks carrying anti-riot policemen



A father holds his two daughters as Quezon City council workers destroy his makeshift home. Photo: Reuters

and members of the city council demolition team arrived at 9am to tear down about 120 shanties.

Residents in the area started hurling stones, bottles and pillboxes at the demolition teams and

policemen trying to break through the barricades they had set up. Members of the CDM, in turn, launched tear gas canisters to drive the squatters back.

With the residents at the slum

in retreat, the demolition team began pulling down the ramshackle dwellings.

Nobody was reported injured in the incident.

— *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

In brief...

Environmentalists slam dam projects slated for Myanmar

ACTIVISTS voiced stern warnings on Tuesday over six dam projects planned for the Salween River. The projects lacked social or environmental impact assessment and the approval of local communities, they said.

Construction giants Asia World, IGE and Shwe Taung, in collaboration with Chinese and Thai companies, are planning to build six dams on the Thanlwin River, which crosses Shan State to form the border between Thailand and Myanmar. — *Eleven Media Group*

Earthquake sparks panic in Yogyakarta

A QUAKE measuring 6.5 in magnitude caused panic among residents in Yogyakarta, Central Java, last Saturday, but caused minimal damage.

In May 2006, a 5.9 quake devastated more than 200,000 homes in the area, leaving nearly 6,000 people dead and 1.5 million others homeless. — *Jakarta Post*



Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister, Dr Mahathir. Photo: The Star

Mahathir argues against Malaysian Islamic police

DR MAHATHIR Mohamad, who served as Prime Minister of Malaysia for 22 years, on Tuesday argued against the move to include a police force under the Department of Islamic Development (Jakim).

His comments follow Jakim Director-General Datuk Othman Mustafa announcing last Saturday the setting up of the police *Shariah* (Islamic law) unit would be finalized soon.

"I pray, fast, give alms, say the *syahadah*, take part in the Hajj and fulfil religious duties – not because I fear being arrested, but because of my personal beliefs, because I am Muslim," said the former Prime Minister.

A thorough study would be needed before any decision to introduce a *Shariah* police unit, said Dr Mahathir.

Among his concerns were the differing Islamic laws upheld and implemented in different states within Malaysia. He argued that those unfamiliar with these laws may find themselves in difficult situations once they cross borders.

There are also differing perceptions as to what constitutes Islamic or un-Islamic practices, he said. Even within the police force, there are orthodox officers who may be stricter than others.

If the definition of Islamic laws become narrower, those who do not believe in a strict approach to a religious definition may not voice out dissent for fear of being labeled "not Islamic enough", warned Dr Mahathir.

The recent move to form a *Shariah* police unit has come under fire as unconstitutional.

— *The Star*

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In brief...

Moscow pushes forward with Ukraine bailout

UKRAINE is borrowing another US\$ 2 billion from Russia on the same terms as a US\$ 3bn Eurobond sold in December, in a sign that Moscow is pushing on with a US\$ 15bn bailout despite concern about violence at anti-government protests in Kiev.

Xinjiang ambush leaves 12 dead

CHINESE police shot dead six people during a "terrorist" attack in the western region of Xinjiang and six more died when explosives they were carrying detonated, state media said.

Police came under attack on January 24 by a group throwing explosive devices in Xinhe county, the latest violence to jolt an area with a large Muslim population.

North Korea tells South, US to halt nuclear test drills

NORTH Korea took its demand to the United Nations, warning that the exercises could get "out of control and plunge into unimaginable disaster".

The North's UN Ambassador Sin Son Ho said that the international community should no longer allow the US and South Korea to carry out the military drills on the Korean peninsula.

Women, children allowed to leave besieged Syrian city

SYRIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad said on January 26 that the Assad government will allow women and children to leave the besieged city of Homs immediately if rebels give them passage.

"I assure you that if the armed terrorists in Homs allow women and children to leave the Old City of Homs, we will allow them every access. Not only that, but we will also provide them with shelter, medicines and all that is needed," he told a news conference

after talks in Geneva with the Syrian opposition.

"We are ready to allow any humanitarian aid to enter into the city through the agreements and arrangements made with the United Nations," he said.

Mr Mekdad also said that photos published last week by Britain's *Guardian* newspaper of some 11,000 corpses, purportedly tortured by Syrian government forces, were "categorically" fabricated. — Reuters



A child cleans up debris in Homs. Photo: Reuters

Angry Birds leave dirty trail

By Jim Loney

American and British intelligence agencies have ways to gather data from Angry Birds and other smartphone applications that leak users' personal information onto global networks, the *New York Times* reported on Monday.

It was citing some previously undisclosed intelligence documents made available by fugitive American spy agency contractor Edward Snowden.

The *Times* said the United States National Security Agency and its British agency counterpart, the Government Communications Headquarters, had tried to exploit increasing volumes of personal data that spill onto networks from new generations of mobile phone technology.

Among these new intelligence tools were "leaky" apps on smartphones that could disclose users' locations, age, gender and

other personal information.

The agencies have traded methods for collecting location data from a user of Google Maps and for gathering address books, buddy lists, phone logs and geographic data embedded in photos

when a user posts to the mobile versions of Facebook, Flickr, LinkedIn, Twitter and other services, the *Times* said.

Snowden, who is living in asylum in Russia, faces espionage charges in the US after disclosing the NSA's massive telephone and Internet surveillance programs last year.

His revelations and the resulting firestorm of criticism from politicians and privacy rights activists prompted US President Barack Obama to announce intelligence-gathering reforms on January 17.

The *Times* report said the scale of the data collection was not clear but the documents showed



Agencies exploit information collected from mobile apps. Photo: LGEP

that the two national agencies routinely obtained information from certain apps.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said US surveillance agencies were only interested in collecting data on people considered a threat to the US.

"To the extent data is collected by the NSA, we are not interested in the communications of people who are not valid foreign intelligence targets, and we are not after the information of ordinary Americans," Mr Carney said.

— Reuters

Extremist paydays must end, says UN

THE United Nations Security Council urged countries on Monday to stop the payment of kidnap ransoms to extremist groups like al Qaeda.

Although states are already required not to pay kidnap ransoms under a resolution adopted in 2001, the British-drafted resolution was designed to increase political pressure not to pay them.

"We estimate that in the last three and a half years, al Qaeda-affiliated and other Islamist extremist groups have collected at



Al Qaeda-linked Islamists. Photo: Reuters

least US\$ 105 million," British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant told reporters.

"It is therefore imperative that we take steps to ensure that kid-

nap for ransom is no longer perceived as a lucrative business model and that we eliminate it as a source of terrorist financing," he said. "We need to break that cycle."

The United States has estimated militant groups have received US\$ 120mn throughout the past decade, including ransoms paid to al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

"Every ransom paid to a terrorist organization encourages future kidnapping operations," said a US Ambassador.

— Reuters

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Seahorse circle transforms

Popular karaoke bar, night club demolished as east side makes way for Phuket Grocery expansion

By Somchai Huasaikul

PHUKET Town's east side will see some major changes as discount retail chain Phuket Grocery prepares for a major expansion that has seen scores of small karaoke pubs and other business in the area near Nimitr (Seahorse) traffic circle already closed down, with many slated to be demolished to make way for the new construction.

Phuket Grocery Staff confirmed that the retailer planned a major expansion in the area, which comprises a large tract of land on the southwest quadrant around the traffic circle that extends a good distance to the south along Soi Lim Sui Ju, which leads to Saphan Hin.

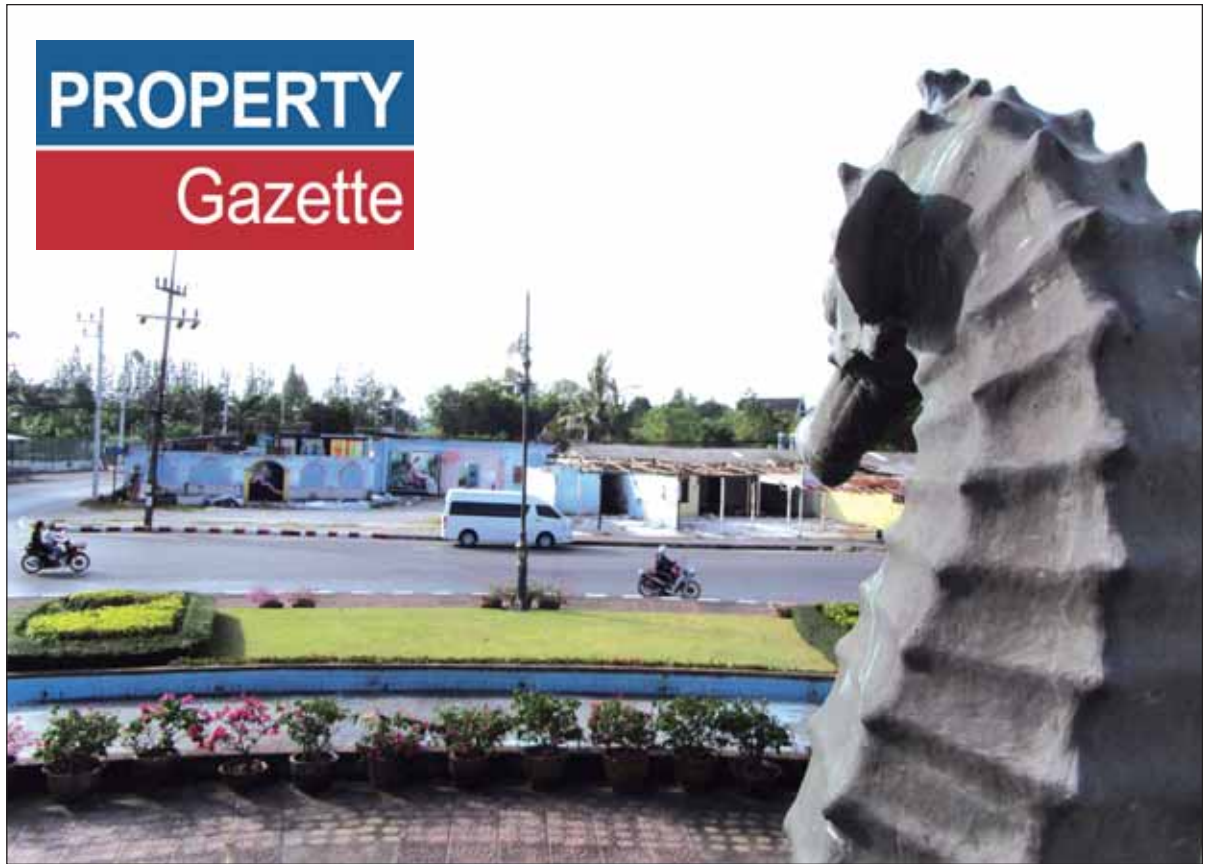
Two long established large nightclubs, the Club Coyote and Roi Thong Food Garden, are currently being demolished to make way for the expansion. A total of about 15 smaller karaoke venues, two Halal restaurants and a motorbike repair shop in the area closed earlier after their

leases on the land expired.

Phuket Grocery is a long established discount retailer that operates under a business formula similar to that used by the Supercheap complex that was destroyed by fire in Rassada late last year. The current complex is mostly non-air conditioned, many of the staff are from Myanmar, and the company seldom advertises in the local media.

The area around Nimitr Circle has long been a center of adult-oriented nightlife entertainment geared mostly towards Thai clientele. However, the area seems to be in a period of transition with the development of two residential housing estates and the opening of several large seafood restaurants catering mostly to the Chinese tourist market in the area in recent years.

The exact details and time frame of the project have not been released by the management of Phuket Grocery, who said they were unavailable for an interview as this went to press.



ZONED OUT: The neighborhood surrounding the seahorse traffic circle has long been a popular night entertainment zone with karaoke bars and dance clubs, though is now undergoing a transformation.

Dusit Thani Laguna appoints new GM

DENIS J Thouvard was recently appointed as the new General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna, a 5-star luxury resort in Cherng Thalay, effective from December 27, 2013.

Mr Thouvard previously held the position of Area General Manager at the Centara Grand Beach Resort in Karon Beach, Phuket. Mr Thouvard brings to his new role over 20 years of experience in 5-star hotels and resorts throughout Thailand, Hong Kong, France and the UK, including eight years with Starwood Hotels and Resorts and six years at two Luxury Collection properties in Thailand and French Polynesia.

He holds an HND/ B Tec in Catering and Hotel Management as well as a Franco-British Diploma in International Restaurant and Hotel Operations.

Mr Thouvard speaks fluent French and English and is knowledgeable in Thai.

He started his hospitality training in food and beverage at 3-star Michelin restaurants throughout Europe and the United States. Mr Thouvard then joined 5-star hotel The Westbury, London where he was promoted to Food & Beverage Manager before relocating to Thailand as Executive Assistant Manager at The Pansea, Phuket.

He then became Resident Manager at The Imperial Hotel Bangkok and Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Thailand, followed by a stint at Hotel du Louvre



Denis J Thouvard

in Paris, France. Mr Thouvard later became Executive Assistant Manager at The Repulse Bay, Hong Kong, followed by The Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Bangkok, Thailand.

He was then promoted to General Manager at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club in Thailand and at Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa in French Polynesia prior to his most recent post at Centara Grand Beach Resort.

The Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket is located in the heart of the Laguna resort development complex at Bang Tao Bay.

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— *Phuket Gazette*



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Be on-point to buy off-plan

Property Legal

By International Law Office

DESPITE the global economical crisis and uncertainty about political stability in Thailand, various new property developments have recently been launched. The majority of the developers offer units "off-plan" for sale at an early stage of the project development, even before the first brick has been laid.

Some of us may not be familiar with the term "off-plan".

Generally spoken, buying off-plan means buying units which exist only on the drawing table,

construction of the project may not even have started. Off-plan sales are offered by developers as they often need to sell their product fast by pricing units extremely low in order to achieve fast and

valuable finance to proceed with constructing their development. Purchasing an off-plan unit may have considerable advantages compared to an investment in a completed project. Early birds may benefit from a significantly reduced price, which makes such off-plan purchases extremely interesting from an investment perspective as such units may rise in value during construction, even prior to completion.

Smart payment plans, typically a minor deposit payment, followed by a 30% first installment and a high final payment upon title transfer, allow buyers

to effectively secure a high-value asset for a relatively low initial capital outlay. Furthermore, purchase at an early stage of a project ensures that a buyer can choose the best located units in order to satisfy his individual requirements as well as a future buyer in regard to a resale.

Buying off-plan also offers the chance to "flip" a unit prior to title transfer by way of assignment of the buyer's rights under his/her sale and purchase agreement, which allows investors to save on transfer fees and taxes that occur from title transfer.

Summarized, such off-plan investment may create a "win-win" situation for both buyer and seller: buyers obtain a low price for a quality product with high resale value and sellers are able to receive fast project finance.

However, in order to secure your investment, due diligence should be carried out to minimize existing risks and to prevent you from a worst-case scenario of total loss of your invested funds. Basically, such due diligence should be conducted by a reliable and reputable law firm, whereby appointment of additional experts, such as a surveyor, might be recommended depending on individual requirements.

The importance of such due diligence, particularly when buying off-plan, in part arises from the fact that extremely important points – such as secured access, lawful title to the project's land, as well as an



NOT IN STONE: Developers often offer units for sale before the first brick has even been laid. Photo: MR926

accurate application for the required construction permit or licenses – may not have been accomplished, completed or sufficiently verified by a developer.

Additionally, the financial stability of a developer offering such off-plan sales should always be of concern. In this context, the fullest attention should be paid to the reliability and track record of the developer.

A professional real estate agent, representing only well reputed developers and ideally having the financial backing of big investors, can be the first credentials to look for to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Simply put, off-plan buying can be an interesting and promising investment, but extensive market research, awareness for potential risks, comprehensive due diligence as well as consider-

ation of generally accepted risk management is mandatory to find the right product, which seems not only to be a bargain, but also fits with your personal requirements on a safe investment.

This article was written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., for any questions you can contact (sam@ilo-phuket.com) or call ILO's office (+66-(0) 76 222 1915).

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Projects delayed in BKK, still demand in provinces

A SURVEY by *The Nation* has found that developers are delaying the launch of residential projects in inner Bangkok this quarter, but they are expanding in the provinces, where there is still demand even though spending on the government's 2 trillion baht mega-infrastructure projects has been delayed by the political crisis.

"Although the 2tn baht infrastructure program has had to be delayed until the country has a new government, demand to buy homes in the provinces is still strong at this time when compared with greater Bangkok, where it has fallen by between 15 and 20% since [the start of] December, due to the political turmoil," said Pruksa Real Estate president and CEO Thongma Vijitpongpan.

Following the market sentiment, Pruksa plans to launch

residential projects in other provinces during the current quarter. Among the provinces in its sights are Chonburi, Rayong, Pattaya, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Ratchasima, Udon Thani and Chiang Mai.

Provincial launches this year will account for about 7 % of its 40 to 50 new residential projects worth between 40 billion and 50bn baht, he said.

Supalai, meanwhile, plans to launch 10 residential projects worth 10bn baht combined in the provinces this year, out of a total of 23 or 24 new projects nationwide.

The upcountry projects will be located in Udon Thani, Chon Buri, Rayong, Surat Thani, Songkhla, Phuket, Nakhon Ratchasima, Ubon Ratchathani and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

– *The Nation*

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*Residential and commercial premises are pending approval by the relevant authorities. Upon approval being received, estimated in Q3 2014, construction is expected to start. Approximately 10-15 months per building which will then be completed by a contractor. The unit owner shall pay all the APOL, contract, fee and other fees as prescribed by the Project Office of the Condominium Act in accordance with the Condominium Act. Featured images are of a simulated perspective.

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Out of the room and into the fire

DID YOU get the memo? For god's sake, why didn't you just fall into line and do like everyone else does? Like it or not, hotel life can pretty much be summed up in these two sentences; Go to work, disconnect all logic and brainpower and just follow the leader like a xanaxed-out flock of sheep.

A few days ago I came across an article in the *LA Times* online quoting a recent TripAdvisor.com survey which compared US traveller's ranking of in room mini-bars versus free WiFi. About 89 per cent voted to hit the high surf of the internet. Of course, we have to factor this being an American-based survey but what it does call into question is the enormous weight that hotel management, chains and owners place on the simple four walls of a hotel room.

Back in the old days, hotels grew out of pubs and the reality of the area planning was that the



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

ground floor space for meeting, greeting, eating and drinking just happened to have a place to crash out on top. This was before television, which of course, changed everything. Though today you might argue that the tube is only an ant in terms of encouraging anti-social behavior when compared with smartphones – for anyone who has sat at a table for hours and not even interacted with their fellow travellers will attest. We do need to remove relatives, co-workers and people we don't want to speak to at all, which is where the charade of checking the imaginary urgent emails becomes unravelled once the person next to you realizes you are really just checking out new

iPhone apps.

But let's get back to the mini-bar and what's really happening on the ground. There has been a marked resurgence of hotel guests spending time in the great rooms or lobby type areas which offer those Starbucks-like warm and fuzzy moments. Sure, no one is talking there either, but it's just the mere existence and human need of having people nearby which wedges us from under that toasty-warm duvet and massive HD TV in an otherwise unmemorable hotel room.

