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Alleged scammer nailed trying to buy freedom

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■ 'I WOULD LIKE THIS MESS CLEANED UP AS FAST AS POSSIBLE'

Black water

■ Governor assures all that Karon Beach water safe and clean

By **Saran Mitrarat**

GOVERNOR Maitri Inthusut washed his hands on Tuesday in Karon Beach canal water, which had run black and rancid on Monday.

"The water itself is clear," Governor Maitri said. "The black color is just sediment that had gotten stirred up. I want everyone to know that the water is clean and won't harm you."

Just a day earlier, locals, tourists and officials were stunned by the condition of the water flowing from Nong Han Canal across Karon Beach and into the ocean.

"I went to see it myself after receiving a report from local people. It was absolutely shocking, the sea was black and there was a horrible smell," Village Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew said on Monday.

Kamnan Winai admitted that he had seen black water trickling from the canal into the ocean before, but had never seen it pouring out in such volume.

Karon Beach made headlines around the world three years ago when a German TV crew from a major channel found severely polluted water with high counts of coliform bacteria from human feces.

On Tuesday, Regional Environmental Office 15 Phuket conducted pH tests and took water samples back to their lab for further testing.

The rancid water had flowed to the sea,



The water ran black on Monday, leaving behind a dark-green residue visible to the governor on Tuesday.

Kamnan Winai said, because a nearby hotel under construction had released dirty water into the canal.

The water stirred up sediment, overflowed sections of the canal and carried the organic matter downstream.

Governor Maitri ordered Karon Municipality to remove the unsightly dark green and black stains on the sand by dredging the canal.

"The dredging is a short term solution," the governor said.

Karon Municipality's wastewater treatment system is unable to deal with the volume produced during high season, Gov Maitri admitted.

"They can treat 6,000 cubic meters of wastewater a day, but in the high season they need..."

Continued on Page 4

Handicapped woman given leg to stand on

AN AUSTRALIAN man who has been visiting the island for years has helped a woman with no hands and only one leg who sells cigarettes and gum on Soi Bangla in Patong.

Through his efforts the woman will be able to procure a new prosthetic leg, which she said was more important to her than hands.

Full story on Page 6

MV Blue Star tour leader's daunting tale

THE tour leader from the MV *Blue Star* liveboard dive boat, which went up in flames about 100 nautical miles from shore in Myanmar waters, set the record straight and revealed the details of the level-headed crew's battle to ensure the safety of all 33 people on board.

Full story on Page 9

Crepe vendor given a chance after cart fire

THE mini-crepe vendor whose livelihood went up in flames before his eyes last week dodged the slippery slope of borrowing cash for a new cart from a loan shark when he received a charitable gift from a New Zealander.

Full story on Page 7

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This Week



Property

New Patong condo Ace Xclusive holds all the cards. **Page 13**



Business

Get ready, Hooters opens on the island in October. **Page 17**



Explore

Journey to Penang on Star Cruises' Superstar Libra. **Page 40**



Environment

90 juvenile turtles were released into the sea at Laguna. **Page 42**



In Focus

A Japanese Aikido master visits Phuket to share his skills. **Page 43**



Sport

Phuket FC victorious in season opener against Pattaya FC. **Page 51**

Saturday



35 - 23

Sunday



35 - 23

Monday



35 - 23

Tuesday



35 - 23

Wednesday



35 - 24

Thursday



35 - 24

Passengers survive speedboat collision

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ALL 37 tourists made it to shore after two speedboats collided at sea about 1 kilometer from Ao Nang on February 23.

Krabi City Police were informed of the incident at 3:30pm and immediately contacted the Krabi Marine Office to scramble a rescue team.

Six were injured when the *Chainartnumchork 8*, owned by Barracudas Tour, and the *The Pimmasa 5*, owned by Centara Grand Beach Resort and Villas Krabi, crashed off the coast of Krabi.

Jorsen Anderson, 27, and his 4-year-old son, Anton, were seriously injured in the accident and taken to Krabi Hospital, Sophon Kongthong of the Krabi City Police said.

They were later transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket, where a staffer reported that Mr Anderson was suffering from chest pain and his son had a broken leg.

"*Chainartnumchork 8* was going too fast and rammed us," Captain Anan Khaothong of *The Pimmasa 5* told the *Gazette*.

Witness' reports given to police support Mr Anan's state-



Chainartnumchork 8 managed to make it back to shore despite the crash.

ment, said Lt Sophon.

"Water started pouring into the boat and as it was sinking, tourists jumped into the sea," Mr Anan added.

Despite damage to the bow of the *Chainartnumchork 8*, it was

able to make it back to Ao Nang Beach.

The Krabi Marine Office is continuing its investigation into the accident.

Police have yet to charge anyone over the incident.

Expat falls to death from condo balcony



Oler Volkov, 27, was attempting to get from the fifth floor to the fourth.

A UKRAINIAN man died on February 23 after attempting to climb from a fifth-floor balcony of a Phuket Town condo to his home on the fourth floor.

Phuket City Police were notified of the incident by the building's security guard at 1:10am and rushed to the scene with Kusoldharm Rescue workers.

"We found the body of Oler Volkov, 27, on the ground outside Phanason Green Place Condo in Rassada with a broken neck, ankle and broken arms," Kraisorn Park-Aree of the Phuket City Police said.

Eyewitnesses informed police that Mr Volkov lived on the fourth floor with his Thai girlfriend. The couple allegedly went out on Feb 22 evening to drink with friends on the ground floor. When Mr

Volkov returned to the room, he found that his keys were locked inside, Lt Kraisorn explained.

"We checked CCTV footage, which showed Mr Volkov returning to the room at 1am. However, he was unable to open the door," Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong said.

"Mr Volkov accessed a room on the fifth floor to climb down to his balcony on the fourth floor. While he was climbing down, he lost control and fell to the ground," Col Sermphan said.

The body was found with a mobile phone and a knife, Lt Kraisorn added.

Mr Volkov's body was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Police are continuing to investigate the details of the incident.

Plane diverted after pilgrim's heart failure

AN AIRASIA plane made an emergency landing at Phuket International Airport on February 20 after a Malaysian man returning from a pilgrimage to Mecca suffered heart failure while in Thai airspace.

The crew of flight D7 171 from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur attempted to resuscitate Ridzwan Bin Jamaludin, 64, while still in the air, explained Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kriwuttianant.

"The captain contacted Phuket Aeronautical Radio for permission to stage an emergency landing and to have an ambulance pick Mr Jamaludin up," Lt Col Amnuay said.

"The Thalang Hospital medical team worked for an hour to save him, but his heart wasn't responding."

Mr Jamaludin was pronounced dead at 9:58pm.

"Two of Mr Jamaludin's relatives were at the hospital crying over the body when we arrived," Lt Col Amnuay said.

"Razli Bin Rafie and Saziah Binti Rafie explained that they were returning from Saudi Arabia after having participated in Umrah."

Umrah is a pilgrimage of faith to Mecca that can be undertaken at anytime of the year.

— Saran Mittrarat

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Yacht-staff trainer Julie Humbert dies in car crash

FRENCH national Julie Humbert, 31, was killed in a car accident on Thepkrasattri Road before dawn on February 20.

Police were called to the scene, on the southbound side of the road opposite the entrance to Bang Kanun Forest, at 5am.

Police found a slightly injured woman, Pattara Dibukgram, 44, about 50 meters from a flipped car.

"I was riding my motorbike to Laguna for work," Ms Pattara said. "Suddenly, I was hit from behind by the car."

Police found the body of Ms Humbert in-

side, but were unable to identify her at the time.

"We searched the car, but there were no documents to identify her," said Chatree Chuwichian of the Thalang Police.

Ms Humbert's body wasn't identified until the next morning at Thalang Hospital by a co-worker who presented hospital staff with Ms Humbert's staff card.

"Later, the shop she rented her car from contacted us and provided her passport information," a hospital staffer said.

Ms Humbert had over ten years experience with luxury private/charter yachting,

according to her profile on LinkedIn.

"It is with great sadness the we hear about the death of Julie Humbert. Julie was a former employee of Galileo Yachting, she held the role of Stewardess Training Instructor. Staff and former students send their deepest sympathy to her family and friends. Rest in Peace Julie," Galileo Yachting wrote on their Facebook page.

— *Saran Mitrarat / Thawit Bilabdullar*



Julie Humbert.
Photo: Facebook



The woman worked in one of the bars in Patong. Photo: Gazette file

PPHO says bar girl did not have TB

THE woman found dead in her Patong room on Monday did not have tuberculosis (TB), say officials at the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), despite news reports alleging otherwise.

The discovery of Thitirat Pholai's body smeared with blood started rumors that the 33-year-old woman had suffered from TB.

However, the PPHO has no record of her name.

"By law, hospitals have to report TB patients to us," said PPHO Chief Kajohnsak Kaewjarus.

"Ms Thitirat's name is not in our records as a TB patient, and it is not in the Patong Hospital records either."

"Ms Thitirat had a heart condition and pulmonary hypertension. At an advanced stage, these could have caused her to cough up blood," he said.

Ms Thitirat was at work last Sunday night. The following evening, a friend came to pick her up. When she did not respond, the friend asked the landlord to open the door and her body was found.

"To confirm the cause of death, we need an autopsy, but that won't be done unless her family requests it. It can only be done in Bangkok, not in Phuket," Col Akanit said. — *Chutharat Plerin*

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Police arrested two French nationals for bribing an officer of the law on February 21, and a third suspect is still on the run.

Karin Radoun, 28, was also charged with ATM fraud and being in the country illegally. He and Karim Akrou, 36, denied all charges.

Police are still hunting for a third man, a French national identified only as "David".

On the evening of February 20, Mr Radoun and Mr David were captured on CCTV interacting for 11 minutes with a Siam Commercial Bank ATM at the entrance to the Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort in Patong.

During that time, the machine confiscated three of their cards after they failed to enter the correct pin number multiple times.

Officers patrolling the area were on the alert for ATM skimmers, and noticing that the men had been using the ATM for an unusually long time, decided to investigate.

"As our officers pulled up on a motorcycle, both the suspects fled by motorbike," said Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

Police radioed ahead, but within



Karin Radoun (left) called Karim Akrou to deliver a bribe to police, resulting in the arrests of both.

minutes the pair ditched the bike.

Mr Radoun jumped into a pond, where he was found shortly thereafter. Mr David escaped.

After telling police that Mr David was a Frenchman who had offered him 10,000 baht for a ride to the ATM machine, Mr Radoun offered the officers a bribe to let him go, Col Sutthichai said.

He allegedly offered 5,500 Euro

(about 245,000 baht) and a regular monthly pay-off of 150,000 baht.

Patong Police accepted — in preparation for a sting operation.

"Mr Radoun said he'd call a friend, Mr Akrou, to bring us the money," Col Sutthichai said.

Patong police arranged for a French national to meet Mr Akrou at McDonald's in Jungceylon. Once the money was handed over, offic-

ers moved in to arrest Mr Akrou.

Although Mr Akrou told police he had brought the money not as a bribe, but to post bail for Mr Radoun, he was charged with attempting to bribe an officer of the law.

Officers discovered a number of ATM cards when they searched his bag, but have not yet charged him with a crime in connection with the cards.

Driver charged with killing Finnish man



Mr Straka was hit crossing the road from Tesco Lotus. Image: Google Maps

KAMALA Police are withholding the name of the driver charged for hitting and killing a Finnish national on Saturday.

Robin Straka, 25, was rushed to Patong Hospital after the accident with severe head injuries and was later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

However, doctors were unable to save him.

"Mr Straka had crossed the Kalim-Kamala Road to use the ATM at a Tesco Lotus at about 1am. On his return, he suddenly stopped walking, and seemed to be thinking about something," Prasert Thongprom of the Kamala Police told the *Gazette*.

"We have charged the driver with reckless driving causing death."

— *Saran Mitrarat*

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Jungle fire rages hot through Toh Sae Hill



A firefighter looks on as the fire burns down jungle on Toh Sae Hill.

FLAMES engulfed the dense jungle on Toh Sae Hill last Friday night after a dry tree caught on fire, most likely from a discarded cigarette, said a Phuket firefighter.

Phuket City Municipality Firefighter Chief Pairat Sulin was notified of the fire by residents and led his brigade to the scene near the Khao Toh Sae Viewpoint at about 11pm on February 21.

"The trees are more susceptible to fire during the dry season," Mr Pairat explained.

It took about three hours for the firefighters to subdue the blaze.

"We were able to control the area near the viewpoint, but the dense

jungle made it difficult for us to move down the hill. We released water down the slope to reach the rest of the fire," said Mr Pairat.

"We stayed on site until morning to ensure that nothing else caught fire."

About two rai of jungle was destroyed in the incident.

"I believe the fire was caused by a cigarette dropped on the dry ground next to the trees," Mr Pairat said.

"I would like to warn Phuket residents and tourists visiting the viewpoint to be aware of potential fire hazards."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police drug crack down

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET police officers apprehended 62 people on drug charges last Friday as part of an anti-drug sweep in Phuket Town and Rassada ordered by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

In total, 180 officers took part in the late afternoon maneuver, which involved searching two houses and administering urine tests at four checkpoints.

Five teenagers – two girls and three boys – aged between 16 and 17 years old were apprehended smoking *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) at a house on Anuphas Phuketkarn Road in Phuket Town, where officers also found 30 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine).

Officers at checkpoints near Phuket Provincial Hospital, Sri Suthat Road, the Rassada Karn Keha Housing Estate intersection and Ruam Phun Phol Bridge administered drug tests to 702 people; 57 tested positive for drugs.

The sweep was carried out by officers drawn from the Phuket Territorial Defense Volunteers, the Department of Disaster Prevention



A total of 180 officers were used in the anti-drug sweep in Phuket Town and Rassada last week. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

and Mitigation-Phuket office, and plainclothes police from Phuket City Police Station.

Not all the suspects will face arrest. Those suspects who have no previous record of drug use

will be invited to join the Matrix Program, a voluntary drug treatment program, Governor Maitri said.

Those with previous drug offenses will be charged, he said.

Karon black water safe, says governor



Governor Maitri led an inspection of the black canal water running across the beach and into the ocean. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

From page 1

...to be able to treat 8,000 cubic meters daily."

It was not clarified how the surplus wastewater was currently managed.

Karon Municipality will apply for a 350-million-baht budget to boost their water treatment capacity in the fiscal year 2015, Gov Maitri said.

In the meantime, the project to dredge up the top six inches of

sand in the Nong Han Canal may take time to get started, said Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of Regional Environmental Office 15 Phuket.

"Karon Municipality will have to ask for a budget and then solicit bids. However, I advised them to try to get money from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and use prison-labor," Ms Pornsri said.

"It's up to them, but I'd like this cleaned up as fast as possible."



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Krabi resort demolished

Owner vows land bought legally, courts determine otherwise

By Sittichai Sikawat

THE owner of the Poda Island Resort is threatening to sue the Department of National Parks (DNP) for dismantling his facilities.

Chuan Pukaoluan, who has operated the resort for about 20 years, says that he bought the plots of land the resort was built on legitimately.

However, the courts determined that the structures were encroaching on a national park.

Natural Resources and Environment Ministry permanent secretary Chote Trachu on February 20 oversaw the demolition – with about 500 officials, volunteers and border patrol police on hand.

“This case has dragged on since 1985,” Mr Chote said.

On December 30, 2011, Mr Chote said the Supreme Court had ordered Mr Chuan, a former mayor of Muang Krabi Municipality, to vacate four land plots on the island.

“Those land plots belong to the DNP,” Mr Chote said.

Last year, the Krabi Provincial Court ordered Mr Chuan to demolish the buildings and other structures on those plots, but Mr Chuan refused to do so, Mr Chote said.

“He has tried to produce his land



The Poda Island Resort was operated by Chuan Pukaoluan for 20 years before its destruction. Photo: The Nation

right documents, but the Krabi Provincial Court has stood by its decision based on the final court ruling,” Mr Chote said.

Mr Chuan insisted that he had bought the land plots legitimately

from Marobe Chamnina in 1985 and had the documents to prove it.

“But then the Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park claimed that the documents

were illegitimately issued,” Mr Chuan said, adding that the documents had been officially approved.

“This is very unfair to me.”

– The Nation



Col Sutthichai warns against scams.

Police solicit help catching scam gangs

PHUKET Police asked for help last Friday to bring scam artists to justice, noting that there are at least three gangs on the island targeting ATM customers.

“People should be aware of possible scams happening here. According to our information, there are three operating groups of scammers, believed to be of French nationality,” said Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

“Do not trust anyone who talks to you while you are using an ATM.”

Scammers are likely to be wearing helmets and using several different bank cards at one ATM.

“If you have suspicions of a possible scam, please call 191,” said Col Sutthichai.

“We cannot do this alone. The more information we have, the faster we can arrest these criminals.” – Chutharat Plerin



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The group upset residents of Old Town when they didn't ask permission to take photos.

Bad manners lead to bust

TWO photographers, a makeup artist and an owner of a Phuket photography studio were caught working without work permits last Friday after their rude behavior was noticed by local residents.

Phuket Old Town residents filed a complaint to police against Love Island Wedding Studio Co Ltd, which had been using their homes as backdrops for pre-wedding photos without asking permission. "Locals said that people in the company shouted a lot and were not polite," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sanchai Chokhayaikij.

The company specialized in taking pre-wedding photos of Chinese couples at tourist sites around Phuket, Col Sanchai said.

Police raided the company, located on Maeluan Road in the Rang Hill area, at 11:45am.

Shi Liang, 29, an owner; Tian Zhuang, 21, and Peng Xianrong, 29, photographers; and Deng Lijuan, 26, a makeup artist, were all arrested and charged for working without a work permit.

"We were told that Ms Peng and Ms Deng had been working there for just two days," Col Sanchai said.

All the suspects face a fine of up to 100,000 baht, five years in jail, or both. They can also be deported within 30 days, Col Sanchai said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Giving her a leg to stand on

Aussie visitor sets Bangla vendor on path to a new prosthesis

By Saran Mitrarat

A PATONG cigarette vendor who was born with a deformed leg and no hands is on her way to getting a new prosthetic limb, thanks to an Australian visitor and an aluminum recycling project.

Wilaiwan "Wan" Damnu, 33, has been selling cigarettes and chewing gum on Bangla Road for 17 years. In 1999, she received a plaster leg, but it is now broken and uncomfortable.

Although she does not have hands, she does not want them.

"I'm fine the way I am, I just need legs," she told the *Gazette*.

"Legs are more important because they can take me where I want to go, but I don't know how to get one. My income is low, about 200 baht a day from selling cigarettes," said Ms Wan, who lives alone in a rented room in Patong.

Enter Derek Clarkson, a 75-year-old Australian who has been coming to Thailand for seven years.

"I come here mainly to ride a motorbike through this beautiful country," the former professional wrestler said. "I've travelled over most of the mainland, and I always find a week to visit Phuket before I go home. I've made a lot of friends in Patong and Karon."

About four or five years ago, Mr Clarkson first noticed Ms Wan.

"I saw her every night on Bangla Road selling cigarettes and gum. Despite her disability, which obviously makes getting around difficult, she has a positive attitude and a smile for everyone," he said.

"I was touched by her independence. She's not begging, she works – every night. I think she deserves to be helped. I tried to give her money, but she wouldn't take it. I had to buy something from her!"

Mr Clarkson found a way to get Ms Wan to accept his donations: he folded up his bills so she couldn't see how much he was paying her until he'd left the scene.

"I would like to help her have a better life. I've been saving money for nearly two years in order to pay for a new leg for her," said the retired owner of a sewing machine repair business.

A language divide left Mr Clarkson and Ms Wan unable to work out the details of getting a new prosthesis, so Mr Clarkson contacted the *Gazette* for help.

The answer lay not with a medical center, but with the Phuket Regional

Environment Office and their project which turns recycled aluminum into prostheses.

Pornsri Suthanarak, the director of the office, was eager to help.

"I have already contacted the Pollution Control Office in Bangkok. If she meets the physi-



'I was touched by her independence. She's not begging, she works – every night.'

— **Derek Clarkson**



Ms Wilaiwan got a prosthetic leg in 1999, but it broke after 10 years.

cal and economic criteria, we should be able to get her a new aluminum leg for free," she said.

"The Pollution Control Office in turn will contact the Prostheses Foundation of HRH The Princess Mother as we have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help people."

"The process could take time, up to three months, but I believe we'll be able to get her a new leg."

Mr Clarkson will return home at the end of February.

"I hope that the next time I come to Phuket I will see her with a new leg, walking normally," he said.

Taxi taking tourists to airport goes up in flames in Thalang



The car is pushed off the road after locals put out the flames.

A BLACK-PLATE taxi carrying two foreigners to Phuket International Airport burst into flames on Thepkasattri road at about 2pm last Friday.

It took villagers about 15 minutes and seven fire extinguishers to put out the fire, explained a Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker. No one was injured.

The car belong to illegal taxi driver Pakawat Kumpairun, 23.

"I was transferring two passen-

gers to the airport when the fire started under the hood. I didn't realize there was a problem until another car stopped at the red light at the Koh Kaew Intersection and pointed it out," he said.

"We all got out of the car, and the fire took off. Locals quickly came and helped control the fire."

The two passengers were taken to the airport by another taxi. Mr Pakawat said he paid the fare for them.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

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Back in crepe business

By Saran Mitrarat

A PHUKET vendor who saw his only source of livelihood – a mini-crepe cart – go up in smoke has received help from an unlikely source, a New Zealander who has been to the province only twice.

Prayoon Inpuang, 44, was preparing to sell mini-crepes in Phuket Town on February 13, when he smelt fuel and heard it leaking. Before he was able to control the leak, his stall burst into flames and was quickly incinerated.

“My first thought when I saw it burned up was: I have no future anymore,” Mr Prayoon said.

Mr Prayoon was in despair. There was no way for him to support his wife and two children, but his daughters, 14 and 16 years old, inspired him not to give up.

