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Raging trade in passports

Rental shops fuel stolen ID black market

By [Chutharat Plerin](#)

POLICE have admitted they are powerless to prevent motorcycle and car rental operators from holding foreign tourists' passports as collateral against potential damage to rented vehicles.

The news comes as the island's top police officers try to stymie the fallout from international news reports branding Phuket a key source for stolen passports in the wake of the mysterious disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 last Saturday (see page 11).

Two men, Iranian nationals believed to be asylum seekers heading to Europe via Beijing, boarded the flight using passports stolen in Phuket. One of the passports, issued to Italian tourist Luigi Maraldi, was taken from a massage salon in Patong that was holding the essential travel document as collateral.

"Something needs to be done, especially after learning that these passports were used to board the plane," said...

Continued on Page 8



Luigi Maraldi holds up a copy of his new passport. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Special Report

Asylum seekers' corridor flying through Phuket

THE ongoing investigation by nations around the world into the fate of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has shed light on the path asylum seekers from the Middle East take through Asia in hopes of finding freedom in Europe.

Two such men were on the ill-fated flight, six others remain detained in Phuket International Airport after having their fake passports confiscated.

Full Story Pages 8-9

Officer threatens hotels over rank wastewater

OFFICIALS are considering revoking hotels' licences in the Kata area for failing to take adequate responsibility for managing their wastewater. The proposal comes in the wake of black, rancid water pouring across Karon Beach.

Full Story Page 7

Chalong Police duck as divers arrested at pier

TOURIST Police confirmed that Chalong Police asked for assistance in rounding up more than 20 dive instructors to check for work permits. However, the duty officer at Chalong Police Station at the time of the arrests denied any knowledge of the incident.

Full Story Page 2

Soft Opening at Jungceylon during 20 th-26 th February

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This Week



Property

Beach Projects bet on privacy with two island developments. **Page 13**



Business

Enjoy coffee at the touch of a button with W Cafe's new system. **Page 17**



Education

A Polish pianist explains the importance of music in education. **Page 36**



In focus

New documentary film focuses on Phuket's sea gypsies. **Page 40**



Health

Discover the health benefits of a juice detox diet. **Page 43**



Sport

Multihull Solutions takes naming rights for ACYC regatta. **Page 48**

Saturday



36 - 24

Sunday



36 - 24

Monday



36 - 24

Tuesday



36 - 23

Wednesday



36 - 23

Thursday



36 - 23

Boat en route to Phi Phi punched by floating log

By Saran Mitrarat

A LOG punched a hole in the hull of a speedboat that was rescued last Friday, said the managing director of Andavaree, the company that owns the boat.

"I was notified by our captain that the 47-foot boat, powered by three engines, struck a log near Koh Gai as it was taking 52 people to Phi Phi Island, MD Krissada Phichetpongson said.

Capt Wichai Chairap, 40, called for help after the tour boat Andavaree 919 started to struggle amid strong waves off the coast of Krabi at 11:30am.

A company tour guide attempted to prevent the boat from sinking, while two rescue boats were dispatched by Andavaree to assist Andavaree 919.

"When the boat started to take on water, we asked for volunteers to grab snorkelling gear and jump into the water – everyone was already wearing life jackets. Ten tourists agreed to help lighten the boat's load by getting into the water," Mr Krissada said.

Those passengers were taken to Maya Bay on Phi Phi Island by a nearby speedboat, while the rest were transported to either Chalong Pier or Phi Phi by the company's rescue boats, which arrived about 30 minutes after the



Andavaree MD Krissada Phichetpongson after the accident.

incident.

"Some of the tourists weren't feeling well after their experience and asked to be brought back to Phuket, while the rest asked to continue their trip to Phi Phi," Panya Chaichana of the Phuket Marine Police told the *Gazette*.

"Andavaree 919 and its passen-

gers made it back safely," Mr Krissada said.

"We had staff at the pier to take care of them and offer refunds for their trips. Almost all of them asked to reschedule the trip, as they would like to join us again. A few tourists that had flights accepted refunds."

Mayor guilty of voting fraud to run for office

DEPOSED Patong Mayor Pian Keesin was found guilty last Friday of electoral fraud in the September 2012 council election, but is free to run for re-election to head Phuket's key resort town.

Also found guilty for their roles in importing voters specifically to cast votes in the election were Jaroern Khwanyen, Prasarn Noochet, Prasit Phatkor, Narong Cheuyuan and Mana Phanchalad.

"Two of the five councilors were issued 'red cards', meaning they cannot stand for the next election, which must be held within 60 days," Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit told the *Gazette*.

The remaining three councilors were issued "yellow cards", meaning they could stand for re-election, he added.

Mr Kittipong said that he had not yet been told which two councilors were issued red cards.

Mayor Pian and the councilors were suspended from office in September last year pending the outcome of their trial, which concluded at the Administrative Court in Phuket Town last Friday.

The councilors are all members of Mr Pian's *Rak Patong* (Love Patong) party.



Pian Keesin will run for re-election in Patong. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

"We have yet to be officially informed of the full sentences and penalties handed down by the court. We expect to receive that information by next week," Mr Kittipong said. As the *Gazette* went to press on Wednesday, the PEC had not yet received the information.

Mr Pian assured that he would stand for re-election.

"I was sentenced to a 'yellow card' and plan to run again for Patong Mayor," he confirmed.

He declined to comment further.

The ruling for by-elections to be held in Patong within the next 60 days will require an additional mandatory alcohol ban in Phuket's premier party town.

– Saran Mitrarat



Rescue workers remove the body from the water and transfer it to the hospital. Photo: Supplied

Body found floating off west coast

LIFEGUARDS stationed at the Karon Rescue Center, on Phuket's west coast, recovered an unidentified body near Yanui Beach on Tuesday afternoon.

"The body was discovered a few kilometers offshore," Kata-Karon chief lifeguard Uten Singsom told the *Gazette*.

The remains had deteriorated extensively due to exposure in the sea, Mr Uten explained.

"Our lifeguards believe it was the body of a man," he said.

"The Karon Police have been notified and are investigating."

The body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

– Chutharat Plerin

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Missing body dumped in drain

By Thawit Bilabdullar

POLICE launched a murder investigation after the decomposed body of a woman was found last Friday by a medical worker who stopped by the side of the road to urinate.

Police believe the body is that of Kanya Yoongnoo, 47, who was reported missing in Cherng Talay in January, but are waiting for DNA confirmation.

Two Paklok Emergency Medical Technicians, Uthai Jitpetch, 37, and Suchart Komgnam, 45, had their suspicions aroused during a roadside stop about five kilometers from the Heroines' Monument.

"We smelled something very bad. We looked around for the source, but couldn't find anything. Then we had to leave to pick up a patient in Phuket Town," Mr Uthai said.

The smell made such an impression on the two men that they returned in the evening to resume their investigation.

"While we were looking around, we saw something large in a drainpipe. From the size we figured it had to be a body, so we called the police," Mr Uthai explained.

Forensic officers and Narong



Police believe the body discovered in the drainpipe was that of Kanya Yoongnoo, missing since January.

Muangduang of the Thalang Police were summoned at about 7pm.