Let's review the current bunch of buzzwords and trending hash tags – authentic, experiential, and millennial and all those other pseudo-socio-cultural descriptions that now attach themselves to the once-simple act of staying at a hotel. There has to be something to all this though, as lately I often find myself wandering outside the room in hotels – looking to go local and try to fit into the vibe of my surroundings.

So the question remains, why on earth do hoteliers continue to focus on hotel rooms only and allow the other 50 to 60 per cent of the other spaces in their resort remain an afterthought? So much is concentrated on perfecting the "sleep experience" that the missing link of public or shared areas are overlooked. Go back and look at the pub, where a good night did not mean spending twelve hours in solitary confinement.

We seem to have lost the art of programming out of room experiences in other areas. Restaurants have no choice but to do this, but hotels continue to flounder in the ever-deepening



There has been a resurgence of guests actually utilizing the hotel lobby, rather than staying confined to their rooms. Photo: Historystuff2



In a recent TripAdvisor.com survey 89 per cent of respondents preferred to use WiFi over an in-room mini bar. Photo: jonrawlinson

footsteps of the other sheep. Over the past year, we have heard from global chains like Hilton that room service in many of their hotels is under review. So again, here is another guest room geared experience that may diminish in time. Go forbid, hotel guests may eventually have to eat with each other and possibly even interact with staff and other travellers.

Getting back to basics is never

a bad thing and the journey from the simple pub to the modern hotel has been a massive undertaking, and yet I have to ask, is it time to get back to basics? I'd much rather side up to a bar than reach into an overpriced sterile mini-refrigerator anytime. What about you?

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through c9hotelworks.com



The mini-bar is apparently not quite the drawcard it used to be. Photo: joepyrrek




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Centara Grand Beach Resort and Centara Villas get new GM

CHIEF Executive Officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thirayuth Chirathivat has announced the promotion of Darren Shaw from General Manager of Centara Karon Resort Phuket to Area General Manager of two properties – Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket and Centara Villas Phuket.

Darren is Australian and has over 20 years of experience in the hotel industry, with leading hotels including Watermark Hotel and Spa in Australia, and Outrigger On-The-Lagoon Fiji, where he began as General Manager in 2006.

Darren first moved to Thailand in 2010 as General Manager with Laguna Phuket resorts complex before joining Centara in February 2012. As Centara General Manager, he oversaw the popular Centara Karon Resort, Phuket and Waterfront Suites by Centara before accepting the position of Area



Darren Shaw is the new area general manager of Centara Grand Beach Resort and Centara Villas in Phuket.

General Manager. Prior to joining Centara Grand Phuket Beach Resort Phuket and Centara Villas Phuket, Darren was General Manager of Centara Karon Resort Phuket.

Australian superyacht industry seeks closer ties with Phuket

REPRESENTATIVES of peak industry body Superyacht Australia, along with several Australian-based marine companies recently toured Phuket as part of a program aimed at fostering business relations in the marine industry.

The tour was hosted by the Australian Trade Commission and funded through the Australian Government's Asian Century Business Engagement Plan grant program.

During the visit, the group toured all of Phuket's major marinas, including Boat Lagoon, Royal Phuket Marina and Yacht Haven Marina. During these visits, they spoke with the marinas' management and other local

marine companies to learn about Phuket's superyacht support infrastructure.

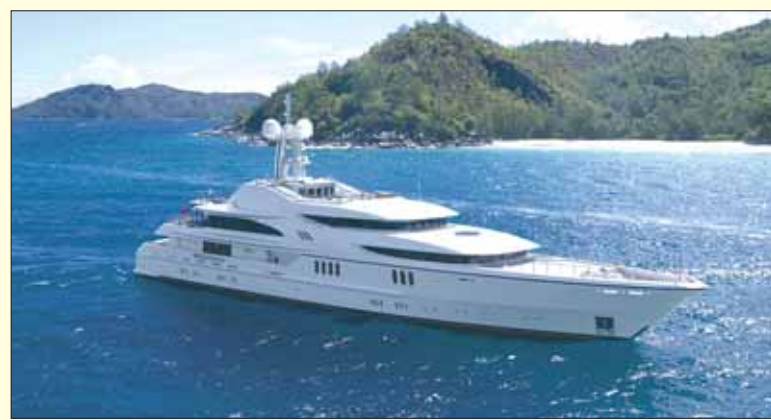
Australian Trade Commissioner for Thailand Ben Giles, who lead the tour, said that it was a great opportunity for various companies to make ties with their Phuket-based counterparts and to help find ways to increase superyacht traffic in the Australian and Asian regions.

During a meeting on the final day of the tour, the Australian business representatives expressed their surprise and satisfaction at the excellent superyacht facilities available in Phuket. Representatives of local companies including Asia Marine and Marineware Asia also attended the meeting and ex-

pressed their interest in working more closely with their Australian counterparts to drive business as Phuket's superyacht industry continues to grow. Cameron Bray, director of Bray Management, who has over 30 yachts that they charter throughout Australia, said that there are many possible ways to forge mutually beneficial relationships in Phuket.

"From what I've gathered during this visit, it seems people don't want Thailand to be a destination, they want it to be a stop-over for vessels on their way to Australia. That way Phuket can 'double-dip' as vessels pass through on their way to Australia and then come back and hopefully spend more as well.

"So it's about working with



A recent Australian trade tour sought to cement relationships in Phuket's superyacht service industry. Photo: Gazette file

Thailand to let them know what services we have in Australia so they can push the vessels down to us and in turn we can push them back," he said.

For more information about Superyacht Australia and its member companies, visit the website at: superyacht-australia.com



Shoppers are gearing up for some big spending on groceries for Chinese New Year celebrations. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

CNY: most fruit up 30%, no change in meat, vegetables

PRODUCE shoppers did not seem deterred by the 30% annual increase on fruit prices ahead of the Chinese New Year celebrations, a recent visit to one of the Phuket's main fresh markets revealed.

Meanwhile, no significant annual change was observed in the price of most vegetables and two staple meats – chicken and pork.

On January 29, the *Gazette* visited the busy Kaset Market in Phuket Town, which was packed with ethnic-Chinese Phuket residents preparing for ancestor veneration rites on January 30.

One meat vendor "Ms Chan" told the *Gazette*: "We sell our meat at the normal price, it might have increased slightly from last year, but has not been marked up for Chinese New Year. We don't want to increase the price based on high demand as we really understand the consumers' needs."

Indeed, Ms Chan's prices were consistent with other vendors: raw imported chicken for 75 baht/ kg; local chicken 140baht/ kg; pork 140 baht/ kg; shredded pork 160 baht/ kg; boiled chicken 180 baht/ piece; steamed

chicken 280 baht/ piece; duck stewed in gravy 450 baht/ piece and pork head stewed in gravy for 500 baht/ piece.

Another cooked-meat vendor, "Mr Dum", concurred that this year is business as usual: "The number of people who have put in orders for cooked chicken and pork for the veneration ceremony is the same as last year, or about 500-600 pieces, which we will deliver tomorrow (Jan 29)."

"Our prices are the same as they were during this period last year. We don't want to take advantage of the situation, and increase the price too much as it might affect people and the great [ancestor veneration] ceremony," he added.

Meanwhile, the *Gazette*'s impromptu inspection revealed that the average increase in fruit prices was about 30% from last year; for example, grapes were up to 300 baht/ kg, oranges 120 baht/ kg, melons 35 baht/ kg and pineapples 15-35 baht/ piece.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Chinese New Year celebrations explained, story on page 36.

Tesco Lotus gears up for Chinese New Year

TESCO Lotus has vowed to keep its prices competitive over the Chinese New Year Period, which often seed price inflation due to high demand.

Tesco will also mark the Year of the Horse with a handbook on preparing for Chinese New Year by three famous cultural experts, as well as a new Tesco Lotus app feature that tells fortunes and gives out discount coupons.

We aim to beat the market on both range and price this Chinese New Year, said Tesco Lotus Marketing Director Wanna Swuddigul.

Tesco Lotus one-stop shopping this year focuses on high quality fresh products, from fruits and vegetables to duck and chicken. A wide range of auspicious Chinese New Year veneration sets, paper offerings, festive decorations and house cleaning equipment are also available at special prices.

These include reduced prices



Tesco Lotus staff displaying Chinese New Year celebration products.

from last year on many Chinese New Year essentials including *Chai Sing Ah* offerings such as incense, *An Pao* envelopes and *Nguan Chiang* soy sauce with mushroom.

We believe that customers will continue shopping at Tesco Lotus during this coming Chinese New Year at the same level as previous years. Although there are political uncertainties, customers will still pray for good luck and Tesco Lotus have all the products

they need at prices cheaper than last year.

Moreover, Tesco Lotus is giving Clubcard points and many discount coupons so customers can be confident that they would get the best value at our stores," added Wanna.

All 1,600 Tesco Lotus stores in Bangkok and upcountry are opening as normal with sufficient products stocked to cater for customers' convenience.

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Road safety: still miles to go

IT IS hard to imagine that only two countries in the world have more deadly roads than Thailand.

Yes, Phuket Land Transport officials should take a measure of pride in the reduction of road accident deaths in recent years, but the island obviously has far to go before conditions on the roadways can be considered anything close to acceptably safe.

The “culture of carelessness” that pervades Phuket roads, and Thai roads in general, has been addressed numerous times in this space; yet, it remains the most fundamental and intractable factor in road deaths. The smiling toddler you see perched tenuously on a plastic chair placed in the sidecar of a swerving, makeshift *salaeng* will be among the next generation of Thai drivers – if he or she survives to adulthood.

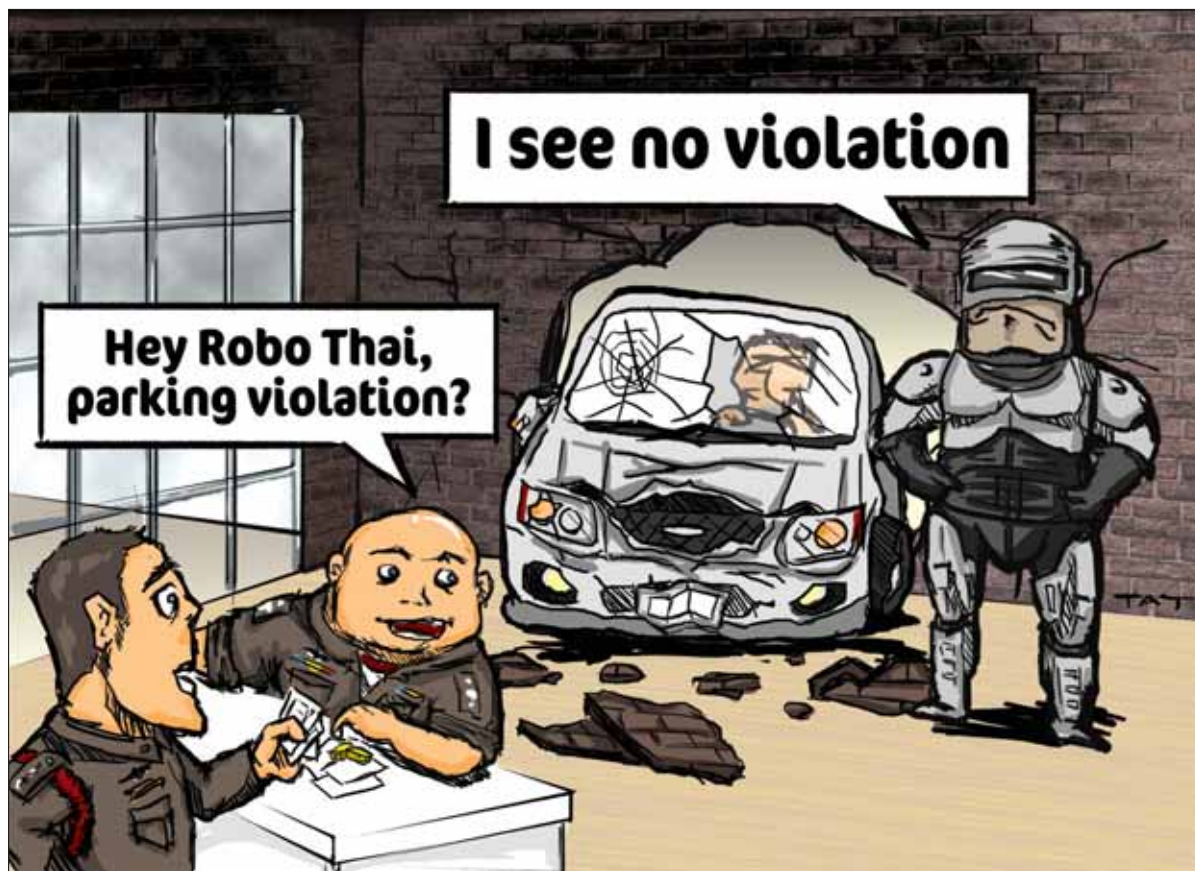
The reason why so many Thai drivers take such a fatalistic view when it comes to road safety, and safety issues in general, is beyond the scope of this column. As such, it came as welcome news when the road-safety seminar last week attempted to tackle such mental constructs.

At the risk of being branded cynical, it can be expected that the reported decrease in road fatalities on local roads between 2007 and 2013 stems not entirely from better driving practices or road-safety campaigns, but rather from the fact that the increase in the number of vehicles has created more gridlock. It is increasingly difficult to find a stretch of road where one can attain the speeds most often associated with fatal collisions.

Our once-gorgeous island landscape is being transformed, day-by-day, into a mini replica of Bangkok. The only elements missing, sadly, are things like metered taxis that actually cruise the streets in search of fares, a regular and reliable system of buses, a light rail system or some other more advanced forms of public transport that could go a long way in both increasing safety and reducing road congestion.

It goes without saying that traffic police are either unwilling or unable to impose order, and the concept of issuing fines or making arrests for moving violations remains a mostly alien concept. Running red lights is routine, double and even “triple parking” is practiced with impunity and motorbike riders talk and even text while riding on the wrong side of the road. The mind boggles at all the recklessness that can be observed day in and day out.

It seems a driver would almost have to plow his vehicle into a police station, like Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Terminator* before a ticket would be issued or an arrest made anywhere other than at a traffic “checkpoint” or the locations of the new speed cameras.



Fix the moorings in Chalong Bay

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Marine chief blames captains for ramming hidden mooring blocks, January 23

We have to leave the “marked” channels to approach the mooring buoys if we want to use them.

And don’t forget: even the buoys that are attached do not exactly mark the blocks. You could easily be a safe distance away and hit the block it’s attached to.

The Marine Dept should stop ignoring their mistake and rectify this immediately.

David
Gazette forum

No need to kick him when he’s down

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Court denies bail to Garry Halpin, former Tourist Police volunteer, January 21

Garry was a very nice honorable guy who I knew for years through his love of golf.

Who knows what happened to cause him to go down this ruinous road and to make the terrible mistakes that he did.

He is paying for them in the most dreadful way, and will obviously be deported if he survives this ordeal. His life is finished, he’d probably prefer to be dead. I would!

The disgrace and humiliation is penalty enough. He is paying the price, and it is disingenuous and shameful to gloat at his misfortune. Shame on you who applaud someone’s misery and downfall.

Phil St. Hill
Facebook

Revolt for safety

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Putting the brakes on tourist bike accidents, January 26

Every bike rental shop should be compelled to provide a hand-

Letters to the Editor

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

out to renters with graphic photos modeled after those on cigarette packets: pictures of head injury coma patients with the warning: You are all potential organ donors, so drive safely.

Bike riders guilty of causing accidents should be forced to work one week without salary at the Vachira Phuket Hospital neurosurgery department, assisting nurses to look after motorcycle coma patients.

Kamala resident
Kamala

Tourism needs more sexy, bitchy, naughty

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Patong is island’s trump, January 23

If the TAT pays attention to this, they may actually do something that will help the tourist industry.

Just saying that the beaches (average at best) and natural beauty (sure, but that’s pretty much everywhere) are world class is ignoring reality. Tourists come here for the crazy nightlife.

Promote it, flaunt it, and make it better by eliminating the closing times.

Jim
Gazette forum

Fair pricing is a draw

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

If you want to attract tourists to this area, then I suggest that you let it be known that pricing discrimination will not be tolerated and everyone – Thais and foreigners alike – will be charged fairly.

The word will spread quickly especially among expats and the businesses involved will be rewarded with loyal customers.

Thais have the misconception that every foreigner who comes to Thailand is rich, but many of us have to save for a long time to come for a two-week holiday.

I avoid places that charge me a higher price than Thais, and in my country businesses are fined for this practice.

How would a Thai feel if they were in my country on holiday and wanted to buy something and I told them that the normal price was \$ 100 but for you because you are Thai the price is \$ 130?

Steven
Phuket

Protesting benefits

Re: Gazette online, Phuket protesters will not shut down emergency services, leader vows, January 24

How long can they promise to close the tax collectors’ offices?

Businessman
Gazette forum

Blinded by glory

Re: Gazette online, Phuket park chief still sour over missing morning glory, January 21

It would be better if they spent their time looking into how hotels in Kamala are building 20m high buildings right on the beach.

Dennis Stanfill
Facebook

Supporting peace

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Gazette Thailand News: Anti-Thaksin protest leader slain in public shooting, January 26

My thoughts are with the peaceful people of Thailand.

Barry Ismail
Facebook

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Competitive tourism

FIRST PERSON

WHEN people think of tourism, they tend to think of hotels and tourist attractions. They rarely think of sports as a tool for boosting tourist numbers. But sports events do draw tourists; many different kinds.

The first group are those people who come here specifically to watch an event. Phuket has both domestic and international spectators.

The second group is the athletes themselves, and they rarely come alone, bringing with them family, friends, trainers and so forth. Last year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon had more than 1,000 participants; imagine how many more people came to support them.

Finally, you have athletes who come here not to compete, but to train. One example is the national swim teams from Asia and Europe that regularly use the facilities at Thanyapura Phuket.

Keep in mind that each of these groups tends to stay extra days before or after events to enjoy the island. They spend money on lodging and food throughout their stays.

Both home-grown and international-level sports have grown a lot in Phuket in recent years.

Our soccer and futsal teams have become good enough to compete in Thailand's top leagues, and the games they play draw thousands of supporters every week. Tourists who come to watch these are mostly from within Thailand.

The latest development in this field is the enlistment of a Myanmar national player by Phuket FC. We expect that having players from Myanmar will attract more international tourists and also Myanmar workers in Phuket.

Events that tend to draw many international tourists are the FIVB



Virat Patee, 55, is a native of Phuket. He has served as the director of the Sport Authority of Thailand (SAT) Phuket office for five years, and formerly served as the director of the SAT Krabi office for 12 years.

Here, he talks about the valuable contribution sports make to tourism and

suggests how Phuket can do more to promote sport tourism, both international and domestic.

Women's Beach Volleyball World Tournament, Laguna Phuket Triathlon, Toyota Motorsport Racing, surfing competitions such as the Quicksilver Thailand Open and the Pearl of the Andaman Open, as well as the Phuket King's Cup Regatta and the Kiteboard Tour Asia competition.