Meanwhile, Delyse Gibson, at home in Hamilton, New Zealand, had read Mr Prayoon’s story online and contacted the *Gazette*.

She offered to buy a new crepe stall for Mr Prayoon.

“I know the struggle of finding work and the difficulties of financial pressure,” the self-employed single mother said. “It made me feel extremely sad to hear that he had lost his livelihood and has a family to support,” she said.

When the *Gazette* called Mr Prayoon to tell him about Ms



Mr Prayoon and his partner stand in front of his brand new mini-crepe cart thanks to Ms Gibson.

Gibson’s offer, he wept.

“I can’t explain how touched I feel,” he said. “Even though we are from different countries, she is willing to help me. I want to thank her for paying attention to this poor and unimportant person.”

Ms Gibson explained that her motivation for helping Mr Prayoon also came from her special feelings for Phuket, having fallen in

love with the island on her first visit last year.

“The people are so lovely, the food amazing and the beaches great. Phuket, for me, is like coming home. It makes me really happy to be there,” she said.

The *Gazette* visited Mr Prayoon on Wednesday and he had already bought a new motorbike with a sidecar and was preparing to re-

sume work that afternoon.

“I have no words to express my appreciation, my heart is just full,” he said, eyes shining.

“I can’t speak English, but Ms Gibson is welcome to visit my shop anytime. I’ll make her the greatest *kanum tokyo* ever.”

Ms Gibson said that she plans to come to Phuket in April to claim her mini-crepe.

Protecting the sea from more illegal fishing

AN ILLEGAL fishing net found in a popular dive spot last week prompted officials to call on Phuket residents and tourists to help preserve ocean conservation areas by keeping an eye out for illegal fishing activities.

“If anyone observes illegal fishing activity in restricted areas, please let us know immediately,” Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 Chief Tanet Munnay urged.

Mr Tanet asked that anyone with photo evidence send it to his office.

“Pictures of the fishing in action and the boat names are extremely helpful,” he said.

“It is very difficult for us to catch illegal fishermen, as we have no way to keep from being seen as we approach them. We have to catch them in the act in order to make an arrest.”

“Do not worry about anyone complaining about damage to their nets. You can leave the nets at our office – I will support you if there are any complaints filed.”

“I am available anytime, so call me on my mobile if you encounter problems with fishermen fishing in restricted areas. My number is 081 636-8099.”

– Chutharat Plerin



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She was caught en route to Bangkok.

Maid makes off with over B100,000 in stolen loot

A MAID who had been working for two months at the home of a Phuket official stole more than 100,000 baht in cash and valuables last Saturday, but was quickly apprehended.

When Boonum Earjittrakul, a Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) council member, discovered that a gold bracelet valued at 104,250 baht and 10,000 baht in cash were missing from his house, he called the police.

"Once we established that his maid had disappeared, she became our prime suspect," said Somsak Thongkhang of the Phuket City Police.

Police quickly determined that Matthudda Lobsri, 33, had bought a bus ticket to Bangkok and was already on her way north.

"We contacted the bus and told it to stop at a Highway Police box near Bangkok. We found Ms Matthudda on board and arrested her at about 10pm on Saturday," Lt Col Somsak said.

The former maid was found in possession of the bracelet and 9,560 baht. She was brought back to Phuket to be charged with theft.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

New boat-stay regulations on hold while officials reconsider

THE law reducing the time limit of boat stays in Thailand to two months went on hold starting on February 21, and the old law will be applied in the interim, Phuket Customs Chief Nanthita Sririkub confirmed to the *Gazette*. As of last Wednesday, yachts entering Thailand will be permitted to stay for up to six months.

"I received official notification from the Director General of Customs that while the Customs Department is reconsidering the new regulation, we can apply the old stay rules," Ms Nanthita said.

One exception is the fine for overstaying. The old fine was 500 baht, but it is now 1,000

baht per day of overstay. The old overstay maximum was 5,000 baht; it is now 10,000 baht, Ms Nanthita said.

Extensions of stay may be requested for up to six months: the first four months by approval of the Phuket Customs chief, the final two months by approval of the Region 4 Customs office in Songkhla, which can be applied for using the E-Customs system.

The change to the two-month stay last December had the Phuket marine industry up in arms and brought cancellations of long-term berth bookings at local marinas.

— **Saran Mitrarat**



Old rules return for boat-stays. Photo: Gazette file

Tunnel payout doubled

Compensation for displaced residents raised to B2.56bn

By **Saran Mitrarat**

THE funds for compensating Phuket landowners who would be displaced by the construction of the Patong Tunnel have more than doubled, jumping from 1 billion baht to 2.56bn baht.

The Chief Inspector-General of the Ministry of Transport, Somchai Chanrod, made the announcement in Phuket last week.

It was not clarified whether the government had expanded the number of families to be compensated or increased the payments for those already on the compensation list.

At a transportation conference held at Phuket International Airport on February 18, Mr Somchai explained how the 9.57bn baht budget was to be allocated: 6.80bn for materials, 2.56bn for land expropriation and 200mn baht for salaries.

At the public hearing last year, Patong residents who opposed the project raised concerns about environmental issues and the loss of ancestral land.



The proposed tunnel would displace many families in the Patong area.

"Patong Municipality has studied only how and where to build the tunnel. They have not studied the effect on the environment and local residents," said Jamras Aiensaard, a resident of the Baan Mon community, which is located where the tunnel is planned to enter Patong.

At that time, residents had not

been told how much they would receive for their land, but some said that regardless of the price offered, they would not leave.

"Even if they give us the Patong price, we still wouldn't leave because this is our ancestors' land," said Thachapol Kamintong, who owns a four-rai rubber plantation on the hill through which the

tunnel will run.

Mr Somchai on Tuesday stressed that the tunnel was needed for safety.

"There are too many accidents on Patong Hill, caused by a variety of reasons: brake failure, the way the road was engineered and lack of experience of drivers," he said.

"The best way to solve the problem is to build a tunnel."

Mr Somchai said the study period for the Patong Tunnel project would end this year, and he anticipated that it would take another year to pass the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

"I expect we will consider the project for the 2017 budget," he said.

Mr Somchai said his only concern was the possibility of new construction and development in the proposed tunnel area.

"If there is new construction there, we may need to raise the compensation budget," he said.

He vowed to push the tunnel project through as quickly as he could.

Two-hour hunt for bag-snatching duo ends in confessions and arrests

PHUKET police quickly scooped up a pair of bag-snatch operators working in Patong late Monday night.

"We received a report at about 11:40pm from a witness saying that a female foreigner had her bag stolen in front of Patong Hospital while she was walking with a friend," Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police told the *Gazette* Tuesday morning.

From the witness's description, police were able to spot the two suspects.

"We followed them to Soi Cable on Phra Baramee Road, where the suspects ditched their motorbike and attempted to flee on foot," Lt Col Sutthichai said. "They left the stolen bag in the motorbike basket, so we were able to recover it."

After a two-hour hunt, police arrested Piyachai Chaiseeha, 20, and Thammanoon Prangthong,



The two 20-year-olds were charged with gang theft. Photo: Patong Police

also 20, and charged them with gang theft.

"Mr Piyachai and Mr Thammanoon confessed to having taken the bag, and to having committed snatch-thefts multiple times before this incident," Col Sutthichai said.

Police recovered more stolen items at the men's rental room.

"Anyone who thinks their items might be among those recovered should come to the Patong Police Station to identify them," Col Sutthichai said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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Smoke clears over Blue Star

AFTER being questioned for four days in Myanmar, the trip leader for dive boat *MV Blue Star*, which went up in flames on February 9 about 100 nautical miles from civilization, returned to Phuket to set the record straight.

The *Gazette's* Isaac Stone Simonelli reports.

The Finnish-owned liveaboard *Blue Star* departed Thap Lamu Pier on February 6 with 33 people on board: 21 guests, six Thai crew, five foreign staff and one Burmese guide. They were headed for one of the farthest-flung gems of the Andaman.

"Black Rock was going to be the highlight of the trip. Just two weeks ago, we had a whale shark, two eagle rays, manta rays and silver tip sharks all at the same dive site," said Chalong Sea Sports tour leader Darren King.

After finishing a four-dive day at Shark Cave on February 8, the captain started

for Black Rock at about 8pm.

"At about 1:15am, I heard a big bang below me. I'm guessing it was an electrical short circuit or something," Mr King said.

"After the bang, I heard someone screaming in Finnish."

"I put the batteries in the torch, and went out to the door. The corridor was full of smoke."

Responsible for the safety of everyone on board, Mr King's first task was to clear the decks.

Once the decks were cleared, nobody was allowed back in the cabins, he said.

Everyone gathered on the saloon deck as Mr King and his staff headed to the engine room in an attempt to put out the fire. Thai crew members battled the flames with water and fire extinguishers as Mr King's deputy tour leader, Arto Koivunen attempted to enter the room.

"We literally had to drag Arto

out of there because of the smoke. Nobody tried [to go in] after that," Mr King said. "It became quite clear, quite quickly, that there was no way to stop it."

Though the *Blue Star* had two safety rafts, the captain made radio contact with a Burmese fishing boat on the horizon and started making his way toward it.

Smoke began filling the rooms of the boat.

"There was smoke everywhere in the captain's cabin. Obviously, he had to drive the boat, but he could hardly breathe. We had the captain on a regulator, but then we had a

better idea: using the tank, we knocked out all the windows," Mr King said.

"Flames were starting to lick, but still nobody was panicking."

The boat,

cruising at about eight or nine knots, reached the fishing boat at about 2am.

"The only time we had a slight panic with the customers was when we got to the fishing boat. I think it was just the relief of knowing that they were going to be saved. A few people started shouting and screaming – I was like, 'People calm down, please. They know we're here.'"

There was no way to stop the engines without going into the engine room, Mr King explained.

"The Thai crew were brilliant. The captain put the boat on a full-starboard lock with a piece of string. So we were just going around and around the fishing boat."

Mr King and his staff began organizing teams to jump from the dive deck of the vessel.

'I don't want to say we were lucky because I hope it was 'pre-planned' luck by having an experienced crew and dive guides on the boat'

– Darren King, tour leader



The group was safely rescued by a fishing boat. The flames engulfed the dive boat (inset). Photos: Harald Brazel

"There was nothing crazy or erratic like people jumping off the saloon deck or sun deck."

The captain and Mr King were in the last group to jump at about 2:45am

About an hour and a half after the fire started in the engine room, everyone from the *Blue Star* was safely on the fishing boat.

The fishing boat lingered for about 45 minutes as the *Blue Star* burned.

"It went up as a bit of a bonfire, because we had a Nitrox system installed [during the low season]," Mr King explained.

"We finally left the burning boat at 3:30am. It was obvious there was going to be nothing left."

It was a 12-hour journey to Kawthaung, Myanmar.

Mr King had been the tour leader

for five years at Chalong Sea Sports, which had been operating in Phuket for 23 years.

Though the boat was insured, outside of Thai waters, it was not insured in Thailand. The company has since folded.

"There is no such things as [boat] insurance in Burma [Myanmar]," Mr King said.

"My bosses knew that, and we would even tell our customers that their lives were insured, but their belongings needed to be covered by their own travel insurance."

"It's just one of those things. You are taking a calculated gamble by taking a boat up there."

The rescued dive group was greeted by Myanmar officials when they landed. They were provided water, food and were quickly processed through immigration.

Mr King and two other members of his team were allowed to escort the group back to Thailand, but asked to return the next morning.

"Of course, as a man of my word, I went back at nine in the morning," Mr King said.

Mr King was asked to remain as a guest for four days and met with several ministers as the owners of Chalong Sea Sports disputed an environmental fee being levied by the Myanmar government for alleged damage done by the boat sinking, Mr King explained.

"They were really nice. I was allowed to walk around, I could stay at a hotel," Mr King said.

The *Blue Star* was the first dive boat to sink in Myanmar waters since the borders were opened and dive sites started to be established in 1997.

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Army Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha.
Photo: The Nation

Army stays on sideline

AFTER a weekend of deadly violence, Army Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha on Monday urged all parties to sit down and talk – to try to find a way to prevent the country from plunging into further drama.

In a rare television address on military-run Channel 5, Gen Prayuth reiterated that the army had no intention of playing an active role in forcing a solution to the ongoing political strife.

Gen Prayuth, reading from a prepared document, said it was the government that had the primary duty to stop people using violence.

The army is collecting evidence and investigating in order to bring the culprits to justice, he said.

Though not afraid to act, Gen Prayuth said that if the army did so it was worried “that there would be more casualties, as some groups do not understand.”

“I urge all demonstrators not to trespass or seize government offices or use weapons against officials in order to avoid officials having to respond in accordance with the constitution,” he said.

“Someone must be held responsible for [these] serious acts, but it doesn’t mean the military can use force to resolve the situation. The current conflict occurs at numerous levels and involves officers and many groups of civilians.”

“If [military] force is used to try to solve the problem ... laws and the constitution will have to be nullified.”

Meanwhile, National Human Rights Commissioner Niran Pitakwatchara said Thailand was on the brink of civil war and becoming a failed state.

Children killed in violence

THE father who lost his children in the grenade attack on February 23 says he is engulfed in pain, but feels no anger toward the attackers who were apparently targeting the anti-government rally site.

“I am suffering the deepest pain, but have decided to forgive,” Thayakorn Yos-ubol said tearfully.

His two children, Korawich, 4, and Patcharakorn, 6, were not among the demonstrators. They had been shopping with their aunt and cousin when they were hit by a grenade that landed in front of Big C shopping mall on Rajdamri Road on Sunday afternoon, reported *The Nation*.

“I can’t cope with what has happened. My children were so pure and innocent. I really don’t know how long it will take for this wound in my heart to heal,” the devastated father said.

Mr Thayakorn went on to say that he had a dream of his children growing up and becoming good members of society.

“But now my dream is dead,” he said, as he hugged his wife while they waited to pick up their children’s bodies. Both children were pronounced dead at Ramathibodhi Hospital – the place where they were born.

Another boy, 9, was still in the intensive care unit of the hospital as of Tuesday. He was unconscious and had brain and lung injuries as a result of the explosion.

The M79 grenade that landed near the anti-government rally at Ratchaprasong intersection, killing the two children and an adult, and injuring about 24 people, was fired



Thayakorn Yos-ubol mourns the death of his two children, who were killed by an M79 grenade. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

by an expert, said Pol Maj Gen Ronnakorn Suphasamut.

“The shooter is likely an expert in using M79 launchers judging from the accuracy of the round [landing inside the rally stage area],” Maj Gen Ronnakorn said.

The blast created a 5-by-2-centimeter crater and evidence found

at the scene showed it was a 40-mm round fired from a launcher.

Caretaker Labour Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung said that launching the M79 round had been done with “the intention of exploiting the violence”.

The attack occurred less than 24 hours after the deadly attack on an anti-government protest site in the eastern province of Trat on Saturday night, which killed a five-year-old girl and injured 35 others.

Mr Thayakorn said that he hoped all sides would learn from this and bring an end to the chaos.

He said his focus was on holding his children’s funeral rites.

Meanwhile, the lawyer representing the relatives of the two men killed in bloody clashes at the Phan Fah Lilat Bridge on February 18 lodged a complaint on Monday at the Criminal Court against caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra for her alleged role in the violent crackdown on protesters.

The lawsuit also named Mr Chalerm, National Police Chief Adul Saengsingkaew and Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Chief Tarit Pengdith.

UN condemns attacks, encourages ‘child-free’ zones

THE United Nations (UN) and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Monday condemned the political violence in Thailand, particularly attacks over the weekend that claimed the lives of three children, reported *The Nation*.

Areas within and around the protest barricades should become “child-free zones” to ensure there are no more children killed or injured in the political crisis, said Bijaya Rajbhandari, UNICEF’s representative in Thailand.

He urged the government and parents, as well as pro- and anti-government protest leaders to ensure children do not enter protest sites and are kept well away from areas where people are rallying.

Mr Rajbhandari said UNICEF “condemns

the violence that resulted in these tragic and senseless deaths and injuries to children. These incidents underscore the urgent need to keep children out of harm’s way in order to ensure their safety.”

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that he is ready to assist in any way he can to end the political violence in Thailand.

He called for an immediate end to escalating political violence and urged the authorities to bring those responsible to justice.

Mr Ban has called on all sides to respect human rights and the rule of law, prevent any new attacks and “engage in meaningful dialogue” to end the crisis and advance reforms.



UNICEF called on everyone to keep children away from the protest sites. Photo: The Nation

Court rejects DSI request for arrest warrants

THE Criminal Court on Monday rejected the Department for Special Investigation’s (DSI) request for arrest warrants against Phra Buddha Issara and 12 other protest leaders.

The court said that the situation was not urgent enough to warrant the arrests, reported *The Nation*.

The DSI is pushing for the detention of People’s Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) leaders, including Somkiat Pongpaiboon, Somsak Kosaisuk, Rawee Maschamadol, Chitpas Kridakorn, Sakoltee Phattiyakul, Sombat Thamrongthanyawong and Seree Wongmontha.

Citing last week’s Civil Court ruling – which allowed the emergency decree to be implemented, but limited the measures that can be employed against protesters – the Criminal Court

said that if any of the protest leaders were found to be violating the law, they could face legal action under criminal law.

The DSI has been seeking the arrest warrants on allegations that the 13 had violated the emergency decree.

As the *Gazette* went to print, the court planned to review its issuance of arrest warrants for PDRC chief Suthep Thaugsuban and 18 other leaders, under the state of emergency.

Centre for Maintaining Peace and Order (CMPO) chief Chalerm Yoobamrung said on Monday that he would appeal the Civil Court’s ruling.

Meanwhile, the CMPO would use the criminal law, he said.

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Philippines protests water cannon blast

AROUND THE region

By Manuel Mogato

THE Philippines protested strongly on Tuesday against China's use of a water cannon on Filipino fishermen in the disputed waters of the Scarborough Shoal warning that the incident would escalate tensions.

China's Charge d'Affaires in Manila, Sun Xiangyang, was summonsed on Tuesday to "strongly protest the efforts of China to prohibit Filipino fishermen from undertaking fishing activities in the Philippines' Bajo de Masinloc", said Raul Hernandez, the foreign ministry spokesman.

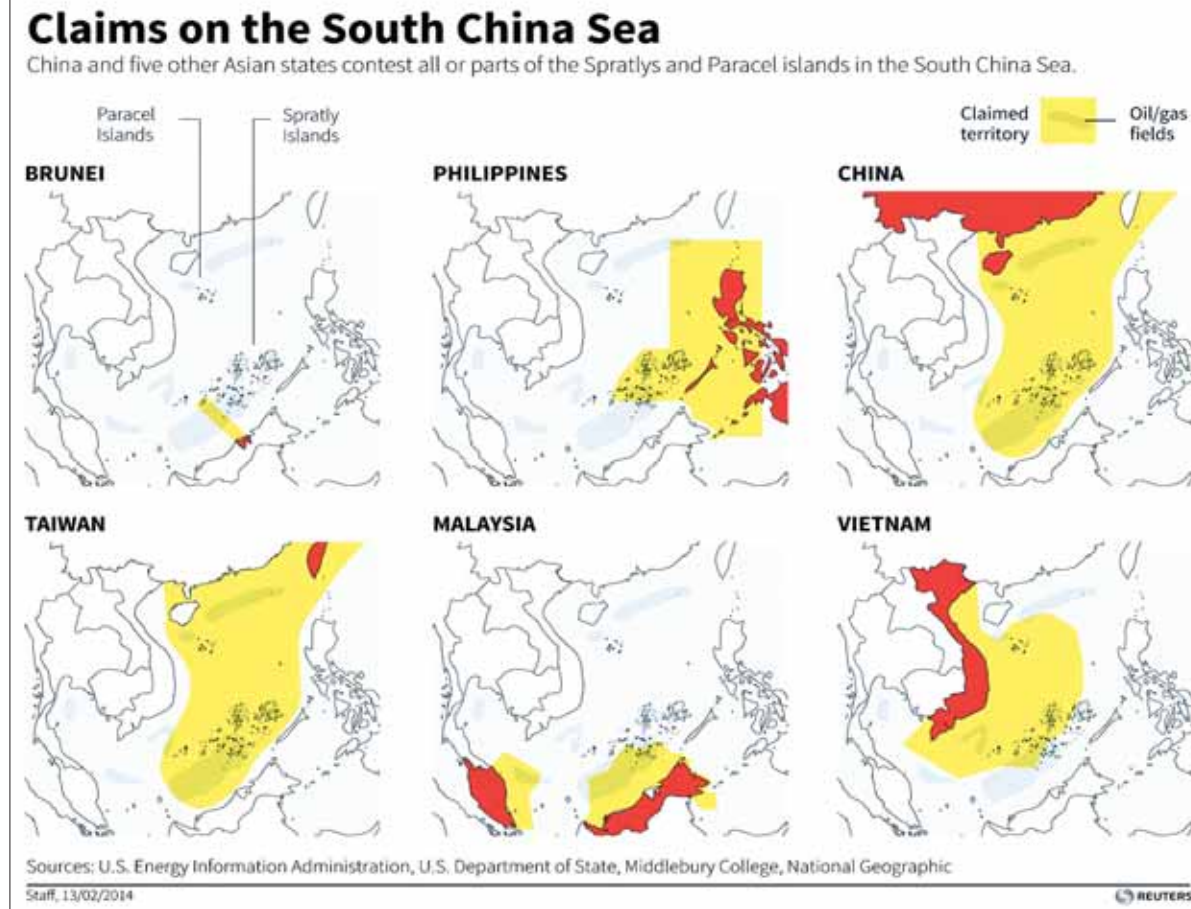
Mr Hernandez said the fishermen were merely seeking shelter in the area due to inclement weather.

"We call on China to respect our sovereignty and rights of our fishermen in the area," Mr Hernandez told a news conference.