A crowd of locals gathered while officers extracted the body, which was wrapped in two large

plastic bags, one covering the top of the torso and one the bottom.

"We believe she had been dead over a month," said Capt Narong.

Police checked missing persons

reports and concluded that the woman could be Ms Kanya.

Somsak Pansakul, Ms Kanya's 22-year-old son, and other relatives went to Thalang Hospital to

identify the body.

"We believe it is my mother," Mr Somsak said. "We couldn't make a physical identification, but the clothes look like hers."

Mr Somsak said they had last seen Ms Kanya on January 21. At about 8pm that day she told her family that she was going out, but did not say where or with whom.

"We looked for her ourselves until January 25, and then reported her missing to the police," Mr Somsak said.

On February 16, Ms Kanya's motorcycle was found in a pond in Baan Layan in Cherng Talay. The licence plate was missing. Rescue divers searched the pond for a body, but did not recover one, Mr Somsak said.

"I believe this body is my mother's, but deep down I still have hope that we will find her alive," he said.

DNA testing is necessary to confirm an identity, said Capt Narong.

"The body was so decomposed that we're not sure of the cause of death, but the circumstances indicate it was not natural. While the DNA tests are run, we will start a murder investigation," he said.

Tourist Police confirm diving instructor round up, Chalong duty officer pleads ignorance

TOURIST Police joined forces with the Chalong Police Monday afternoon and took into custody more than 20 dive instructors as they disembarked from their respective dive tour boats at Chalong Pier.

"I don't think the Chalong Police pressed charges. To my knowledge, the dive shop staffers were taken to Chalong Police Station to have their work permits checked," Urumporn Kondejsumrit of the Phuket Tourist Police told the *Gazette*.

"I assume they all had work permits, which is why none of them were charged."

However, the Chalong Police station duty officer at the time of the raid told the *Gazette* today that he knew nothing about the arrests.

"I was on duty yesterday



Photo: Supplied

Police officers rounded up dive instructors to check work permits.

evening, but I don't know anything about the arrests," Capt Thada Sodarak said on Tuesday.

"I saw some foreigners walking around outside, but I don't know what it was about. I would have been informed if charges had been brought against any of them."

— Chutharat Plerin

Police hunt down decapitators

POLICE are hunting for five men who allegedly beheaded their co-worker and dropped his severed head and body in the jungle near the San Chao Phor Suea Shrine on Patong Hill Sunday night.

The head of 21-year-old Myanmar national Wai Phyo Kyaw was found near a clump of banana trees. His decapitated body was discovered two meters away.

"We were notified of the incident on Monday at about 2pm by Mr Kyaw's girlfriend, 21-year-old Stwe Stwe Yu," said Nucharee Longkaew of the Patong Police.

"We found Mr Kyaw's head," said Maj Nucharee. "Two meters away, we saw a hand sticking out of the ground, so rescue workers started to dig."

The police questioned Ms Yu, who told them that after finishing work that night, Mr Kyaw had been talking with a group of co-workers.

"Mr Kyaw had a violent argument with five of his colleagues, and the men attacked him. Ms Yu reached out to protect Mr Kyaw from a knife and her hand was slit," explained Maj Nucharee.

"She ran to villagers for help, and was taken to Patong Hospital to receive treatment."

Ms Yu went back to the shrine on Monday to look for her boyfriend.

"She was shocked to find Mr Kyaw's head hidden in the trees. She informed us immediately," added Maj Nucharee.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Mr. Soonthorn is escorted by police.

Ya ice drug mule busted

PHUKET Police last Friday arrested a drug courier with 950 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and began a search for a dealer who dropped a kilogram of *ya ice* near Srisoonthorn Temple.

A Nakhon Sri Thammarat inmate, Kee Honzaitong, informed police about *ya ice* travelling to Phuket on March 7, said Region 8 Police Commander Panya Mamen.

"Officers found Soonthorn Limsakul, 37, sitting in the back of a bus at a checkpoint with a bag of *ya ice*," he said.

Meanwhile, police confronted Yuranan Srisawat, who was to sell 1kg of *ya ice* to undercover officers stationed at the temple. However, he successfully fled the scene. — **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Police volunteers back on beat after strike in Patong

By Chutharat Plerin

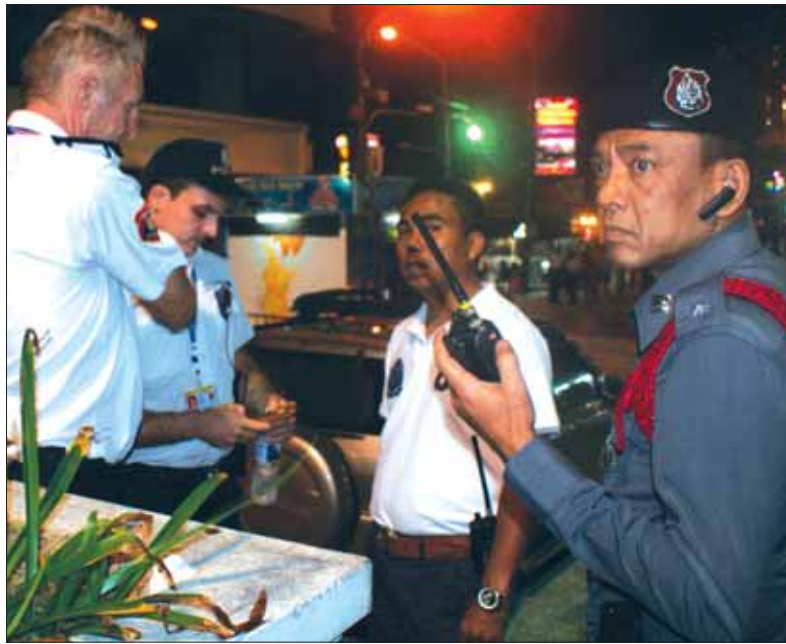
STRIKING Region 8 International Volunteers are back to work after negotiations with police, announced Acting Patong Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen.

Col Sakchai told the *Gazette* last Saturday that the strike had stemmed from a misunderstanding.

"They are all back on the force. Patong Police and the expat volunteers were patrolling together last night," Col Sakchai said. "Even the five that quit are back."

The volunteers walked off the job when charges a tourist had to pay after damaging a hotel room allegedly went up after he sought help from the volunteers.

"The tourist was also threatened with a greater fine and jail if he were to talk with the volunteer again... This is one of a number of issues where the international volunteers have been used against



Tourist Police volunteers have rejoined the force after striking over unfair treatment of tourists. Photo: Mark Knowles

the tourist," explained Wal Brown, head co-ordinator of the Royal Thai Police Region 8 volunteers on the island, when the news

broke on March 5.