Beach sports in general are very popular with international tourists, and we've got a major beach competition coming up later this year: the 4th Asian Beach Games, from November 14 to 23. There will be 25 events, including windsurfing, soccer, wrestling, *sepak takraw*, sailing, ocean swimming, jet-skiing and water-skiing. Athletes and support crews alone are expected to number more than 4,000 people, and we estimate the number of spectators to be more than 10,000 per day.

Some people might write off Phuket as a sports hub because we're not a big province and our small population means we have a limited pool of athletes. But we can use these limitations to our advantage. During large-scale competitions here, our small size makes it easy to get from one venue to another. And our size also means we can really focus on the talented athletes we do have and

make them stars. In the 42nd National Games this year, 11 Phuket athletes won gold medals.

Sports are clearly good for tourism and we should be doing more to develop them. We need to upgrade our facilities. We need to build new stadiums and renovate the ones we have. Some are really old, and some can't accommodate the number of people who want to watch the games.

Another thing we should do is form more partnerships with the private sector to benefit from their resources and networks.

The last thing we can do is boost our training capabilities. A state-of-the-art training facility that will draw athletes to the island is in the works already. We're just waiting to get our budget approved by the SAT and plan to have the center finished within three years.

Phuket has a bright future as a center for international competitions and also athlete training.

Sports are a valuable addition not just to tourism, but to our lives. One of the best things about them is that they are a great equalizer. In our daily lives we might be an employer or an employee, from high or low social standing, but in the stadium we are all equal.



Live abroad and return to the wonder of childhood. Photo: Eduardo Merille

Happy days again

Island View

By Maciek Klimowicz

DO YOU miss your childhood? Wish you were young once again? You can be... just move to another country. It feels not only like moving in space, but also like moving back in time – to the happy days when everything was new, exciting and mysterious.

Since I moved to Thailand I have often felt like a toddler, as I explored the world around me.

But first things first. What every explorer needs to learn to start with is walking. Moving from the wide, empty sidewalks of my home country to the obstacle course of Thai sidewalks filled with food stalls is a challenge in itself. It takes time to master walking here or to adapt to doing as the locals do and quit walking once and for all. Just take a motorbike to cover distances that you'd happily walk back home.

Then there is talking. What I say sounds like baby gibberish to the people around me and what they say sounds exactly the same way to me. So I learn my first words – not exactly "Mama" and "Papa" but rather *ped mak mak* and *jai yen yen* and others, and it feels like being one year old all over again. And it's not just my attempts at the new language that sound childish, I sound childish speaking English too, learning to speak its childlike version: "You go", "I not like", "Why you not like?"

Next comes the food – a thousand new tastes, flavors experienced for the very first time, a fantastic journey of discovery.

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

Learning to enjoy having *moo ping* and *joke* for breakfast as much as I used to enjoy Froot Loops when I was five years old and discovering that I despise *rad na* as much as I despised the gooey vegetable soup my mom used to force on me.

Finally, one thing I find myself doing every single day is asking questions – dozens of them, just like a child. Why? What? How? The world around me is once again filled with mystery. Why are there kites being sold on every street corner in Phuket in January? Why do motorcyclists put their helmets in the front baskets and not on their heads? Why are women carrying umbrellas around if it's not raining? Why are there winter clothes on display in shops if it's 30 degrees outside? Is it to dress up for cinemas where the temperature drops to next to zero degrees thanks to immoderate use of air conditioning?

It's been three years since I moved here. I understand the world and people around me a tiny bit better, and I have learned – somewhat – how to walk and talk. I have found answers to a number of questions. But it's a long way before I'm grown up, and I sure hope I won't get there soon.

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

What can I do about unsightly shanty town near my house?

I would like to know whether the shanty shacks that "just appear" are legal.

The ones near where I live are made of rusty, old corrugated iron, and the residents bathe and do their laundry by the side of the road.

They also dump their rubbish, food scraps and goodness knows what else out the back doors into the forest area, which I am sure attracts rodents and other animals.

Can anything be done?

Ozmisty
Kata

Tawee Thongcham, Karon Mayor, replies:

Thank you for keeping an eye on the community. I have not received any complaints about people living in shanties. Please come to our office if you want to

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

file a complaint so we can know exactly which area you are talking about.

People should not dump trash, even if it is on private property. Trash should be disposed of properly. If a trash pile is made, then fencing it off is a good way to stop it from spreading and becoming an eyesore, but it is always best to call us to come and collect it.

If you believe it is a health concern, call us at 076-330186 and our health officers will investigate. If our officers agree that the trash breaches health regulations, they will order the trash to be removed. If the landowner does not comply, he or she will face a fine of up to 2,000 baht.

If you believe these people are living on public land, call us and we will check who is the registered owner of the land and whether or not the residents have permission to live there.

Lt Natthapong Deethongon of the Karon Police replies:

We have not received any complaints about new "shanty towns" in Karon, but if the people living in these shacks are not breaking any laws – encroaching on

someone's land, disturbing the neighbors or committing any crimes – there is nothing we can do about them.

If you see them breaking any laws or if they are disturbing you, call 076-396393 or come to Karon Police Station to file a complaint.

Capt Angkarn Yasanop at Phuket Immigration replies:

If these people have legally entered the country, are legally staying in Thailand, are not wanted by the authorities in another country and have

not committed any crimes in Thailand, there is nothing we can do.

If you know of any foreigners who you have reason to believe do not comply with these four conditions, call us at 076-221905.



No law against eyesores. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

YOUR Phuket

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Another *Phuket Gazette* Headline Event *Alice in Wonderland*, a children's musical from London was held last week at the Simon Star Theater in Phuket Town. Presented by Events International, all three performances saw a full house of happy families who enjoyed the colorful and lively show.



→ → → →

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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February 1 - 7, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

PROPERTY of the week



2 Pool Villas next to PIA

See page 22

JOB of the week

HÄFELE

See page 27

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 29

BOAT of the week



Happiness is a Choice



See page 31

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties For Sale

LAND FOR SALE



Khok Kloy. 8.5 rai land, Chanote title. 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 1km from Beach. Road access and power supply. Recently measured by government. Only 850,000 baht per rai. Please contact Paew: 089-972 5378 (English&Thai), Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai)

BARGAIN DETACHED POOL VILLA

Big house in large garden 1,293sqm, close to beach and great location. 12.5 million baht. The house has been empty for three years and in need of renovation. Structure and roof is sound. Great opportunity for the right person. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanreal estate.com

SALE DOWN PAYMENT

Dcondo Campus Resort. Studio type 29.7sqm, 1 bed/bath. Move in March. Tel: 087-270 9093 (English & Thai). Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

CONDO(S) FOR SALE - KATHU

Several condos for sale, 29 to 70sqm. Common pool, gym, garden, lift, car park, 24hr security. Starting price: 1,173,550 baht. Tel: 085-339 8272. Email: alpo@clubaonangbeach.com

LAND FOR SALE IN PA KHLOK

1 rai of flat land with Chanote title, quiet area, looking for quick sale. Only 3,100,000 baht ono. Email: jase.shanahan@virgin.net

LAND CHANOTE PHUKET

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Many plots. East Phuket, start from 500,000 baht, excellent terms. Contact owner. Tel: 095-068 1672, 081-970 4765 (Thai). Email: merv@indigore.com

PATONG FREEHOLD

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 100sqm. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

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 apartment, 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 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

HOME / OFFICE RAWAI 5.5MB ONO

3 storeys, remote door, 3 bedrooms, aircon, front/rear terraces, sea view. Tel: 093-787 7212 (English & Thai), 082-285 6544. Email: mrs mummygift@gmail.com

UK HOUSE PROPERTY SWAP

Permanent exchange offered of very spacious extended detached 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, garage, 3 reception rooms, etc. mortgage free, situated in UK, to swap for suitable property in good secure location in Phuket. Will also consider apartments. For more information, please call 080-046 2845 or email Lynne.Morzeltan@uk@yahoo.co.uk

SELL YOUR PROPERTY FASTER

Advertise with us – you get inquiries, sell and pay zero agent commissions. Save thousands of baht. Only 7,900 baht for online marketing, until sold. Tel: 076-383 796, 081-370 3181 (English & Thai). Email: info@1800-realty.com

KAMALA APARTMENT

Forest setting, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, swimming pools, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-317914 or email dyhkt@hotmail.co.uk, www.phuketcondoforsale.com

PATONG DELUXE CONDOS

Seaviews, quiet, pool, 37-57sqm. Call 087-819 2162 or email caltirol@hotmail.com

FOR SALE SEA VIEW

1 bedroom apartment at Eden Resort Karon. Only 15 apartments in complex. Fully furnished, gym and 20x5m swimming pool. Please call 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, furnished, 48 sq wah, 3 aircons, carport. Cherng Talay. For more information, please call 083-105 9689

HOUSE FOR SALE

5 bedrooms, swimming pool, large garden. Separate maid's quarter. US\$500,000. Tel: 084-185 4746

SEA VIEW TOWNHOME



Four levels, swimming pool, jacuzzi, 600sqm built up area, hardwood floors, imported windows, Sneidero Italian kitchen, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 2 living areas. Fully furnished to high standards. 200 meters to the beach. 21 million baht. Tel: 090-156 2050 (English). Email: nickbatley79@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.facebook.com/TheEvaSeaView

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 million 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. For more information, please call 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAND SALE

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

2 PLOTS OF LAND FOR SALE BAN KOH RAED, PHANG NGA PROVINCE

1



1). 121 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), seaview and can see Sarasin Bridge. 1 million baht per rai.

2



2). 8.5 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), next to the pier of Raed Island. 7 million baht per rai.

The Certificate of Utilization can be changed to land title deed upon request. Tel: 089-471 0202 (Thai), 089-646 3533 (English)

Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



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

OCEANFRONT VILLA



Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Po Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

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Properties For Rent

**BRAND-NEW
STUDIO FOR RENT**

Close to Patong Beach, free WiFi and cable. 12,000 baht monthly. Please call 081-878 2199, 081-396 0880 or email sumonmarn@phuketrealife.com

**PATONG
1 + 2 BEDROOM APTS.**
Modern units in quiet location. Free WiFi, pool, parking, maid. Short or long term. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: phvcondo@aol.com

LOVELY TOWNHOUSE
Boat Lagoon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, carport, long term: 30,000 baht per month. Car/house rental package available. Tel: 093-580 6778 Email: crystal eva1@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA
Boat Lagoon, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Western kitchen, established garden, fenced pool. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 093-580 6778. Email: crystaleva1@hotmail.com

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

**CHALONG BUNGALOW
LONG RENT**

2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, some furniture; tiled yard, 1 car space. Chao Fa Thani, 15,000 baht per month. Email: uptonms@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN KATHU
FOR RENT**

2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in Sabai Village Kathu, fully furnished. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

**NEW CONDO
FOR RENT**

Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further information, please see our website at www.phuket-condo.net

**APARTMENT & HOUSE
AVAILABLE**

Studio, 1-bed, 2-bed apartment and houses for short & long-term rent. Kata-Karon, Patong, Kathu area. Tel: 086-940 5187 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-333077. Email: nirvanaphuket@hotmail.it For further details, please see our website at www.phuketislandrealestate.com

**BEACHFRONT
CHALONG**

Furnished, 2-bedroom apartment, pool, WiFi, cable, quiet, secure. Long term: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104

**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 See our website at www.villa cheloni.com

**FOR RENT
RAWAI/NAI HARN**

Vassana Residence and Palm Breeze Resort. Low season prices starting at 30,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Sea view rooftop deck and bar over looking the Andaman Sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. LCD TV in every room, washing machine in every apartment, swimming pool. 160sqm in size, free WiFi. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

**KATA SEAVIEW
APARTMENT**

Fully furnished, quiet, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.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://palai green.weebly.com

**KATA SEAVIEW
APARTMENT**

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

**NICE HOUSE
CHALONG**

400sqm, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool, jacuzzi. Rent: 20,000 baht. Sale: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873 (English & Thai)

**NAI HARN 2-BED
BEACH CONDOS**

Spacious apartments for rent, kitchen, garden, shared pool, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

RAWAI POOL STUDIO

1,000 baht per day, 25,000 baht per month. Available for 1,2,3,4,5 bed. Private Studio, each has bedroom, bathroom, aircon, LED TV, desk, fridge, kitchen, pool, parking. 200m to Rawai Beach pier. Please call 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

**NAI YANG BEACH
HOUSE**

3 bedrooms and furnished, cable TV, internet, near Phuket airport, long-term rental: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-241594, 089-652 1751 (English & Thai). Email: yuiruangsri@yahoo.com

**PHUKET COUNTRY
CLUB STUDIO**

60sqm apartment, fully furnished, located in golf course near Central Festival and Patong. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-801 9797. Email: cuaca2000@hotmail.com

**NEW FURNISHED
3-BED VILLA**

Brand-new, fully furnished, modern 3-bed/3.5-bath villa with private garden and swimming pool. (5 minutes to Ao Po Grand Marina and Mission Hills Golf Course). Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072 (English & Thai), 081-893 5270 (English & Thai). Email: srduyoy@gmail.com For further details, please visit the website: http://phuket renthouse.com/10296/show case

**CONDO AT
RATCHAPORN PLACE**

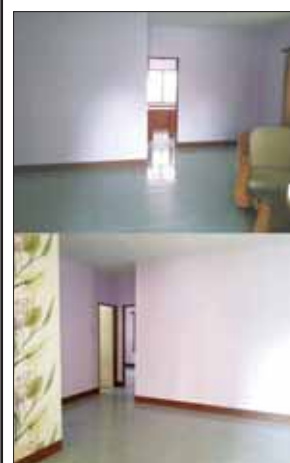
In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36 sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract, common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118

WALK TO KATA BEACH

2 bedrooms/3 bathrooms, furnished, new home. 500m to beach. Available January 2014 onwards. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai)

CONVENIENT STUDIO

33sqm studio/apartment, furnished, kitchen, 10 minutes to Central. 6,000 baht per month. Email: paulistathai@hotmail.com

**PHUKET VILLA 5
FOR RENT**

Comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big living area. No furnished, built-in kitchen and car park. Located 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. Please call to see and for more information: 087-270 9093

**PARADISE
FOR RENT**

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, very quiet, western standard, aircon, WiFi. Tel: 083-395 5330 (English), +41-07-9661 4061. Email: c.spleiss@robert-spleiss.ch Please visit our website at www.naiharn-villa.com

**STUNNING KATA
BEACH VIEW**

Kata Beach villa, furnished, 3 beds, 3 baths. 70,000 baht per month, long term. Tel: 081-003 6902. Email: contact@purist.biz

**RENT HOTEL 50,000
BAHT MONTHLY**

Cause divorce. Bar, shop, 10 beds + partner, Agoda and Booking.com, 60m to Rawai Beach pier. Contact Richard. Please call 084-242 8914. Email: siambbresort@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO
1 bedroom. Mountain view balcony. 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714

**SINGLE HOUSE
FOR RENT / SALE**

In Thanapa Park View in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a car park and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2 million baht. Contact owner. For more information, please call 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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**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

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@cmmid-intl.com

**EUROPEAN
CHEF HIRE**

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

**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@ccshideaway.com

**Marketing Staff Wanted**

Staff required to join a marketing team to work at Central Festival. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: info@arthouse.asia

DIVE AND SURF SHOP

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

**OFFICE MANAGER/
ACCOUNTANT**

Online company wants organized staff to manage office, accounting, inventory & orders. Tel: 082-276 1675. Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

**HOUSEKEEPER
NEEDED**

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtissi er@aquamaster.net

**JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT
NEEDED**

To assist with the accounting tasks, including accounts receivable. Good spoken / written English and pleasant personality are a must. Tel: 076-227281, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-227073. For further information on the job, please see our website at www.aquamaster.net/job.html

**THAI EMPLOYEE -
OFFICE JOB**

Want an interesting job? New internet firm needs an employee, 20-35 years old, very good English and PC. CV in English only. Tel: 076-322663, 090-070 9633 (English & Thai). Email: massi mo.reve@gmail.com

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

**VILLA MANAGER
(LIVE IN)**

Manager of house team, House keeper, Food & Beverage, Re-pairs. Excellent spoken English, leadership, service-minded skills. Own car. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

**REAL ESTATE OFFICE
STAFF**

Siam Real Estate are opening new office in Laguna and require Thai staff with good English, computer and admin skills. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siamrealestate.com

**REQUIRED for IMMEDIATE START in BALI**

The Karma Royal Group has gone from strength to strength in 2013 and will continue to do so in 2014 with scheduled expansion underway. We require Experienced / inexperienced time share sales consultants.

If you can relocate to Bali immediately and are wanting to work in a stable year round work environment with quality leads, No cancellation policy and high average price.

Please send your CV now to ekayanti@royalperspective.com

**STAFF FOR
RESTAURANT**

Chief cook, cook helper, bartender, waitress, good salary, Thai national. Tel: 081-116 1245 (English).

**3 WAITRESSES FOR
RESTAURANT**

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

**DANISH STAFF
WANTED**

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

KARON CLIFF

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
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PATONG

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PHUKET CITY

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- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

PHP PROGRAMMER

Seeking a PHP programmer with experience in Code Igniter for a long-term project. Tel: 094-316 6005 (English & Thai). Email: john@jpdigitaltech.com

ADMIN HOTEL WANTED

Experience needed in Microsoft Excel and Word. Daily record on cash income, stocks, timecards, and booking vouchers. Good comments in English writing and speaking working under GM. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

GERMAN CC NEEDS STAFF

We are seeking German-speaking people to work as a Call Agents, part and full time in our home office. Please contact us for further information. Send mail to: job@callcenteragent.at

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/ MONTH

Cruise ship staff needed. Work 3-7 month shift. All expenses paid. Must speak English. Tel: 093-728 1003 (English). Send resume/photo to jobs@seastaffing.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

For small guesthouse near the beach in Patong. Good salary and benefits. Some English spoken preferred, writing and computer skills. Contact John. Tel: 092-069 7408. Email: jmiles@iinet.net.au

**PHUKET OPERATIONS MANAGER**

This position is open to all nationalities and a work permit will be provided after a satisfactory trial period.

WHO ARE YOU ?

You will be at least 35 years old with a wide and diverse commercial background at middle to senior management level. You will be an outstanding communicator in spoken and written English, as you will need to give presentations clearly, precisely and coherently to a range of age groups, nationalities and prospective business partners.

Your success will require that you have a 'can do' attitude, the tenacity of a bulldog and the patience of a saint.

The Company:

We are Thailand Holiday Homes. We pioneered the 'serviced' villa rental concept in the Kingdom. Now entering our 14th year of operations and with 5 years' presence in Phuket, we have become Thailand's leading provider of luxury vacation villas.

Our online global presence supports a network of B2B agents as well as B2C operations in Russia, Norway, India, China, the UK, Germany, France and many other countries and our international operation is set for major growth in 2014.

The Role:

As Operations Manager, you will take us forward and firmly establish our presence in Phuket. Your interpersonal skills will allow you to promote our first class management and marketing capability to property owners who really want to maximize their return on investment in the vacation rental sector.

You will meet with villa owners and persuasively and with absolute integrity discuss the financial logic of entering the villa rental market.

Our worldwide clients are discerning and wealthy individuals who demand experienced and well-trained customer support which you will ensure they receive through on-going staff training and development. Our goal is to give our clients the ultimate vacation experience.