"These actions, these incidents surely escalates the tension in the area. And this further threatens the peace and security and stability in the region."

Since the beginning of the year, Beijing has required foreign fishing boats to get approval before entering waters that China claims as its own.

On January 27, a Chinese coast guard tried to drive away Filipino



fishermen from Scarborough Shoal by using a water cannon, General Emmanuel Bautista, the head of Philippine military said on Monday.

China claims about 90 per cent of the South China Sea's 3.5 million square kilometer waters. The sea provides 10 per cent of the global fish catch, carries US\$5 trillion in shipborne trade a year and its seabed is believed to be rich with energy reserves.

Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Vietnam also claim parts of the sea.

President Benigno Aquino said that they will seek clarification from Beijing about "what this incident was all about".

"We are not sure, at this point, if we can call it their standard operating procedure," the president said. The Department of Foreign Affairs said there were

nine harassment incidents in the same area last year.

Manila has urged Asean to conclude a binding code of conduct with China to avoid miscalculations in the disputed waters.

The Philippines has taken its dispute with China to arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea but China is refusing to participate in the case. — Reuters

In brief...

Myanmar reveals emergency medical care for tourists

THE Shwe Zanaka Company has announced that it will provide emergency healthcare services for tourists in Kyaikto, Mon State starting on April 1, and then expand services to other tourist-dense locations.

The company will cooperate with ambulance services, the Ministry of Health and local hospitals for treatment, and with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism regarding foreign visitors.

— Eleven

Foreigners burning through Malaysian medical subsidy

FOREIGNERS are using about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the Malaysia's entire funds allocated for medical treatment meant for Malaysians, Health Minister Datuk Seri S Subramaniam said.

Last December, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Hilmi Yahaya announced a plan to get foreigners, including students, to pay for their actual cost of medical treatment in government hospitals, not at a subsidized rate.

— The Star Online

Mugabe turns 90 in Singapore clinic

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe turned 90 on February 21, on a medical trip to Singapore that has intensified concerns about his health and stoked a simmering succession battle in a country under his thumb for more than three decades.

— Reuters

Cambodia asked to take detained asylum seekers

AUSTRALIA asked Cambodia, one of Asia's poorest countries, on February 22 to take in asylum seekers detained while trying to reach the Australian coast.

Cambodia said it would think about it.

Australia's government came to power last year partly because of a tough stance on asylum seekers arriving from Indonesia with Prime Minister Tony Abbott promising to "stop the boats".

Australia already has offshore detention centers in the impoverished South Pacific nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru for asylum seekers it intercepts, often in rickety boats.

"The Australian minister has requested that Cambodia takes in some refugees," Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told a news briefing with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

"In the past, Cambodians have



Asylum seekers who were turned back by Australia. Photo: Reuters

fled their country to other countries but now, it's time that Cambodia takes in refugees from other countries."

Mr Hun Sen, Cambodia's Prime Minister of Cambodia, would "take serious consideration" of the request, Mr Hor Namhong said.

In her comments, Ms Bishop did not refer directly to the Australian request but said she had discussed cooperation with Cambodia in various areas including people smuggling.

— Reuters

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In brief...

Mt Everest brawl leads Nepal to tighten security

NEPAL will enforce tighter controls on climbers of Mount Everest to ensure the world's highest peak is safe, officials said last Friday, after a fight last April between three Europeans and a large group of Sherpas.

"The presence of security officials at the base camp will give a psychological feeling to climbers that they are safe," Tilakram Pandey, a Tourism Ministry official, told Reuters.

Mexico's most wanted drug lord, 'Shorty', arrested

MEXICO'S most wanted man, drug cartel kingpin Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, was captured last Saturday with help from United States agencies in a major victory for the government in a long, grisly war.

Mr Guzman's cartel has smuggled billions of dollars worth of cocaine, marijuana and meth-amphetamines into the US, and fought vicious turf wars with other Mexican gangs.

Korean families reunited after six decades apart

MORE than 100 South Koreans crossed the world's most heavily fortified border on February 20 to be reunited with family members living in the North whom they had not seen since the 1950-53 Korean War.

At the Mount Kumgang resort just north of the border, long-lost relatives embraced with tears, joy and disbelief. Some failed to recognize family they had not seen in more than six decades.

China upset over meeting between Obama, Dalai Lama

PRESIDENT Barack Obama held low-key talks with the Dalai Lama last Friday, prompting the Chinese government to ask why the White House ignored Beijing's warnings that the meeting with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader would damage ties.

China calls the Dalai Lama, who fled to India after a failed uprising in 1959, a "wolf in sheep's clothing" who seeks to use violent methods to establish an independent Tibet.

"We are committed to a constructive rela-

tionship with China in which we work together to solve regional and global problems," White House spokesman Jay Carney told a regular news briefing.

China's foreign ministry, in a statement on its website, cited vice foreign minister Zhang Yesui as saying the meeting was "a wrong move by the US that seriously interfered in China's internal affairs and seriously violated the US promise of not supporting Tibet independence."

- Reuters



The Dalai Lama is in the US for two weeks.

Russia halts Ukrainian aid after protesters oust ally

AROUND THE world

By Natalia Zinets and Pavel Polityuk

UKRAINE'S fugitive president was indicted for mass murder on Monday over the shooting of demonstrators as new leaders in Kiev sought urgent Western aid to make up for a loss of funding from Russia, which is angry at the overthrow of its ally.

Moscow said it would not deal with those who led an "armed mutiny" against Viktor Yanukovich, and said it now feared for the lives of its citizens, notably in the Russian-speaking east and Crimea on the Black Sea.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow had grave doubts about the legitimacy of those now in power in Ukraine.

"We do not understand what is going on there. There is a real threat to our interests and to the lives of our citizens," Mr Medvedev was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

While Russia made it clear its US\$15 billion package of loans was in jeopardy, the European Union and United States offered



Viktor Yanukovich was indicted for mass murder over the shootings of Kiev demonstrators. Photo: Reuters

urgent financial assistance for a new government that may be formed on Tuesday.

The Finance Ministry said it needed US\$35bn in foreign assistance over the next two years and appealed for urgent aid in the next one or two weeks. It called for a donors' conference involving representatives of the EU, the US and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

EU officials have said that a free trade pact, spurned by Mr Yanukovich in November under

pressure from Moscow, could be available to Ukraine once it has a government to negotiate.

A White House spokesman said the US was ready to provide financial help to complement aid from the IMF that would support reform.

The acting interior minister - appointed by parliament when Mr Yanukovich fled the weekend after mass protests sparked by his rejection of closer ties with the European Union - said the 63-year-old was now on the

wanted list.

"An official case for the mass murder of peaceful citizens has been opened," Arsen Avakov wrote on Facebook, referring to the shooting by police of many of the 82 people killed in Kiev last week.

"Mr Yanukovich and others responsible for this have been declared wanted," he added.

The ousted president is still at large, Mr Avakov said. He was last seen leaving a residence at Balaclava for an unknown destination.

- Reuters

Hong Kong protests more limits on media freedoms

THOUSANDS rallied outside Hong Kong's government headquarters last Sunday demanding the city's leader uphold media freedoms amid growing anger over perceived intrusions on local media outlets.

Carrying "Free Speech, Free Hong Kong" banners, 6,000 protesters including working journalists, demanded Hong Kong protect media freedoms as a core value underpinning the financial hub's success and reputation.

In recent years, Hong Kong journalist and rights groups have warned of mainland Chinese propaganda officials influencing local newsrooms, deepening ties between Hong Kong media bosses



Hong Kong residents protest control of media. Photo: Reuters

and Beijing, greater censorship, and the dismissal of influential liberal journalists.

"Hong Kong has changed," one protester shouted into a bullhorn. "The air of freedom is becoming a lot thinner."

- Reuters

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Holding all of the aces

RIGHT smack dab in the middle of Patong, just minutes from Jungceylon, Bangla walking street, the night bazaar and the beach, ACE Xclusive condominium is a new oasis of luxury from leading developer Patong Center Development. The official launch of the project is set for March 2014 and the following October will see workers break ground for construction.

The desirable one rai of land lies only 650 meters from Patong Beach and will soon be occupied by a nine-storey building with a 6,400sqm footprint. On the outside, the building promises inviting warm color tones and modern, original styling – not another featureless facade, but one with identity and character.

Inside, 207 condos will fill those nine stories with, “unit types that are delicately designed for functional usage to complete all the needs of your luxury lifestyle.” The building will feature facilities that have come to be expected of luxury apartments such as: underground parking; gym; swimming pool; electric key card entry; 24 hour CCTV; and WiFi in public areas.

The studio, one and two-bedroom dwellings will range from

PROPERTY Gazette

On the outside, the building promises inviting warm color tones and modern, original styling – not another featureless facade, but one with identity and character.

24 to 58sqm and are being marketed as fully furnished, turn-key units. All will boast a balcony and what you see from your window will range from sea view, to mountain view, to pool view. Prices will start at 85,000 baht per square meter or buyers will have the option to discuss per-unit prices.

Once completed, the 500 million baht project will offer a specialized rental management team to make it easy for those who wish to make their investment produce revenue while they are away.

Those who decide to invest in the ACE Xclusive condominium project can expect construction to be completed by July of 2016.

The options for owning a condo in the heart of Patong are becoming more and more limited, especially so close to the beach and with endless entertainment and dining options within a stone's throw.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information call 092-250 1313, email info@ace-xclusive.com or visit the website at: ace-xclusive.com



The project is located in the heart of Patong, near the beach, and close to endless shopping and dining options.



Construction of the nine-storey, 207 room building is scheduled to be completed by July 2016.



Views will vary depending on each unit, ranging from sea, to mountain, to pool.

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Hard road for peace, politics, property



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

A LOT of things can happen in five short years. As I'm writing this I can't help but Google my way back in time, and a quick search tells me this was a defining Twitter moment in 2009, with the miracle landing of the US Airways flight on the Hudson River. Who said all those flight safety videos about water approaches were all nonsense?

Looking back is always easier than looking forward – will we still be Tweeting in another five years? Let's leave that on the table for the moment and look to Sri Lanka, where in 2009 the 25-year-long civil war came to a close and the country adopted a broader free market economic drive.

Over the past few years I've

worked on a number of hotel and property consulting assignments in the country and a recent trip just last month was an excellent time to catch up on the wired, the tired and the expired. One thing that hasn't changed, unfortunately, is that most of the arriving and departing flights from Asia's major hubs continue to be late night or early morning. One exception is Sri Lankan Airways, but let's just say that may not be the best choice for travel given regular flight delays, frightfully bad in-flight entertainment and no share agreement with Thai Airways – so the transit in Bangkok means exiting immigration and checking in all over again.

Still, this is a minor issue and one of the biggest game changers has to be the toll road from the airport to the city. And for those heading south to Galle and beyond, another new toll road from

the city to the south makes what was once a five-hour-plus ordeal, something that can be done in less than two hours.

In the works this year is a connection that will see the airport and Galle toll roads connect and the southern road extended to Matara further along the country's gold coast resort area. Up in the air things are also changing, previously the country relied on a single international gateway in Colombo. The debut last year of a second gateway in Mattala (Hambantota), at the southern end of the island, has already started to change the dynamics of tourism and development in the country.

Despite Hambantota being the home of the current president, the infrastructure improvement progress has been slow, albeit steady. On the bright side, the deep sea port and international airport are up and running, though the continued delays in the Shangri-La hotel project have had a negative effect on confidence. One of the main movers in partnering on mega projects has been the Chinese who have embraced the country.

Two key issues that have hampered Sri Lanka's fast track to success are intertwined in the economic and political spheres. After years of war the country's enterprises are starved for capital and the cost of debt is double digit. Hyper inflation and pressure on the country's currency have created an often volatile environment. Second, is the Tamil issue and international pressure over alleged human rights violations. This hit a pinnacle last year during a Commonwealth event when British Prime Minister David Cameron visited the northern part of the country.

Lately, the United States has also applied pressure on investigations



Photos: Supplied

Sri Lanka has the same potential as Myanmar, another nearby rising star.

into past events, though frankly speaking, after their recent history of drone attacks killing civilians and the widespread spying on private citizens, it has more than a whiff of the pot calling the kettle black.

From a real estate perspective, the southern coast has a rich history of seafront villas with many of the owners coming from Hong Kong, Singapore and Europe. The sector saw a decided downturn for much of last year, largely driven by uncertainty over a revision to land ownership laws, which look to be reset this year back to a long term leasehold structure for foreigners. And of course the political fallout from the international set has also had a negative affect.

But the world is changing and in a landscape where the East is rapidly taking over the starring role from the West, the trend set-

ters in property are coming from China, Singapore, and even the emerging gaming sector is playing a role, with MELCO Crown doing a deal for a mega project in Colombo.

We live in a world which has suddenly gone back into crisis mode, similar to that of the 1960s, where social and political ills are now taking center stage in nearly every market. Nonetheless, my view of Sri Lanka remains optimistic given its high brand USPs and unique culture. There are vast and unlimited possibilities – the country has the same potential as Myanmar, another nearby rising star. Maybe, just maybe, it's time to give peace a chance and let the country get back to business.

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



The dynamics of tourism and development in the country are changing.

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Asia-Pacific office market set for better year: CBRE

THE office market in Asia-Pacific is showing signs of improvement this year, in line with stronger regional and global economic growth, according to research by CB Richard Ellis's (CBRE) Asia-Pacific office.

Meanwhile, the political unrest in Bangkok has not had an effect on the capital's office market to date, the company said.

Despite the signs of improvement, overall Asia-Pacific rents are expected to continue to display little movement either this quarter or next.

Rental growth in the likes of Tokyo, Singapore, Auckland and some Southeast Asian markets will be offset by declines elsewhere, particularly in Shanghai, most Australian markets and some sub-markets in India.

Overall vacancy may increase this year, said CBRE, with 8.03 million square meters of net floor

area of new supply scheduled to be completed.

Oversupply pressure in certain markets will also be high. Much of the new supply will be in non-core areas, tightening the availability of prime space.

The company expects competition for prime space to intensify, particularly in Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing and Bangkok, where vacancy is at or close to historical lows.

In Bangkok, the annual growth in the amount of occupied space in 2013 was more than 200,000 square meters, the best performance since 2006. The level of demand combined with the limited amount of future supply means that rents will continue to rise.

The shortage of options results in tenants continuing to commit to new buildings before completion.

– The Nation



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Discovering a Chinese gem

By Maciek Klimowicz

I'VE driven past the Xi'an Villa many times not even knowing it exists. Quite impressive for a project of such magnitude – hidden away in the tropical forest of Layan, 15 minutes drive from the Phuket International Airport is a seven-room villa, inclusive of two sun decks, a beautiful infinity edge pool, a massive 240sqm living room, two kitchens and two stylish massage rooms with sunset view... and much more.

"I designed the villa nearly seven years ago" says Marc Dechampeaux, the owner. "In the beginning, it was just a private property for me, my wife and daughter, and friends. But a few months ago we did a major redesign."

It all started with the MTV crew renting the villa while shoot-

LUXURY
living

ing one of their reality shows in Phuket. Once the 36 members of the TV crew left Xi'an Villa, Marc decided it was time for a new chapter in the property's story and implemented a major refurbishment. Having lived for 28 years in China where his garment company is located, going all Chinese style seemed like the obvious choice.

The Chinese influence shows every step of the way – starting with the Chinese scripture murals, bamboo fiber fabrics and the ever present Terracotta Warriors – perfect copies of the soldiers of the famous Terracotta Army from the Chinese city of Xi'an.

"I moved to Phuket because it's



HIDDEN GEM: Cast away in the lush green forest of Layan, Xi'an Villa is worth searching for. Photos: Supplied

not far from China and it has what China doesn't – beautiful light and clean air," explains Marc. And this craving for close contact with nature is also present in Xi'an Villa – with its impressive partly natural, partly neatly designed, 2.5 hectare garden; sunbeds hidden in the middle of the jungle, a wonderful wooden terrace and a 26-meter-long infinity edge pool with a view to die for. The greenery overflows from the gardens into the house, entering the rooms through the panoramic windows –

each of them 70sqm in size and of the same plan but different design, with alternating primary colors.

It's hard not to be impressed, as were the editors of numerous lifestyle, architecture and design publications, that have featured the villa – among them the *Wall Street Journal* who named Xi'an Villa their exclusive "House of the Day". With such a recommendation, spending a day (a week, a month) in the Xi'an villa seems like a great idea. Or you could opt for a lifetime there as the property is

now for sale at just under US\$4.5 million. If this is too much of a commitment for you, the villa is also open for events – birthday parties, weddings and barbecues. An open fire barbecue, sound and light system, private DJ, cooks and fireworks are all there to keep up to 120 guests entertained. A gem truly worth discovering.

For more information contact Marc Dechampeaux on 089 866 2346, email thexianvillaphuket@gmail.com or go to thexianvillaphuket.com



Chinese influences can be seen throughout the project.



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Each of seven spacious, color-coded rooms has a pleasant garden view.

Hootin' and hollerin'

Internationally recognized American restaurant franchise set to break into Thai market

HOOTERS of America LLC, the well-known hospitality franchise that employs attractive young waitresses to help lure customers, recently announced a development agreement with an international franchisee to open three Hooters locations in Thailand over the next three years.

Destination Resorts Co Ltd will introduce the iconic brand and dining destination to the country, with the first Hooters location scheduled to open in Phuket in June of this year. Located in Patong, the entertainment district of the province, the restaurant will offer the brand's trademark chicken wings and beautiful "Hooters Girls".

The Thailand presence is the latest of international expansions announced for Hooters. In the last three months, Hooters has celebrated grand openings in Alajuela, Costa Rica; Pretoria, South Africa; Osaka, Japan; San Salvador, El Salvador; Shanghai, China; as well as Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Overall growth plans include development of more than 150 new Hooters locations worldwide

over the next five years.

"Our global expansion into emerging markets comes with all of the delicious food, unbeatable atmosphere and friendly 'Hooters Girls' our guests around the world have come to expect," said Mark Whittle, senior vice president - development, for Hooters of America.

"Our international franchise partners understand the opportunities that Hooters presents as one of the most recognized casual dining brands. We are pleased to have Destination Resorts join the Hooters team as we spread our wings together in Thailand."

The Hooters locations in Thailand will feature the contemporary design elements that Hooters introduced in 2013 with the remodeled Hooters of Kirby, Texas, and the newly constructed Hooters of Slidell, Louisiana, located just outside of New Orleans. Hooters of Phuket will feature a beach oasis theme with a large outdoor patio and seating for more than 150 guests.

While Hooters chicken wings will be a menu staple, guests will also enjoy a full



LOOKING GOOD: Hooters will open its first Thailand franchise in June of this year.

menu with a variety of signature entrees, including salads, sandwiches, seafood dishes and other options.

Hooters of America LLC is the franchiser

and operator of more than 412 Hooters restaurants in 44 states and 28 foreign countries. The first Hooters opened in 1983 in Clearwater, Florida. — *Phuket Gazette*

Thai AirAsia marks decade of success

THAI AirAsia, the country's biggest low-cost carrier, has served 50 million passengers in its first 10 years, and plans to more than double that number over the next decade. It also plans to have 61 aircraft in its fleet by 2017.

It projects adding between 2 million and 3 million passengers annually. This year, it projects 13.3 million, up from 10.3 million in 2013, said chief executive officer Tassapon Bijleveld.

Meanwhile, he insisted that his company was not involved in the current political chaos, which now is strongly opposing Shinawatra-controlled businesses. The company bought back all of its shares in Shin Corp in 2007, a company founded by the Shinawatra family. He also confirmed that all of Thai AirAsia's shareholders were genuine, and not nominees.

In its early years, the firm kept its operation alive by getting big loans from banks and later floated an initial public offering. The funds raised were aimed at repaying debt.

"As for the current political tension, we have to... be strong like a pine tree and move with the changing winds."

He acknowledged that the chaos had had an impact on Thai AirAsia's operations and the

country's tourism scene, but at the current level the company could manage.

Tassapon is confident in securing the carrier's leading role in the low-cost market over the next decade. Even as the number of new players rises, rivals will find it even harder to find a niche, not only in Thailand, but also regionally. Given growing competition, some of them may face stagnation and also downsize their operations to survive.

Pricing strategy will be a key to success in this segment, intensifying over the next two years. He said the firm had a competitive advantage over its rivals, and not just in terms of low ticket prices. The carrier also has a broad network and uses provincial

hubs to fly regionally, enabling it to avoid Bangkok.

Speaking yesterday at a press conference to mark the airline's 10th anniversary, he said the carrier had witnessed significant growth through the past decade, although it faced barriers from political tension, rising fuel prices and stronger competition.

Over the next decade, Tassapon said the firm would put more focus on developing technology. Technological innovation and the internet will play rising roles in the check-in system at a time when airport facilities are quite limited.

Three years ago, 12-13% of Thai AirAsia passengers checked in via its website, self-check-in kiosks, and mobile phones. That number is expected to be on the rise in the future because of limited facilities at Don Mueang International Airport, where the carrier is based.

The firm has four aircraft in its provincial bases, contributing 10% of seat capacity. Over the



AirAsia plans to have 61 aircraft in its fleet by 2017. Photo: Laurent Errera

next three years, it intends to increase this proportion to 30%.

This year, the firm projects an 83% load factor, similar to 2013.

In the remaining months of the year, six new aircraft are to be delivered, boosting the fleet to 43.

— *The Nation*

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Deputizing every citizen

EVERYONE should get behind two recent appeals for public participation in protecting our marine and coastal resources.

Earlier this month, the Phuket Marine Office encouraged the public to provide photographic evidence to bring to justice people so ignorant that they actually still dump used petrochemicals directly into the sea surrounding our resort island. The entreaty came with the promise of a tidy, 10,000 baht reward if all of the conditions were met.