The incident was the second connected to police demanding money in Patong that was deemed

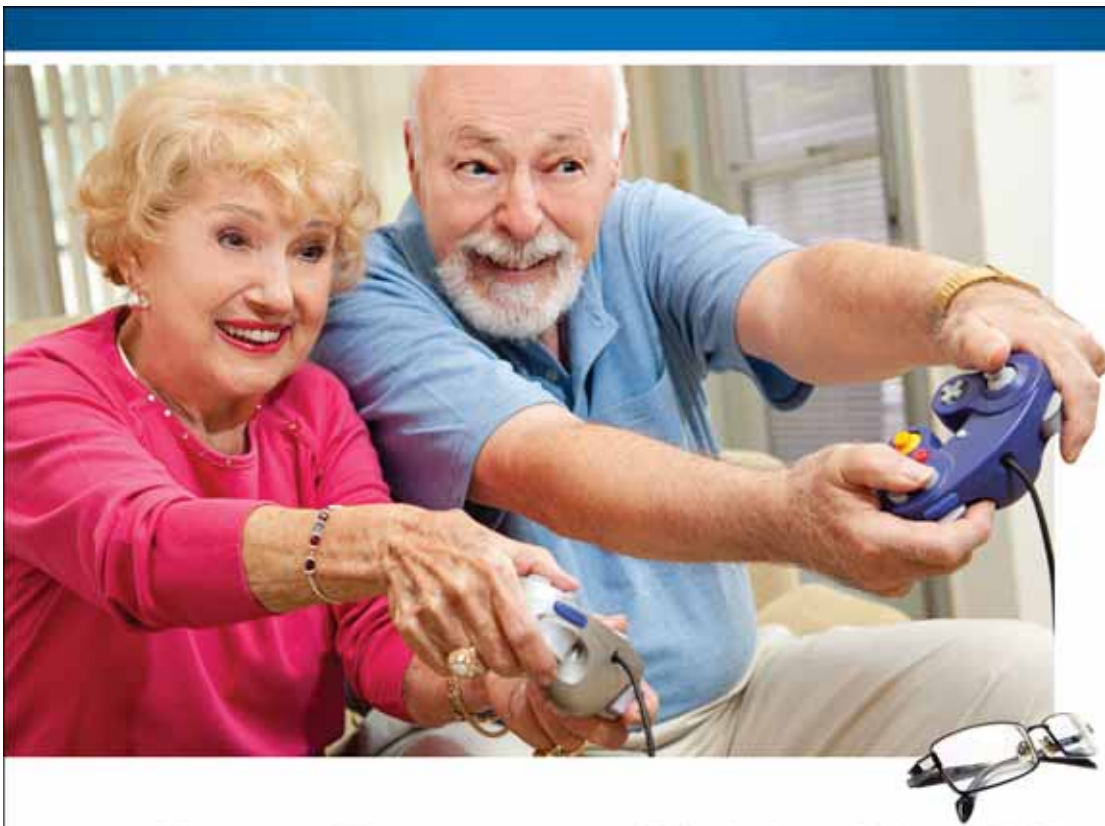
a misunderstanding in the last month. The first occurred when an Italian was charged by Phuket Tourist Police with working without a work permit, and was told to pay police 20,000 baht.

The money was returned to the Italian in exchange for his not filing a formal complaint.

Col Sakchai attributed the problem this time to communication issues between his officers and police volunteers.

"Thai police don't speak English very well and sometimes don't explain themselves clearly," he said. "I think that at times this may have led to the volunteers feeling that they were not well treated."

"I'm responsible for the Kathu [Patong] Police Station now, and I don't want to see any misunderstandings here. The Thai police and expat volunteers should be talking together more. If any issues arise between them, I want them to come to me."



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Sea gypsy DNA test results held up by Bangkok protesting

DNA tests that could prove the long-term residency of sea gypsies in Rawai and help them counter land claims of private investors seeking to evict them have been delayed due to the Bangkok Shutdown.

The tests are being done on bones found last year buried in the dirt floor of a sea gypsy home. If there is a match between the bone DNA and the DNA of current sea gypsy residents, it would bolster the sea gypsies' claim that they have been living on the land for generations.

The results, expected by the end of January, have been delayed by the anti-government protests in Bangkok, said Prawuth Wongsinil, Chief of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI)'s Consumer and Environment Protection Office.

"Officers have not been allowed to work in their offices, which caused the delay. We thought the situation would be back to normal after the election, but it is not," Col Prawuth said, adding that he was not sure when the results would be released.

DNA is not the only route the DSI is pursuing to help the Rawai sea gypsy community prove historical residency. They have also collected artifacts, aerial photographs, and archival film footage of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej visiting the community in 1959.

At this point, the DSI has fin-



Sea gypsy families gave DNA samples as part of their land rights fight. Photo: Gazette file

ished collecting evidence, Col Prawuth said.

"We're sure we've collected enough. What we're doing now is putting it all together. Once we get the DNA results, we will hand everything over to the villagers so they can use it in their legal fight against the private investors."

As many as 600 sea gypsies have received court orders demanding that they move from land they claim to own. None of them have moved yet, citing their right to remain, Col Prawuth said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

Sting targets metered taxis

Vice Governor determined to stop taxi drivers from scamming tourists

By Saran Mitrarat

IN AN effort to compel airport metered taxi drivers to turn on their meters, Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada will send policemen to pose as tourists in a sting operation.

"If the undercover officers find a taxi driver who refuses to turn on his meter, we will arrest him immediately," Vice Governor Chamroen said.

The move follows a complaint the *Gazette* forwarded to the vice governor on February 14. In it, an Australian expat said that despite his request, the metered taxi driver assigned to him at the airport on February 9 refused to turn on his meter.

"After I received the complaint from the *Gazette*, I ordered the president of the metered taxi

service company to fix the problem by explaining to his staff how metered taxis operate," he said.

"If they cannot accept that metered taxis have to use their meters, they should not be in the job. The driver in the complaint

got a first warning. If he gets another, he will be banned from servicing the airport."

The vice governor asked airport passengers not to accept fixed prices from metered taxi drivers.

"This just perpetuates their bad habits," he said.

"If they insist on charging a fixed price, I recommend taking a green plate [non-metered] taxi instead."

People who do travel in a metered taxi at a fixed price are urged to present a copy of the fee



Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada



Officers will be looking out for taxis at Phuket International Airport that refuse to turn on their meters.

voucher to the Organized Crime Center in Phuket Town or at Phuket International Airport.

"Even though the Department

of Special Investigations [DSI] is not currently in Phuket, I'm still on top of this problem. It's an important issue for a province that

depends so much on tourism. Please rest assured that every complaint you file will get a result," V/Gov Chamroen said.

Tour boat companies form club to combat illegal tour operators



Tour boat operators met to discuss the forming of a club or consortium.

ISLAND tour boat operators met in Phuket last Friday to discuss forming a club to help combat what they say is customer-poaching by illegally operated, foreign-owned companies.

The group's ire is focused mainly on Chinese and Russian companies that they claim are set up using a Thai nominee.

"In the past, Chinese and Russian tour operators contacted us for boat rentals, Thai tour guides, hotels and restaurants," said Krissada Phichetponsanon, Managing Director of the Andavaree company.

"They're not doing that anymore. We've seen the number of bookings made by Chinese and Russian tourists go steadily down, while their actual numbers on the island are going up all the time. Nowadays they're booking with operators of their own nationality," said Mr Krissada.

The foreign operators have more money to invest, Mr Krissada

added, making it easy for them to squeeze out smaller operators.

The new club would comprise 40 tour boat companies representing about 1,000 boats and would include representatives from the Marine Police, Marine Office, Immigration, Tourism Authority of Thailand and other relevant officers, he said.