As Operations Manager, you will need to build strong and lasting relationships throughout the island with leading tour operating companies, service providers and property owners.

THE REWARD: The right person will have the opportunity to 'take ownership' of the untapped opportunity on the island and make THH Phuket a great success. As a dynamic individual, you will face new challenges each day, ensuring you job satisfaction coupled with longevity of tenure and a stable future in this demanding role. Remuneration will be attractive, a combination of a basic salary plus performance bonus. In addition, after one year of measured success, you will be offered a directorship and 25% share-holding in the Phuket subsidiary company.

If you are sure that this person really is you then please apply, in writing only and in English to: Mr Paul Hunt at

sales@thailandholidayshomes.com and enclose a full resume and your basic salary expectations.

HAFELE**Project Sales Manager Showroom Phuket****Responsibilities:**

- To manage and develop markets for Hafele products in Phuket and nearby areas
- Develop, implement and monitor sales strategies with the local team under the supervision of General Showroom Manager for project sales in Phuket
- Build up a strategic project network in Phuket area in architecture hardware, furniture fittings, home appliances etc.
- Build up a complete project sales team
- Communicate with related departments at the Head Office for any campaigns into local sales activities
- Identify and approach key accounts and personally propose system solutions
- Present or demonstrate the benefits of our products in practical workshops and on site
- Develop proper sales reporting and monitor local sales team activities
- Regularly travel through Phuket and nearby areas to close deals with owners, designers, contractors and end-customers.
- Maintain and increase customer service satisfaction with fast moving after-sales services

Requirements:

- Male or Female, age 30 – 40 years
- At least 3-5 years experience in selling high-end products, preferably architecture hardware, furniture fittings, home appliances, etc.
- 5 years experience in hardware business or related field
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Computer skills
- Ability to manage a team
- Technical background in project sales is an advantage
- Strong personality with high communication skills and a can-do attitude
- Willingness to travel to customers for sales activities
- Own car

Please send current resume to peerapong@hafele.co.th

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence

Hafele (Thailand) Ltd: 57 Soi Sukhumvit 64, Sukhumvit Rd.,
Bangchak, Phrakonong, Bangkok 10260
Tel: 02-728-7103-4

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Full-time bike guide. Must speak good English and provide excellent customer service. Also help in sales office. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English). Email: info@amazingbike tours.thailand.asia. For further details, please see our website at www.AmazingBikeToursThailand.asia

BRANCH MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require Branch Managers for 2 new locations in Had Yai and Koh Samui. Preferred applicants are English-speaking Thai nationals, degree educated with previous experience in property or hotel management. Excellent salary and benefits on offer. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com



Residence Phuket is a private residential Condominium development at Kalim Bay and consist of 51 apartments.

As soon possible, we require the following:

General Manager

- At least 5 years experience in managing staff
- Must be able to read, speak and write English and Thai fluently
- Computer literate
- Accounting skills
- Technical knowledge is very helpful
- Team player with a service mind
- Maintain good staff relations
- Flexible attitude and representative personality
- Must live in Phuket area

Please send a short letter of application, recent photograph, Curriculum Vitae including email and telephone contacts of references to:

Contacting the Residence.

Secretary of the Management office.
Telephone: 66 (076) 344350 | Mobile: Ae 084 689 5088
Email: ae@kalimresidence.com
Address: 302 Phrabaramee rd Ban Kalim Patong Beach,
Kathu Phuket 83150 Thailand

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Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GAS GRIDDLE

Never used, quick sale, stainless steel, free standing. Contact Joy. Tel: 089-970 6886

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Soft ice cream machine, never used, still packed. BQ116. Production capacity: 10-14kg per hour (14-20 l/h). Cups per hour (60g per cup): 160-230. For sale at 1/3 of its cost. 49,000 baht. Please call 082-414 0600. Email: bkkjedi@gmail.com

BAR FURNITURE ETC. FOR SALE



Full set of furniture, fixtures, fittings & equipment for stylish bar - only 1 year old - or take over the large bar premises (include accommodation) with all equipment in place. No key money just "quick sale price" for the gear. Tel: 081-787 5938 (English & Thai). Email for list of equipment: nittayakm@gmail.com For further details, please see our facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhiteSpacePhuket

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

SPONSOR A CHILD

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Business Opportunities

BEVERAGE BRAND

International beverage experts seeking investors for a new brand. From US\$ 10,000. Contact Mike. Tel: 086-057 7714

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Located Kamala, Phuket, near G-1 apartment. Price: 450,000 baht includes equipment. Tel: 086-007 3075

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PATONG BEACH ROAD HOTEL

Rare. Only 50m from the beach, this well-known hotel is available immediately for lease on a long-term basis (3+3+3). Great Location in the heart of Patong Beach with 19 ensuite rooms and all hot water supplied free by solar panels on roof. Deal is 1.5 million baht key money, 150,000 monthly rent, and a guarantee 200,000 baht. Tel: 081-468 6709 (English & Thai). Email: yonlada.collis@thegrandorchidinn.com

BUILDING FOR RENT

1,000sqm, 50 rooms, 13 bathrooms, 2 kitchens. Commercial / residential. 4 rai of land, 7 minutes to airport. Very nice! Contact Merv. Tel: 081-970 4765. Email: merv@indigore.com

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Popular profitable expat sports pub for sale / lease. Located on busy Sai Yuan Road in Rawai. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 088-752 4540 (English). Email: Petescustompins@aol.com

DUMPING

Soil, sand, construction, debris. Please call 081-893 5717

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Money making company of waterproofing, thermal insulation, construction chemicals, electrical materials and lights etc. For sale. Tel: 081-893 5717

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High profit potential. Completely turnkey. Easy to run. Proven 20-year biz model. Full training provided. Please call 082-989 8280. Email: Funtasticmillionaire@gmail.com

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160sqm with seating for 40. Only 70m from beach. Everything included. 900,000 baht. Offers considered. Tel: 084-852 4257. Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

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No key money, low rent, good stock, take on a new 1 year + 2 year extension (3-year contract). 1.3 million baht ono. Please call 090-067 3033. Email: lyntoncraig@gmail.com

PHI-PHI.COM FOR SALE

Koh Phi Phi's key travel portal http://phi-phi.com is for sale with or without the company that runs the travel website. Sale for personal reasons. Contact Phil. Tel: +44-019 8356 4289, +44-079 1513 5318. Email: pdr123@gmail.com

SHOP FOR SALE

Inside Patong Promenade, fully stocked baby clothes, 3 year lease left. 2 million baht. Contact Tik. Tel: 084-746 4477

DIVE CENTER FOR SALE

Once in a lifetime opportunity: Paradise Diving Asia Company Limited is selling its 12 years established 5-star dive center / retail shop at Nai Yang in Phuket, plus its unique location and connections. Tel: 081-891 5539 (English), 081-894 9517 (English). Email: paradisisediver@live.com

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Bangla Road, Patong, 3 years lease. 2.5 million baht and 4.7 million baht. For more information, please call 087-184 6739.

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World-class spa for big group in Boat Lagoon. Big commission. Contact Waree Spa. Tel: 081-569 1661

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Patong. Located Nanai Road. 7 beds. Fully stocked. Equipped with high-end furniture. Well presented. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Reluctant sale: 350,000 baht. Call 087-073 4233 or email: judgedread73@hotmail.com. Pics available.

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For sale. Tired of the traffic and high prices of Phuket? Or just want a weekend getaway? I have built in farang spec and style, a beautiful retreat, a main house with 2 big garages, a guest-house with garage, a bungalow and a 900sqm exercise gym. It all rests on 24 rai and is currently a working shrimp farm, but could be used for many purposes, located 2 hours north of the island. 12 million baht, this price will not last long, the houses are worth more than 12 million baht. Please call 081-728 8269 or email jrp@loxinfo.co.th

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

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

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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

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Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Call for reservations. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 8471

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Ditch the gym, grab your racket. Non stop 60-minute fun workout with music. Only 300 baht per person. Lessons hitups also available. For more information, please call 090-706 6674, 090-071 7163. Your court or ours. Please visit our website at www.tennisjuniorpro.com

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LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

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BLUE CANYON G.C.C.

Family golf share for sale: 780,000 baht. Free transfer. Please call 076-284428, 081-787 9495 (English). Email: klaus@wefix.nu

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Home schooling your 6-9 year old child? Join our home school group in Chalong. Please call 087-904 7113 (English). Email: akedeya@hotmail.com

ENGLISH CONVERSATION WANTED

French student (27 years old) looks for 2-3 hours of weekly English conversation with native English speaker. For more information, please call 084-690 1139. Email: ppvisseur@higest.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

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SOLD SECOND HAND

- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Keyboard: Casio. Price: 25,000 baht.
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- Camera: Asabipenax. Price: 20,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

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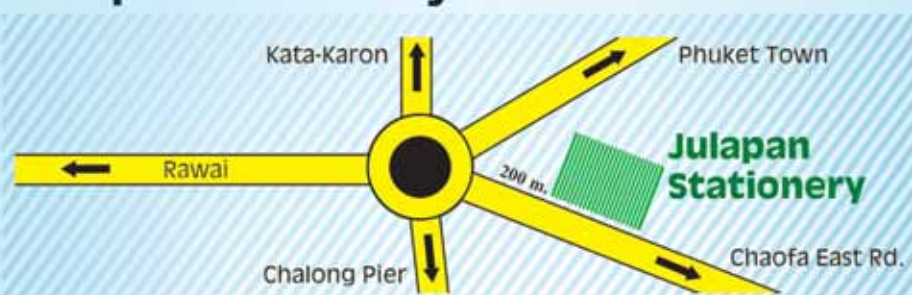


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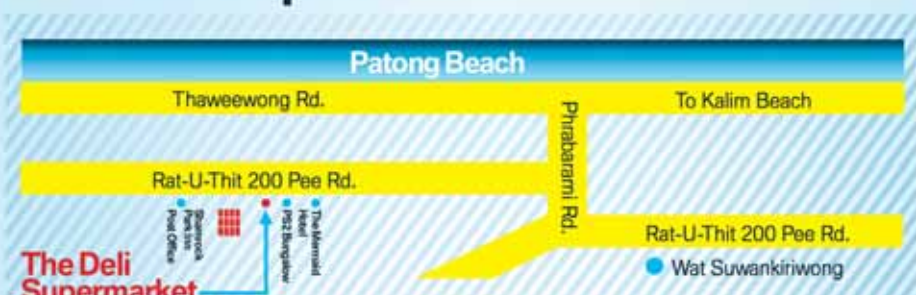
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sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

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

Adam Blackmore
+66 (0) 81 892 8919
adam.blackmore@simpsonmarine.com

PRINCESS P42 FOR SALE

42' Flybridge, 2008. Excellent condition at an attractive price. Tel: 080-142 0420 (English). Email: jmi chellemonnier@orange.fr

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M

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2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, Bose sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hrs. Brand-new condition. Price: 335,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

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This 80-year-old solid teak boat is ideal for a Phang Nga Bay live aboard, or a land-based guest house. 1.5 million baht. Call John on 090-798 5605. Email: johne mango@yahoo.com For current pictures and finish out options, www.facebook.com/Teak Boat Phuket

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Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. Now only 899,950 baht + VAT. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

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With high season just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed. Boatshed phuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boat shedphuket.com

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Fantastic little Hobie Catamaran. Great for kids and adults wanting a fun dinghy boat responsive in light wind. Length 12'. Sail area: 86sqf/8sqm. Email jezntat@gmail.com or call our Thai mobile: 086-685 9359, or to Singapore: 65-977 38457.

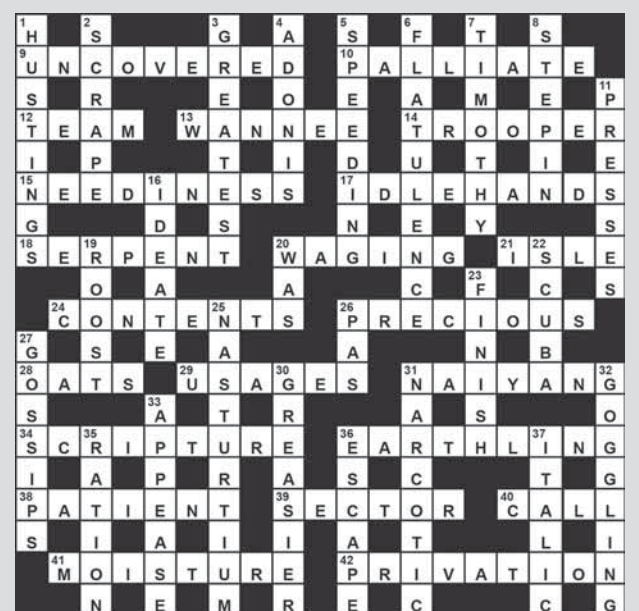
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See more classified ads
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Cryptic Crossword

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break



Aircraft For Sale

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JOY AND FUN WITH FAMILY SUPERSTARS!



Dechanont Wangthong (far right), Executive Assistant Manager of Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket welcomed Krerk Chiller (2nd right), his wife Sanantinee Chiller (2nd left). The famous family of superstars recently enjoyed a holiday at Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket.

SKAL CHARITY DONATION AND THANK YOU DINNER



SKAL Phuket members presented 450,000 baht in funds, equally divided, to Phuket Sunshine Village, Phuket International Women's Club, Phuket Has Been Good To Us and the SKAL Charity. The funds were raised through the annual SKAL Charity Dinner.

AWESOME AUSTRALIA DAY

Lucky Aussies stuck in Phuket for Australia Day had an awesome afternoon and evening at The KEE Resort & Spa. The Aussie themed afternoon of fun splashed off at the hotel's watering hole with an Absolut Australian Pool Party at the KEE's pool.



RODIZIO BRAZIL 'ALL YOU CAN EAT' WINE TASTING



Executive Chef and Manager Auriberto "Auri" Cantalice dos Santos (left) and Kanchana Labjit, Operations Manager for Rodizio.



A pair of Brazilian girl were some of the many guests who attended the the event.

BODY PAINT BY EAK KARNYANG ROAD SHOW

Eak Karnyang Company launched its first ' body painting' road show at Central Festival Phuket recently.



Phon-Tho Mayakarn (left), Managing Director of Grand Erawan Na-Tai Hotel, Mitsu-Phang-Nga Motor Co Ltd and Home Land Quality Co Ltd; Wutthirat Witchayanurak (right), Managing Director of Eak Karnyang Co Ltd and one of the'body paint" models from the show.



Wat Chalong celebrations

FAMED Southern Thai singers and artists including top-billing performer Bow Wee headline at the annual Wat Chalong Fair, which started on January 30.

"Everyone is welcome to join the fun. There will be a lot of food, entertainment, sideshow rides, games and stalls at the fair," Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol told the *Phuket Gazette*. Of course Thais and foreigners alike are invited to make merit at the temple while they are there.

Each night, the stage entertainment will start at 7pm and include a performance with the renowned Southern Thai Nung Talung shadow puppets. Each Nung Talung troupe brings with a standard repertoire of traditional shadow plays, but most troupes also have at least one modern play up their sleeve that often drifts into political and social satire.

While the plays are visually entertaining,

it is strongly suggested to bring a native Southern Thai speaker to make sure no jokes or jibes are missed.

The remaining nightly entertainment at the fair is as follows:

February 1: Concert by Nui Suweena, Silvergold Trio and Mos Monton; and Nung Talung by Kom Sor Talung Bandits.

February 2: Concert by Bew Kalayane; Karakade Rsiam and Jingreedkao Wongtewan; and Nung Talung by Sumet Super Piak.

February 3: Concert by Bow Wee, Kratae and Yim Rsiam; and Nung Talung by Iad-nui.

February 4: Concert by Luang Kai and Tai Orathai; and Nung Talung by Iad-nui.

February 5: Concert by Ekachai Sriwichai; Nung Talung by Nong-Ya.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Other than Thai music, there is an abundance of local food to be enjoyed at the temple grounds.

Phuket Old Town Festival begins

THE annual three-day Phuket Old Town Festival will kick off on February 7 with a parade to celebrate the unique culture of Phuket's residents.

With Queen Sirikit Park the heart of the festivities, events will be held along Thalang Road, Soi Rommanee and Krabi Road – the heart of the Phuket Old Town area, explained Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwan-supana.

"The main purpose of this festival is to preserve our beautiful culture and traditions, and to promote cultural tourism in

the Phuket old town area," said Mayor Somjai.

"As part of the festivities this year, a mini concert will take place at the Thalang Cafe featuring Su Boonliang, from Koh Samui, and the beautiful voices of Rawiwan Jinda and Jeab Wattana."

The three streets will be blocked so that festival-goers can enjoy the activities comfortably on foot. Local food, music, games and artistic Chinese performances can be expected throughout the three-day event.

"Visitors will have a chance to

win a gold necklace on each day of the festival, and will also have a chance to worship Quan Yin, the goddess of mercy," noted Mayor Somjai.

The opening day parade starts at 5pm at the intersection of Phang Nga Road and Kanit Hongsyok Road.

After heading west toward old town, the procession will turn left onto Montri Road, and continue to Surin Circle, the "Clocktower Circle", where it will turn right onto Phuket Road and then left onto Rassada Road.

At Suriyadej Circle, the parade will turn right onto Yaowarat Road, then turn right again onto Thalang road and head towards Queen Sirikit Park, where it will conclude.

From 10:30pm until midnight on the first night of the festival, Phuket City Municipality will hold a candlelit ceremony to pray for good fortune in front of the dragon statue at Queen Sirikit Park, Mayor Somjai said.

"Please come to the festival to be a part of the beautiful culture of Phuket, and fill up with our delicious local food," she added.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Phuket. Photo: Gazette file.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Feb 1, 2014, 6-11:30pm. New Yorker Night

A new theme night at the newly opened Two Chefs restaurant in Kamala. Every Saturday at 6pm a large American influenced buffet will be served – for only 595 baht (kids just 295 baht). Happy hours on selected drinks in our bar. There will also be live acoustic music from members of the house band. Two Chefs is located in Icon Park in Kamala, with convenient parking available. Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more info call 076 385 052, email kamala@twochefs.com or go to twochefs.com.

Feb 6, 6pm Sri Chinmoy Bhajan Singers in Concert at Phuket Rajabhat University Theater.

Art exhibition of Sri Chinmoy's Paintings for World Harmony opens in the lobby of the university's theater at 6pm. Concert begins at 7pm. Entrance is free. For more information about the works of Sri Chinmoy, visit songsofthesoul.com. For more details about the exhibition and concert, call 095 034 2858.