Two weeks later, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Region 5 Chief Tanet Munnoy urged the public to report illegal fishing activities, especially in designated conservation zones [see page 7]. His request followed the discovery of an enormous fishing net found, and thankfully removed, by divers at Shark Point.

For an island that depends on its natural resources to support its tourism industry, Phuket has an abysmal environmental conservation record. Huge slum communities with little or no public planning now cover what was pristine mangrove forest just a generation ago; an ever-increasing number of sprawling residential estates continue to spring up, covering vegetation with concrete and producing untreated sewage which flows into the sea, even at our most popular beaches [see page 1].

Relying on authorities to adequately enforce environmental laws is a failed strategy. The evidence for this assertion is in our faces, and even up our noses, every day. Even the easiest of laws to enforce, such as those that restrict double parking on the congested streets of Phuket Town, seldom if ever result in police action. One city parking attendant recently said that calls to police over such violations so rarely resulted in action that most of their ranks had ceased even trying to contact them at all.

Elsewhere, people tend to follow the rules, not just out of fear of being arrested or fined, but because it is the right thing to do. The *Gazette* applauds the dive community for trying to conserve our natural resources and for setting a great example for society at large. But we all need to do a better job at shaming those who break our laws, whether it be by photographing oil dumpers, beeping our horns at those who feel entitled to park their vehicles wherever they want, whenever they want – or even catching police in the act of breaking the very laws they are sworn to uphold.

Fortunately, the technology now exists to deputize the masses. Many of us carry mobile phones with cameras that can directly upload to social media sites and law enforcement, making it possible to report violators in real time.

We have strong environmental laws that need better enforcement, and it is up to each and every one of us to help.



Cycle path would become a cafe

Re: *Gazette online, Blazing Saddles: Cycling to happiness, February 22*

Some people in Phuket just do not grasp the concept of a sidewalk as a safe haven for pedestrians. There are exceptions of course, but sidewalks are often seen as a waste of space that would better serve as the location of a business or house extension.

As a cyclist, I would cheerfully be proved wrong, but I doubt a cycle path would see the day out before it was obstructed with tables, chairs and a menu board.

Hector
Gazette forum

Tunneling away from responsibilities

Re: *Gazette online, Patong Tunnel compensation for evicted Phuket villagers jumps to B2.56bn, February 22*

They don't provide the basic element – water – for every household, but they are planning a tunnel. Isn't there something wrong with this picture?

Knut Giesen
Facebook

Catch the right fish

Re: *Gazette online, Local Phuket fishing competition out to catch it all, February 21*

Shark and ray populations are overfished and stressed almost everywhere, but especially in Thailand. They also take longer to mature to breeding age, have long gestation periods and give birth to small numbers of pups.

The Paklok *OrBorTor* should really take them out of this competition if they want to be ecologically responsible. Unique fish should also not be included as part of the competition for obvious reasons.

Nomad Joe
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Bring the demo men to Phuket beaches

Re: *Gazette online, Krabi resort owner vows legal action over demolition, February 21*

Please can these demolition guys move on to Phuket? They could start with a couple of the beach clubs here.

Andy
Gazette forum

Make raiding a habit

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket cops' early morning raid nets 11 thieves, drug users, February 22*

Pity it's not done on a regular basis throughout the island. It would not only help reduce the drug problem, but also the petty crime that goes hand-in-hand with it.

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Wastewater solution like porcine makeup

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket canal reeking again, noodle factory blamed, February 20*

The only way forward is to ensure that all wastewater is led to a central wastewater treatment plant.

Trying to fix the problem when the water is already in the canal is a bit like putting lipstick on a pig.

Collecting the wastewater in a pond and then installing an electric meter to register the consumption of power does not help anybody, but may impress John Doe.

Sailor
Gazette forum

Epic drug problem

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket drug crackdown apprehends 62, February 22*

It's a problem of epic proportions when over 8 per cent of people randomly tested are found positive for use of drugs!

Graeme Ian Smith
Facebook

Kamala conditions ideal for accidents

Re: *Gazette online, Finn struck by car while crossing Phuket Road, February 22*

I've been waiting for an accident like this to happen for a long time.

The lights there are very poor. It's dark, and a driver can hardly see people crossing the road.

Rene
Gazette forum

Female cops bring fresh perspective

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Forging a place for women on the force, February 23*

Women doing jobs traditionally reserved for men is a good way to get society to review what male and female roles are... have been, and can be.

Hopefully it will open up options for both boys and girls.

Amelia
Ban Liphon

Hooters can't hack it

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Business: Hooters restaurant to open in Patong, February 22*

There's no way Hooters can match the competition on Bangla Road. It'll seem quaint in contrast.

Susie Weil
Patong

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Managing Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli
Managing Editor – Features: Mark Knowles
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Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
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Road safety: what we're doing wrong

FIRST PERSON

WE'RE doing three things wrong with regard to road safety: We often don't determine the true cause of accidents, our driver's licence laws are too lax and we allow our children to drive before they're mature enough to know their limits.

If we don't know the real cause of accidents, we can't take the appropriate steps to prevent them. The media, police and insurance companies all share the blame for this.

Let's start with the media – they are the ones who tell the story to the public. They have the power to influence how people think about accidents – how they come about, who is responsible and so on.

Generally speaking, the media is satisfied with the following explanations: the victim was at fault, it was unpreventable, it had a mysterious cause. For example, if the driver was drunk or going fast, that's enough for the reporter. Those are likely contributing factors to an accident, but of course they may not be the whole story. "Unpreventable" accidents, according to the media, are those caused by weather or mechanical problems.

With mysterious causes, the media plays with people's beliefs. For example, in Phattalung recently a man died after an accident on a dangerous curve. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the car. Wearing a seatbelt, he might have survived. But instead of saying that, the headline said "Fortune teller said it was his time to die".



Here, he talks about three ways to improve road safety in Thailand, which ranks third in the world for road deaths.

Thanapong Jinvong, 50, is Director of the Academy of Road Safety at the National Health Foundation and also works at the Department of Disease Control. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University with a specialization in epidemiology.

The media needs to stop being satisfied with these explanations. They need to put aside what looks good in a headline and dig deeper.

This is important for two reasons: first, the public learns the truth about accidents, and second, police will be forced to investigate more thoroughly. If the reporters ask more questions, police will have to ask more questions too.

And let's not forget the role of insurance companies. They need to back off a little and let police investigate first instead of trying to settle cases as quickly as possible.

The second thing we are doing wrong concerns driver's licences: they are too easy to get and too easy for unsafe drivers to keep.

The Land Transportation Office has to make it harder to get a licence by increasing the amount of driver-training required. Then people would really know the traffic laws before they start driving.

And they shouldn't allow new drivers to drive at night.

Finally, people who drive drunk should have their licences re-

voked. That's the way to send the message that drunk driving is absolutely unacceptable.

And speaking of alcohol, the last area we need to focus on is young people drinking and driving. When we consider the number of young people who drink and their attitudes towards alcohol, we can see that we have a problem.

Consider this statistic: The number of young people aged 15-19 who drink has been increasing since 1996. As for attitudes, university students in a survey said that even after drinking two bottles of beer or 300ml of whiskey, they can drive unimpaired. In an informal survey we did of people who had been maimed in road accidents, 75 per cent were 13-30 years old. In the alcohol-related cases, many of the men said that they drove drunk because they didn't want their friends to know they couldn't. Many of the women said that they were afraid to say no when asked to get in a car with a drunk driver.

Parents: take heed.

Imagining a better world with photos

Island View

By MK Haskell

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



Expanding our mental construct of businesswomen. Photo: Sharkbay75

MY FRIENDS abroad have been writing to urge me to be careful and take care in light of the anti-government protests. If they thought for a moment, they might remember that Phuket is quite far from Bangkok. It's the photos that get to them, I think.

Photos, valuable documenters of the truth, can sometimes mislead – as any user of Facebook already knows. All those glamour shots don't necessarily mean a life of glamour.

So, it's interesting that a recent call for public images was initiated by the COO of Facebook herself: Sheryl Sandberg. Her LinkedIn.org curated a set of photos for Getty Images, with a particular focus on expanding the representations of professional women, caregiving men and older people.

Getty, the world's largest supplier of stock images, supplies millions of photos for advertisers, newspapers, films, TV and bloggers.

Ms Sandberg wants to expand stereotypes, to move our mental image of "businesswoman", for example, beyond the concept of a serious woman in a dark skirt and jacket with a briefcase. She'd like us to see an older woman in a magenta shirt leading an IT meeting or an attractive dark-skinned woman with long hair and large pearly necklace staring straight at the camera.

Studies have shown that we judge what we see instantly – we're hardwired to do so to survive. We use our beliefs, attitudes, values, experiences, education – in short, all that we've seen before – to judge what we see next.

Adding new images to our mental databases may allow us to expand the stereotypes we hold.

In Phuket, the *Gazette* made a contribution in that direction on February 15, when it ran a photo of Chollada Chokdeesrijun of the

Chalong Police Force, member of the first class of women to graduate from the Royal Thai Police Academy, and one of about six policewomen in Phuket.

The photo of her, with hair not neatly in place, no trace of makeup, and a wide smile that shows she's thrilled to be a police officer, has already entered the public arena and the mental databases of *Gazette* readers, possibly rearranging our beliefs about what Thai women can do.

No doubt it takes a lot more than images to change fundamental beliefs. Still, if they help people in even a small way to expand their ideas of what's possible – for themselves and for others – they are a positive thing.

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

What is the limit on visa exemptions?

I am a UK citizen who works offshore. I spend my time off, which can be several months at a stretch, in Phuket. I don't apply for a tourist visa, I just use the 30-day permit-to-stay I can get at the airport.

I am here so much that the last time I came through the airport, the immigration officer accused me of working here. I tried to explain my circumstances, but she didn't believe me.

Is there a limit to how many times I can get the 30-day stamp?

Capt Angkhan Yasanop at Phuket Immigration replies:

I believe you are referring to the 30-day permit-to-stay called a tourist visa exemption.

Immigration requirements differ depending on what country the visitor comes from. As a UK citizen,

you are eligible to get a 30-day permit-to-stay when you enter Thailand. There is no limit to the number of times you can receive it.

Immigration officers are trained to look out for and question people whose travel patterns indicate they may be illegally working in Thailand.

I recommend that you get a document from your employer which explains your work situation and employment pattern. The next time an officer questions you, you can use this to support your story.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Is the dog in Patong a tsunami memorial?

Is the dog statue near Loma Park in Patong a tsunami memorial?

Lungdee Patong

Chachrit Waiyaphat, Patong Municipality Public Park Department officer, replied:

The statue of a white dog on Taweewong Road is not a tsunami memorial.

It is a sculpture by a Japanese artist that was part of an international art exhibit after the tsunami that helped raise money for victims.

After the exhibit, the artist, Yoshitomo Nara, gave the dog statue to the Patong Municipality.

Patong does not have any tsunami memorial monuments, but each year we have an event called "Light up Phuket" on the beach to remember the day.

Urai Lersakanusorn, director of Religion and Cultural promotion, Department of Phuket Culture Office, replied:

Phuket has only one registered tsunami memorial monument, a statue by Thai artist Udon Jirasak called *Spirit of the Universe* which is on display in Kamala.

The abstract statue represents the waves that claimed so many lives on December 26, 2004. It was given to Phuket by the Ministry of Culture.

The Tsunami Memorial Wall in

Mai Khao is not an official memorial monument.

There are three official tsunami monuments outside of Phuket: one in Krabi and two in Phang Nga.

In Krabi are two statues of hands by the French sculptor Louise Bourgeois called *Hold me Close*.

In Phang Nga, there is a police boat in Khao Lak which was carried inland

two kilometers by the waves. In Bang Niang is a sculpture by Swedish artist Lars Englund called *Stabile*.



The Phuket Dog is not a tsunami memorial. Photo: Gazette file

YOUR

Phuket

RUN FOR HEALTH, RUN FOR CHARITY

2014 MINI-MARATHON BY PHUKET

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL



Akapol Tharasiroj (left), CEO of Phuket International Hospital congratulates the winners of the men's and women's races.



Assavin Chingumgumtornvong, president of Phuket International Hospital welcomed Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut, who gave the opening speech for the event.

BAAN KATA ARTS FEST

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT



From left: Mom Tri Devakul (left) welcomed Madame Chantal Socie; her daughter Marie-Laure Fleury, general manager of Boathouse by Montara; and Adisak Pitukrojjananont, general manager of Villa Royale to the 2014 Baan Kata Artsfest.



The Amari Phuket team, led by Ms Tipaporn Koonphol, deputy general manager (4th from left), along with Ms Rinrapat Puwanutchotchai, director of human resources (6th from left), Ms Penprapa Chooklin, manager of marketing and communications (5th from left) and other team members took part in the Run for health, Run for Charity 2 mini marathon, hosted by the Phuket International Hospital.

TWO CHEFS KAMALA

GRAND OPENING



Phuket Gazette staff members Jantana Jaikwang and Saran Mitratrat enjoyed their dinner at the opening night of Two Chefs Kamala.



From left: Two Chefs staff members Raveewish Paladsri, Krister Westberg, and Henrik Ojelind

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

March 1 - 7, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 23

JOB of the week



See page 27

BOAT & MARINE of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY SERVICE of the week



See page 25

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

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

APARTMENT FOR SALE IN BOAT LAGOON (1)

2-bedroom marina apartment for sale in Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, in a residential maritime township surrounded by commercial plaza and sporting facilities. Fully furnished, private carport, large swimming pool available for residents. Living area: 147sqm, freehold. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

APARTMENT FOR SALE IN BOAT LAGOON (2)

2-bedroom, marina apartment for sale in Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, in a residential maritime township surrounded by commercial plaza and sporting facilities. Fully furnished, private carport, large swimming pool available for residents. Living area: 198sqm. Free hold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

KATABEACH CENTER 135SQM

Kata view apartment, luxury and brand-new furnished, 2 spacious bedrooms with ensuite, beautiful great living on the 6th floor. Facilities: elevator, sauna, pool, gym, car park. Price: 8.5 million baht (190,000 euro). Contact Charles. Tel: 084-441 3871 (English), 090-163 2140 (Thai)

BUILDING BANGLA - PATONG

25 million baht, XL commercial / residential building in Soi Bangla Square, Patong. 4 floors + 6m frontage. Over 360sqm in total. For more information, please call 087-881 7600 (English & Thai). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

NICE 2-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE

Karon Beach, close to the Hilton, customize furniture, 2 bedrooms/ bathrooms, parking inside and outside. Price: 4.2 million baht (93,000 euro). Contact Charles. Tel: 084-441 3871 (English), 090-163 2140 (Thai)

5/6 BED THAI STYLE POOL VILLA

Luxury building, 5 minutes to Laguna, fully furnished. Tel: 087-893 4636 (English & Thai). Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

UNIQUE IN PHUKET KATA BEACH CENTER

Dual 440sqm Penthouse on 6th and 7th floors, 5 big bedrooms ensuite, big terrace, with outside jacuzzi, bar and outdoor kitchen. Private access with elevator. Facilities: elevator, sauna, pool, gym. Price: 27 million baht. Contact Charles. Tel: 084-441 3871

CHEAP CONDO PATONG



Patong Condotel, 7th floor, freehold, 28sqm. Fully furnished, new bathroom, new aircon. Five minutes to the beach. A bargain at 999,000 baht. Tel: 084-844 7693 (English & Thai). Email: heijojo@hotmail.com

LOVELY LAND URGENT SALE

6 rai Pa Khlok, very quiet area, mountain views, Chanote title, build now or good investment in fast growing area, priced below market at only 2.85 million baht per rai. For more information, please call 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: vass_t_99@yahoo.com

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Tel: 082-277 5971 (English & Thai). Email: roscom clean@yahoo.com.au

KATA BEACH CENTER

Luxury 60sqm apartment, nice furnished, low maintenance, in heart of Kata. Facilities: elevator, pool, sauna, gym. Price: 2.6 million baht (58,000 euro). Contact Charles. Tel: 084-441 3871 (English), 090-163 2140 (Thai)

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

APARTMENT FOR SALE



Good for residential project or long-term stay. 2-apartment buildings with 84 rooms, including 2-storage buildings, good for restaurant business, total building area 2,135 sqm. Situated on residential big plot of land 3-3-23 Rai-Ngan-Wah (6,092 sqm) of land. 1.6km to Phuket Fanta-Sea, 2km to Kamala Beach. 60 million baht only. For more information, please call 092-280 9938

HOUSE FOR SALE



79sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room, kitchen, aircon, auto gate. Please call 088-7687 054

PALM BREEZE CONDO FOR SALE

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No Agent! Tel: 081-956 1077

LAND CHANOTE PHUKET

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

RAWAI RESIDENTIAL LAND

7.5 million baht per rai only! The last plots from 11.8 to 22.5 million baht available. Ideal for villa developments of all sizes. Quiet and safe area, right next to Mangosteen Resort. Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: ha_jon_von_keller@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN



In Supalai City Hill Estate, very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. Or long-term rent: 10,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-874 0061. Email: ste phenfein@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA



Within unique development - 8,700,000 baht. Please call 081-077 1765. Email: phuketformations@gmail.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

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AMAZING SEA VIEWS CAPE YAMU



Offering the most breathtaking views on the island, large 4 bedrooms/ 4 bathrooms, modern villa, big pool and garden, set in exclusive estate. Reduced 28 to 22 million baht. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: kdesmond59@yahoo.co.uk

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Properties For Rent

STUNNING 4-BED VILLA CAPE YAMU

Close to BIS and PIA Schools. Big pool. Amazing sea views. Private estate. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283 Email: kdesmond59@yahoo.co.uk

KATA BEACH APARTMENT FOR RENT

Nice, jacuzzi, WiFi, kitchen, aircon/fan, cable TV. For more information, please call 086-595 8512. Email: nalu mana2000@yahoo.com

KATHU GOLF & VALLEY VIEW VILLA

For rent, 330sqm, 3 bed/3 bath penthouse, and 1 bed/1 bath, 135sqm apartment, big modern kitchen, living room and balconies, big pool, 4km to BIS, fantastic views of Loch Palm Golf Course and valley, quiet on top of a private hill, fully furnished, maid, WiFi, secure. Long term: 75,000 baht and 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492

RENTAL HOUSE KOH KAEW

Land and house, 5 minutes to BIS, 3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-693 5424

KATA HOUSE RENT/SALE

1 to 4 bedrooms. 20,000 baht per month. 400 baht per night, can walk to the beach. Contact Nit. Tel: 081-303 2202

SEAVIEW APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, WiFi, and all mod cons. Located in a resort complex. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-521 7745 (English). Email: mrcraigwhite@hotmail.co.uk

PATONG CONDO 58SQM

5 minutes walk to the Beach, fully furnished, parking, 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-181 1965. Email: e.breh@web.de

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, available February 20. 80,000 baht per month. Short-term rent possible. Please ask price. Tel: 082-420 7052

HOUSE IN LIPON FOR RENT

1 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, 1 car park, 15,000 baht per month. Please call 087-508 3516. Email: rujikarn2498@gmail.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

In Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Long term: 37,500 baht per month. Short term negotiable. For more information, please call 081-270 5126. Email: merwyn.crocker@yahoo.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 overlooking 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

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

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

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

1 bedroom, furnished, WiFi, near Panwa view point. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwa.green.weebly.com>

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

THE ONE! KAMALA BEACH FRONT

Enjoy the fabulous sunsets from your 2-bedroom house. 2 ensuite bathrooms. Aircons. Fully furnished, includes home office, WiFi. European kitchen. Open plan living areas. Large decks on 2 floors. 45,000 baht per month. Electricity, UBC, internet are extra. Minimum 6 months lease. Available April 1, 2014. Tel: 081-894 3839 (English). Fax: 075-300299. Email: paddypower99@yahoo.com

PARADISE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, very quiet, western standard, aircon, WiFi. For more information, please call 083-395 5330 (English), +41-07-9661 4061 or email c.spleiss@robert-spleiss.ch Please visit our website at www.naiharn-villa.com

NAI HARN 2-BED BEACH CONDOS

Long / short-term rent. Large pool & gardens, spacious, serviced apartments, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

2-BEDROOM BEACH APARTMENTS

At Phuket's finest beach (3 minutes walk), great for families. Available now! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

NICE ROOMS FOR RENT

Pool, fitness center, sauna, aircon, security, garden. 56/75 Kasemsap Villa. Tel: 081-084 3415. www.phuket-villa.de

3-BED HOUSE NEAR AIRPORT

Fully furnished house, 3 bedrooms. Long-time rental. One year: 21000 baht per month. For more information, please call 084-847 4377 (English), 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

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

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>

HOUSE AT SAI YUAN

Fully furnished. 60,000 baht per month. 3-month deposit. Tel: 081-693 0935. Email: phuketacount@hotmail.com

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Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Household
Help

Thailand's Leading Property Site
DDproperty
.com

All you need for a professional kitchen: stainless steel work, gas system, air conditioner, security camera, wood-fired pizza oven and used equipment. Tel: 081-416 7475, 084-845 4743 (Thai). Please see our website at www.mrkkitchen.com

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

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

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

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

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@phukeffit.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 hrrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net



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@arhouse.asia

STAFF FOR RESTAURANT

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

RESORT STAFF WANTED

Urgently: night reception, housekeeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: yusies@gmail.com

THAI OFFICE WORKER FOR GYM

Muay Thai Gym. Wanting Thai office worker with good English. Tel: 080-613 3312 (English & Thai). Email: phuketopteam@gmail.com. Website: phuketopteam.com

ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDES

Phi Phi Island. We are looking for 2 English-speaking guides for our overnight boat tour which leaves from Phi Phi Don. The job is to entertain and keep our customers safe. If you look after our customers well, we will look after you. Contact Siripan. Tel: 087-382 9163.