Coordination would help local operators identify illegal companies and guides. However, that would not be its only purpose.

"It will increase safety by making it easier to get help in emergencies. For example, if one boat is in trouble it can notify the office, which could then locate nearby members and dispatch them to help," said Mr Krissada (see page 2).

The group also plans to set standard prices within the club that will be transparent to tourists and prevent underbidding.

— Saran Mitrarat

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Only the spare was left behind.

Thieves leave truck floating

DESPITE extreme measures taken to secure his vehicle, a Hat Yai man woke up to find his pickup truck "hovering" above the ground, wheel-less.

"I got up at 9am and was shocked to find my truck floating in the air with no wheels," said 54-year-old Bumroong Sri-on.

"I parked my truck in front of the house the night before and engaged the anti-theft device, which locks up the steering wheel and the gears. I also set the burglar alarm."

Mr Bumroong even chained his truck to his house, but thieves made off with all his wheels anyway, except the spare on the underside of the truck. It was saved due to an undersized jack.

"The spare wheel was still here because the jack was too short to lift the truck up high enough for the thieves to get to the spare," Mr Bumroong said.

The four wheels for the Isuzu Hi-lander cost about 30,000 baht.

"We believe two thieves worked together to steal the wheels, but we don't have any idea when," said Sornpetch Tantiamornchaikul of the Hat Yai Police.

— *Daily News*

Eight candidates enroll in senate race, one turned away

EIGHT candidates have registered to contest Phuket's sole seat in the Senate in the national election for the upper house to be held on March 30.

One application, that of Siripong Luangchawee, was rejected by the Phuket Election Commission (PEC) because he had resigned just last year from the Pheu Thai Party, PEC Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit explained.

"Senatorial candidates are not allowed to be a member of any political party in the five years before running for election," he said.

Thanyarat Achariyachai, Phuket's former senator, completed a full six-year term and as such is not eligible to contest the upcoming

election, Mr Kittipong confirmed.

The candidates, with ballot numbers, are:

1. Bamroong Rungruang
2. Chaiyot Panyawai
3. Songwuth Hongyok
4. Chaiyen Muangman
5. Manote Phanchalad
6. Cherdchai Wongseree
7. Cherdchoo Sae-law
8. Nab Sinthong

Alcohol bans will be in effect for March 30 and also for advance voting on March 23. The bans begin at 6pm the night before and extend to midnight on the day of the elections.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



Manote Phanchalad drew for his ballot number, as did all the other candidates. Photo: PR Dept

Junk ship junked by fire

By Chutharat Plerin

THE wooden cargo ship that caught fire last Friday off Phuket's east coast in Phang Nga Bay was not insured and represents a 5-million-baht loss, its owners said.

One of the owners, Sompong Maikhaew, and three other men were on the ship when it caught fire, but jumped overboard and were safely rescued by a passing speedboat.

"We left Koh Yao Noi at 2:30pm and were headed for Bang Rong Port on Phuket," Mr Sompong said.

The *Thanaporn*, 23.5 meters long, was carrying used paper, steel and plastic bottles, along with the body of an old pickup truck.

"We saw the fire coming from some stacks of paper behind the wheelhouse. It just seemed to start spontaneously," he said. "We tried to put it out, but we couldn't, so we jumped into the sea."

Marine police were called to the scene at about 4pm. They battled the flames, but the



The uninsured ship was headed from Koh Yao Noi to Bang Rong Port on Phuket when used paper burst into flames, sending the crew into the sea until a passing speedboat picked them up. Photo: Phuket Marine Police

Thanaporn couldn't be saved and sank at about 5:30pm.

"The water is deep enough where it sank that it won't be dangerous to other boats," said Phuket Marine Officer Panya Chaiachana.

Environmental officers were quickly dispatched to the scene to determine if oil had leaked from the vessel.

"We were concerned about possible environmental damage, but we have confirmed that the ship

had not spilled oil," said Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of Regional Environmental Office 15 Phuket.

Mr Sompong has no plans to salvage the ship.

"There's nothing left on it but burnt junk," he said.

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Aussie teacher recovering after donors step forward with A-negative blood

DONORS who answered an urgent call for A-negative blood allowed doctors to perform a four-hour operation to repair the fractured leg of Phuket teacher Dean Jackson last week.

Mr Jackson, a teacher from HeadStart International School, was injured when he fell off his motorbike and was rushed to the hospital with a broken leg.

"We are pleased to announce that the Red Cross was able to collect enough A-negative blood, although it was quite a challenge and took a few days and the Phuket International Hospital doctors have operated on Dean last night from 8:00pm-12:00am," wrote Miki Edouard, a co-founder of HeadStart International School, in a letter to parents issued on March 6.

Mr Jackson has been transferred to a regular room and is recovering peacefully, she added.

"With this experience we have learned that the Red Cross is in dire need of blood donations on a regular basis," Ms Edouard noted.

"For example, Dean was one of 13 people waiting in line for A-negative blood. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who is able to please take the time to donate blood to the Red Cross."

The Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) did not have any A-negative blood in stock to offer when Mr Jackson was brought to Phuket International Hospital.

Ms Edouard pointed out that Mr Jackson is a conscientious and very well-liked teacher at the school.



Mr Jackson had fractured his leg in a motorbike accident and needed surgery. Photo: Facebook

"Dean is a very dedicated and hardworking Physical Education teacher at HeadStart," Ms Edouard told the *Gazette*.

"Everyone knows him as a happy and cheery Australian fellow who interacts well with students and parents alike."

— *Mauri Grant*

Wastewater lands hotels in hot seat

By Saran Mitrarat

OFFICIALS on March 10 suggested threatening hotels in Karon with the revocation of their licences if they failed to adequately treat wastewater before releasing it.

The meeting between officers of the Karon Municipality and Regional Environmental Office 15 follows reports last month of rank black water pouring out of Nong Harn Canal into the ocean at Karon.

"Karon Municipality has to find a way to stop households and hotels from releasing untreated wastewater into public water systems. If they fail to do so, the black water that stirred up sediment in the Nong Harn Canal will be seen again. It is most likely to occur when the rainy season starts," predicted Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of the Regional Environmental Office 15.

Karon Subdistrict Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew demanded that immediate action be taken, rather than wait for approval of a 350-million-baht budget for a wastewater management system.

Kamnan Winai suggested moni-

toring the hotels' monthly water quality reports, which they are required to submit under Section 80 of the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act BE 2535, as well as doing spot checks to ensure hotels are releasing water within acceptable quality limits.

"If hotels' water quality is not up to standards, they should first get a warning. However, if it happens again, I advise revoking the hotel licenses," said Kamnan Winai.

Karon Deputy Mayor Sompong Darbpeth shared Kamnan Winai's sentiment.

"I think preventing unsafe wastewater from being dumped from hotels is a good idea. I believe that business owners will improve their wastewater treatment plans once they realize they might lose their license," said Mr Sompong.

"If hotels and businesses manage their own wastewater treatment, it will be easier for Karon Municipality to focus on residential wastewater treatment."