Feb 8, 9pm-2am. Miami Vice Party

A night of 80s glamor, tropical cocktails and Miami Vice mash-ups. Miami Vice is the US cop series that drew heavily upon 1980s New Wave culture and music. It is recognised as one of the most influential television series of all time. Entry to this event is free and those dressing up will receive a complimentary drink voucher. Contact Annabel Fox on 076-324101 or visit the website at: xanabeachclub.com



Feb 7-8, 7-11pm. The Fab Beatles

A tribute to the Fab Four! Dates: February 7 and 8, air-con tent, Boat Lagoon, from 7pm onwards. Ticket price: 1,100 baht. VIP tickets, with seating 1,500 baht. This is the third in the ongoing series of *Gazette* Headline Events, presented by Events International and supported by the Boat Lagoon, Laguna Phuket and Central Festival. For more information or bookings contact Sonu Kapoor on 091-326 0279, email indiafilmworks@gmail.com, or visit the company's website at events-international.com

Feb 14, 6:30pm-10pm Valentine's Day at Centra Ashlee Hotel

Valentine's Day @ Air Rooftop Poolside. The search is over as

we have just what you are looking for: The perfect spot to share with a special person in a romantic poolside setting with soft candles, stars on the horizon and beautiful tunes. Our chef will pull out all the stops to create mouthwatering dishes served in an elaborate four-course menu with one glass of red wine each and red rose for ladies. Where only you can find a special price for a very special person. February 14, 2014. Reservations: Call Pawita Pratumkaew on 081 171 0143 or mail saleschp@chr.co.th

Feb 14, 2014. Makha Bucha Day Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250

monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

Feb 20, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club February Lunch

February's lunch will be held at the beautiful regent Cape Panwa Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact info@phuketiw.com. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 89 and 58), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club. Contact Carole Dux on 076

316711 or visit the website at: phuketiw.com

Feb 23, 2014, 4-9am. Run for Health, Run for Charity

Phuket International Hospital is presenting this "Mini Marathon" to raise funds for charity and to win HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Royal Trophies. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. For more info call 076 249 400 or email chutinan@siriroj.com

Apr 6. Chakri Memorial Day Commemoration of the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by King Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.



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Tuesday: 11:10pm	Tuesday: 11:10pm	
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ON JANUARY 31, some 1.3 billion Chinese in China and another 50 million ethnic-Chinese around the world bid farewell to the year of the snake, and welcomed the “invisible moon” that signaled the official start of a new year – the year of the horse.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

As this paper goes to press, festivities for the Chinese New Year – or as it also widely known, the Lunar New Year – are taking place across Asia and in the Chinatowns and Asian communities across the globe.

In Phuket Town, festivities were ushered in by a troupe of 50 acrobats from the Henan Acrobatic Troupe China last Friday, who performed nine chapters of their “Chinese fairy tale” repertoire.

Complementing the CNY, the cultural festive spirit can be enjoyed this week through Phuket’s Wat Chalong Fair and Old Town Festival (see page 34).

Meanwhile, red lanterns, *qipao*, firecrackers and envelopes are the signs of the time, and the time is to be renewed with an emphasis on the many Fs – fidelity, family, feasting and fun, of course!

The most important festival in the Chinese calendar, Chinese New Year is actually a multiple-day celebration, or two-week long observance if you really break it down.

This year, the celebrations got under way on the first day of the first Chinese month (the new moon, this year on January 31) and will last until the 15th day of that lunar cycle, or the first full moon.

Marking the official conclusion of the CNY observance, the lantern festival is celebrated on this first full moon of the traditional Chinese calendar, which this year happens to fall on February 14, Valentine’s Day, which will also be

Chinese New Year is here



Some 1.3 billion Chinese in China and another 50 million ethnic-Chinese around the world get ready for another “fiery” year. Photo: epSos.de

observed as Makha Bucha Day by Buddhists this year.

In contrast to the Western Gregorian calendar, which follows the cycle of the sun, the traditional Chinese calendar is based on the movements and cycles of the moon. Therefore, the actual date of the festival varies every year. Last year, for example, Chinese New Year began on February 10, and in 2012, it began on Valentine’s Day, February 14.

CUSTOM

Also known in China as the Spring Festival, this is a time of renewal, when houses, including family altars, are cleansed or rearranged; distant relatives meet up for a festive meal and deceased relatives

and ancestors are venerated through offerings of food and flowers.

The actual celebration varies from country to country but anything between three to eight days is the normal affair. The first three days are the most important. This is when families gather together and prepare delicious meals using the best ingredients they can afford. The feast is first offered to the ancestors and the spirit of the land.

The family then enjoys a meal together. It is customary to wear new clothes – red being a lucky color – and to be on one’s best behavior.

After the feast, a profusion of firecrackers are lit to announce to the ancestors and deities that the mortals’ duties have been done and that the gods must keep their side of the bargain and ensure that all are blessed with good luck and prosperity in the year to come.

WOOD HORSE

The Chinese horoscope is divided into 12 cycles, represented by animals, which in turn symbolize different traits, characteristics and thus implications for events, occurrences and situations for any particular year.

Following on from the “winding” water snake sign of 2013, this is the year of the horse, which will last until February 18, 2015.

In addition to the 12 animals, each year is also represented by one of five elements – fire, earth, metal, water and wood. This year, the element will be wood.

Thus, you may hear people mistakenly refer to this year as the year of the “wooden horse”. Not to be confused with a stallion or mustang constructed out of wood – a trojan horse, for example – according to Chinese traditionalists, the correct way to refer to the zodiac, is that it is a “Wood horse” year – a year represented and affected by the sign



WILD STALLION: This year’s animal is a horse, which is a fire sign in the Chinese zodiac, though the element for the year is wood. Photo: J Bar

of the horse and element of wood.

To make things even more confusing, the horse is also considered a fire sign – regardless of the year’s changing element (wood). Based on the combination of these two elements (fire and wood) and various other factors, such as the sign of the individual, the implications for this year are greatly open to interpretation.

Various online sources suggest that this year will be fast-paced and competitive: according to one interpretation of the Chinese zodiac, fire element industries (such as those dependent on fossil fuel burning and garbage incineration) will continue to thrive in Phuket; meanwhile, earthen element industries such as real estate don’t look as bright; likewise, with the element of water absent in this year’s zodiac, it is implied that creative innovation and intelligent reasoning

will be lacking in the making of important decisions, which will be prone to the influence of emotions and fear. Although tourism and fisheries will slow, airlines, restaurants and IT businesses will thrive; positive legal and financial reform on a global scale are also starred for forward momentum this year.

In conclusion, this year (and every year for that matter) will prove to be beneficial and fruitful for those who engage in mindfulness, and continue to make conscientious and selfless decisions.

For the billion plus Mandarin speakers, the *Gazette* would like to say *Gong Xi Fa Cai*, and for the 60 million Cantonese speakers around the world, that’s *Gong Hei Fat Choi* – wishing you a prosperous year ahead!

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Introducing the Eezeewee



SOME time ago, a company in South Africa invented a device designed to break down one of the last barriers between the sexes. The Eezeewee is billed as "a reusable device with a shaped plastic cup and a length of pipe" that enables women to urinate while standing. It is touted as "invaluable for women who are traveling, hiking, camping, or bedridden, it has a handy, discreet carrying pouch."

I imagine that the Eezeewee would make an ideal weapon for women threatened with rape. All they'd have to do is whip it out of its handy, discreet carrying pouch and beat the rapist over the head with the pipe. Such an act would have a delicious irony that will not be lost on lovers of literary symbolism.

I'm all for any invention that makes life easier for women, but in this case I find myself experiencing a vague unease. The only thing we men can do that women can't do is urinate standing up. And the Eezeewee takes that away from us.

Theologians will thunder that the Eezeewee violates god's law. They'll argue that if the deity had intended for women to pee standing up, he'd have given



Could this become a common sight in the future as women flock to buy their own Eezeewee? Photo: hubbers

them the natural means to do so.

As a man, too, I am extremely anxious to know how long the pipe is – and what it's made of. If it's a mere two inches long, and made of cotton, sponge, or tissue paper, I can see no problem.

But if it's, say, three feet long and made of steel, I fear scenarios

like the following will occur:

Scene: A man and a woman are preparing to pee in the woods. The woman takes her Eezeewee out of its handy, discreet carrying pouch and gazes condescendingly down at the man's pride and joy (I am trying to be tasteful here!) as he prepares to urinate.

Woman: Mine's bigger than yours. Harder, too.

Man: (says nothing, but turns red and quickly tucks his pride and joy back in, wetting himself in the process.)

Woman: Bet I can pee farther than you can.

Man: (flees.)

We all know that many men (not me!) are insecure about their sexuality. The Eezeewee will exacerbate this problem. Freud theorized that women suffer from penis envy. This innocent-looking but satanic device guarantees that men will now suffer from Eezeewee envy. The blow inflicted on their self-esteem will be devastating.

But there's a solution to this problem. The inventors of the Eezeewee can easily produce a new, improved model designed especially for men. I envision a pipe made of wrought iron, engraved with dragons, tigers, and gargoyles, thick as a telephone



Men probably have enough to worry about without having to compete with women at the urinal. Photo: MyLifeStory

pole, and five feet long. This will be cumbersome, but it will come with a little wagon to transport it. In the interests of modesty, the wagon will be covered with a stylish canopy.

This will restore men's shattered self-esteem, place them on a more

equal footing with women, and redress the outrage inflicted upon god's law.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's trying out his new, improved Eezeewee.

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Homing in on more hibiscus



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

AS THE current rainless spell – barely a drop for three weeks – continues, the impact on the garden is marked: desiccated leaves litter the parched earth, as trees and shrubs “shut up shop” and reduce water loss by sacrificing leaves. Fewer leaves, less evaporation.

The golden cane palms, more green than golden in their pomp, are severing links with their fronds at a rate of knots. The only original tree in the garden, a senna which I keep for its feathery plumage and sporadic racemes of yellow flowers, is now dropping cascades of tiny round leaves into the pool. Time for a spot of pollarding, methinks. The heliconia hybrids are looking brown and frazzled: drastic treatment means that they should be cut right back to allow the underground rhizomes to re-group.

Which brings me to today’s “H” subject, the other members of the hibiscus species. As the aristocrat of the family, *H. rosa-sinensis* was accorded the “hi-so” treatment recently; now it is the turn of the less heralded *schizopetalus* and *mutabilis*. Both names are descriptively apt: *schizopetalus* has pendant, deeply divided, almost frilly blooms;

while the flowers of *mutabilis* change color during the day, from a virginal white in the morning to a deep rose-pink in the evening. If neither can compete with *sinensis* in terms of sheer “pizazz”, they do have their own merits. And speaking personally, I find them both considerably easier to cultivate in Phuket’s hot-house humidity.

Schizopetalus, also known as



Roselle, a species of hibiscus, can be used to brew a delicious drink. Photo: Mbopar

the fringed or coral hibiscus, comes not from Hawaii (as do most of the genus) but from East Africa. For some reason, it is not widely grown here, but it does well in Phuket’s climate and is coping easily with the current drought. It has a weeping habit, with toothed leaves and gently arching stems: a solitary, fringed bloom, with a prominent dangling red stamen, appears at the end of each branch. As with all members of the genus, each flower lasts but one day. It takes easily from

cuttings, but cut back all of the previous season’s growth to help create a bushier appearance.

H. mutabilis (rose hibiscus) is so named because it actually does mutate – change color – during the day. Much hardier than *rosa-sinensis*, it is a very vigorous grower: a specimen which I planted in the border next to the pool is now fifteen feet tall and bears at least twenty rose-like blooms every day – even during the current dry spell.

If that sounds wonderful, then temper your enthusiasm with a little caution. Like all varieties of hibiscus, it is disease prone, especially susceptible to aphids and consequent attacks of mold. And the foliage, which has an attractive maple leaf shape, does drop with great regularity. Moreover, the leaves immediately dry out and turn an

unappealing shade of brown. I would nonetheless recommend the shrub to anyone starting a new garden: this is an uncomplaining plant that will get things off to a good start.

In Spain, I grew one variety of hibiscus which should be more popular here. *H. arnottianus* (Hawaiian white hibiscus), has typical trumpet-shaped, white flowers, and a deep magenta center and



H. mutabilis actually changes color over the course of the day. Photo: Vinayaraj

stamen. A very vigorous grower, it can reach twenty feet or more. It blooms almost all year round and even, unusually for the genus, has slightly fragrant flowers. Ideal for a small entry way tree or as a landscape accent.

Have you ever tried roselle, a drink made from yet another member of the genus? This cooling drink, sold in fresh markets and an inviting deep red in color, tastes a bit like cranberry or blackcurrant. It comes

from *H. saccariffa*, a slender plant with long, narrow reddish leaves. Grown here not for its flowers, but for the red calyces which form at the base of yellow blooms, these yield, when boiled, a concoction both refreshing and rich in vitamin C and anthocyanins. Try it, it’s a true taste of the tropics.

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

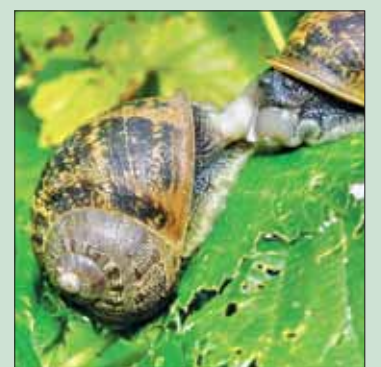
Tip of the week

Pests and diseases

PLANTS and trees are generally fairly trouble-free, and in any case, some damage (say from grasshoppers or caterpillars) should be accepted as part of the nature of things. Healthy plants will soon recover, often with the help of the pest’s natural enemies such as birds and predatory insects (spiders, ladybirds, some flies and wasps). If the gardener feels the need to intervene, remedies can be either organic or chemical.

Prevention is better than cure.

Plants under stress are more vulnerable, so it is important to give young plants all the care they need to become strong and healthy. Water well in dry periods, give an occasional balanced feed, and mulch the surface to conserve moisture. Don’t leave pots or bags lying around; they will become havens for snails and ants. And remove leaf litter from below plants, especially if they are infected with fungal diseases, in order to prevent the spread of spores.



Don’t leave pots or bags lying around; they will become havens for snails. Photo: Ian Dunster



The elephant hibiscus can grow larger than a hand-span. Photo: milpoo

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Dog of the week

THIS week’s Dog of the Week is Storm and he’s looking for a new home here in Phuket, he’s a male and only about four months old. Somehow he lost his way and got separated from his Mother. He was stranded on Layan Beach for the past few weeks, until the folks at Doggie Heaven saw him and started feeding him everyday. When the team at Doggie Heaven realized he was

no one’s pet and had no mother, they took me back to the rescue center in Laguna to keep him safe and to help him find a loving home. Storm is awaiting someone like you to adopt him and give him a loving home.

Please call Doggie Heaven on 0848773566 if you would like to adopt storm, or any dog, or visit: doggieheaven.net



Internet freedom now in jeopardy

By Jeremie Schatz

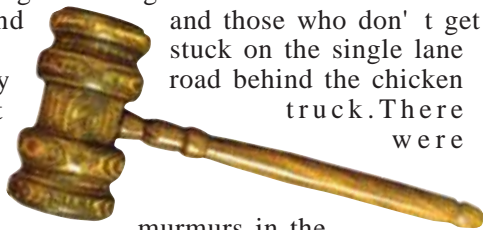
IN CASE you haven't heard the hype, internet neutrality recently suffered a blow in the "land of the free", the United States. In the recent case of Verizon versus the FCC (Federal Communications Commission), the federal court overturned the FCC's net-neutrality-promoting rule which prohibited service providers from imposing discriminatory charges and limitations.

So, what is net neutrality and why should you care? Net neutrality (internet neutrality or web neutrality) concerns the regulation of information exchange on the internet. In a nutshell, it implies that all information (referred to as "packets") on the internet – regardless of where it comes from, where it is going and what the content actually is – be treated equally. This theoretically makes the online world one free of discrimination where everyone can play nice and get along.

What might the alternative scenario look like? What internet service providers (ISPs) and

telecommunications (telcom) companies would prefer is to have the legal right and backing to charge end users (us) more or less depending on the type of information accessed. This would leave ISPs unencumbered to make the value judgement of web content, or even block certain content altogether.

It's kind of like a toll road – those who dish out the 50 baht get to cruise uninhibited and those who don't get stuck on the single lane road behind the chicken truck. There were



murmurs in the past concerning this type of activity here in Phuket – ok, maybe more than murmurs, see the page 12 article "Throttling and net neutrality" in the October 29, 2011 issue of the *Gazette* – where internet providers were cutting back individual users' speeds (aka "throttling") if they were using torrent sites or the like.

In addition, service providers could also auction off bandwidth to the highest bidder which

could, in effect, determine whether we have free reign over the information we want to access, or we are fed whatever the highest bidder serves up. Imagine if the only online news source you could find was Fox News?

It's a long and convoluted road to go down, fraught with various interpretations of what this actually means for everyone involved. It even took some of the biggest players in the game a few days to catch their breath after the shock of the ruling and articulate a response.

One such player is Netflix. In Thailand, we don't have access to this site but in the US they are supposedly responsible for a staggering one-third of internet traffic. They stepped up to warn service providers that if they find they are being disfavored, the gloves will come off. And there will surely be others to step into the ring with them.

Why does this matter to those of us living outside of the US? Firstly, as has been the trend since the beginning of online time, the US tends to lead the pack when it comes to communications



In the US, ISPs now have the legal right to control internet content.

legislature and regulation regarding the internet. Many are concerned that this ruling may influence the future of net neutrality in other countries. Also, those who use online communications services such as Skype or other internet phone apps to call the US could be affected and access to websites hosted in the US could be limited.

Internet content and speed limitations have been present in Thailand since the inception of the web here. In the beginning, it was mainly pornographic material that was banned but the censorship bubble grew to encompass blogs that could pose a threat to national security or outspoken and unsavory political leanings. The governing agency is the Ministry of Communication

and Information Technology (MCIT), but we can all be rest assured that there are other powers at be who influence control.

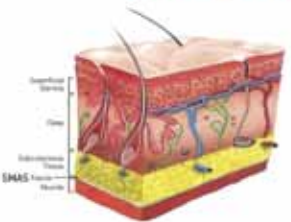
For now, nothing has changed dramatically over night and all of the internet doomsday scenarios may just be paranoia. The FCC will likely explore other options such as appealing the court's decision and providers may not vilify themselves the way everyone thinks they will.

Keep in mind that these are oversimplified explanations, the concept of net neutrality is very complex and we have barely scratched the surface here. Be sure of one thing, the level of neutrality or lack thereof can result in far reaching implications for internet users.

LASER PREMIUM

Paramount skin clinic

What's happening in the aging face?



The visible signs of facial aging include not only surface irregularities, such as dyspigmentation, numerous fine

lines, but also coarser textural changes, such as sagging, drooping and wrinkling of the skin. Most people concern only how to rejuvenate skin. However, six layers of the face: outer skin layer or epidermis, inner skin layer or dermis, fat, SMAS, muscles and bone have been totally affected. As a result, the keys to approach and reverse facial aging must be universally addressed layer by layer and choose the right targeted devices and procedural dermatology to correct the defect layers.

Outer skin layer or epidermis

Epidermis is the most outer part of the skin composing cell layers that are responsible for skin texture,

moisture and skin color. Thinning of the skin, dyspigmentation such as sun spots, age spots and melasma, skin dullness as well as roughness are the aesthetic complaints from epidermal aging.

Our modalities – CO2 laser, Medlite C6 laser, IPL, soft peeling, deep facial cleansing, whitening treatment, mesotherapy



Medlite C6 laser is the US FDA graded laser targeting melanin pigment chromophore for spot removal, improving skin tone, and brightening skin color. Patients will not have any

downtime after Medlite laser treatment. Intense pulse light or IPL is a non-laser light source employing multiple wavelengths for different purposes. Facial rejuvenation, vascular rosacea and red spot including acne are the common indications can be treated with IPL.