GERMAN CC NEEDS STAFF

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

NANNY

Must be experienced with child care. Needed after school and weekends for two young boys. Thai only. Tel: 081-978 7756. Email: scot@paresaresorts.com

OFFICE MANAGER/ ACCOUNTANT

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

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

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: jitssier@aquamaster.net

COOK / CHEF

Cook wanted in a small Ban Moon noodle bar, to cook basic Thai and European food. Room available as part of wages. Tel: 083-690 7014 (English). Please call or email micknppr@hotmail.com

OPC

DVC looking for OPC. Good package for right candidate, including WP + SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833 (English). Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Proficient in Word, Excel, uni graduate preferred. Photoshop/ any online experience valued highly. Tel: 081-205 3932. Email: info@pelicanfinance.com.au

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

We are currently seeking trusted, fluent in English, professional candidates for the position of advertising sales representative in Phuket. Level/ salary range: up to 40,000 baht (first-full year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: info@phuketitaly.com

VILLA MANAGER (LIVE IN)

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

MARINA VIEW RESTAURANT



Phuket Boat Lagoon is looking for new restaurant operator. Contact Ple. Tel: 081-693 2791. Email: customercare@phuketboatlagoon.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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ 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

Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at iTree Complete Printing Service



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

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

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

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

DIVE AND SURF SHOP
Needs Thai female staff, basic English. Tel: 089-874 9147.

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

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: jmls@iinet.net.au

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

STAFF WANTED

Thai Basil Restaurant, new opened restaurant is looking for waitresses: 15,000 baht. Bar staff: 15,000 baht. Manager: 20,000 baht. Located on 58/7-8 Soi Bangla, 5-8pm. Email: office@thaibasilphuket.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 applicants, please apply with CV at jobs@cmmid-intl.com

3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

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

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE GUIDE

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.toursthailand.asia. For further details, please see our website at www.AmazingBikeToursThailand.asia

SALES ASSISTANT (RETAIL)

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

FEMALE GUEST RELATIONS REP.

Female guest relations representatives to work in night entertainment venue, must be able to speak 2 languages: either English, Russian, Chinese or Philippine. Please send resume or call. Tel: 093-007 8992 (English & Thai), 081-476 4700 (English & Thai). Email: redtoothgecko@yahoo.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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: massimo.reve@gmail.com

GUEST RELATIONS WANTED

Thai national: guest relations representative wanted, English speaking, afternoon shift, good pay + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

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

STAFF NEEDED

New resort on island looking positions: Multilingual: 1) Manager - salary: 25,000 - 30,000 baht. 2) Barman - salary: 10,000 - 15,000 baht. English and Thai. 3) Massage therapist - salary: 10,000 - 12,000 baht. 4) Housemaid - salary: 10,000 baht. Meal and accommodation provided. Tel: 086-948 8559 (English), 088-447 9900 (English). Email: farangmd@gmail.com

LaGuna
PROPERTY

BANYAN TREE
RESIDENCES

SALES EXECUTIVE

(CHINESE SPEAKING)

ARE YOU READY FOR A GREAT CAREER WITH PHUKET'S LARGEST HOTEL, RESORT AND PROPERTY GROUP?

We are currently seeking a passionate and experienced candidate to join our property sales team to sell Laguna Property, and Banyan Tree Residences.

THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- At least 2 years real estate sales experience in selling luxury branded residential properties with an international sales team is an advantage
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Office

Send your CV to career@lagunaphuket.com
Call for more information: 076-362300 ext. 1510
www.lagunaphuket.com

Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

Aged 25 years or older, permanently resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to opaopa543@mail.ru

YOGA TEACHER WANTED

Qualified yoga instructor to teach at PhuketFit Resort. Please apply with resume and qualifications. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE AND OPC

David Vacation Club looking for English & Chinese speaking sales representative and OPC. 5-star Resort at Patong beachfront. Tel: 076-342794, 092-390 3481 (English). Contact by email: ed@davidvacationclub.com

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Proficient in word, excel, uni graduate preferred. Photoshop/any online experience valued highly. Tel: 081-205 3932.

PR & MARKETING

The View Condominium.

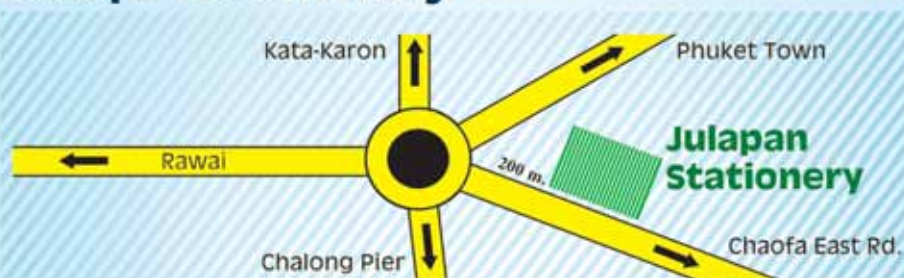
- Female, 20-35 years.
 - To promote the property with prospective customers at our booth
 - Coordinate with recruiters
 - Collaborate with team
 - Language: English and Russian or English and Chinese
- Tel: 086-439 9996. Email: sales@theviewphuket.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

Live in Chalong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

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

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

Live in Cherng Talay?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Chaba Supermarket



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

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET!

Business Products & Services

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. For more information, please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE

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

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. Tel: 081-476 5808

COWBOY SHOW

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

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. For more information, please call 083-362 4144

NEW CARDIO TENNIS

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

40FT SEA CONTAINER

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

TRANSLATION CENTER PHUKET

We translate all documents from and into English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Thai. Please call 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

STRESSED OVER PARTIES?

Plan your party for all your supplies at Party Always. We are located at Wana Park Cherng Talay. For more information, please call 076-620 166. Email: karen_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg

HOTEL BOOKING LIST SERVICE

Hotel registration and monitoring on Agoda, Sawadee and Booking.com Tel: 083-394 5863. Email: tperke@googlemail.com



DINO DAYCARE CENTER

Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities

CALL NOW:
082-539 8252 (Thai).
081-868 7676 (English).

FREE ITALIAN ESPRESSO MACHINE

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. Tel: 076-374760, 088-768 1260. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

Club Memberships Available

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime family membership available. 500,000 baht, including transfer fee. For more information, please call 081-979 7047 (English & Thai). Email: petemorrow@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Lifetime family membership for sale. 400,000 baht only. Email: monsbillgrenl@gmail.com

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

350,000 baht + transfer, expires 2024. For more information, please call 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

LAGUNA GOLF 22 YEARS

Laguna Golf Club membership for sale: 600,000 baht, with 22 years remaining. Contact Dany. Tel: 092-261 5113 (English & Thai). Email: nathcoll88@gmail.com

Education

**Oak Meadow International School**

From 1 - 16 Years Old
Providing quality, affordable primary education

076 521 550

www.oakmeadowphuket.com



Golf Stuff

SET COBRA IRONS + DRIVER

Steel RH Irons 3-9, pw, sw. Driver 10.5 reg shaft. 8,500 baht. Tel: 087-469 3151 (English), 081-895 2165 (Thai). Email: williamsanig@yahoo.co.uk

Personals

TAKE CARE & RELATIONSHIP

My sister, 49 years old, seeking foreigner relationship for life and learn together. Tel: 086-273 3095. Email: sangwanwaree94@hotmail.com

BACKGAMMON

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

LEARN THAI

From an experienced Thai teacher (male). Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

LEARN THAI + 1 YEAR ED VISA

Learn Thai at Brainy House. 200 hours + 1 year ED visa for only 24,900 baht. Tel: 076-522822, 080-907 7466. Email: info@brainyhouse.com

Personal Services Wanted

HOME FITNESS TRAINER

Personal fitness trainer needed. I have the equipment, but need help with the motivation. Male or female considered, must be able to visit my home in Patong. Tel: 080-892 0920. Email: stevehull@me.com



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24-hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week
Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.
Channel 1, with 28 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.
Channel 4, with 21 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.

- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
- Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
- Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
- Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
- Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
- Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
- Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
- Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
- Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
- Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
- Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
- Destination Patong: 390 rooms
- Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
- Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
- Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net or Diao@phuketgazette.net

On line: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

Yachting Freedom Since 1984





2009 Sunseeker 60 - EUR 900,000



2008 Azimut 47 - EUR 519,000



2008 Sealine SC38 - USD 295,000



2010 Swan 65 - EUR 360,000

Yachting Freedom begins with a call to our team:

Sergio Loiacono
+66 (0) 86 277 3360
sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

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

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

CATAMARAN
New 40 foot sailing catamaran for sale. 3 berths, 2 showers, 2 toilets, suitable for charter. Tel: 080-692 8468 (English & Thai). Email: joe_anusara@yahoo.com

PRINCESS P42 FOR SALE
42' Flybridge, 2008. Excellent condition at an attractive price. Tel: 080-142 0420 (English). Email: jmi.chellemonnier@orange.fr

HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT
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/TeakBoatPhuket

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M
Brand-new, UV cover, storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 110,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE
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

GRADY WHITE 270 ISLANDER
For sale. Immaculate condition and fully equipped. Very new 2013 Suzuki 300hp, 4-stroke engine. Dry berthed. Cabin, washroom, galley, sleeps 4 persons comfortably. An ideal boat for sport-fishing or cruising! US\$95,000 neg. Email: milynnad@hotmail.com

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE
Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English), 085-131 2613 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

CAPTAIN WANTED
For large motor yacht. Must be experienced and speak English. Also English speaking deckhand required. Tel: 081-787 1752. Please send CV to mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

42FT BERTRAM SPORT FISHER
Strong seaworthy boat, priced to sell, Thai registered, needs little work to the perfect fishing/ cruising boat. 3 million baht. Contact Andy Tel: +014 471 539 4550. Email: as.ac@hotmail.co.uk

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER
2 new engines 300hp fitted 2013, includes trailer and covers. Price: 4,250,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 3118. Email: info@procarpen-tering.com

SR MARINE SR21 (2013)
Yamaha 150hp with only 16hrs, used, gives 45 knots, complete with trailer, rods, reels and even snorkeling gear. Reduced to only 790,000 baht. Contact by email: alan@boatshedphuket.com

New Yacht Sales Brokerage Charter Management After Sales Service

www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th



Happiness is a Choice




Sole Distributor

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SOUTH EAST ASIA

Boat Lagoon Yachting Co., Ltd.
Phone: 0 7623 9739 | Fax: 0 7623 9739

Sales: Vrit Yongsakul, 08 1979 991, vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th
Charter: Rico Stapel, 08 6690 0444, rico@boatlagoonyachting.co.th
Russian: Alyona, 08 9874 9944, alyona@princessyachtstailand.com

13-METER CRUISER
Wooden hull cruiser registered for 17 people. Cost 1.6 million baht, but will sell for 700,000 baht. Just refurbished. Tel: 082-414 6931 (English). Email: phil@krabikonnect.com For further details, please see our website at www.krabikonnect.com/#boat-for-sale/c10mg

SELLING YOUR BOAT?
Just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed. Boatshedphuket.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@boatshedphuket.com

FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'
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.

Looking for a boat?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S Cryptic Crossword

COFFEE break

1	E	2	A	3	S	4	G	5	A	6	W	7	N	8	G															
9	N	O	T	E	P	A	P	E	R	10	S	H	A	L	E	O	I	L												
11	K	12	A	C	I	D	13	S	C	A	M	P	I	14	C	A	R	T	O	O	N									
15	G	U	A	C	A	M	O	L	E	16	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T											
17	E	M	U	E	L	T	18	R	I	O	T	O	U	S	19	R	A	D	I	O	S									
20	T	U	E	N	21	F	R	E	E	22	S	I	D	23	N	E	G	A	T	I	V	E								
24	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	25	A	R	E	26	P	A	R	T	T	I	M	E	R								
27	S	E	T	N	28	T	O	R	E	29	S	T	E	A	D	Y	30	E	C	A	31	P	R	I	N	T	E	R		
32	O	33	C	I	D	34	P	E	R	F	E	C	T	E	D	35	P	A	R	T	T	I	M	E	R					
36	P	O	N	H	U	R	S	37	O	I	38	E	N	T	I	T	L	E	39	C	R	A	Y	O	N	40	E	M	I	T
41	P	A	R	I	S	I	A	N	42	S	E	A	C	H	A	N	G	E	43	I	C	S	G	44	E	L	T	S		

Aircraft For Sale

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAf 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP

350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromqr.com

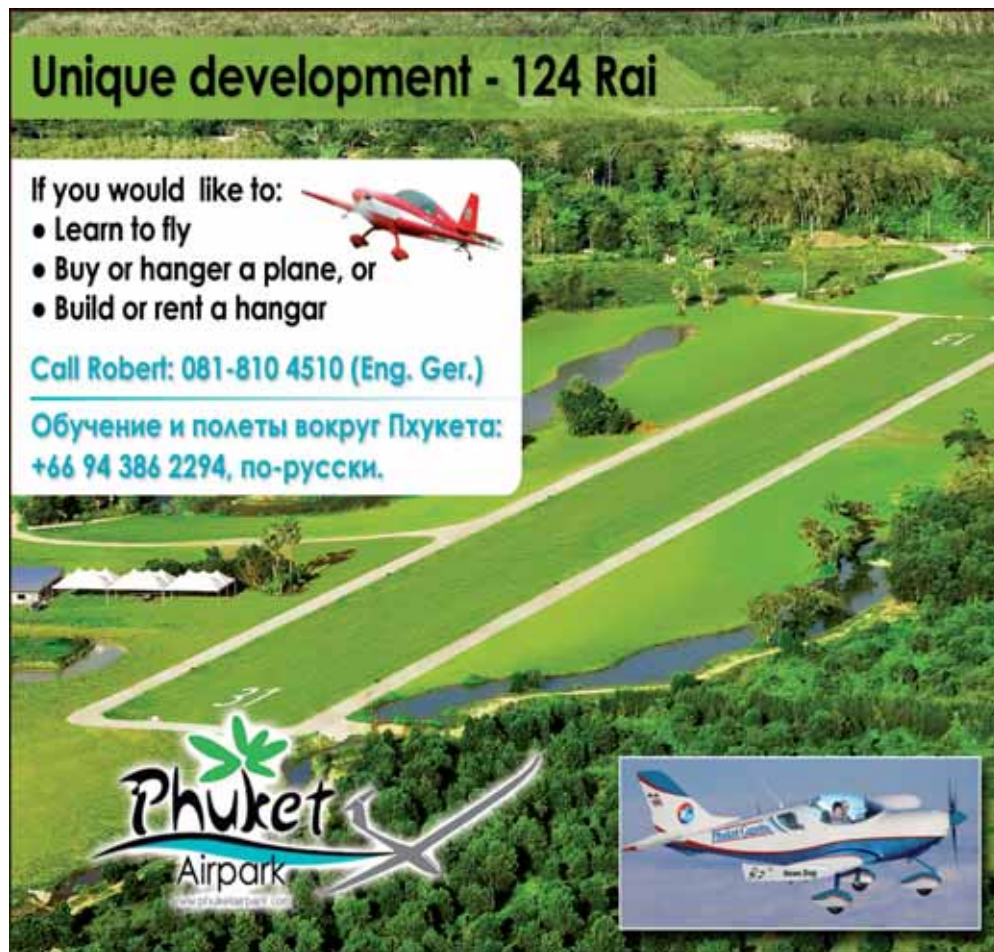
Unique development - 124 Rai

If you would like to:

- Learn to fly
- Buy or hanger a plane, or
- Build or rent a hangar

Call Robert: 081-810 4510 (Eng. Ger.)

Обучение и полеты вокруг Пхукета:
+66 94 386 2294, по-русски.



General Aviation

- Aircraft for Sale
- Aircraft Sharing
- Aircraft Wanted
- Aircraft Charter
- Aviation Services
- Flying Lessons

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

	(heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Chalong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
KL Mart



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
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SKAL DINNER



From left: Rudolf Borgesius, GM of Le Meridien Beach Resort and Lyndon Ellis, GM of Anantara Vacation Club enjoying the recent SKAL dinner held at Anantara Vacation Club in Mai Khao.

PHUKET FOOD COMPETITION



Phuket Vocational College, together with the Phuket Thai Chef's Association, recently held the 2014 Phuket Food Competition. The winning cook-off team came from Centara Villas Phuket. From left to right: Chef De Partie Arnon Malikaew, Executive Chef Ekkrit Wongwan and Sous Chef Khomsak Choochumsri.

ACE BOOTH SOFT OPENING



Property developer ACE recently held the soft opening of their sales booth at Jungceylon, it included a mini concert, activities to entertain customers and special promotions.

MERCURE KRABI DEEVANA



Prof Dr Art-Ong Chumsai Na Ayudaya, A NASA scientist, former Thai Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and currently Director of Institute for Sathya Sai Education Thailand recently attended Mercure Krabi Deevana for the meeting of board of directors and was welcomed by hotel management staff.

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March movie premieres



300 - RISE OF AN EMPIRE

Director: Noam Murro
Time: 102 min
Premiere: March 6

A new chapter of the epic saga based on Frank Miller's latest graphic novel. The "300" sequel takes the action to a fresh battlefield as Greek general Themistokles leads the charge against invading Persian forces led by mortal-turned-god Xerxes and Artemisia, vengeful commander of the Persian navy.



NOAH

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Time: 132 min
Premiere: March 27

The Biblical Noah (Academy Award winner Russell Crowe), a man chosen by God for a great task suffers visions of an apocalyptic deluge and takes measures to protect his family from the coming flood. From the acclaimed director of *Pi*, *Black Swan* and *The Wrestler*.



MR PEABODY & SHERMAN

Director: Rob Minkoff
Time: 92 min
Premiere: March 6

Mr Peabody and his adopted boy Sherman experience world-changing events first-hand and interact with some of the greatest historical characters after a hurtle back in time using the most ingenious invention, the WABAC machine. They find themselves in a race to repair history and save the future.



MARCH 1

1565 The city of Rio de Janeiro was founded.
1872 Yellowstone National Park was established as the world's first national park.
1893 Electrical engineer Nikola Tesla gave the first public demonstration of radio in St Louis, Missouri.
1896 Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity.
1912 Albert Berry made the first parachute jump from a moving airplane.



FOUNDED 1565 Photo: Mariordo

MARCH 2

1791 The unveiling of a semaphore machine in Paris.
1919 The first Communist International meeting in Moscow.
1946 Ho Chi Minh became the President of North Vietnam.
1956 Morocco gained its independence from France.
1962 In Burma, the army led by General Ne Win seized power in a coup d'etat.



ELECTED 1946 Photo: qiv

MARCH 3

1915 NACA, the predecessor of NASA, was founded.
1923 *TIME* magazine was published for the first time.
1938 Oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia.
2005 Steve Fossett became the first person to fly an airplane non-stop around the world solo without refueling.



NEW POWER 1938 Photo: Eric Kounce

MARCH 4

1865 The third and final national flag of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress.
1882 Britain's first electric trams run in East London.
1918 The first case of Spanish flu occurred, the start of a devastating worldwide pandemic.
1974 *People* magazine was published for the first time in the United States as *People Weekly*.



STARS AND STRIPES 1865 Photo: Jeff Kubina

MARCH 5

1616 Nicolaus Copernicus's book, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* was banned by the Catholic Church
1946 Winston Churchill coined the phrase "iron curtain" in his speech at Westminster College, Missouri.
1960 Cuban photographer Alberto Korda took his iconic photograph of Marxist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.



ICON 1960 Photo: Alberto Korda

MARCH 6

1869 Dmitri Mendeleev presented the first periodic table to the Russian Chemical Society.
1899 Bayer registered "Aspirin" as a trademark.
1957 Ghana became the first Sub-Saharan country to gain independence from the British
1964 Nation of Islam's Elijah Muhammad officially gave boxing champion Cassius Clay the name Muhammad Ali.



BANNED 1616 Photo: Szczepreszynski

MARCH 7

321 Emperor Constantine I decreed that the dies Solis Invicti (sun-day) is the day of rest in the Empire.
1876 Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for an invention he called the telephone.
1900 The German liner *SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* became the first ship to send wireless signals to shore.
1985 The song *We Are the World* received its international release.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Mar 1, from 9am. BIS Phuket Challenge Cup basketball tournament.

Six of the best local highschool basketball teams to vie for the trophy. First match starts at 9am at BISP in Koh Kaew.

Mar 20, 10am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch

The AGM of the Phuket International Women's Club will start at 10am, where coffee will be served, followed by our monthly lunch. Come to one or both. Members 500 baht, guests 650. Location: Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316 711 email info@phuketiwcc.com or go to phuketiwcc.com

Mar 21, 6-11:30 pm. Abba tribute Night

Mamma Mia, it's ABBA night at Two Chefs Bar & Grill, Karon. Large buffet with Skagen toasts, Smoked salmon, Pickled herrings, Swedish meatballs, Beef Greta, Stuffed pork tenderloin, Poached red snapper filet and much more. All this and more at only 795 baht, with kids at just 395 baht, including the show, our large buffet, as well as a welcome drink. We will start serving the buffet at 6pm. There will be a guest artist playing 6-9pm. Then, at 9pm the Two Chefs ABBA Tribute show will begin. Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more info call 076 286 479, email karon@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com

Apr 6. Chakri Memorial Day

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

Apr 7. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand commemorating the Chakri dynasty

Apr 13-15. Songkran Festival

Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival, also known as the Water Festival. Held during the hottest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country, who pour water – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – on other people to wish them good luck for the new year.

May 1. Labor Day

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.



ABBA tribute night
Two Chefs Karon
March 21, 6-11:30 pm

Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

May 24. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. These events are believed to have fallen on the same lunar day and month (but on different years).

Jun 12 to Jul 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Football (soccer) fans around the world look forward to the 20th edition of the World Cup, this year to be played in arguably the top footballing nation on the planet. Here in Phuket, most of the games will be aired live in the morning hours, though many restaurants and bars will certainly screen reruns of all the matches.

Jun 28-July 27. (depends on moon sighting). Ramadan

Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the ninth month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

Jul 11. Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month (traditional Thai calendar) commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged at all Thai Buddhist temples.