Karon Municipality has already applied for 350 million baht from the 2015 fiscal budget. However,



Dr Pornsri suggested using money from the WMA to combat the wastewater problem in Karon.

Dr Pornsri noted that it was possible the money would not be granted due to a number of other pressing environmental projects.

"I suggest borrowing money from the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment office in Bangkok,"

she said.

"The WMA can immediately approve the budget if Karon Municipality signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) allowing water treatment fees and management costs to be charged to them until the WMA gets all of the money back."

The WMA would also provide training for local officers, Dr Pornsri said.

Mr Sompong vowed to hand a report from the meeting over to Governor Maitri Inthasut, who had visited the Nong Harn Canal the day after it ran black, and declared the water safe.

Frenchman arrested for filling pants with stolen testosterone injections

POLICE arrested two French nationals on March 5 after one shop-lifted 9,000 baht worth of testosterone injections in his underwear while the other created a diversion.

Patong Police were informed of the theft at the Health and Herb pharmacy on Soi Bangla at about 4:50pm and rushed to the scene.

"A man and a woman came into the shop," said store owner Rattaya Sawatraksa. "The woman came up to the counter to talk to me so that I wouldn't notice what the man was doing."

The man took three boxes of drugs, put them in his pants and walked out of the shop, but not undetected. Employees saw what happened and his act was also cap-



Mr Hammoudi was charged with theft. Photo: Patong Police

tured on the store's CCTV.

Ms Rattaya and her employees stopped the woman, 21-year-old Shirie Giordanengo, from leaving the shop until police arrived.

"We questioned Ms Giordanengo and went with her

to her room, which was at the Sophita Hotel," said Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"We found Badis Hammoudi, 22, in the room along with three boxes of Testosterone Enanthate Injection 250mg, worth 9,000 baht."

The suspects were charged with theft, but denied the charges, added Col Sutthichai.

— Saran Mitrarat

Travel agent swiping lost card

A KOH Lanta travel agency owner managed to steal almost 130,000 baht using a debit card he found on the ground.

Polish tourist Magdalena Holak told Tourist Police that she had lost her debit card while on holiday on Koh Lanta in late February. After police checked with her bank and discovered that the lost card had been used at Sumit Travel on the island, they went to investigate.

At the agency, police questioned the owner, 29-year-old Winit Damkul, said Somdech Saraban of the Tourist Police.

Ms Holak's debit card was found in his pocket.

Mr Winit was charged for illegally possessing and using another person's electronic card and was transferred into the custody of Koh Lanta police.

— Chutharat Plerin

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Mr Somsak (right) told police Mr Maraldi's passport was handed to a man who provided a stolen passport as a substitute. Photo: Patong Police

Police powerless to rein in rental agents

From page 1

... Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arayapan Pukbuakao said on Wednesday.

"We are looking into what measures we can take, but as far as I know, there is no law in Thailand prohibiting foreigners from handing his or her own passport to another person to hold as per their own agreement."

Col Arayapan said his officers will launch a campaign calling for rental vehicle operators to refrain from holding passports.

"They must understand that every passport remains the property of the government that issued it," he explained.

Although Col Arayapan confessed his officers were powerless to take action against vehicle operators, he warned that tourists were required by law to carry their passports at all times.

"Foreigners must be aware that if they fail to present their passports to authorities when requested, they could be fined or even deported," he said.

The pressure to clean up Phuket's raging stolen passport trade follows Italian tourist Luigi Maraldi having his passport handed over to a man who claimed to be Mr Maraldi's "partner" while Mr Maraldi was on holiday in Phuket last year.

Mr Maraldi, 37, was listed as a passenger on Flight MH370, but was later found safe at a guesthouse on Nanai Road in Patong, and in possession of a new passport.

Somsak Sornsut, owner of BN Massage in Patong, which was holding Mr Maraldi's passport last

year as collateral on a motorbike he had rented, explained, "My staff called to tell me that a foreigner had come to collect his passport. I asked her who and she said Mr Maraldi. I knew that he always brought his passport back to the shop in time, so I let my staff give it to him."

The man who took Mr Maraldi's passport left a Russian woman's passport in exchange.

"My staff said she showed the man she thought was Mr Maraldi four passports and let him choose his own. The man collected one of them and left another in exchange, saying it belonged to his wife," Mr Somsak said.

"She did not doubt that it was Mr Maraldi because the man who collected the passport looked similar to the picture."

Mr Somsak said he had forgotten about the exchange until Mr Maraldi came to the shop asking for his passport.

"I told him that he had already taken his passport and had yet to return it," said Mr Somsak.

"We then checked all the passports we had and called every customer to ask if they had taken the wrong one. All of them confirmed they had not."

After waiting three days in case someone returned the passport, Mr Somsak and Mr Maraldi reported it missing to the police.

Mr Somsak told the *Gazette* that he knew holding passports was wrong, but claimed he gave tourists a choice.

"Customers can either leave their passport as a guarantee, or they can leave a copy of their passport and pay a cash deposit," he said.

Passport to a

INVESTIGATIONS into the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 (see page 11) led to the discovery that two men boarded the plane with passports stolen in Phuket – raising fears that a terrorist attack brought the plane down and claimed the lives of the 227 passengers and 12 crew on board.

The men were later identified as Iranian nationals Pouri Nourmohammadi, 18, and Delavar Seyed Mohammadreza, 29.

Mr Nourmohammadi was en route to Frankfurt, Germany, where his mother lives, while Mr Mohammadreza was on his way to Copenhagen.

After days of investigations, the Malaysian Police, Thai Police and Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble all made statements concurring that investigators do not believe the two men had any links to terror organizations.

The men had started their journey in Doha – and were flying halfway round the planet and back again to get to their destinations – leading officials to believe that they were attempting to illegally immigrate to Europe under the cloak of their newly acquired passports.

BOOMING TRADE

The international spotlight shining brightly on the plight of the mysteriously missing aircraft spread its beam to reveal to the world the extent of the illegal passport trade in Thailand – and specifically Phuket as a source of stolen passports.

With huge numbers of visitors and patchy law enforcement, Thailand has a booming black market for fake identity documents. Thai authorities struggle to track thousands of lost or stolen passports each year.

Some are known to be sold on through syndicates to drug traffickers. Others are suspected to have ended up in the hands of Islamist militants.

"Fake passports and identity fraud in general is a massive problem in Thailand," said police commander Apichart Suriboonya, who acts as the director Thailand's branch of Interpol.

They are passed on to middlemen, Thai or foreign, who work with criminal networks, he said. The passports may be altered, for example with a new photograph, but sometimes the fraudulent user hopes to pass as the real owner.

Sometimes documents are sold by their owners to cover travel costs, Col Apichart said.

The passenger manifest issued by Malaysia Airlines included the names of two Europeans – Austrian Christian Kozel and Italian Luigi Maraldi – who were not on the plane. Both had passports stolen in Phuket (see page 1).

The passports were used to buy tickets from travel agents in Pattaya, for flights to Beijing and

PASSPORTS stolen in Phuket that were used to board ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has placed Phuket at the center of an international maelstrom.

Thousands of passports are reported lost or stolen in Thailand each year, and the region is gaining a reputation as a gateway for international asylum seekers to reach Europe.