Inner skin layer or dermis

Dermis lies between the epidermis and subcutaneous with collagen, elastin,

nerves, vessels and glands. It plays an important role for skin thickness and cosmetic appearance of the skin. As a result of collagen and elastin reduction, sagging jowl, larger pore, increasing fine lines, static lines, deep folds and more prominent acne scars occur. Various measures such as dermal filler, laser, and other light sources



Our options – ST reframe, e-Matrix, Ulthera, Thermage, Med lite C6 laser, botox, dermal filler, IPL, thread lifting. e-Matrix is the latest resurfacing device producing unique pyramidal column of fractional



RF energy Smoothen skin, soften lines, pore reduction, acne scar removal, skin tightening,

and collagen production, improving discoloration are all the benefits of the treatment.

Fat

Fat is the layer below dermis. The aging face generally shows fat reduction. Losing volume of fat pockets resulting eye hollow deep nasolabial folds, and loss of jaw line including neck definition is also the consequent of fat atrophy. Autologous fat augmentation and filler injection are methods to replace the volume loss. However, submental fat pocket enlarged creating double chin is the reverse scenario which needs the different approach.

Our recommendation – filler injection for fat loss/fat dissolve for fat excess, bio-cone lifting

SMAS (superficial musculoaponeurotic system)

Superficial musculoaponeurotic system or SMAS is a particular layer consisting of collagen and elastic fiber meshwork above the muscles. From the morphology of cadavers, not every muscle has this layer. However, when we are ages, this unique layer is composed of variable decreasing in strength and elasticity causing drooping skin and eyes. Therefore, SMAS layer plays a major role for surgeons to manipulate during surgical face and neck lifting. Nowadays non-surgical devices try to target SMAS in order to recover skin aging more effectively rather than focusing on treating and rejuvenating skin alone.

Our recommendation – Ulthera (focused Ulthera and e-Matrix)

Non-invasive focused ultrasound (ulthera) is currently the only device that US FDA approved for facial lifting. Combining



ulthera with subablative skin resurfacing (e-Matrix) can produce significant collagen synthesis and can delay the use of more invasive surgical techniques which may associate with longer downtime, side effects and complications.

Muscle

Dynamic wrinkles or wrinkles in motion such as smile lines, frown lines, bunny lines, and forehead line are the consequence of facial aging related to the muscles. Prominent masseter muscle from both aging and inherited structure can create the square face appearance.



Our recommendation – botox injection

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This document is provided by Dr. Panadda Aswanetmanee, skin and laser surgery specialist at Laser Premium Clinic (only for our staffs.)

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Real food for real pleasure

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE'S something friendly and approachable about Italian cuisine. It's simple, down to earth and tasty as hell. But when an invitation for a dinner prepared by Chef Riccardo de Pra landed on my desk, I wasn't sure if this was what I was going to get. He might be Italian but his restaurant Dolada in Veneto, Italy did get a star from Michelin – should I expect microscopic portions, molecular cuisine, liquid nitrogen cooked meat, flavor filled foams and dishes that look like anything but food? Indeed, I was both worried and excited.

As it turned out, my worry was completely unnecessary – what landed on my plate in JW Marriott's freshly refurbished Cucina restaurant was a celebration of the traditional Italian approach to cooking, albeit with a nice local touch. It all started with raw seafood marinated to perfection and served with simple, yet perfect, sides dishes – tomato with olive oil and potatoes with herbs. Nothing to overwhelm the natural taste of the fresh fish, shrimp and crab.

What came next was home-made to the bone – home-made pasta, home-made seafood sauce, rustic home-made flavors all the way. Not that surprising coming from a chef who hired his own mother as the sommelier in his restaurant.

Right before the surprising breaker in the

meal landed on the table – a scoop of tart Limoncello sorbet meant to clear the pallet before the next dish – I had a chance to chat with the chef. When I asked about that day's menu and if it was difficult to find all the ingredients here in Phuket, he burst out laughing and ensured me that Phuket is the perfect place to cook in – with an abundance of great local produce and redaily available ingredients from far, far away. The tough part wasn't sourcing the ingredients. Rather it was keeping the meal personal, the way he likes to: "I like to know what guests like, I watch them at their tables and adjust the dishes to their taste."

Something that's fairly easy at his family run restaurant, with returning guests, becomes a challenge in a room full of strangers. Yet, Chef de Pra comes out on top – back at my table the lamb chops covered with Tuscan bread crumbs prove he not only knows his food, but also people. My serving is just the way I like it – both savory and crunchy, refined, yet familiar and simple.

The meal concludes with a tiny bit of a presentation stunt – serving a cheesecake in a glass is surely not the traditional way to do it. But the homemade flavors are there again – succulent mango, mushy Mascarpone, crumbed shortbread – it all melts in my mouth.

I admit – molecular cuisine, food reaching the levels of art, *avant-garde* presentation – it's all fun and exciting. But the real food tastes just as well, and sometimes, even better.



Chef Riccardo de Pra is surrounded by a friendly aura of a man who loves his job.



Marinated seafood – it's all about high quality ingredients, perfectly simple, simply perfect.



Wine Director Georges Ciret (left) with guest chef Pers Hallundbaek.



Baked sea bass on cauliflower with mussel cream sauce and tarragon oil.

Danish chef delivers all the delectables

WITH a reputation that precedes them as being one of the finest dining establishments on the island, Mom Tri's have nearly outdone themselves this time.

Last Saturday, January 25, Mom Tri's Villa Royale showcased a six-course set menu by Danish Chef Per Hallundbaek. After vacationing in Phuket every year since 2000, Chef Hallundbaek finally gave in to the urge to tease us with a taste of flavors from his restaurant in Denmark, Falsled Kro.

Mom Tri's marketing manager says they only host about three guest chef dinners a year, limited to 40 reservations which always fill quickly.

To complete the package, Mom Tri's own in-house Wine Director Georges Ciret carefully selected a different wine from the restaurant's 750 labels selection to accompany each course.

The first course was beef tartare with horseradish sauce topped with caviar. The smooth texture and umami taste of the beef was

well-balanced with the surprising cucumber-crispness of the mild horseradish sauce.

Following the beef, Chef Hallundbaek turned to the sea with oysters served on spring onions, deep-fried pig's trotter, parsley puree and apple vinaigrette washed

baked sea bass with mussel cream, cauliflower and tarragon oil hitting the taste buds, it was apparent we had reached the zenith of flavor for the evening. The cauliflower's mild nuttiness intertwined with the creamy mussel sauce was culinary chemistry at its finest.

One could imagine the chef back in the kitchen peering through a microscope arranging the flavor particles one by one into perfection.

The crispy chicken egg (think breaded and deep fried over-medium egg) on cabbage with morel sauce and foie gras stuffed quail cutlet were nothing to scoff at either. And

of course, no meal of such grandeur would be complete without the sweets – a luscious chocolate mousse with berries and Danish quince in this case paired with a French Muscat.

Truly fit for a king, the dinner cements Mom Tri's ongoing culinary reputation as a haven where the discerning diner can indulge in the finest of delicacies.

– Jeremie Schatz



A meal of this caliber deserves dessert.

down with an Australian, dry sparkling wine.

The next two courses kept the sea theme going with a ruby-red, raw tuna filet with mushrooms variation. The flavors were elemental with the heady, earthy mushrooms playing off the salt water tuna. This paired with a 2010 New Zealand Riesling made for a perfect combination.

Upon the first morsel of the



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MAKES A HARD MAN HUMBLE: The latest protests in the Thai capital have attracted a lot of attention on the internet thanks in part to 'selfies' such as these posted on a popular Facebook page.

One night (and day) in Bkk

Phuket's Property Insider stumbles upon Thailand's 'Selfie Crisis'

By Bill Barnett

LAST week I walked through the streets of Bangkok with Jesus. As we all know, the original J-Man could walk on water, but Thailand's man of the moment, Suthep Tuangsuban was able to deftly part his way through the horde of followers along the city's posh Sukhumvit commercial district with what appeared to be divine skill.

How did I come face to face with the man leading the political movement to shut down Bangkok? Actually it all started when a dawn start and that ominous first flight out of Phuket. After arrival and a quick trip on the Airport Rail Link and BTS I was fading fast and needed caffeine. Spotting a nearby Starbucks right on Ploenchit, it was time for a latte with an extra shot of espresso.

My mind slowly pulled out of the fog as crowds started to line the streets outside, first the megaphones squelched out and then those whistles started

blowing. I calmly decided on a second cup just to dust out any remaining cobwebs.

Once my mission was completed, all hell was breaking loose nearby so I opted to head out front and have a look. There, just in front of me, with two majestic giant red, white and blue Thai flags waving in the cool breeze was Suthep.

The crowd was roaring, smartphones were everywhere with cameras aimed in all directions and out there on the street giving high five's, raising his fist in defiance and taking selfies with his fans was clearly a man on a mission. I took some time and wandered down the street for a time with the demonstrators just taking it all in before realizing I was half an hour late for an appointment.

For those who have not been to Bangkok during the current crisis and have only captured the moment from social media and the news media, it's hard to relate to the scene on the sois as it were. I can recall walking

through the same areas in 2010 during the red shirt movement and a number of things have changed.

First is the merchandising. There is every manner of stall with branded slogans, national colors and everything imaginable including Angry Bird's wearing red, club striped headbands donning t-shirts and Hello Kitty Bangkok Shut Down whistles.

Most of the key areas such as the Ratchaprasong intersection by CentralWorld and Asoke are fairly vacant during the daytime but as night comes, the street scene comes to life – food stalls, foot massages chairs, live music blasting from random stages and camping tents for protesters. Though the latter are being clustered and either have larger tents or netting over them as concern over errant grenades or bombs landing on them is the subject of much discussion.

In a way it's a bit like Chatuchak Market on steroids.

I was able to talk to a few hotel General Managers in the

directly affected areas and occupancy has plunged down to 20-30 per cent and some cases lower. That given, hotels in the peripheral districts and budget and midscale properties are trading at reasonably higher levels.

For those travelling to Bangkok, the good news if there is any, is that public transport is functioning well. Taking the Airport Rail Link train to either Phayathai or Makkasan stations and then shifting onto the BTS skytrain or MRT is seamless. The secret is to take the City Line which runs more often and travelling light helps on the Suvarnabhumi marathon trek.

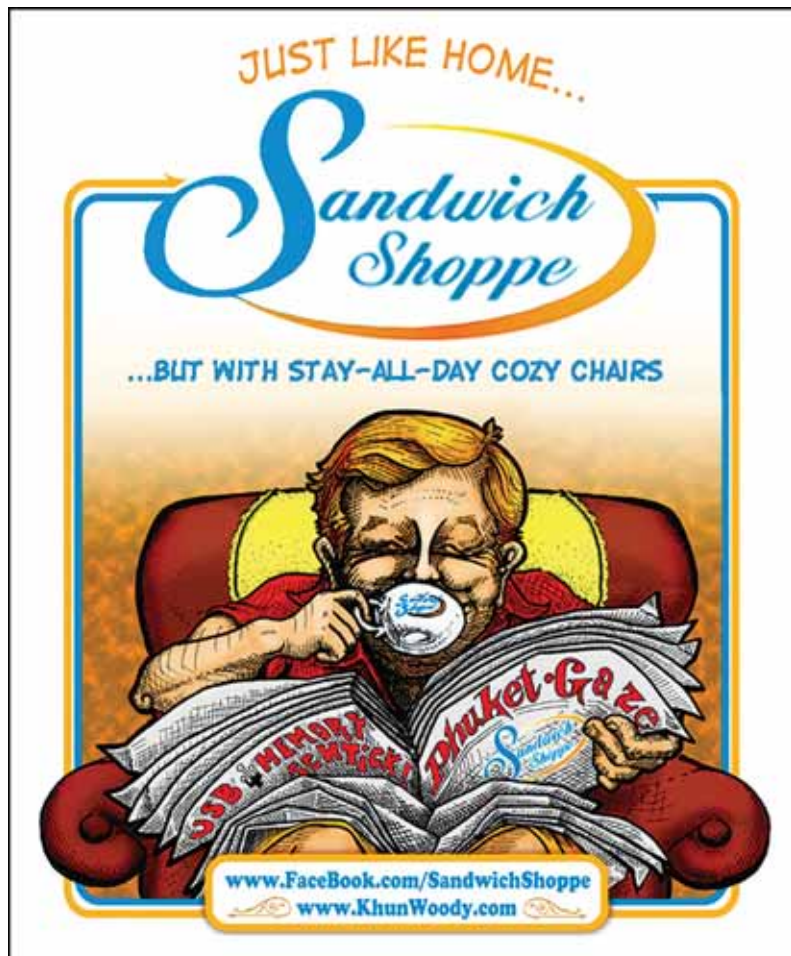
During the past few days, Bangkokian's are starting to return to their cars, and traffic is slowly getting worse though again you can get to a number of areas quite easily depending on the time of day. Though I had visions of empty shopping malls on my mind, quick stops at Emporium and Siam Paragon found crowded houses, and there are plenty of foreigners around.

Though one exception is the Erawan Shrine near the Grand Hyatt which stood in near silence when I walked by.

The mood in Bangkok has been tempered by a type of winter vortex cooling trend and at night temperatures are down to 18 degrees. Perhaps this is a good thing and chilling out the locals. What is clear is that the support of many Bangkok people I spoke to remains startlingly clear – they want change and are prepared to wait it out.

Though as we all know Thailand is not only Bangkok, and the views in the North, East, West and South are not necessarily on display in this microcosm, what is glaringly evident is that there is no end in sight to the present crisis. The great fog remains firmly settled over the city in what may come to be known as the "Selfie Crisis of 2014". Stay tuned and keep your smartphone nearby.

Bill Barnett is the Managing Director of C9Hotelorks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com



With crowds continuing to occupy the streets of Bangkok, a great fog settles over the city. Photo: Supplied



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Set a course for adventure

By Mark Knowles

WITH a crew of 26 university students, most who had never been aboard a yacht, the 112-foot schooner *Argo* sailed out of *Yacht Haven* Marina mid-last month, set on a course for adventure and education on the high seas. The Bangkok-built ship was launched in 2006 and was designed and commissioned to be the flagship for SeaMester, a unique maritime educational program for university students. Since her launch, *Argo* has circumnavigated the globe twice, and offered hundreds of SeaMester students the chance to cross oceans while furthering their educational and personal goals.

Her current voyage has so far taken her around Phang Nga Bay, Krabi, Koh Phi Phi and north through the Andaman Sea to the Similan islands, their next leg will take them on to the Maldives. On the way back, they will head up the Gulf of Thailand, stopping at Koh Samui and Koh Samet as well as Jomtien port before arriving in Bangkok in mid-April.

Along the way, the 26 students will learn seamanship skills, become certified PADI scuba divers and take classes in marine biology from the team of seven dedicated and professional crew members – not to mention the invaluable teamwork and life experience they will gain during their three months on-board.

Jim Stoll, one of the key figures behind SeaMester, has been deeply involved in teaching and sailing since the 1960s – turning the usually quiet summer season at his family's marina into a thriving summer sailing school for teenagers. In 1970, Jim expanded the concept, taking his school to the water full-time. Jim sailed the Atlantic waters aboard 156' *Te Vega* and 175' *Te Quest*, enrolling 86 teenagers every year in a high school program of study and travel.

Some twelve years later, with children of his own, Jim moved back ashore to develop motivational programs for young adults. In the mid-eighties he once again headed to the water, and in 1995, Jim was joined by Mike Meighan and Travis Yates. As a recent oceanography and marine biology graduate, Mike dreamed of creating a truly interactive educational experience. Using the principles of experiential education, Mike developed SeaMester in 1998 and acquired the 88-foot school ship, *S/Y Ocean Star*, in 1999 and later commissioned the *Argo*.

"We started teaching sailing and diving programs in the mid 60s and for all of the 70s we had two schooner yachts that took 86 students and 22 staff aboard for nine month voyages as a floating high school, operating mostly in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, although we made trips from the Amazon to Helsinki and all around the North Sea as well for 12 years," says Jim.

Jim is adamant that the sailing, scuba and marine biology skills are only the starting point of the SeaMester experience.

"Life skills are more important than seamanship skills at SeaMester. We are doing our job well when our students take on the full responsibility of operating the vessel over the 90 days that they are on board. "Seamanship is of course a natural part, yet working cooperatively and taking on responsibilities aboard are more important than the seamanship aspect. Personally, I like seeing them come together as a team and take on a variety of responsibilities. At the end of the program they are so bonded that many remain friends for life," says Jim.

The *Argo* also takes part in several Yachting events in Phuket, having competed in the King's Cup Regatta three times and she also regularly attends the Phuket



Students live aboard the *Argo* for up to three months and learn seamanship skills, scuba and marine biology.

Superyacht Rendezvous to give the crew as chance to relax after their long trip.

Blair Williamson was lucky enough to get a place as a student aboard *Argo* during her maiden voyage and was instantly hooked, she now works for SeaMester as a crew member and teacher.

"I joined SeaMester in hopes of getting to see remote islands of Thailand and Malaysia, to get some hands on sailing experience and do my PADI Divemaster course. What I got out of the experience was that and so much more," says Blair.

It was during this voyage that Blair became addicted to life at sea, and she remains ever-grateful for the life experiences and opportunities that the program provided her. In fact, she remembers the exact moment when she knew that sailing was what she wanted to do for a living.

"I was on bow watch, to make sure we didn't hit anything, and all of a sudden I noticed some different splashes and a slight glow off the bow. I looked down to see glowing darts in the water in every direction. Hundreds of baby dolphins had joined us and were swimming in every direction. Their movement in the water caused the bioluminescence to glow and created quite a light show for me. That moment was unbelievable and something I will never forget. It's moments like this that you realize how beautiful life at sea is and it hooked me for life," says Blair with relish.

Custom built as a training vessel, the *Argo* has no electric winches for raising the sails and everyone on board has to do their part and work in unison to get her moving and learn sailing the traditional way.



The *Argo* sailed in the Phuket King's Cup Regatta for the third time last year, crewed by students and children from local dinghy clubs. Photos: Supplied

"Sailing *Argo* is incredibly exhilarating. You have to work as a team to do everything. The boat was designed and built specifically to be a school training vessel, so *Argo* moves and operates because the students are making it happen. All responsibilities are shared equally across both students and staff members. Having the program designed this way creates such a sense of accomplishment for everyone on board," says Blair.

As part of the program, students take turns writing an online blog detailing their experiences. The latest batch of students have only been aboard for two weeks, but are clearly thrilled to be taking part, especially in the scuba diving: "Diving was great fun for all, we finally

got to test out our new skills in deep water and catch our first glimpse of the marine life that we will soon come to memorize and know by name. Everyone really enjoyed the dive, especially because it brought us one step closer to certification. The enthusiasm on board is contagious, everyone is so excited to be here and be experiencing this wonderful opportunity," wrote Caroline, who boarded the *Argo* just two weeks ago in Phuket, on the SeaMester blog.

If you want to read more blog posts from the SeaMester students as they continue their journey over the next two and a half months, or if you want to learn more about how you or your children can get involved in the program, visit: seamester.com



The *Argo* moored off Kata Beach for the Superyacht Rendezvous 2013.