Jul 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat, the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as a monk, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the Southwesterly Monsoons are in full force.

Aug 12. Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty the Queen Sriket Kitiyakara's 82nd Birthday. Also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

Oct 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the passing and reign of King Rama V, who is best

remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

Nov 6. Loy Krathong

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the river's Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday.

Dec 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday

His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87th Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

Dec 10. Constitution Day

This day commemorates the signing of Thailand's permanent constitution by King Prajadhibok (Rama VII) in 1932, which marked the beginning of Thailand's transition from an absolute monarchy into a constitutional democracy.

Dec 25. Christmas Day

This is not a public holiday in Thailand



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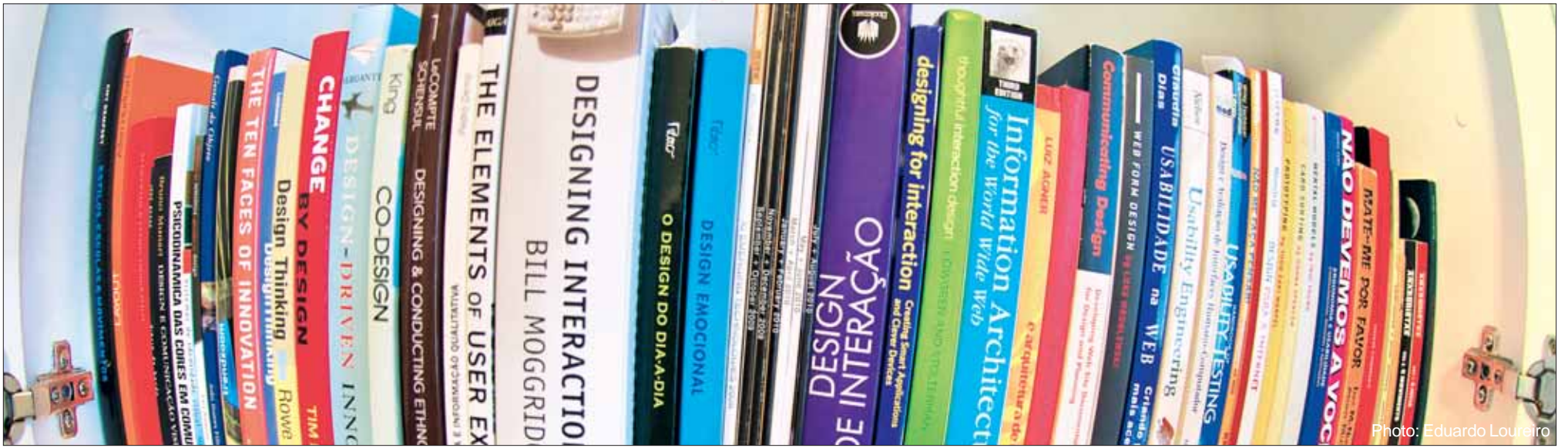


Photo: Eduardo Loureiro

Challenges of learning

THERE are several reasons why children experience learning disabilities, among them a low IQ, abnormal function of the brain, mental and emotional state or other external factors such as the environment where the child grew up. The latter could include parental behavior, the teacher's style and method of teaching, as well as the family, school and socio-economic conditions and values though, in most cases, a combination of several factors is the most likely cause.

Learning disorders affect a child's reading, writing and mathematical ability. Children may be able to perform some of these tasks but their performance will be below average compared to other kids of their age. In Thai-

land, learning disorders are found in four to six per cent of school children, with symptoms appearing in grade 1. About 60 to 70 per cent of cases are associated with attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Learning disorders can be categorized into three main groups:

1. Unable to read, have difficulty in reading and achieving low levels of reading. Children's spelling will be inconsistent, they will struggle to read fluently, be slow to remember words and combinations of words, and unable to understand details of what has been read.

2. Unable to write or writing with errors – when compared to children of the same age, they

lag two years behind.

3. Unable to perform mathematical calculations or able to perform very few mathematical calculations.

Parents and teachers should be aware of four main symptoms:

1. Difficulty in studies, such as failing in class, struggling to catch up with other peers in class, incomplete assignments, easily forgetting what has been read, errors in writing.

2. Behavioral problems such as not wanting to go to school, skipping school, being quiet and isolated from friends.

3. Emotional and adjustment problems such as depression, isolation, irritability, unable to socialize with friends.

4. Physical pain without known reasons such as headache, stomachache, nausea and dizziness.

Children with learning difficulties should be thoroughly assessed and a family health history should also be reviewed. A physical examination will cover testing of the nervous system and sensory function, an eye sight test, hearing test and a psychological test that will indicate a child's emotions, behavior, thoughts, intelligence, adjustment and social skills. Other tests include an IQ test and a skills test that measures the child's reading, writing and mathematical skills.

A formal assessment will lead to correct treatment and assistance. Special needs assistance will enable children to study further depending on their capability. Working collaboratively in a team, comprising of specialists from the public health and education, forms an important foundation that will benefit the child and the family.

On the home front, parents, teachers or even older siblings can help by practicing reading with the children, beginning at a level that they can read. For instance, a stu-



Photo: the UMF

Using technology for teaching might help overcome difficulties.

dent in grade five could read books that are of grade two level.

It is also useful to change the teaching technique and style by using tools such as MP3, calculators, or computers.

In the classroom, the use of other teaching techniques should be applied where possible and include oral examinations, reading examination questions out loud to the students and allowing the student to use a computer during examinations.

Last but not least, development and ability in other fields, such as sports, music and other activities must be encouraged. Since other areas of the brain are normal, a child with LD,

if trained well, will have the same abilities as other kids of their age. These children should be encouraged and taught to use language that will make them feel positive about themselves so that others can accept them.

This will make the child happy, proud and motivated to learn, eventually leading them to accept certain limitations they may have.

– *The Nation*

The Learning Disorder Center at Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital is staffed by physicians including a child and adolescent psychiatrist, clinical psychologists and experienced special needs teachers. Call 02 378 9125.



Photo: susivinh

Four to six per cent of Thai children suffer from learning disorders.



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Parents can help by practising reading with their children. Photo: Blue Plover

South China Sea showdown



CURRENTLY there's a dispute going on between China and Japan over ownership of several small islands in the East China Sea.

I understand that Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia also claim them. I'm surprised that the United States hasn't gotten into the act and claimed them as the West Hawaiian Islands, on the grounds that there's a long undersea ridge connecting them to Oahu. The United States could challenge anybody who doubts this to go down and look. No diving gear allowed.

My friend Fardley Nerdwell has devised a simple plan to determine proper ownership. He has authorized me to publish it in this prestigious column for the benefit of the waiting world.

The Nerdwell Plan for Peace in the East China Sea (PITECS) offers two options. Option one, the coastline-to-coastline solution, deals with each island separately.

To simplify, let's assume that China and Japan are the only claimants. Geographers would measure the distance between the nearest

coastline of China to each island – down to the nearest centimeter, and at low tide. They would do the same with regard to Japan. Then they would compare the measurements and award ownership of the island to the nation closest to it.

In case of a tie (and we're talking in terms of centimeters here), they would divide the island in half. They'd award the east half to China and the west half to Japan. This type of solution has met with great success in past disputes. Think of India and Pakistan, East and West Germany, North and South Korea, Cyprus.

To cement ownership of each half, a wall would be built down the center of the island, lined with shopping malls and discos. The Japanese side would feature sushi bars and karaoke lounges. The Chinese side would boast *xiao long bao* restaurants, panda zoos, and perhaps a gulag or two.

If the two parties reject option one, the Nerdwell Plan offers option two: the blow-the-suckers-up solution.

Let's be honest. These crummy little islands are not worth going to

war over. An all-out war between China and Japan would at the very least devastate the coastal regions of both nations and might even precipitate World War III.

Therefore, we use the most advanced undersea technology available to blow the islands up and sink them beneath the sea.

Of course, we must be mindful not to trigger earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or tsunamis. Fardley leaves this for the technicians to handle. He's a global strategist and macro-conceptualizer, not a mechanic.

Once the islands are gone, the problem of ownership will be gone with them.

There may be some wrangling over snorkeling rights, but the tourism bureaus can sort that out.

Fardley calls this the Nerdwell Plan for PITECS (Peace In The East China Sea) and offers it free of charge to all interested parties. Although he does not actively seek a Nobel Peace Prize, he says he will not refuse one if it is offered.

You can praise Fardley for his genius through Ye Old Curmudgeon c/o s.tsow@gmail.com.



Photo: Severin Stalder

The idea of marking borders with a giant wall is not new to the Chinese.



The solution to the South China Sea islands dispute could be solved instantly – simply wipe them off the map. Photo: x-ray delta one



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Thai tradition meets nature



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

WHEN a white rabbit bounds past you on the lawn, then sits up on its hind legs and stares at you with unblinking pink eyes, you might be forgiven for thinking you are in a Victorian fantasy world peopled by anthropomorphic creatures. In fact you are very much in the Thai here and now, admiring the fabulous gardens of the Thavorn Palm Beach Resort at Karon. The ocean is a whisper away but here I am aware only of the grounds – forty rai of them – of such floral and architectonic splendor that they take my breath away.

The resort is a traditional one by Phuket standards – a white, low-rise crescent of three interconnected buildings, constructed in 1986, in grounds already transformed into Thavorn Palm Beach Resort at Karon by the Thai owners. The Thavornwongwongse family continue not only to maintain and improve the setting, but have opened up their private gardens to both guests and the public. The resort, situated on a priceless swathe of land between Patak Road and South Karon Beach, is approached along a verdant drive that suddenly opens up to reveal a manicured lawn with a *bougainvillea* as its centerpiece, fully ten meters high and in rampant red blossom.

Immediately, one begins to understand the hotel's motto, "Where Thai tradition meets nature." Everywhere there are mature white *plumerias* lending a touch of fragrant opulence to the scene. I climb the steps to the marble floored reception area, to be greeted by Roger Gibson, my host for the visit. His enthusiasm is infectious as he and his team show me their treasures – venerable potted bonsai trees and *adeniums*, and, the *piece de resistance* – a rare and newly acquired black ebony tree which looks for all the world as though it has been coated in tar. But nonetheless, it is thriving.

We pass along a narrow, winding path through a glade with towering trees. The steamy humidity is palpable, and is appreciated by many varieties of fern – stag's horn, bird's nest, Boston, *adiantum*, with the evening sunlight percolating through hundreds of hanging draperies of *tillandsia* (Spanish moss). *Bromeliads* also abound. A natural *klong* runs under the



The gardens of Thavorn Palm Beach Resort at Karon have many varieties of fern and Spanish moss drapes the tree branches. Photos: Supplied

path – a riot of jungle, moisture loving plants can be found here: elephant ears (*colocasia*), *heliconias* and bananas.

And then, suddenly, we are in the orchid garden, a unique feature of the resort, and ten years in the making. Set on rails atop decorated brick walls, there are thousands of orchids, many of them *phalaenopsis*, and almost all in white or deep purple bloom. Misted twice a day to ensure high levels of humidity, they provide both an amazing spectacle, and a continuous and exotic source for displays and arrangements throughout the hotel. If you want to enjoy them *alfresco*, there is even a white orchid room nearby where afternoon tea can be taken.

Beyond, the tenebrous gardens open up to reveal a huge open area. Though the Andaman Sea glistens just across the road,

the space has been landscaped with great imagination and with scant regard for possible difficulties posed by salt-laden spray, or burning midday sun. The level surface has been made more engaging in many ways. Apart from the mandatory azure swimming pool, there are a number of well-stocked lily

ponds, some with impressive statuary of animals and birds including pelicans and a wild boar, and traditional Thai figures from Buddhist culture, already mellowed by the elements. Many can be crossed via massive stepping stones. Huge ceramic bowls and vases, some raised, others at

ground level, support *bougainvilleas*, purple *euphorbias*, golden leaved *crinum* lilies and plants that trail gracefully over the sides.

Looking tall and elegant above the mani-

cured grass – kept in enviably good condition – are royal and coconut palms, and even clumps of red-stemmed sealing wax palms. Contrasting textures and colors are provided by clipped evergreen shrubs and flower beds of dwarf pink *ixoras*, spider lilies and *hibiscus*. Dotted around are various low-rise white buildings – open air bars and cafes – none of which look out of place in these lush surroundings.

Since the resort has a precious Green Leaf Certificate awarded in 2003, it is hardly surprising that every care has been taken not just to preserve, but to enhance the natural environment. Everywhere is evidence of the loving way in which the plants have been chosen and cared for. And not just with an awareness of their aesthetic appeal, but with an expert's sense of which plants best suit which kind of locale. When you hear the twittering of red-whiskered bulbuls, you know that here is an Eden where even the birds are happy.

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



The owners have opened up their private gardens to both guests and the public.

Tip of the week

Garden walls

I HAVE just had my perimeter walls repainted. This necessitated severe pruning of overgrown *allamandas*, *bougainvilleas* and Rangoon creepers. It is of course desirable to have flowering shrubs that climb and add color to white surfaces: the trouble is that this trio are all vigorous growers and become dense and top-heavy over time. This means that the wall behind tends to discolor more rapidly because it is in shade, stays damp longer after rain, and is covered by foliage.

Because of the excesses of the Thai climate (fierce sunlight, high humidity and tropical rain storms), most garden walls will need to be cleaned with a pressure sprayer and then repainted every three or



Photo: Hakan Dahlstrom

four years. Ensure you do not stint on the emulsion you use: choose a high quality paint with both anti-algal and anti-fungal constituents. There are few things more unsightly than grimy, blackened walls.

Dog of the week

Mischief

MISCHIEF got her name because she loves to get up to shenanigans, when she was just a week old her mother got shot and she has been all alone ever since. Cuddles and her brother have been in foster care since they lost their mum and have been bottle fed milk until they were about 2.5 months old. They are now both fully weaned, eating solids and have been vaccinated and Mischief's brother has been adopted. She is now looking for a place to call home with a lovely lady or family who will treat her kindly and give her lots of cuddles, so she can grow together and have the family she lost at such a young age.



If you can adopt mischief, please contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com or call her on 084-877-3566. Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in the Laguna area.

Playing with your food, Brazilian style

By Maciek Klimowicz

DID mama tell you not to play with food? At Churasco restaurant in Patong this is exactly what you can do. And now you have one more excuse to go there – the Sunday Samba Brunch.

“Brazilians love to do a barbeque on Sundays, they get together, prepare the food, listen

and dance to Samba and drink,” says Churasco Executive Chef and Manager Auriberto “Auri” Santos, “I took part in many such parties, I know how to do it,” he adds.

Coming from Joao Pessoa, a city in north east of Brazil, chef Auri spent most of his life cooking and playing Samba.

“When I started to work I moved to Rio where I lived for a

few years and it is where I learned how to cook and do barbeque,” he explains.

“My cooking school was real life and hard work in restaurants. Then in 2003, I was invited to Singapore, where I worked for 10 years, and I also had a small samba band.”

Samba is definitely one of the main ingredients of a traditional Brazilian Sunday barbeque. When you dine in Churasco on week days, you can admire Chef’s Auri barbeque skills, peeking at him working through a panoramic kitchen window. Take your friends out for a Sunday Samba Brunch and you might have a chance to discover his musical side.

“Brazilian barbeque parties aren’t only about food but also about samba. We have a traditional drum here at Churasco, I can play and guests can join in too. We use Sundays as an excuse for people to meet and enjoy the food in a fun atmosphere. At night we can’t make so much noise but on Sunday afternoon it’s samba time!”

Still, it’s the food that brings people to a restaurant in the first place and Churasco menu will



Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Chef Auri has years of experience in cooking... and playing samba.

make any Brazilian feel at home. The authentic Brazilian food is simply delicious and... unlimited! Pay once and you will be granted endless supply of grilled chicken, pork, lamb and beef, fantastic cheese bread, traditional bean stew, *Feijoada* beans topped with crunchy *Farofa* and multiple salad options. The meat is delivered to your table, still scorching hot, on long metal skewers from which the waiter cuts fresh portions right onto your plate. And you can always ask for more.

One more ingredient necessary for the perfect Brazilian Sunday Brunch are... the Brazilians.

“We don’t really have a Brazil-

ian community in Phuket. There are a few Brazilians who play football for the Phuket team and they do come to Churasco but that’s it,” says chef Auri.

“But there is a lot Brazilian tourists in Phuket and this is also an invitation for them,” he adds.

Chef Auri claims that most Brazilians know how to make perfect barbeque, play samba and football. The upcoming World Cup in Brazil will give the beloved *Canarinhos* a chance to prove their footy abilities. But if you want to sample the Brazilian food and music, you don’t have to wait for the World Cup, just head to Churasco on Sunday.



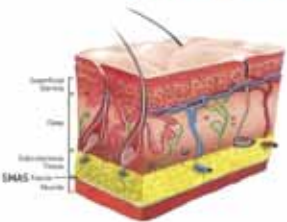
Your Sunday roast taken to another level. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

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 – CO2laser, 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 proposes. 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



d 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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Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Smooth sailing Superstar

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT TAKES less than an hour to travel from Phuket to Penang on-board an airplane. Why then would anyone opt for boat travel which takes much, much longer? The answer is – for fun!

You might have heard it before – “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey”. But in the case of a Phuket to Penang cruise – it’s both. If you haven’t been to Penang yet, you simply have to go. It’s like our beloved Phuket Town but, arguably – more stylish and with more local food, diversity and, for sure better side-walks. And if you haven’t been on a cruise ship before, you definitely

should give it a go – it’s a whole new experience. Do it with Star Cruises and you’ll hit two birds with one stone.

I can’t remember when was the last time I was so impressed with a man-made construction as when I boarded the *Superstar Libra* in the bay of Patong – was it while peeking into a hi-tech F1 car cockpit on the famous Silverstone race track? Or maybe admiring the craftsmanship of the ancient engineers and architects who built the temples of Cambodia’s Angkor Wat or Myanmar’s Bagan?

Standing on the top deck of the *Superstar Libra* was for me one of those “Wow” moments that leave one in awe of human kind’s abilities.

At 216 meters long, with 42,275 gross tonnage, and suitable for more than 1,400 passengers, the ship is simply breathtaking. And it’s not even the biggest boat in Star Cruises’ fleet.

Under and on the deck there’s all you need to forget you’re actually on a ship – eight bars and restaurants, two pools, two jacuzzis, a golf driving range, basketball court, jogging track, karaoke lounge, disco, nightclub, theater, casino... you name it! Plus, over 700 cabins, each equipped with all the necessary amenities, and some leaning more towards the suite category, including a stylish two-room apartment with a view of the bow. In fact, it is only the view of the deep-blue surface of the ocean, stretching off into the horizon, that reminds you that you are sailing through Andaman waters in what might seem like a gigantic hotel. But what other hotel let’s you enjoy your dinner while looking at Phuket’s marvelous sunset and munch on your breakfast the next morning absorbing the majestic, rocky landscape of Krabi province?

The time between meals can be filled with a vast array of activities – it might be tempting to just kick back on the sun deck with a book in your hand but there is a lot to be missed below deck: sipping a coffee while listening to a live music performance, duty free shopping, a massage or beauty treatment, or, when the ship reaches



A plunge pool with a view – everyday different, everyday stunning.

international waters, a lucky strike in the casino. Combine this with a daily entertainment show in the ship’s theater and there isn’t much time left for boredom.

Last but not least, one more thing that deserves a mention aside from the human spirit that lets engineering miracles like a cruise ship come to life, is human kindness. The staff of *Superstar Libra* are among the most polite and amiable I’ve ever encountered. Always ready to please, point in the right direction, answer the passengers questions and all this with an ever-present smile and enough grace to put many multi-star resorts to shame.

A flight back from Penang to Phuket lasted no longer than 40 minutes, barely enough to finish my on-board meal and scan through the inflight magazine. If you’re in a rush that’s the way to do it, but if you’re in for some quality time – take it slow and sail away.

Two of Star Cruises’ ships visit Phuket – *Superstar Libra* on Mondays and *Superstar Gemini* on Tuesdays. For more information contact SuperStar Vacations Co Ltd on 022-337789, 026-352893 or 081-619-2445, email info@superstarvacations.com or apple@superstarvacations.com or visit: superstarvacations.com



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A lazy day spent on the top deck is close to perfection.

Life in the lap of luxury



By Jeremie Schatz

AHH... the emerald tropical waters of Phang Nga Bay, the striking limestone escarpments emerging from the mysterious, yet inviting, depths. Simply being present in the middle of what is unarguably an absolute wonder of our natural world is enough to make one's mind wander into the realm of appreciation where you can't help but feel immensely fortunate for the experience.

The experience in and of itself is a luxury to most but there are a discerning few who don't stop there but continue into the land of the lavish. And lavish is exactly how the *MY Olympia* could be defined. At 76-feet-long, with a beam width of 17.4 feet, this three-story motor yacht has ample space to lounge about in the lap of luxury.

The boat can easily accommodate 20 passengers, including the full-time five person crew, and sleep eight for those multi-day excursions exploring the remote islands, beaches and coves of the Andaman. The 4.2 meter tender provides near unlimited access and allows the sports-minded to water ski or wakeboard.

When you just can't handle any more fun in the sun, enter the inner sanctum. Teak wood floors, air conditioning and a 46-inch flat-screen TV with satellite feed offer inside options for extravagance. Below decks are two bathrooms and four twin cabins that await the weary.

Having multiple owners, the *MY Olympia* is spoken for by no single person and is managed similar to a

time share. When not in use by an individual shareholder it is managed and chartered by Andaman Cruises.

One of the boat's shareholders, Ian Lancaster, is allotted 55-60 days per year aboard the *MY Olympia*. Rather, he is afforded those days to use however he wishes, whether it is spent out on the boat or it is continued to be chartered



NOT TO SHABBY: Foie gras and caviar in Phang Nga Bay.

out through Andaman Cruises. However, Ian says he much prefers to round up some friends, and friends of friends, and explore the maritime treasures that the region has to offer.