The *Phuket Gazette's* Saran Mitrarat and Amy Sawitta Lefevre for Reuters in Bangkok report.



The men boarded the plane using passports stolen in Phuket. Photo: Reuters

on to Europe. Thai and foreign investigators were questioning staff at one travel agency on Monday.

Police showed Reuters a copy of Mr Maraldi's passport used to make the travel booking with what was apparently the original photograph of Mr Maraldi in it. It was not immediately clear if the tickets were bought online or collected.

Thailand's fake document business has been flourishing for years.

In 2010, Thai and Spanish authorities arrested suspected members of an international ring providing forged passports to militants. Thai authorities say the ring may have passed fake documents to those behind the Madrid train bombings in 2004.

Pockets of Bangkok are notorious for their emporiums of counterfeit goods, with fake drivers' licenses, press cards and airline cabin crew identity cards on display. The Thai capital also boasts experts in forging visas.

"Thailand is fertile territory for people looking to steal European passports. There are lots of foreigners and many foreigners visit," a European diplomat said.

UNSAVORY CHARACTERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said more than 60,000 passports – both Thai and foreign – were reported missing or stolen in Thailand between January 2012 and June 2013.

Both stolen passports used on Flight MH370 were stolen in Phuket during that time. Police said they get reports of up to 10 lost passports a month in the province.

Foreigners can make more than 6,000 baht by selling their passport and then reporting it as stolen, said Capt Angkarn Yasanop at Phuket Immigration.

Many lost or stolen passports end up with Thais and other Southeast Asians trying to migrate for work, he said.

Larry Cunningham, who recently retired as Australia's long-serving honorary consul in Phuket, said major problems arise when tourists leave passports as a deposit when renting jet-skis or motorbikes (see page 1).

Crooked operators then make a false allegation of damage to the vehicles. The tourist, unwilling to pay, forfeits the passport and



Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents database contains 40 million records from 167 countries, but not enough countries are using it

– Ronald Noble, Secretary General, Interpol

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new life under asylum



A customs officer checks the travel documents and passports of young travellers passing through Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Photo: Reuters

reports it stolen at an embassy or consulate and gets a new one. The old passport is sold into the underworld.

"Phuket has some very, very unsavory characters and they're not all Thais," Mr Cunningham said. "Nothing would surprise me about Phuket."

RED FLAGS

Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents (SLTD) database contains 40 million records from 167 countries, but its secretary general, Ronald Noble, says not enough countries are using it.

"The bad news is that, despite being incredibly cost effective and deployable to virtually anywhere in the world, only a handful of countries are systematically using SLTD to screen travelers," he told a conference last month.

Col Apichart said Thai databases were not properly linked to Interpol data.

"The technology we use in Thailand to check fraudulent identity cards is outdated at many points of entry," he said.

SYRIANS IN LIMBO

The outdated passport-checking equipment used by Thai officials saw six other travellers – four Syrians and two Lebanese men – slip through immigration at Phuket International Airport with Greek passports to board a flight to

Beijing in January.

The incident highlighted the growing trend for illegal immigrants – asylum seekers or not – to travel to Asia and then on to Europe in the hope of repatriating there.

Chinese officials returned the six men – all believed to be genuine asylum seekers – to Phuket after identifying the passports they were using as fakes.

The men remain under house guard at Phuket Airport awaiting deportation to a safe destination.

"They left Syria by taking a car to Lebanon without passing through an immigration checkpoint," explained one airport immigration officer who asked not to be named.

When the men arrived in Lebanon, they were denied 60-day tourist visas by the Thai embassy there.

"There were concerns that if they were allowed to enter Thailand, they would not leave due to the ongoing civil war in their home country," the officer said.

The men somehow acquired six fake Greek passports, then boarded a flight from Lebanon to Doha and finally arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok by Qatar Airways on December 31, he explained.

The route taken by the refugees was nearly identical to that of the two Iranian nationals who also began their journey in Doha.

"Our records show the six men

boarded a China Airlines flight from Phuket to Beijing on January 13," the officer said.

"The computer system we use sometimes does not flag modified

or fake passports. The immigration officials in Beijing could identify them because they have a more advanced system."

The officer explained that China

returning the six asylum seekers to Phuket posed a dilemma for Thai immigration.

"We couldn't allow them to enter the country on their genuine passports as they did not exit their home country legally," the officer told the *Gazette*.


"According to standard procedures, we are supposed to return them to Syria, but the men told us that they would be beheaded if we did.

"Thai immigration doesn't want anyone to die by being sent back home, so we are providing them temporary shelter at the airport on humanitarian grounds."

Immigration officials are working with foreign missions in the hope of finding the men a new home.

"We contacted the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to ask for help finding a place for them," said the officer.

"Sweden declined to accept the six refugees. We are now waiting for an answer from officials from Turkey."









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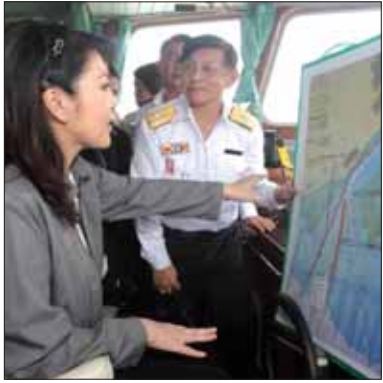


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The Syrian asylum seekers are in a restricted area at Phuket Airport.



Caretaker PM Yingluck reviews the plans. Photo: The Nation

Call for review of B350bn water project

A SENATE subcommittee has called for a review of the government's 350-billion-baht water-management project out of concern that it may not be a worthwhile investment.

The caretaker government approved 350bn baht for overhauling the country's water-management system in the wake of the 2011 flood crisis.

"I am worried that without changes made to the planned modules, the massive investment may not be worthwhile and end up being inefficient," the subcommittee's spokesman Thanawat Jarupongsakul told *The Nation* on Tuesday.

Mr Thanawat raised his concerns about the expensive modules at an academic seminar held by his subcommittee in collaboration with relevant agencies.

"While we agree with the approval of the project, we have to raise concerns because after looking into the details, we have discovered that they are not well integrated. These modules have also failed to take into account climate change," Mr Thanawat said.

He added that such problems could make it impossible to avoid another disastrous flood.

PDRC launches forum

Establishes reform agenda for 'after ouster of Yingluck'

THE People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) launched its first forum on national reform on Tuesday, relying on input from key public figures and a reform panel set up under the previous government.

Poldej Pinprateep, a member of the reform panel that was formerly led by social critic Prawase Wasi and a Cabinet member under the military-appointed administration, chaired the meeting, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Poldej said that discussions would be based on the findings of the reform panel under the previous government, adding that the discussion this time would cover six issues.

Of the six topics touched on Tuesday, the first two were poverty and social disparity.

Five experts were allotted seven minutes each to offer a proposal on how they would tackle the issues, while PDRC members were granted three minutes each.

PDRC secretary general Suthep Thaugsuban clarified that the findings on the six issues would be presented to a "People's Assembly" and adopted by a non-elected, interim government once Yingluck Shinawatra's administration has been ousted.

Chokchuang Chutinat, a 69-year-old pediatrician and hardcore PDRC supporter, said the focus should be on removing the current administration and then putting reforms in place.