The *Argo*'s latest complement of student-sailors came aboard at Phuket's Yacht Haven Marina to start their three month sailing adventure.

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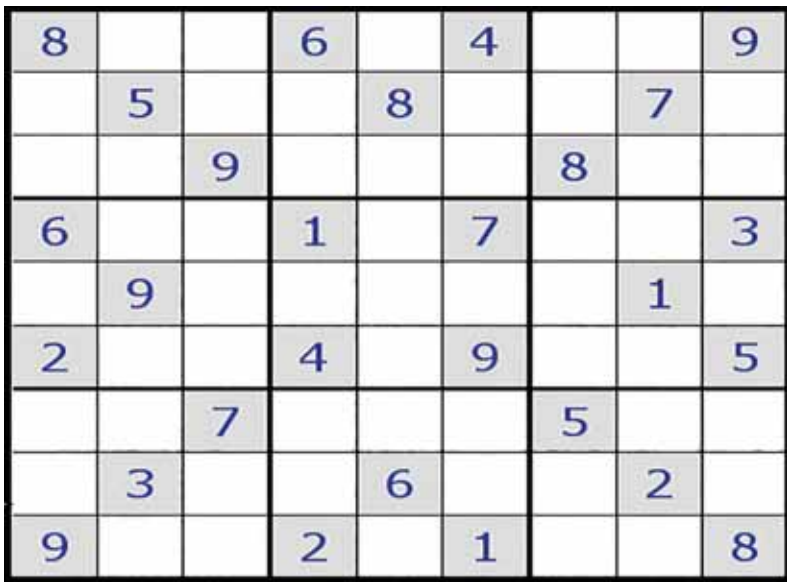
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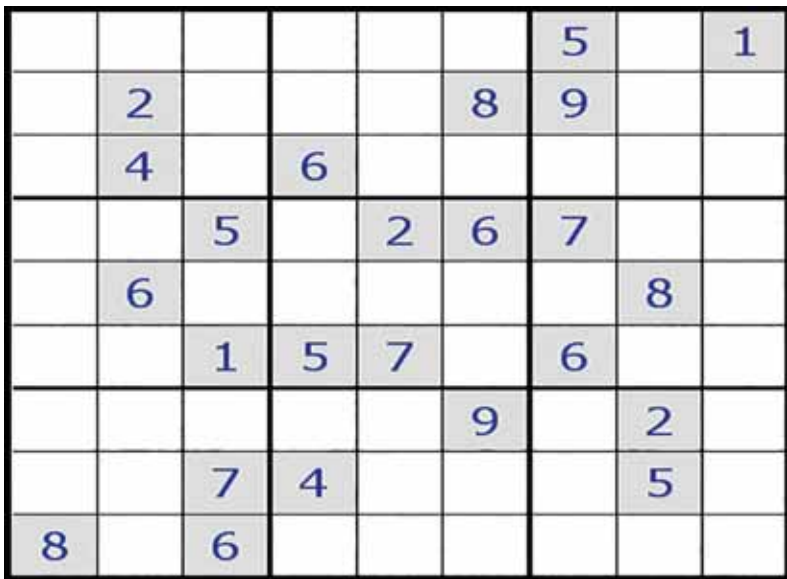
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



Your weekly pith:

"I don't have a lot of respect for talent. Talent is genetic. It's what you do with it that counts." – *Martin Ritt*

"Many people lose their tempers merely from seeing you keep yours." – *Frank Moore Colby*

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

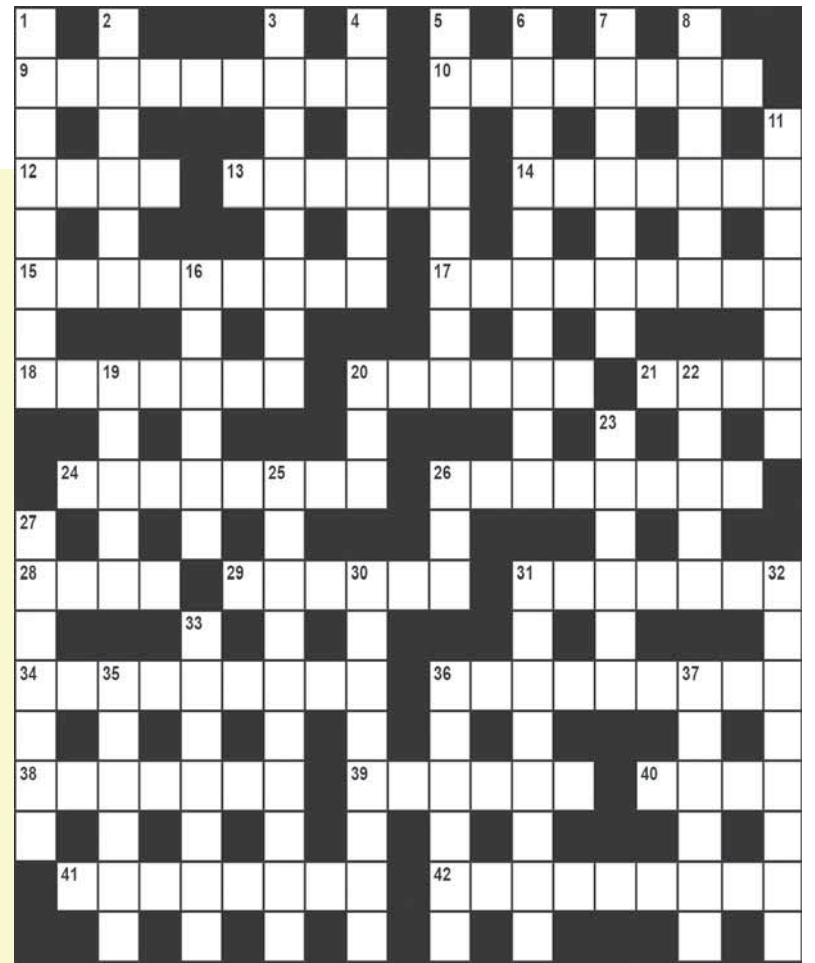
COFFEE break

Across

9. Exposed, moved dunce over (9)
10. Alleviate a pet, all I ordered (8)
12. Mate, move a side (4)
13. Drawn Northeastern note to-day in Thailand (6)
14. Report back about nothing, soldier (7)
15. Hardship seen, I send out (9)
17. Satan finds work for and led his wildness (4,5)
18. Present false treacherous creature (7)
20. Engaging in as Air Gunner in Wing (6)
21. Is French, the isolated piece of land (4)
24. The subject matter satisfies (8)
26. Valued cop I sure fixed! (8)
28. As to mixed cereal... (4)
29. States periods of practices (6)
31. N.Y. again moved to a Phuket beach! (7)
34. Priest and cur mixed up in revered work (9)
36. A terrestrial, the real thing perhaps (9)
38. Resigned to being a sick person (7)
39. District store maybe holds one hundred (6)
40. Caught the whole name (4)
41. True, so I' m maybe wet (8)
42. VIP ration makes for hardship! (9)

Down

1. Shut sign displayed for old election platform (8)



2. Slight injury in a tight spot (6)
3. S.E. target could be biggest (8)
4. Sad? No, I became a beautiful youth (6)
5. Going faster than allowed, signed off about Physical Education (8)
6. Left in, flute can maybe echo wind (10)
7. Boy' s name for a coarse grass (7)
8. Go inside to become involved in an argument (4,2)
11. Forces' printing machines (7)
16. Imagine I' d consume Egyptian! (6)
19. Settle for the night among the roots (5)
20. Previously saw upwards (3)

22. A cub' s arranged underwater gear (5)
23. Fish around in conclusion (6)
25. In a rut, must rearrange the plant (10)
26. Father' s dance step (3)
27. Grand, so turns up, drinks slowly and chatters (7)
30. Out East Sir, rage about the more disagreeably unctuous (8)
31. Cor! I can' t mix an opiate! (8)
32. Grenadier Guards left, going out staring (8)
33. Pacify with a very quiet relief (7)
35. Stormy rain to share (6)
36. Note, paces out to get away (6)
37. Compose a licit letter for emphasis (6)

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Aquarians who have been blowing hot and cold about a possible new work commitment should reach a definite conclusion as February starts. The stars suggest that your priorities will change, paving the way for more positive progress. Those with a birthday in the week ahead are likely to enjoy better relationships with family members during the coming year. Romance is hot on Sunday. Your lucky number this week is eight.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Returning to your roots is predicted for many Pisceans during the month of February. This is likely to be as a result of an invitation from a family member or close friend, and celebrations are highlighted. Those who are not keen to travel are advised to make the effort to do so as the trip will help put your life in better perspective. Number six stands out this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Having things your way is a challenge for those born under the sign of Aries during the first half of February. The stars advise you to be as flexible as bamboo, or risk more stress than you need in

your life. In the realm of romance, compromise is certainly the key to healing a troubled relationship with another fire sign. The number four can attract good luck this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

This is an auspicious week to say what's on your mind. Taureans who have been concerned about events in their world of work should spot the right opportunity to make their point. Personal relationships will also benefit from an injection of honesty. An air sign who you fell out with recently appears ready to reconcile this weekend. Love is auspicious on Tuesday and Wednesday. Number three is important this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Partnerships are predicted to be more successful during the month of February. Those Geminis who have been considering radical changes in their working lives should be able to finalize agreements and contracts to their satisfaction during the first half of this month. In the realm of romance, a water sign wants to get up close and personal, but your feelings may be confused. Your lucky number this week is one.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

You are forecast to do best under your own steam as February commences. Other people's influence is highlighted to cause confusion and Cancerians are advised to trust their instincts. Romance with an earth sign cannot be rushed, no matter how impatient you are to form a serious relationship. Those already committed could find out that their partner has been guarding a secret. Number five can be fortunate this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Finances are well starred for those born under the sign of Leo during February. More money in the bank can encourage you to consider different options for investment, with hints that creative endeavors will catch your interest. In the realm of romance, finding more common ground with an earth sign helps this relationship to flourish. Love with an air sign becomes complicated. Leos' lucky number this week is seven.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

A fresh lifestyle routine is highlighted as February commences, but the stars advise that Virgoans should set their own pace. An air sign who you are keen to impress may encourage you to do more than is wise. Good news is forecast on the job front; acknowledgment of your skills should result in a financial increase. Sizzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The number two is special this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Personal relationships fall under the astral spotlight and your social life blossoms between now and the middle of the month. The astral atmosphere helps Librans to be more open to different people and there are hints that this will lead to some worthwhile new connections and friendships. A twist of fate can bring you closer to a fire sign you have been admiring from a distance. Your lucky number this week is three.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Conflicts at work, particularly with air signs, can leave some frustrated Scorpions wondering if it's time to move on. However, the stars suggest that clearing the air will turn

out to have positive effects, even if you can't see them right now. This is an auspicious week for lost items to come to light as the cosmic climate promotes sharper mental powers. Number nine is predicted to shine this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Information can be misleading during the first week of February and Sagittarians should wait for confirmation from trusted sources before reacting. Making a wrong move now can result in a lot of wasted time later this month. In the realm of romance, it is important to sort your feelings out before taking a relationship with a water sign to the next level. The number one is forecast to be fortunate this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The stars indicate that Capricorns' creative energy will peak between now and the middle of February. Another earth sign has helpful hints to turn your ideas into money-spinning reality, but an air sign's input can lead you in the wrong direction. Romance with another earth sign takes a turn for the better when you learn more about what makes this person tick. Your lucky number this week is nine.

Australian Open: Frying pan dance

By Patrick Campbell

WHO could have predicted before the first Grand Slam of the tennis season that neither Serena Williams in the women's singles nor Rafa Nadal or Novak Djokovic in the men's singles would emerge as winners? Serena, the hottest favorite in memory (6 to 1 on with one bookmaker) crashed out early to a resurgent Ana Ivanovic. As the remaining top seeds, Victoria Azarenka, the defending champion, and Maria Sharapova swiftly followed, the way was left clear for fourth seed Li Na of China, who duly crushed 20th seed Slovenian Dominika Cibulkova in a one-sided final by 7-6, 6-0. After a nervy, error-strewn first set in which the pair made 30 unforced errors, Li's booming forehand "clicked" in the second set, where she raced to a 5-0 lead in twenty minutes. Game-set-match...as it so often

does, experience told. It was the 31-year-old Li's third final; the diminutive Slovenian's first.

At the presentations, the popular Li, in a typically entertaining speech offered "thanks to my agent for making me rich" and to her husband for being "a nice guy", adding "and you are so lucky." According to tennis pundit John Lloyd, Li Na "could win the French Open, her favorite tournament, and maybe "even knock Serena off the top spot." That, I suspect, depends on Serena's state of health.

A week of extreme temperatures had made the opening week something of a lottery. The thermometer registered 43 degrees for the first four days, the hottest for the event since 1908, prompting Azarenko to liken conditions to "dancing in a frying pan." Canadian Dancevic called it "inhumane" and several players suffered heat stroke.

Both in the "frying pan" and in the cooler conditions of the sec-

ond week, Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka was the unlikely star, first beating Novak Djokovic, many people's tip for the title, and then lifting the crown with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 demolition of Rafa Nadal. Admittedly Nadal played the last two and a half sets with an injured back, but even in the first set, when he was healthy, Wawrinka outplayed him with the best tennis of the entire tournament. Now elevated to three in the rankings, the Swiss has, under the tutelage of Swede Marcus Norman, become fitter and sharper. In victory, he observed modestly: "I never expected to win a Grand Slam. I never dreamt about that because I was not good enough to beat these guys." But Pete Sampras calls him "the real deal."

There were some intriguing sideshows. The tournament witnessed the growing emergence of a number of young, unheralded women players, including Eugenie



Photo: REUTERS/Brandon Malone

Li Na celebrates defeating Dominika Cibulkova in the women's singles final.

Boucher of Canada and Spain's Garbine Muguruza. And Roger Federer, arguably the greatest player of all time, showed, with a fresh serve and volley approach, that he can still compete with the best, beating fourth seed Andy

Murray before falling to his nemesis Nadal.

The form book has been turned on its head. Will the clay of Roland Garros deliver more eye-openers? Paris in the spring will be interesting.

Super Bowl: the hype that's killing the game

By Somchai Huasaikul

AS much as I love the National Football League (NFL), I am no fan of the two weeks of retarded media hype in the run up to the Super Bowl, or "Stupor Bowl" as I like to call it, given the ungodly time it is broadcast live here in Phuket (Monday, February 4, 6:25am).

Before I explain why, I should first mention that there are a few bars and pubs on the island I am aware of that will cover the game live. First is The Stoned Crab Pub on Soi Saiyuan in Rawai, site of the old Don's Mall. Also in Rawai is Kan and Lee's, near the Bamboo House. Up in Kamala, there is obviously some interest in gridiron "down under" as the Aussie Pub there will open its doors at 6am, serving egg and bacon rolls until 8am. I am sure there are other venues that will be showing it in other areas, but the venues mentioned above are the only ones I can confirm. There is a thread on this topic on the Phuket forum of ThaiVisa.com, so check there as game day approaches.

This year's Super Bowl will be broadcast by NBC, with Joe Buck and Troy Aikmen in the booth, which should be enough. But this year's event will feature not one, but two, annoying female sideline reporters: Pam Oliver and blonde bombshell Erin Andrews, perhaps best known as having been the victim of a peeping tom who posted naked pics of her on the Internet.

I can almost hear the outrage now: "Khun Somchai, or whatever your real name is, you are one sexist pig; what is wrong with female reporters covering the NFL?"

Well, for a start, if these networks had a real commitment to equality of the sexes, why don't they ever allow a woman to do play-by-play? The female sideline reporters seem to me like a throwback to the 1950s, and having not one, but two for the Super Bowl is just one of the many manifestations of overkill for the game, which for many people is the only NFL game they will watch all year. It is like Catholics who only go to church on Christmas and Easter: may you rot in Dante's Hell, I say.

I also hate the halftime show. What should be a period of in-depth Xs and Os analysis by experts gets hijacked for an over-the-top "halftime" show meant to appeal not to real NFL fans, but to the people mentioned above who only watch one game a year, many of them women. Other one-timers include the insufferable Brit who always ruins the atmosphere by always comparing gridiron to rugby and even saying it is a sissy's game because the players wear protective gear. How I would love to throw a set of pads on that guy and set him on the line of scrimmage nose to nose with future Hall of Fame nose tackle Vince Wilfork.

For what it is worth, this year's show will feature Bruno Mars, the guy who likes to dress up like a monkey and extol the virtues of laziness, along with a dude named Flea and his past-their-prime entourage that have the audacity to bill themselves as The Red Hot Chili Peppers. I would like to stuff a handful of our wonderful Thai prik kee noo down their collective throat for such outrageous posing.

By now, the reader may have

sensed that Somchai is a little "off". The truth is that I am still suffering from a major case of "cognitive dissonance" following Denver's trouncing of my beloved New England Patriots. I watched that game at my friend Mike's house, but the loss left me with a complete memory wipe and it is still too difficult to deal with. I can't even remember a single play. I just stumbled out of there, leaving behind my French press machine and whatever was left of a bottle of cheap whisky that I used to

make Irish coffee, my preferred choice of drink for sporting events that start at 3am.

Hopefully my state of mind will be better at dawn on Monday morning, when I will go to collect said items and watch the game with the impartiality of Solomon, hoping only for a close game and that the best team win. Go Pats (next season).

Email your questions and comments to: khabarpuket@gmail.com



Real NFL fans. Photo: Joe Parks

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Fine winds at Langkawi Regatta

By Bob Mott

THE 12th Langkawi Regatta can lay claim to be the windiest in the history of the event. Entries increased from last year by four, bringing the total to 44 entrants. Eight divisions vied for individual trophies during five fun-filled and challenging days of high winds on the water. Like clockwork, the wind chimed in each day on cue. The weather built day by day with conditions peaking on the last day at 28 knots.

A welcome return of The Bella Vista Resort and Westin Resort (formerly Sheraton) as party sponsors added to the enjoyment of the participants. The opening party and closing party along with final night's presentations were held at The Royal Langkawi Yacht Club in Kuah Harbour.

Race Day 1: Brisk around the buoys windward leewards in the bay. A slight chop and plenty of wind which built as the day progressed.

Race Day 2: An outside course in lighter winds and an unhelpful chop that gave the smaller boats a tough time.

Race Day 3: The "round the islands" race. With an optional early start for some divisions including Multihulls this year. One of the notable winners on the day was Nina, even with the clew ripped out of their mainsail and the need for one reef to be able to finish first in her division. Jelik took out line honours and improved on her performance on last year.

Race Day 4: Started with an "around

the buoys" race, then a first for Langkawi Regatta which was made possible by the constant winds, a "through the islands" run through two gates and then to a buoy west of Telaga harbor. A downwind spinnaker run start, then to a gate and a reaching run for a number of miles, followed by a reach back and then a final run to windward into Kuah Harbour and the finish. Just to make it more difficult, a freighter entered the harbor making it necessary for some competitors to tack early. It was an absolutely picture perfect day for sailing.