Ian has worked in the insurance business all over Asia for 25 years, so he knew exactly what he was doing when he decided set up base in Phuket. He has owned

boats previously and originally planned to buy a boat outright, but after exploring his options, decided it was in his best interest to become shareholder.

Ian is now retired and tends to live the good life. "A little while back I joined SKI. When you get to my age, you will probably become a foundation member – SKI: spend the kid's inheritance," says the jovial 67-year-old with a laugh.

With the engines fired up, we pushed off from Ao Po Grand Marina, and Ian declared, "We'll see if we can get some fresh prawns and maybe even some crabs from the fishermen." It was clear this was not his first foray into the bay.

Unsurprisingly, it didn't take long for the bubbly to start flowing and everyone was enjoying the sea breeze as we weaved our way past lush islands and beneath limestone precipices with dripping stalactites. We anchored in a dead-calm cove with a veritable fortress of limestone surrounding us.

Platters of caviar and foie gras soon appeared and the champagne turned to rosé. The tender zipped out to a passing longtail and did not return empty handed. A buffet spread materialized in the dining area consisting of fresh prawn and crab, beef stroganoff with spätzle, barbequed chicken, massaman curry, freshly baked French bread, and on and on. Decadent, rich and sumptuous... not to mention the deserts.

After eating and drinking and some more eating and drinking, the sated group aboard the *MY*



Ian Lancaster enjoying a day on the MY Olympia. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

Olympia laid about languidly as we meandered through paradise only to arrive at the crystal clear waters off of Koh Nakha. Those feeling sprightly jumped on the inflatable doughnut and rag-dolled behind the tender while some swam to shore and others simply floated weightlessly in the tepid waters.

Arriving back to the marina, nobody rushed to the dock eager

to get back on land. Nobody wanted to put on shoes, sit in traffic, get back to the rat race. Nobody wanted the day to end.

If you and your friends would like to enjoy a day, or multiple-day cruise aboard the luxurious MY Olympia, contact Andaman cruises on 076 316500 or see the website at: andaman-cruises.com



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Turtles go free!

"SEA turtle with fish net wounds saved on Phuket beach", "Phuket sea turtle on the hook – saved", "Six injured sea turtles beached in Phuket, Phang Nga in one day" – these are just a few of many *Phuket Gazette* headlines chronicling the plight of the region's sea turtles in the last couple of years. No wonder five of seven existing species of sea turtle are classified as endangered or critically endangered. Luckily, some people are putting up a fight.

You surely wouldn't think of the crowd that gathered last Friday, February 21 at Angsana's Xana beach club as warriors. Yet the toddlers, children, elderly couples and whole families – all together more than 500 people – who flocked to Laguna beach last week, are indeed fighting another battle in the ongoing war for the future of Sea Turtles – let's hope it's a winning battle.

During this year's Laguna Phuket Sea Turtle Release Ceremony, the 20th of its kind, 90 juvenile turtles were released into the Andaman Sea and more than 200,000 baht from turtle ticket-sales and other activities were raised to support Phuket Marine Biological Center and

3rd Area Naval Command of the Royal Thai Navy, whose ongoing conservation and rehabilitation programs include studies of nesting behavior and tracking and analysis of turtle migration via microchips and satellite tracking devices attached to released turtles.

All this effort isn't without reason as sea turtles are an important element of the sea and beach ecosystem. They are one of the few creatures feeding on the sea grass, which is vital in helping to maintain sea grass beds. They also help keep the jelly fish population (including the stinging kinds) under control and supply nutrients to beach and dunes vegetation helping prevent erosion. Not to mention that they are majestic, beautiful and cute, according to some of the participants of this year's Sea Turtle Release. Just take a look at the pictures.



A moving meditation

By Jeremie Schatz

MAKING a guest appearance at the Aikido of Phuket dojo across from Bangkok Hospital, Aikido Grand Master Nobuo Maekawa exceeded my pre-conceived expectations of the quintessential Japanese martial artist. Small in stature but huge in confidence, aging but incredibly able and agile, lighthearted yet deeply philosophical and reflective.

"It is a moving meditation. Blend, like cafe au lait. If the coffee [is] too late, milk too fast, not a good taste – same time, together. It's a middle point." said the 65-year-old Sensei Maekawa while gesticulating with fiery enthusiasm.

Maekawa has been studying aikido since the early 60s when it was first being popularized as a distinct form of martial arts.

"I wanted to do karate but my father said no. I found one person, a school teacher and calligrapher, a very famous person –



not a professional but my father said 'it's ok'." And so it began."

After organizing an aikido club at his high school and another when he attended Tottori University, Maekawa began practicing karate in Okinawa and continued building on his skills by practicing

“To smash, injure or destroy is the worst thing a human being can do. The real ‘Way of a Warrior’ is to prevent such slaughter – it is the art of peace, the power of love.”

– Morihei Ueshiba

various other martial arts.

From 1980 to 1997 Maekawa trained students in aikido at Tottori University and in 1988 continued passing on his martial arts skills and philosophical teachings to students at Ryukyu University, where he continues to do so today.

As a major name in the world of aikido, and having reached the 8th Dan (analogous to an 8th degree black belt in karate), Maekawa finds himself travelling the world, accepting invitations to impart his knowledge and skills to those who share his passion.

The martial art of aikido was developed following World War II out of the skills and styles of the samurai of feudal Japan.

"Techniques are centered around harmonizing with your opponent. They are characterized by circular, natural, flowing movements," says Aikido of Phuket's website.

Aikido of Phuket co-founder

Gerald Tuckwood compares it to the slower, more meditative martial art of tai chi. Although in practical use, aikido movements to defend oneself are initiated quickly, it is practiced and trained at a slower pace.

Watching the students of Aikido of Phuket in their practice with Sensei Maekawa, it was apparent that there was a strong focus on manipulating pressure points on the arms, wrists and neck and controlling the momentum of incoming attacks to throw opponents. These throwing methods allude to judo and jujitsu influences.

Of equal, or even more importance than the physical methods used in Aikido, are the philosophical and spiritual doctrines adhered to by practitioners. Credited with being the original founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba is also responsible for the ideologies associated with aikido, such as the concept that it should be used in such a way as to avoid injuring attackers, and that instead of going against an opponent, defenders should harmonize with them.

While talking with the *Gazette*, Maekawa likened aikido philosophies with those of Gestalt psychological theory which concerns perception and the, "essence or shape of an entity's complete form."

Maekawa and his disciples, such as Aikido of Phuket owners Gerald Tuckwood and David Bare, are carrying on the legacy of Morihei Ueshiba and continuing the traditions of aikido.



Photos: Jeremie Schatz

Aikido Grand Master Nobuo Maekawa (right) teaching at Aikido of Phuket.

"To smash, injure, or destroy is the worst thing a human being can do. The real 'Way of a Warrior' is to prevent such slaughter – it is the art of peace, the power of love," says Morihei Ueshiba.

Interested in trying Aikido? Visit the dojo in person at 266 Yaowarat Rd, Talat Yai, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, call 086-007 4010 or visit them on the web at: aikidoofphuket.com

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All about Eve

By Mark Knowles

GETTING married in Phuket certainly ticks a lot of items on people's wedding wish lists: Beautiful island setting? Check. Fine sunny weather? Check. Plenty of catering options? Check.

But until recently, sourcing the perfect wedding dress on the island was a difficult, if not impossible, task – with many brides-to-be having to buy their dress in Bangkok or even in their home country.

It was precisely this gap that Freya Eve sought to fill when she opened the first multi-label designer bridal wear boutique in Thailand – Daughter of Eve. Located within the glamorous grounds of the Royal Phuket Marina, Daughter of Eve has wedding gowns by some of the world's most renowned bridal wear designers – such as Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera and Elie Saab.

"They're much esteemed in bridal wear, because they have renowned *haute couture* shows or hotly anticipated ready-to-wear collections. They influence most of what happens down the chain in the high street stores," says Freya.

All bridal wear is imported directly from the designers, who produce their collections in either



“The designers' reputation for quality and style means you will be getting exactly the same dresses that you would get if you bought it on Fifth Avenue in New York.”

the USA or Spain. Freya says that the designers' reputation for quality and style means you will be getting exactly the same dress that you would get if you bought it on Fifth Avenue in New York.

"The quality and composition of the fabrics, matched with their world-class design, are incomparable to anything else available in Thailand," says Freya.

"By that I mean there are only a few real *couturiers* in Bangkok who are remarkable, but it's not the same experience, because brides are going there to design and produce something completely

independent of runway fashion.

"A bride could not bring a photo from a magazine and ask the designer to remake that style. It would be offensive, because these designers have their own credibility in Thai society, and you would need to trust their instinct for what they see you dressed in on your wedding day.

"The price to order an international designer dress compared to buying a custom made gown by prestigious Thai designers, is very similar. The decision comes down to time and trust."

A Thai-British national, Freya was born and raised in London, England and studied at the prestigious BRIT School. After moving to Thailand, Freya and her fiancé began to prepare their wedding plans and she soon discovered that her dream wedding dress was not available in Thailand, forcing her to seek out a dress from overseas.

It was this personal experience that inspired Freya to create Daughter of Eve, so that brides-to-be in Phuket and Thailand could have access to bridal wear from high-end international designers. The dresses are certainly a cut above the average and Freya offers support to her customers throughout the entire fitting process to ensure that everything is absolutely perfect for their big day.

The initial appointment includes a private consultation with Freya and one of the boutique's stylists to discuss the overall look. Following that, is the private introduction to the exquisite range of made-to-order bridal gowns and ready-to-wear bridal dresses.

"We don't have a limit on how many dresses you can try on, I'm happy for women to try on ev-



Daughter of Eve is the first multi-label designer bridal wear boutique in Thailand and it's right here in Phuket. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

everything in the store," says Freya.

After making your selection and discussing any alterations and so on, the order is sent to the designer's fashion house for production. The creation of your garment takes between eight to 12 weeks depending on the level of embroidery or embellishment – some dresses take up to 1,100 hours to make!

Daughter of Eve carries an elegant range of dress styles and the price changes depending on the amount of detailed work and material required in the design. The collections start with simpler and shorter styles at 90,000 baht, which are mainly bought and worn at the "bachelorette party" or for the "rehearsal dinner". Full

length gowns start at 150,000 baht through to 480,000 baht for the most intricately designed garments.

Because of the level of detail and quality handmade construction, Freya recommends scheduling your first appointment six to 12 months before your actual wedding date.

So if you are planning for your big day, make sure you head to Daughter of Eve and peruse their amazing range of wedding gowns and accessories, you'll be sure to find the dress of your dreams.

Daughter of Eve boutique is located at Royal Phuket Marina just off the main plaza. For more information visit the website at: daughterofeveboutique.com



Owner Freya Eve models a wedding gown at the boutique.



There is a huge selection of designer dresses to try on, so you can find your dream wedding gown.



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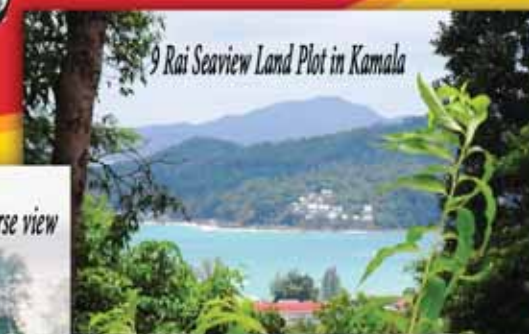
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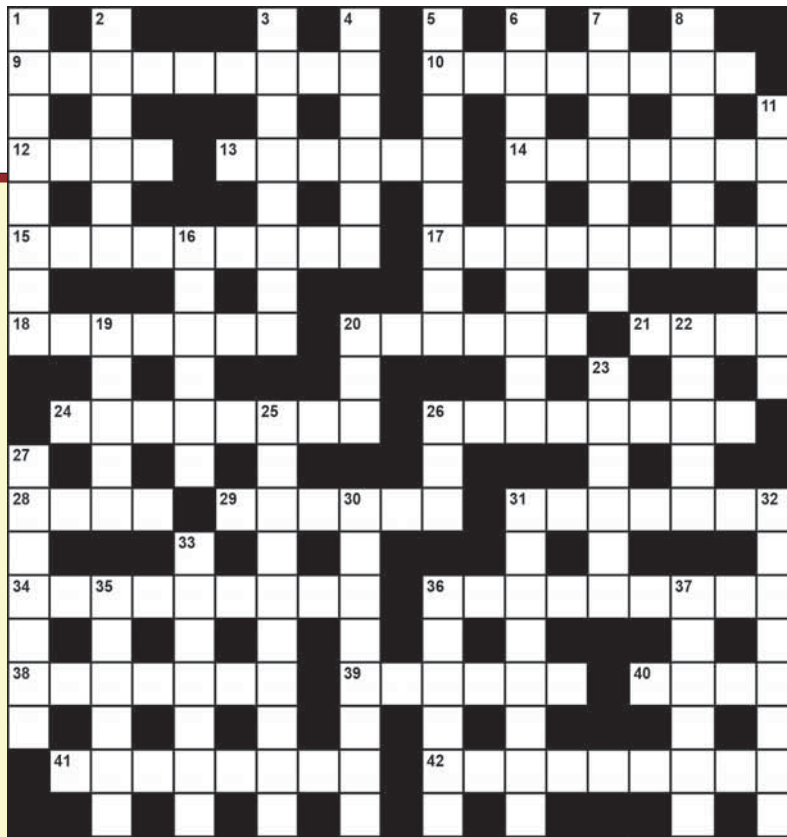
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COFFEE break

Across

9. Observe journal as correspondence material (9)
 10. Halo lies around petroleum from soft slate (5,3)
 12. A Spanish Christian champion is acerbic (4)
 13. Camp is destroyed for seafood (6)
 14. Can root about in a comic strip (7)
 15. Go, Ma! A mule can make Mexican food (9)
 17. Time went quickly, Australian mate, in vehement emotion (9)
 18. Rowdy disturbance of the peace round us (7)
 20. Sad or disturbed around island by broadcasts (6)
 21. Release from degraded reef (4)
 24. Flag? It's normal (8)
 26. Give neat interpretation of something less than zero (8)
 28. Hurried to right point (4)
 29. Arranged set day. Sensible (6)
 31. In Public Relations I rent out a computer accessory (7)
 34. Put the finishing touches to feed, crept off (9)
 36. A portion remit back to casual worker (4,5)
 38. Give the right to note new name (7)
 39. Almost synthetic material in colored wax (6)
 40. Give out time to return (4)
 41. Sir, I pan a capital Frenchman! (8)
 42. Ace hangs around East for a complete alteration in character (3,6)



Down

1. Finish vexation, jeopardize (8)
 2. A cat, it strayed around the Athens area in Ancient Greece (6)
 3. So is puce possibly of good appearance on the surface? (8)
 4. Diagram meant to show French weight in the center (6)
 5. Sad set is unusually aided (8)
 6. Survey from end to end of a big Phuket temple (3,7)
 7. The closest are sent out (7)
 8. I go, log off as a paid dancing partner (6)
 11. Tied up? Sounds like not, Ted (7)
 16. Come to a horse (6)
 19. Up to time note river creature (5)
 20. Showing embarrassment concerning daughter (3)
 22. Right, I evaluate a metal fastener (5)
 23. Harsh gastric trouble found inside (6)
 25. The other side of the coin against a dissertation (10)
 26. In the North, 'ay' means 'no'! (3)
 27. Pause for each plug (7)
 30. Copper turns up, adding external citing as proof (8)
 31. Past reason changed Liberal individual (8)
 32. Uncommon things it is rare to change (8)
 33. Maybe nicer about time caught at the center (7)
 35. Thai train to fair derailed (6)
 36. Ape, Sir, is moved by approbation (6)
 37. Importance for a short time (6)

Your weekly pith:

"The only time you should look back is to see how far you've come." – *Unknown*

"One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast....a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic." – *Edward Abbey*

Medium

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9			2		3		4
	8					1	

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

Hard

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PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Imagination can work both ways for Pisceans as March commences. On one hand, you will feel more creative and this can lead to fresh ideas of generating a new income. But there are also hints that you may come to wrong conclusions about friends, particularly another water sign. Those with a birthday during the coming days should enjoy better health in the year ahead. The number two brings good luck this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



New business ventures will be slow to get off the ground at the start of March, but patience is predicted to pay off. The road to romance takes some unexpected detours, but things should settle down by the middle of the month. Those involved with another fire sign are advised to let sparks die down as a minor matter can be blown out of proportion. Number six can be important for Arians this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Subtle hints won't work and those born under the sign of Taurus who have to get a serious message across will need to tell it as it is. Another earth sign is forecast

to respond badly to your words midweek, but the atmosphere should improve when they have calmed down. Money matters are better started during March, with sudden gain forecast in the middle of the month. The number one appears fortunate this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



A power game in the world of work can take its toll on Geminis. The stars suggest that detachment will allow you to review what is really happening and competitors are forecast to be impressed by your cool attitude. In the zone of personal relationships, seeing another air sign in a new light makes you consider the possibility of a more romantic connection. Your lucky number this week is eight.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Unresolved problems are playing on your mind, but the stars indicate that solutions won't become apparent until the middle of the month. In the meantime, it's the little things in life that are comforting to those born under the sign of Cancer as March starts. This could be a stranger's kind gesture or help from a friend who you believed was too busy to care. The number four stands out this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Communication can be adversely affected by the cosmic climate during the coming days. The stars advise Leos to keep their messages short and to the point; it would be wise to avoid discussions relating to business or finances until after Wednesday. In the realm of romance, you will be on a different wavelength to an air sign partner this weekend. Leos' lucky number this week is three.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Faraway places figure strongly for Virgoans during the first half of March. This could be the result of a new romantic interest, which the stars suggest will become more important as the year progresses. Those already committed can discover that their partner is hatching plans for travel; finances are auspicious this month, which can make it possible for this to happen. The number seven can attract good fortune this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A bout of laziness can be a positive thing for Librans as March commences. Your urge to lay back and watch the world go by allows energy to build up again after a busy time in February. Romance can be misleading; if you are not looking for a serious relationship with a water sign, it would be wise to make this crystal clear. Number eight shows signs of being lucky this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



The stars recommend that setting differences of opinion aside is the best way to start the month of March. There are hints that this will allow relationships to flourish, particularly in your world of work. Where romance is concerned, your tendency to try and control too much can spoil things with an earth sign. Auspicious days for finances are Thursday and Friday. The number three is special for Scorpions this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Jealousy dissolves when Sagittarians see that someone they thought had everything is not as well off emotionally. Seeing another side to this person can lead to a deeper friendship, and also give you more

reason to appreciate your personal situation. Money matters are subject to an uncertain cosmic climate at the start of March; you are advised to step away and consider more carefully before making impulsive purchases. Your lucky number is five.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Taking care of some boring, but necessary tasks can put you in a sour mood as this month begins, but life looks up once you have accomplished what needs to be done. Capricorns are forecast to enjoy some magical moments during the first half of March. The cosmic climate backs those who are ready to take romance with another earth sign to a more committed level. Number six is good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



If you know deep down that it will be hard to follow through with promises or agreements, the stars advise treading water this week. A fire sign is poised to put pressure on Aquarians when it comes to business, and an earth sign is likely to take your support for granted where a personal matter is concerned. Romance is sparkling this weekend. Aquarians' lucky number this week is nine.

Sochi's light-hearted finale

By Mike Collett-White

AN EMOTIONAL closing ceremony at Russia's first Winter Olympics painted the hosts in soft colors, in contrast to the muscular, assertive spectacle that kicked off the Games, and there was even room for a joke at the home nation's expense.

The show at the Fisht Stadium on the Black Sea coast opened with a volley of fireworks and a boat suspended high in the air above waves formed by lines of hundreds of dancers in shimmering costumes.

They began to form the five rings of the Olympic symbol, but, in a reference to an embarrassing technical hitch during the opening ceremony when one failed to open, only four circles appeared.

After laughs and loud applause from the audience, the fifth ring eventually opened, and the mood was immediately more playful than an opening spectacle which had sought to portray Russia as a strong nation with nothing to fear.

"They are two very complementary shows," said Marco Balich, artistic executive producer of the ceremony, before it began.

"As grand as the opening was, with this one they went for another side of Russia – intimate, full of heart, and they (organizers) mentioned the word 'nostalgia'," he told Reuters.

It was as if Russia no longer had so much to prove.

"This is the new face of Russia, our Russia," Dmitry Chernyshenko, president of the Sochi organizing committee,

said during his farewell speech.

The sense of national pride at a team of athletes that topped the medals table after a "super Sunday" fairytale ending to the Games was palpable, as huge roars erupted for the Russian team as they paraded past the crowds.

"Well done!" chanted tens of thousands of Russians as Alexander Legkov, Maxim Vylegzhanin and Ilia Chernousov received their gold, silver and bronze medals won in a clean sweep of the men's 50km cross country ski race earlier in the day.

Alexander Zubkov also led his team to glory in Sunday's four-man bobsleigh, leaving Russia top of the medals table with 13 golds and 33 medals in all.

After a rousing rendition of the national anthem by a choir of hundreds of children, the ceremony took viewers on a journey through Russia's rich heritage of visual arts, music, literature and dance.

First there were floating houses and mysterious figures inspired by the paintings of Marc Chagall.

Then came pianist Denis Matsuev to play Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concert No 2" as dozens of pianos were wheeled on to the floor around him in a carefully choreographed sequence that was captured best by the television cameras.

Next, beneath a huge chandelier, two theater curtains drew back and dancers from the two rival ballet companies – the Bolshoi of Moscow and Mariinsky of St Petersburg – emerged to perform some of the



Photo: Shamil Zhumatov/Reuters

Fireworks explode over the Olympic Park during the closing ceremony for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

great dances of the genre.

In the fourth segment dedicated to literature, dissident author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was remembered alongside Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and many other leading writers in another gargantuan display, this time recreating a library.