"When an army defeats [its opponents], it doesn't invite the conquered [to take part in rebuilding]. When we win, we won't involve those who have lost, other than youngsters, whom we can train," he said.



Poldej Pinprateep (left) and PDRC secretary general Suthep Thaugsuban (right) speak at the forum. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

"Pardon me, I'm not saying we're perfect either," Dr Chokchuang said, adding that the PDRC's victory was a certainty

because "good always prevails".

Another proposal by speakers on Tuesday was the introduction of a progressive land tax. Speaker Prayong Doklamyai pointed out that politicians from the opposition Democrat Party owned more land in total compared with their peers from other parties; the Pheu Thai Party came in second.

It was also proposed that the Justice Fund be better financed so

more poor people have access to bail rights and the appointment of a defence lawyer.

Labor activist Wilaiwan Sae Tia proposed that the social welfare fund also cover those in the non-formal sector, while a speaker suggested that a National Savings Fund be created to care for the elderly, and that funds from the state lottery go to civic groups instead of the government.

Experts fear for well-being of kids in South

CHILD experts have voiced concern about the well-being of children living in the restive South, saying many who have experienced violence lack appropriate physical and psycho-social care.

The experts' comments came at a seminar that was a side event to the Deep South Alternative Media for Peace/Pattani Festival at the Prince of Songkla University campus in Pattani. The event was staged last month by Deep South Watch, a peace-dedicated non-government organization (NGO).

The children's cases were based on a 2013 UNICEF study of 11,500 incidents of armed conflict reported in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla provinces since early 2004.

It found that by the end of February 2014, 120 children had been killed and some 630 others injured, while 5,500 children had been orphaned due to the violence, reported the Deep South Coordination Center.

Last year, a total of five chil-



Soldiers stationed at school as teachers became targets. Photo: The Nation

dren were killed in the violence in the four southernmost provinces, while five children have been killed already in the first two months of this year, reported *The Nation*.

Anchana Heemmina, director of the Heart Support Group, said although children were not targets of violence in the South, the increasing number of child victims suggests those carrying out attacks were less concerned with or careful about the safety of children.

In 2008, the Ministry of Public Health set up a rehabilitation unit at Yala Provincial Hospital for children affected by violence, but so far fewer than 700 children have been brought in for treatment.

Due to security concerns and mistrust of government officials by residents in the southern provinces, it is difficult for healthcare workers to make home visits, Dr Pechdau Tohmeena, director of Mental Health Center 12, said.

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MH370: Hope fades

Confusion spreads as officials search for lost plane

By Stuart Grudgings
and Nguyen Phuong Linh

THE search for a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner expanded on Wednesday to cover a swathe of Southeast Asia, from the South China Sea to India's territorial waters, with authorities no closer to explaining what happened to the plane or the 239 people on board.

The confusion over where to look is adding to one of the most baffling mysteries in modern aviation history, and prolonging the agonizing wait for hundreds of relatives of the missing.

Flight MH370 dropped out of sight an hour after taking off from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing early last Saturday, under clear night skies and with no suspicion of any mechanical problems.

Dozens of planes and ships have already searched tens of thousands of square miles of Malaysia and off both its coasts without finding a trace of the Boeing 777.

Adding to the frustration and uncertainty, Malaysia's military has said the plane could have turned around from its planned flight path, but there were conflicting statements and reports about how far and in which direction it could have flown after communication was lost.

Malaysia's air force chief, Rodzali Daud, denied saying military radar had tracked MH370 flying over the Strait of Malacca off the country's west coast, about 500 kilometers from the point where it was last seen by air traffic control.

Malaysia's *Berita Harian* newspaper on Tuesday quoted Mr Daud as saying the plane was last de-



Family members of those aboard the missing Flight MH370 cry for their loved ones. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

tected at the northern end of the Strait of Malacca at 2:40am on Saturday, more than an hour after it lost contact.

"It would not be appropriate for the Royal Malaysian Air Force to issue any official conclusions as to the aircraft's flight path until a high amount of certainty and verification is achieved," Mr Daud said in a statement on Wednesday.

"However, all ongoing search

operations are at the moment being conducted to cover all possible areas where the aircraft could have gone down in order to ensure no possibility is overlooked."

The massive search operation involving ships and aircraft from 10 countries is spread out over the Gulf of Thailand and the South China Sea, which lie between Malaysia and Vietnam, and in the Strait of Malacca extending into the Andaman Sea.

A senior military officer who had been briefed on the investigation told Reuters on Tuesday that the missing aircraft had made a detour to the west after communications with civilian authorities ended.

"It changed course after Kota

Bharu and took a lower altitude. It made it into the Malacca Strait," the officer said.

After the comments from the officer, a non-military source familiar with investigations said the reported detour was one of several theories being checked.

If the plane had made such a detour it would undermine the theory that it suffered a sudden, catastrophic mechanical failure, as it would mean it flew at least 500km after its last contact with air traffic control.

In the absence of any concrete evidence to explain the disappearance, authorities have not ruled out anything, said police.

— Reuters

In brief...

Vietnam to invoke laws to support new constitution

THE Vietnamese National Assembly will issue 28 new laws to assert redrafted sections on human and citizen rights in the country's new constitution, Justice Minister Ha Hung Cuong said last Sunday.

The revised constitution came into effect on January 1, 2014, with 11 chapters with 120 articles – one chapter and 27 articles fewer than the previous version.

— Vietnam News

Myanmar officials approve 166 hotels within two months

THE Myanmar government has approved the construction of 166 hotels to accommodate record numbers of tourists visiting the country, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The hotels will be constructed in Yangon, Mandalay, Shan State, Taninthayi Region, Kachin State and Ayeyawady Region.

Most of the hotels, providing over 7,800 rooms, will be in popular destinations where international summits will be held.

Most of the applications are for guesthouses and do not include any international standard hotels, said the ministry's director-general, Aung Zaw Win.

— Eleven Media

Deputies arrest 8 for 'blast fishing'

A GROUP of environmentalists deputized by the police in the Philippines arrested eight persons after they were found with fish believed to have been caught through dynamite fishing.

— Philippine Inquirer

Sumatra electricity chief gets 11 years for graft

THE Medan District Court on Monday sentenced the former general manager of state-owned electricity company PT PLN North Sumatra, Albert Pangaribuan, to 11 years in prison for corruption relating to flame tube purchases worth Rp23.62 billion (about 64.6mn baht).

The defendant was also obliged to pay a fine of Rp200mn.

The sentence matched that demanded by the prosecutors, but the fine was half the amount sought.

Presiding Judge SB Hutagalung read out the verdict on Monday.

Incriminating factors, according to the panel of judges, included the fact that the corruption committed had caused North Sumatra to experience an electricity crisis in the form of rolling blackouts.

The defendant was also considered to have not regretted his



Mr Pangaribuan. Photo: Jakarta Post

actions as he pleaded not guilty.

The judges said the defendant had misappropriated his authority in the purchase of flame tubes for the electric generator in Belawan.

Responding to the verdict, Mr Pangaribuan said he would appeal.

— The Jakarta Post

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In brief...