Race Day 5: The wind was up to 28 knots, blowing the tops off the waves and creating quite a swell. A number of breakages, retirements and did-not-starts were the order of the day. The hardy ones hung in there and got deserving wins and podium places. Some positions were there to be had, if the participants had realized how close some of the scores actually were. Opportunities were lost unfortunately in some cases. Well, there is always next year!

A Lagoon 400 entry in racing multihulls *Fleur D'Espice* owned by James Morris won the best crew award which was voted on by crews and skippers of all divisions. They doggedly hung in on most of the races to hold down 4th and last place spending longer on the courses than any other boat at the regatta. It was a top effort in patience and perseverance.

It was Wicky Sundran's first year as the head of organization, joined by Carolyn



Nina approaches a marking buoy during one of the hotly contested races at the Langkawi Regatta. Photo: Bob Mott

in the regatta office and an extensive team of volunteers along with RLYC staffers. PRO Race Officer Simon James did his usual juggling act dealing with the conditions, competitors, dragging start boat anchors and missing finishing marks. Frank Pong lent a hand by making his 100kg support boat anchor available for the police start boat. A lot of hard work

by all concerned produced an excellent on and off the water event.

The show ended in fireworks at RLYC accompanied by a Mexican style band, sombreros and all. The participants danced their way into the wee hours the following day.

Dates have already been fixed for the 13th regatta which will be held from January 12-17, 2015.



Thanyapura Tennis Open

THE Thanyapura Tennis Open 2014 will be held on February 8-9 on the world-class, covered, plexicushion tennis courts at the island's premier sporting facility. This event aims to emphasize Thanyapura's vision of encouraging people to live a healthy lifestyle and understand and participate in sports culture.

The event is a prime opportunity to encourage tennis senior players in Phuket, and other Southern provinces nearby, to compete in this great tennis tournament, to perform well and hone their skills, and most

importantly, it will help build a stronger relationship and strengthen the Southern tennis community as a whole.

The tournament will have only doubles matches, with two competitive groups. One is Open Group (advance-skilled players) which consists of Men's 25+, Men's 35+, Men's 45+ and Men's 55+, four age categories. The other is Leisure Group (intermediate-skilled players) which consists of men's and women's categories.

The entry fee is 1,200 baht for non-members and 1,000 baht for members. All entries will

receive tournament t-shirts.

The deadline of entry submission will be on Wednesday, February 5 and the draw will be made on the following day (Thursday, February 6) and will be announced on Thanyapura's website and facebook page. The information will also be sent directly to the players' personal email accounts.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, please contact our club services at 076 336 000 ext. 5055 and email to tslc@thanyapura.com

Thailand Youth Team sailed to Langkawi Regatta



Thailand Youth team members (not in order) BaiFearn Patteera Meeyousamsen, Garfield Ploypan Meeyousamsen, Nichapa Nay Waiwai, Akapot Kankeaw and Theerapong Tohkratoak. Photo: Bob Mott

THE Royal Langkawi Regatta was sponsored by the Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC) who provided the accommodation, food, charter boat, paid the entry fees and covered the travelling expenses of Thailand Youth Team. The boys travelled down aboard Faraway Yachting Charters' catamaran *Oasis*, compliments of the owner Bob Mott.

Team member Theerapong "New" Tohkratoak is from Phuket Sunshine Village and Akapot "Tik" Kankeaw used to stay there too but he is now living on his own in Phuket. They both are studying Tour-

ism at Phuket Technical College. Being part of the PYSC has given these boys great opportunities, not just in the world of sailing. They learn English and other life skills too, hopefully helping them secure a better future. Currently Tik is paid to help with teaching the younger Thai children at PYSC.

The Burapha University, Chonburi paid all the girls' travel expenses. Thammasak Meeyousamsen, who helps to coach Optimist beginners once a year in Ao Yon-PYSC, accompanied the girls.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Getting back to the top

By Maciek Klimowicz

I FIRST saw Alisa Kleybanova bouncing balls across the net during her morning tennis practice at Thanyapura. Not a hint of smile on her face, but 100 per cent focus, precision and power. Later, when she dips into Thanyapura's Olympic size pool with the members of the Dutch elite swim team who are preparing in the sport complex for the 2016 Olympics, she seems more relaxed, enjoying the beauty of the place and the company of the Dutch athletes.

When we finally get a chance to chat, she explains why she looks so serious on the court: "I don't think any professional player is relaxed on the court. Once you know how it feels to win and how much it takes to get there, you take it seriously." And winning is one thing Alisa knows a lot about – both in sport and in life. In 2011 she reached her career high – she was ranked as the world number 20 po-

sition in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) singles category, getting ready to reach the very top. Then the diagnosis came – blood cancer. What does a winner do?

Alisa says she never got depressed and all she had on her mind was to come back to the court and continue playing and winning: "I'm sure this focus helped me get through the disease. I was so focused on coming back that I didn't really realize how serious my condition was."

Now, having recovered from the disease, she's back on the court and fighting to get back to the top. And this time she thinks it might actually be easier. After all, the last time she was there, she was never actually 100% healthy, with the cancer lurking deep inside. Now she's fit and ready to fight for what is rightfully hers, "I don't want to be just the tennis player who overcame her disease. I want to be best at what I do, at playing tennis."



FOCUSED: Alisa Kleybanova training at Thanyapura before the upcoming PTT Pattaya Open 2013.

Checking your spirit

IN a previous tip I talked about choosing better options when it came to making a positive change in your life and daily activities. I also challenged you to try and pick the better options for yourself. How did you do? Did you



Swimming Tips
By Randy Simon

make better choices? Were you aware of times that you were making a choice? Did you think to yourself "I'll choose the better option next time"? Did you even try? If you did make better choices, then I commend you for having the discipline and desire to affect a positive change in your life... no matter how small. Every step you take toward making a better choice will lead you down a more fulfilling path to your goals. If not, then let's take a look at your "spirit".

In the Japanese language, there is a term called "Toukon". In a rough translation into English, Toukon means "fighting spirit". In many warrior cultures, Toukon is what separates the good from the greatest. The movie "300" and others glorify where an individual or small group had a seemingly unrelenting will to not flinch in the clutches of death, but to fight valiantly and with honor.

We have also seen it many times in competition: an athlete that steps up under seemingly insurmountable odds to make a play that brings victory to

the team. For many, that is the allure of watching the Olympics, seeing the athlete that no one gave any thought to, rising up to the challenge and winning gold. The raw drama of human emotion is there, for everyone to see. That will to win. That desire to never give up, no matter what. That (in competition) is Toukon.

When watching such sporting heroics, often everyone around the individual is surprised to realize that such a feat was possible from the individual, except for one group, that person's team mates, and coaches. Those people knew the potential for greatness existed because they saw it in that individual in the way they trained every day. People like Wayne Gretzky (ice hockey), Michael Jordan (basketball), and Tiger Woods (golf) have been credited as revolutionizing the way their respective sports are played because of the intensity they play the game with. Their willingness to accept failure as a stepping stone to greater achievements is what drives them to try harder. That is spirit!

Tip by Thanyapura Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon. To contact the coach send an email to aquatics@thanyapura.com.



RELAXED: A refreshing swim with the Dutch Swim Federation Elite team in Thanyapura's pool.

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Laguna outbats ICC

IN MATCH seven of the Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) cricket league, Laguna and Island Cricket Club (ICC), both undefeated, squared up against each other at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, January 26, 2014 – Australia Day and Indian Republic Day. This match resolved which team remained undefeated and, more importantly, who would have the ascendancy to the top of the table.

The JLL league has seen some tightly contested matches this season and this one was the closest yet, with Laguna posting 197-9 from their 35 overs and snatching a win in the final over by just one run as they bowled out a valiant ICC for 196.

Laguna won the toss and chose to bat first, hoping to put the runs on the board for ICC to chase down. After the loss of an early wicket, Manish Sadarangani (43) and Shoeib Mushtaq (29) consolidated to take Laguna through to 46-1 at the 12 over drinks break. They posted a valuable 69 run partnership until Mushtaq fell in the 17th over, followed shortly thereafter by Sadarangani. However, Sameer Khan (51) and Roly Cooper (19) then combined for another valuable partnership of 82 runs which featured some big hitting from Khan including three sixes out of the ground. This key partnership set the platform for a final assault in the last five overs by Laguna who were 167-4 at the end of the 30th over. ICC fought back well to contain Laguna, who could only manage to put on another 30 runs as they lost a flurry of wickets in the final phase of the innings, eventually ending on 197-9 after their 35 overs.

After the lunch break, ICC set about the



Close call - ICC batsman just makes his ground. Photos: Michael Way

run chase in a very positive manner, scoring at five runs per over until they lost opener Shah Ullah (9) with the score on 31. ICC were in a strong position heading into the 12 over drinks break until they lost 2 quick wickets in the 12th over to be 57-3. During the second 12 overs of the innings, ICC continued to accumulate runs to edge closer to the target with captain Anand Chand (78) partnering with Syed Hussain (24) and Surendar Kumar (13), until Laguna struck back, removing Kumar in the 24th over.

However, the key to victory was Chand, and Laguna finally achieved the break-through in the 29th over with ICC on 160-7. With 30 runs required from the last five overs, the match was in the balance. While scoring at a run, a ball was not beyond ICC, they only had three wickets in hand and were now reliant on Iqbal Malik (30) to guide his side home to victory.

However, Laguna again achieved a vital break-through when Pir Sami clean



Pareesh Borkar is bowled and ICC just fall short losing by one run.

bowled him with the score on 190 early in the 34th over. This brought Pareesh Borkar to the crease under enormous pressure, with only eight runs required from 10 balls – not an insurmountable task – but hard for a number 11 batsman. They edged closer in the final over with only two runs required from three balls, and it looked for all money that ICC would inflict defeat upon Laguna. However, Shoeib Mushtaq pushed a faster ball through to clean bowl Borkar and secure a thrilling victory.

This Sunday, February 2, is Family Day and will see the Village seeking to register their first win of the season when they take on Laguna. After the match, mums, dads and kids will have a chance to play a friendly game out in the middle with a soft ball. Play starts at 10am.

– Stuart Reading

To find out how to play or join the club visit www.phuketcricketgroup.com

Two years at the top



Photo: Supplied

HERO team won the number one spot.

A TEAM of young dancers from the Ban Bangneaw Municipal School in Phuket Town won the national finals of the "To Be Number One" Teen Dancersize Competition held in the events arena at The Mall Bangkok in Bangkok on January 26 and 27.

Competing in the Junior Division for students aged 6 to 9, the HERO team wowed the panel of celebrity judges with their precision, high-energy performance in front of a standing-room-only crowd to win the competition for the second year in a row.

The team, sponsored by the Phuket Provincial Health Office, won a cash prize of 30,000 baht, adding to the 20,000 baht they won in the South regional finals at Jungceylon in Patong on December 15.

The proceeds are used to pay for the considerable costs of costumes, props, transportation, hotel accommodations and future team development.

The competition is part of the "To Be Number One" campaign of Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya to keep kids away from the dangers of drugs.

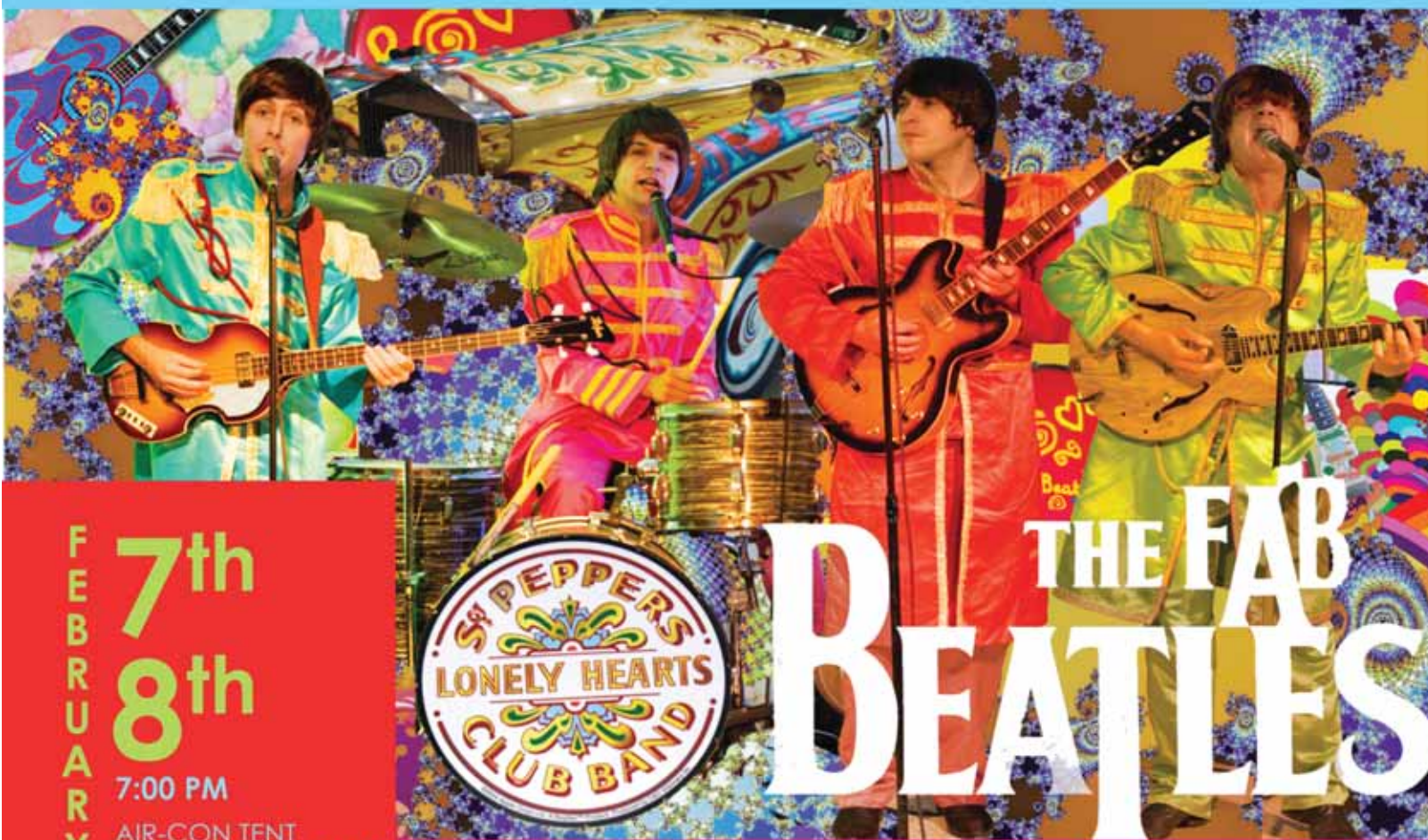
For complete results of all three divisions see here: tobenumber1.net/teen2014/teenchampion2014.asp

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Phuket FC bags the “Saksee Cup”

By Steven Layne

THE new-look Phuket FC “Ronins” continued their perfect form last week, winning their fourth pre-season match in a row on January 27, downing Thai division 2 upstarts, Nakhon Si Heritage 2-0 to win the inaugural Saksee Cup.

Played at the British International School Phuket in Koh Kaew, the latest win was sealed by two goals from Anusak Laosengthai, and followed their victory by the same scoreline an evening prior at Surakul Stadium against Singapore League contenders Brunei DPMM FC.

Having given most of their “A team” a rest in the Monday match, Phuket fielded many reserves and inexperienced players in the second half, in which Nakhon Si Heritage enjoyed more possession, though to no avail.

A few days prior, (January 25), Brunei DPMM had little trouble beating Nakhon Si Heritage 3-1, but Phuket FC proved to be on a different level from both of their opponents in their self-sponsored Cup, maintaining a clean sheet throughout.

Scoring for Phuket against Brunei on Sunday were two new Brazilian signings – forward Ney Fabiano and attacking midfielder Henrique “Eber” De Bessa – scoring back-to-back in rapid-fashion midway through the first half.

Playing in front of a low turnout of just over 1,000, Phuket

dominated attacking throughout.

Although possession was more evenly weighted in the second half, neither side was able to do anything to alter the scoreboard; and despite the “friendly” nature of the match, it seemed much more like an arch rivalry match, underlined by the number of aggressive challenges, “low blows”, ensuing scuffles and their respective bookings.

Brunei DPMM is the former club of Phuket’s towering Brazilian centerback, Tales dos Santos, who along with Fabiano and Eber, seemed to be having an emotional evening despite having the advantageous scoreline.

Nonetheless, Phuket FC Coach Stefano “Teco” Cugurra told the *Phuket Gazette* after the match that he has talked to his boys about controlling their tempers.

“As Brazilians, they can get very competitive, but especially when in league play, they’ve got to be sure to keep their cool. It’s hard to avoid yellow cards sometimes,



Rough play for a friendly match.

but we’ve got to avoid getting red cards.”

Meanwhile, Brunei’s coach

The Phuket FC Ronins reveling after defeating Nakhon Si Heritage and Brunei DPMM to win the Saksee Cup.

Steve Kean – a former Blackburn manager – said he was disappointed with the result.

“[They are] both really good teams, but I think we could have done better. It’s okay, though, we’ve only been training for about three weeks and got a lot of work ahead of us before the [Singapore] league start,” he said.

With the latest two wins, Phuket FC’s pre-season record is now 4 and 0, realized by nine goals and a continuing clean sheet.

Next up on the fixtures’ list will be Phuket’s ultimate preparation test, coming up this Saturday, February 1, against Thai Premier League power house, Chonburi FC.

Beating a club like Chonburi, who finished 3rd in the TPL last year, will be no easy feat, and it will be nothing short of impressive if Phuket can maintain their pre-season clean sheet, besides.

Kickoff at Surakul Stadium will be 6pm. Tickets are 100 baht

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Phuket’s Anusak Laosengthai takes a shot on goal.



Phuket’s Henrique “Eber” De Bessa scores the second goal against Brunei.

Tips for safe sea swims

THE ocean is a mystical place. Many are attracted to this element and others are intimidated by the uncertainty of its depth.

For triathletes, getting familiar with the sea is a must as most triathlon events in Southeast Asia have an ocean swim.

If you are a novice and do not feel comfortable, it’s recommended that you get used to the sea swim step-by-step (or stroke-by-stroke!).

- First, do your homework in the pool.

- Learn proper technique and build a solid base including backstroke and breaststroke.

- Learn to lift your head for sighting occasionally to stay on course.

- Get used to swimming with others. Being able to swim in a group improves your confidence and can be helpful in open water.

- Pick a calm day for your first swim in the ocean.

- Make safety a priority.

- A kayaker or the company of an experienced swimmer is always a good idea.

- Avoid beaches with jet skis and too many boats.

- Beware of jellyfish! A rash guard or a tri suit adds protection, but not 100 per cent. Have some vinegar nearby to treat stings.

- Wear a colored swim cap to be visible to others.

- Stay within 200m of the coast to start.

- Avoid getting sunburned by using sunscreen.

Thanyapura offers open water swim sessions every Wednesday at 7am in front of XANA Beach Club on Bang Tao Beach. We usually swim on a 400m square course with rope lines and buoys to make it a safe experience. All levels are welcome to join!

By Thanyapura’s Triathlon Senior Head Coach, Jurgen Zack
Email: triathlon@thanyapura.com



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