And, before the handover to South Korea's 2018 Winter Games host city Pyeongchang began, there was an ode to Russia's circus tradition, with a big top going up and clowns and acrobats dancing, jumping and twirling in trapezes.

BIGGEST CLOSING SHOW

It will come as no surprise that Sochi's was the biggest Winter Olympics closing ceremony ever staged, according to organizers,

a fitting send-off for a Games estimated to have cost US\$51 billion to stage – far more than any other Games winter or summer.

The feel-good factor the athletes have created has gone a long way to dispelling criticism during the buildup to the Games of Russia's human rights record, allegations of corruption and profligacy and the threat of Islamist militant attack.

Voices of dissent have been heard, but they have largely been drowned out by sporting endeavor on ice and snow in Sochi's futuristic Olympic Park and amid the peaks of the Caucasus.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach gave

Russia a resounding vote of confidence in his closing address.

"Tonight we can say: Russia delivered all what it had promised," he said. "What took decades in other parts of the world was achieved here in Sochi in just seven years."

Addressing the army of volunteers who helped guide athletes, reporters and visitors to their destinations, he said:

"Through you, everybody with an open mind could see the face of a new Russia: efficient and friendly, patriotic and open to the world. We arrived with great respect for the rich and varied history of Russia. We leave as friends of the Russian people."

– Reuters

High hopes for French golfer

SWASHBUCKLING young French musketeer Victor Dubuisson has the weapons to win majors and become the world's number one golfer, according to fellow countryman and former Ryder Cup player Thomas Levet.

The 23-year-old Dubuisson lost to Australian Jason Day at the 23rd hole in Sunday's WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship final in Arizona but not before conjuring some Houdini-like escapes from the desert scrub.

The Frenchman's ball was twice buried deep in cactus bushes during the extra holes and each time he chipped and putted to keep the match alive, prompting eight-times major winner Tom Watson to describe them as "two of the greatest up and downs I have ever seen."

"Victor lost in the final but the first thing he said after was that it was a step forward for him," his friend Levet told Reuters in a telephone interview while practicing in Florida.



Photo: Allan Henry-USA Today Sports

French golfer Victor Dubuisson at the World Golf Championships in Arizona, USA.

"His goal isn't to win that event, he wants to win bigger things. He is a very ambitious guy, he is aiming really high.

"Victor's determination is second to none. He's very dedicated to the game and he wants to become the best player in the world," said the 45-year-old Levet who is part of the same management stable as Dubuisson.

"He is giving it everything he has and it's nice to see. He wants to reach the top, he dreams big and he's not afraid to say it."

The bearded Dubuisson first made the golfing world sit up and

take notice by winning the inaugural Turkish Airlines Open in November, eclipsing the likes of world number one Tiger Woods and U.S. Open champion Justin Rose to claim his maiden European Tour title.

He has performed consistently well since then and climbed from 30th to 23rd in the rankings after powering his way into last week's final at the first WGC (World Golf Championship) event of the season.

"The good thing about Victor for me is there's still a lot of room for improvement," said Levet, who holds the record for the most European Tour wins (six) by a Frenchman.

"Imagine what he will be like in a few years time? He will be France's best-ever player by far.

"He has all the weapons to achieve that. He can go a long way if he stays injury free.

"You always need a bit of luck to achieve in golf, to win majors for example, but with a bit of luck on his side he can do very big things."

– Reuters

Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics Top medal winning countries

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1. Russia	13	11	33
2. Norway	11	5	26
3. Canada	10	10	25
4. United States	9	7	28
5. Netherlands	8	7	24

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Young lands double podium finish



PHUKET-based Australian racing driver Dylan Young produced the most outstanding performance of his 2013-2014 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 campaign by blitzing a double podium finish in the final round of the championship held from February 14-16 at the MMRT Circuit in Chennai, India.

In a sterling display for races 10-14 of the championship, Young even beat former Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan, who raced for the Jordan F1 team in 2005 and the HRT F1 team in 2011-2012, in his second podium finish of the round.

Young, who is sponsored by Wahoo Phuket, Kata Rocks and Indigo Pearl, had a troublesome start to the weekend which meant he only competed in one of the four available practice sessions, before heading straight into qualifying, due to an engine failure and fuel pressure issues.

Understandably, Young's lack of track time hurt in qualifying which set his grid positions at 14th for the opening two races of Saturday and 15th for the opening race of Sunday. But it wasn't enough to stop Young's pace, and starting

towards the rear of the field, Young put on an amazing show to rapidly climb through the field where he jumped nine places to finish in 5th in Saturday's second race.

With the final race of each day culminating in a reverse grid for the top six finishers of the previous race, Young was given a front row start with 2nd on the grid in the limelight for Saturday's 3rd race of the day. As the lights went out Young grabbed the lead immediately into turn one and led the race until lap two where he was passed by current championship leader Rupert Svenesden-Cook.

As Young's tires began to fade, he fell to 3rd on lap five where he would stay comfortably in control until the checkered flag on lap 15, ahead of the likes of Tio Ellinas, the eventual winner of the MRF Challenge Championship.

Young was elated at being able to walk the talk, commenting on his podium finish, "I'm thrilled to have delivered on what I've been saying all along that if we could



Dylan Young (left), poses with Rupert Svenesden-Cook (center) and Harry Tincknell (right).

find the backers to do the full season then I believed in myself fully to get onto the podium and now I've lived up to that. It was an awesome feeling when I crossed the line as there's been so many people that have supported me this season and the result is just as much for them as it is for me."

On the final day of action, Young proved his speed yet again where he was forced to start from 15th after the previous troubled qualifying session but managed to this time pass ten cars to finish the race in an outstanding 5th place once more.

This gave him a berth yet again on the front row to start the final race of the championship in 2nd. Young managed to secure his

second podium of the round in the final race of the 2013-2014 Championship, as he took the checkered flag just 2.5 seconds adrift of 2nd placed Tio Ellinas who took the overall title.

"It was really important for me to back up the first podium finish from Saturday on the final day, and I knew I had a difficult task, having to start from way back after the dodgy qualifying session.

"It's a fantastic way to finish off the season for my sponsors, myself and all the boys who had worked so hard on the opening two days to fix the engine issues."

Dylan is now in a rush against time to take up some exciting offers to race in Europe for the 2014 season. Some of the offers have come via Formula 1 teams who run junior teams in the leading European championships including the GP3 Series. However, he was quick to emphasize that he was keen to race in the next season of the MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship, where they are expected to announce an illustrious

calendar which includes support races at the 2014 Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix in September and the world famous Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Circuit.

"I already had some very interesting offers on the cards but since the double podium finish I've received many more offers from race teams for the 2014 season. "However, as usual, I'm in a race against time to secure the budget with the season starting in just over a couple of months and even more importantly, the preseason tests that are essential commencing next month.

"I believe the performances I've shown warrant the backing to take my career another step closer towards Formula 1 in Europe and I invite anyone on the island to get in touch to find out just what lucrative offers are involved," said Young.

— *Phuket Gazette*

You can follow Dylan's career at [facebook.com/dylanyoungdriving](https://www.facebook.com/dylanyoungdriving) or twitter.com/_dylanyoung_ or you can personally play a part in supporting his career at [gofundme.com/dylanyoungdriving](https://www.gofundme.com/dylanyoungdriving)

Earnhardt Jr wins Daytona 500

AFTER enduring 55 races without a win and doubts from critics about his competitive fire, Dale Earnhardt Jr was still bubbling with excitement from his Daytona 500 triumph, a victory he said had vindicated him.

"If you look at how happy I was Sunday after winning that race, you'll know how bad I want to win," Earnhardt told reporters on a conference call on Tuesday.

"You'll know how much winning means to me, and you'll know from now on that there's no questioning my killer instinct or drive, whatever term you want to use."

NASCAR's most popular driver for 11 years running, Earnhardt made good on his promise to finally join the social media world should he win Daytona, and his selfie, posed in front of a statue depicting his late father holding his own Daytona 500 trophy, went to more than 400,000 followers.

"Look who I ran into at the Daytona Experience. Dad's

Happy!" tweeted a beaming Earnhardt to his legion of fans.

The Hall of Fame driver's son, of course, was over the moon by his thrilling victory in the rain-interrupted race that finished late in the night and gave him his second Daytona 500.

"I don't think people realized how much winning mattered to me," said Earnhardt, who had suffered through a fallow period with only two victories since 2006 after winning 15 times in his first five full seasons.

"When you look at the critics and you look at their comments, aside from people saying I was overrated, they would always say I didn't have killer instinct, I didn't have the stuff that I needed to drive to win a championship, I didn't want it bad enough," he listed.

"When people really pick at your



NASCAR Sprint Cup driver Dale Earnhardt Jr.

determination, your drive, your hunger, that bothered me more than anything else did, because I grew up around the sport and I love it to death."

Earnhardt had no explanation to cover his difficult stretch.

"I don't know why, in '09, '10 we were 20th, 25th every week. I look at that now, I can't even imagine it," he said about his early struggles after joining powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports. "It's such a long ways from where we are now."

— *Reuters*

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Outrigger opens new tennis center

THE Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort has entered a partnership with Singapore-based tennis coaching provider, Savitar, to launch a multifaceted tennis center for local residents and guests at the resort.

The recently opened tennis center consists of three newly-renovated, outdoor, floodlit, synthetic-grass tennis courts and one indoor court. The center also has stadium seating, which was put to the test recently when the resort hosted a competition for local hotel tennis pros in which 72 people took part.

The center also has its own internationally recognized tennis director, James Corin.

Hailing from England, Tennis

Director James Corin has over eight years of coaching experience in a variety of five-star clubs and resorts in the Middle East, USA and the Caribbean. In Dubai, he was a development coordinator with responsibility for one of the Emirates' largest junior tennis program.

"Tennis is the best sport, it teaches so many things, especially for kids. How to deal with winning and losing, how to handle pressure, how to live with mistakes, how to commit to improving," said James.

"They're all skills that can be transferred to real life. I'm a better person for tennis," he added.

James is also an excellent teacher. He's knowledgeable, friendly, gives clear instructions,

mixes up drills, has insightful pointers and can handle mixed-level groups.

"The youngest students I've taught were 4-year-olds, the oldest 75. For older students, those who've been playing a while, I'm not focused on remaking their style, but in enhancing it," he said.

A ladies clinic and social play groups have started up already, and James also has plans to start "Tennis Fit" sessions, a tennis circuit training class, with running, high-paced ball-feeding and music. "Anyone can join, you don't need to be a good player and it's a great introduction to tennis," he said.

The Outrigger aim is to deliver a well-structured, personalized tennis program, with a focus on the enjoyment of the game, catering to guests seeking an active family holiday in Phuket, as well as local residents who want to enjoy an active lifestyle.

"We are aiming for a club atmosphere, where the whole family can come for the day," says Outrigger General Manager Anthony Pedroni.

"You don't have to be a member. We want it to be a very approachable club that will cater to everyone, all ages and skills."

This coming Saturday, March 1 from 4 to 7pm, the resort will hold an open day at the tennis center with the theme of "A Savitar Festival of Tennis". It is free for Phuket residents and guests to join. There will be mini-tennis for kids, free coaching tips for adults, a barbecue and lucky draw.



There are three outdoor courts for you to hone your rallying skills.



From left: Outrigger Laguna Beach Resort General Manager Anthony Pedroni, Sport and Recreation Manager Jarunee "Nam" Rakku and new Tennis Director James Corin. Photo: Saran Mitarat

So if your rackets have been gathering dust in the closet, make sure you get them out and head to Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort this Saturday, to meet James and check out the new center. – *Phuket Gazette*

The Tennis center is open from 8am-9pm. Court rental is free for guests

and 400++ baht per hour for non-guests and 600++ per hour after 6pm. Racket rental is 200++ baht and used balls are supplied free of charge. There is a wide range of classes, suitable for all ages and skill levels, as well as social play days and individual and group clinics. For more information contact: tennis.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th



Phuket today

Phuket Gazette



Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

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Wednesday: 10:10am	Wednesday: 10:10am	Monday: 05:10am
Thursday: 01:10pm	Thursday: 01:10pm	Tuesday: 11:10pm
Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm	Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm	Wednesday: 10:10am
Saturday: 01:10pm	Saturday: 01:10pm	Thursday: 01:10pm
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And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Laguna win five in a row

IN MATCH 11 of the Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) cricket league, on Sunday, February 23 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) Laguna were matched up against the Island Cricket Club (ICC). In their last encounter, Laguna snatched victory by just one run, and coming off the back of a humiliating defeat in their last outing versus Thalang, ICC were looking for a much better showing.

Laguna won the toss and chose to bat first, looking to take advantage of a fast outfield and hoping to drain the energy of ICC players with the first stint in the field under a baking hot Phuket sun. Laguna got off to a great start, with openers Manish Sadarangani (74) and Darren Shaw (24) putting on an opening stand of 74 runs before Shaw was bowled.

Sameer Khan (26) and Sadarangani then put on a further 52 runs before Kahn was trapped in front LBW at the start of the 28th over with the score on 130-3. Captain Stuart Reading (31), then joined Sadarangani and accelerated the run-rate with a further 32 run partnership in the next three overs before Sadarangani was dismissed stepping back onto his wicket to dislodge the bails.

Reading was out 15 runs later, falling



ICC's Anand Chand goes for the boundary.

victim to a solid catch by Ravi Naik at backward point. Nadeem Yuoseff (9) and Roly Cooper (8 not out) added a further 16 runs from the last few overs and Laguna finished the innings with a score of 193 for the loss of 6 wickets. Pick of the bowlers for ICC were Syed Hussain (3 for 42) and Iqbal Malik (2 for 26).

After the lunch break, with a required run-rate of 5.5 per over, ICC could not afford to get off to a slow start. After starting off well in the first couple of overs, Shah Ullah then skied a shot to be caught by Reading and was headed back to the clubhouse with the score on 23.

Abdul Salam (12) then joined captain Anand Chand (25) at the crease and hit some



Manish Sadarangani top scored for Laguna with 74 runs. Photos: Michael Way

powerful shots until he miss-timed one and was caught at cover by Shoeib Mushtaq in the 13th over with the score on 54. Shortly thereafter, Sam Ali captured the important wicket of Chand, clean bowled.

Big hitting Syed Hussain, then failed to clear the long off boundary, and Sam Ali was in the action again taking a good catch in the deep. ICC then lost a further wicket in the following over and with 5 wickets down for 79, Laguna were in the ascendency.

Basheer Pir (19) and Ravi Naik (25 not out) showed some resistance to take the score along to 100 until Pir was bowled. With ICC running out of batsmen, a match winning performance would be required by

Naik and Surender Kumar (25).

They managed to put on a 41 run partnership until Kumar was run-out from a direct hit from a backward point by Manish Sadarangani in the 30th over with the score on 141-7. From this point onwards, Laguna made short work of the last remaining batsmen and bowled out ICC for 150 to claim victory.

Pick of the bowlers for Laguna were Sameer Khan (4 for 27) and Sam Ali (3 for 35).

This Sunday March 2 will see Patong seeking to register their first win of the season when they take on the in-form Thalang team. Play starts at 10am.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Danielson takes home the gold



Photo: Gazette File

Kamala Lawn Bowls participants.

TWENTY bowlers from all corners of Phuket and twelve different nationalities locked horns at Kamala Lawn Bowls to contest the 2014 Phuket Open Bowls Knockout Championship, sponsored by Kamala Beer Gardens, in an attempt to be crowned the 2014 champion bowler.

The form book was torn apart as favorite by favorite fell by the wayside in hotly contested rounds. Relatively inexperienced bowlers shocking their more fancied opponents with dazzling displays of accuracy.

A large crowd were then treated to a final of the highest caliber as two Swedes, Ulf Danielson (Danny) and Ulf Egerstaad (Ue), went head to head in the final with the lead changing hands on several occasions.

Danielson, who had clearly been the best bowler on the day, posted a late burst of form to ultimately prevail 12-6 to take the trophy, gold medal and the winners shirt.

Coming up on March 29 will be a "champions league" style pairs competition with all welcome to enter.

– *Phuket Gazette*

We Freedive Suunto series begins

THE We Freedive Suunto Series saw contestants holding their breath last Sunday, at Phuket Country Home in Chalong, as they faced off to gain international points and improve their ranking for the Association Internationale pour le Developement de l'Apnee (AIDA).

Five competitors participated in the static apnea, one of the eight AIDA freediving disciplines.

In static apnea, "the freediver holds his breath for as long as possible with his respiratory tracts immersed, his body either in the water or at the surface. Static apnea is the only discipline measuring the duration, and one of the three disciplines considered for the international competitions," explains AIDA's website.

Walter Johnson from the United States was the big winner in the competition scoring 72.8 points with a time of 6:04. Also earning international points was Slovak national Vladimir Botko, who garnished 54.6 points with a time of 4:33.

There were three red cards issued during the competition disqualifying Katrin Felton, Yuan Feng and Stanely Sradaputta. The red cards were issued for surface protocol violations, airways violations or both.

"Katrin did a very, very clean dive and was disqualified for a benign flaw in her surface protocol, which all athletes world wide have to perform the same way," explained Richard Wonka who judged the competition along with Sarah Whitcher.

"To make it very clear that they are conscious and in control, athletes in AIDA competitions are required to keep their airways above the surface after surfacing,"



Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Judge Richard Wonka judged the static apnea competition in Chalong last Sunday.

Mr Wonka said.

Mr Wonka emphasized that his and Ms Whitcher's roles as AIDA International judges is to ensure that athletes in freediving competitions finish their dives in a healthy and controlled state.

The final prize at the end of the series is a white Suunto D6i dive computer, which is awarded to the athlete with the cleanest record (least number of red cards and

yellow cards).

"So we are looking for people who perform well and collect white cards, no blackouts and no penalties – nice and clean dives," Mr Wonka said.

The next competition is expected to take place at Phuket Country Home in Chalong on the last Sunday of the month. However, the date has yet to be confirmed.

– *Isaac Stone Simonelli*

Phuket pounce on Pattaya

By Jeremie Schatz

YESTERDAY was the first fixture of the Yamaha League One season and fans saw a spirited bout between Phuket FC and Pattaya United FC, who were relegated from the Thai Premier League this year, resulting in a 1-0 final score that secured victory for the Ronins.

As the sun went to sleep, the crowd woke up, with about 4,000 fans making it out to Surakul Stadium to cheer on the Ronins. The volume from the stands was high and surely some enthusiastic fans were struggling with hoarse voices following the game.

The first half went scoreless, but not for lack of trying, as the Ronins gave the goal posts a pounding and forced Pattaya goal keeper Hassachai Sankla to earn his keep. Although possession was largely in Pattaya's favor, Phuket's persistent defense prevented any serious scoring attempts. However, it was a different story when Phuket got control of the ball in front of Pattaya's goal, making several attacks on the goal to keep the crowd in suspense.

The pace picked up after half-time with neither team wanting to see the same blank scoreboard at the end of the second half. It came about halfway through the second half as midfielder and Vice Captain Eakartit Somjit outmaneuvered a

defender to sneak the ball over to striker Ney Fabiano. In the ensuing mayhem as Fabiano struggled to get control of the ball, Pattaya goal keeper Hassachai Sankla was lured out of the goal area, and when Pattaya defender Robert Pishinin Mendes lost a collision with Fabiano, the deal was sealed.

Pattaya made a couple more cracks at goal but it was apparent throughout the match that nothing was going to get by the Ronin's rock-solid goal keeper Adisak Duangsri. Phuket defender Yusuke Sato came frustratingly close to glory with a strong shot deflected off the crossbar.

Everyone was aware of what Phuket Coach Stefano "Teco" Cugurra confirmed after the game. "If we would have had a little bit better of a finish in the first half, I think we should have been two or three points in front of them, but one to zero against a [former Thai] Premier League team - we are happy."

When asked if it was the outcome that he expected Cugurra said, "Yes, because we had good preparation, we had a good pre-season, we have 17 new players... so we were confident."

Everyone is eager to see if the Ronins' confidence holds as they take on Sisaket FC on March 1 in the first round of the Toyota League Cup. The game starts at 6:30pm at Surakul Stadium.



Phuket's Ney Fabiano lures Pattaya goal keeper Hassachai Sankla out of the goal area. Photos: Jeremie Schatz



Phuket's Eakartit Somjit (22) getting airborne for a header during last Sunday's match against Pattaya United FC.

TOYOTA LEAGUE CUP 2014 (1st round)

MAR 01
VS
Sisaket FC

Home Surakul Stadium **6.30 pm**

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE FIXTURE

MAR 08
VS
Anghong FC

Away Anghong Stadium **4 pm**

2014 YL1 Phuket Matches (1st half)

H	Mar 16	TTM Customs
A	Mar 22	Krabi FC
H	Mar 26	Sri Racha FC
A	Mar 29	BBCU
H	Apr 05	Bangkok FC
A	Apr 20	Chiangmai FC
H	Apr 26	Nakhon Pathom
A	May 04	Nakhon Rachasima
H	May 11	Phitsanulok FC
A	May 18	Trat FC
H	May 25	Khon Kaen FC
A	Jun 01	Royal Navy
H	Jun 07	Roi Et Utd
A	Jun 13	Ayuthaya FC
H	Jun 22	Saraburi FC

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Saraburi FC	1	3
2	Nakhon Pathom	1	3
3	TTM Customs	1	3
4	Nakhon Rachasima	1	3
5	Phuket FC	1	3
6	Chiangmai	1	3
7	Khon Kaen FC	1	1
8	Phitsanulok FC	1	1
9	BBCU	1	1
10	Royal Navy	1	1
11	Ayuthaya FC	1	1
12	Anghong FC	1	1
13	Roi Et Utd	1	0
14	Trat FC	1	0
15	Bangkok FC	1	0
16	Pattaya Utd	1	0
17	Sri Racha FC	1	0
18	Krabi	1	0

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