Syria among 'most dangerous' for kids

THE number of children affected by the civil war in Syria has more than doubled over the past year. After three years of turmoil and conflict, Syria is now one of the most dangerous places on earth to be a child, said a United Nations Children's Fund report on Monday.

UN warns against food shortages

THE world must increase its food production by 60 per cent by mid-century or risk serious food shortages that could bring social unrest and civil wars.

Demand for food will rise rapidly over the next few decades as the world population surpasses 9 billion, said Hiroyuki Konuma, the assistant director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

CIA called out for unwelcome spying

A BITTER dispute between the CIA and the United States Senate committee that oversees it burst into the open on Tuesday when the committee's chairwoman accused the CIA of spying on Congress.

The dispute heightened concerns about the effectiveness of congressional oversight of US spy agencies which were raised last year when fugitive US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden exposed sweeping electronic surveillance by the NSA.

'Batman' sorry for cow video incident

REAL Madrid midfielder Asier Illarramendi has apologized after a video was published on the internet that appeared to show him dressed as Batman and running in front of a horned cow at a festival in his native Basque Country.

Fear of radiation keeps Japanese youth indoors

By Toru Hanai and Elaine Lies

SOME of the smallest children in Koriyama, a short drive from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, barely know what it's like to play outside – fear of radiation has kept them indoors for much of their short lives.

And the impact is now starting to show, with children experiencing falling strength, lack of coordination, inability to ride a bicycle and emotional issues like shorter tempers, officials and educators say.

"There are children who are very fearful. They ask before they eat anything, 'does this have radiation in it?' and we have to tell them it's okay to eat," said Mitsuhiro Hiraguri, director of the Emporium Kindergarten in Koriyama, some 55 kilometers west of Fukushima.

"But some really, really want to play outside. They say they want to play in the sandbox and make mud pies. We have to tell them no, I'm sorry. Play in the sandbox inside instead."

Following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, a series of explosions and meltdowns caused the world's worst nuclear accident for 25 years, spewing radiation over a swathe of Fukushima.



Children play in an indoor sand pit in the Emporium Kindergarten in Koriyama, near Fukushima. Photo: Reuters

In Koriyama, the city recommended shortly after the disaster that children up to 2 years old not spend more than 15 minutes outside each day. Those aged 3 to 5 were to limit their outdoor time to 30 minutes or less.

These limits were lifted last October, but many kindergartens

and nursery schools continue to adhere to the limits, in line with the wishes of worried parents.

The lack of outdoor play is having a detrimental affect on Koriyama's children, both physical and mentally, said Toshiaki Yabe, an official with the Koriyama city government.

But parental attitudes towards the risk of radiation may be slowly shifting, added Mr Yabe.

"These days, instead of hearing from parents that they're worried about radiation, we're hearing that they're worried because their kids don't get outside," he said.

– Reuters

'Dead' Mexican drug kingpin killed again

A MEXICAN drug lord who was falsely reported dead more than three years ago was killed by armed forces in western Mexico early last Sunday.

Known as "El Mas Loco", or "The Craziest One", Nazario Moreno led a violent drug cartel that has ravaged the western state of Michoacan. The previous government said Mr Moreno was killed in a firefight in December 2010, but his body was never found and he was widely believed to have survived.

Having discovered Mr Moreno was alive and leading the Knights Templar drug gang, Mexico's

armed forces tracked the kingpin inside Michoacan, government security spokesman Alejandro Rubido told a news conference.

Last Sunday morning, members of the army and navy found Mr Moreno in Tumbiscatio, a village in Michoacan, and shot him dead in a gunfight when he refused to turn himself in, Mr Rubido added.

Having recovered the body this time around, the government said it had identified Mr Moreno using fingerprints it had on file from his military service.

Federal police first caught up with Mr

Moreno in 2010, when he was handing out Christmas presents in a Michoacan village.

Five officers were killed, and police shot dead more than 50 gunmen in the 2010 fighting, which lasted several hours, police said. The gang carried many of those hit, including Mr Moreno, into the hills.

– Reuters



Alejandro Rubido
Photo: Reuters

Merkel voices disapproval of Ukrainian referendum



GERMANY'S Angela Merkel delivered a rebuke to President Vladimir Putin last Sunday, telling him that a planned Moscow-backed referendum on whether Crimea should join Russia was illegal and violated Ukraine's constitution.

Speaking by telephone to Ms Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron, Mr Putin said the steps taken by authorities in Crimea were "based on international law

and aimed at guaranteeing the legitimate interests of the peninsula's population," the Kremlin said.

A German government statement said the referendum was illegal: "Holding it violates the Ukrainian constitution and international law."

On March 6, Ms Merkel said that if a group was not formed to seek a political solution to the Ukraine crisis and no progress was made in negotiations with Russia, the European Union could hit Russia with sanctions such as travel restrictions and asset freezes.

Ms Merkel has so far been more cautious than some other nations regarding tough economic sanctions.

– Reuters

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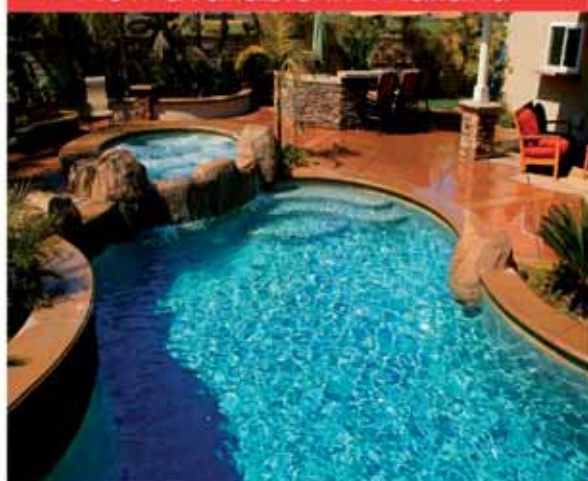
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The luxury of privacy



The Silver Beach project in Phuket's Laem Hin aims to bring a more private and personal experience to the island's clubgoers. Photos: Supplied

By Maciek Klimowicz

SUPERYACHTS, private planes, exclusive jewelery and privacy are just a few of life's luxuries that people crave and strive for. Wait – privacy? Sadly, yes. It's supply seems to be shrinking by the day, with the help of our friends from NSA, Google, Facebook and others. It might seem that the ship has sailed and not much can be done about it but that doesn't stop some from trying. Among them, are Beach Projects, who are seeking to provide residents of Phuket with some more personal space, and yes, privacy.

During my conversation with Kammalard "Kam" Urapeepatanapong, general manager of Beach Projects Co Ltd – a developer that's about to introduce two high-end projects to Phuket and Koh Phi Phi – words like "private", "exclusive" and "limited" kept bouncing back and forth. It turns out that these are the best adjectives to describe the multi-million dollar development growing in Laem Hin – known as Silver Beach.

"The project comprises of several components, the first one being the large clubhouse, one of the largest in Phuket. We call it the Bugatti club," explains Kam, adding that the access to the club will be limited and for members only.

"There is no lack of good clubs

in Phuket but many of them lack privacy and many customers want a more intimate, private atmosphere."

But it doesn't end with the club, "To compliment the club we have 16 Bugatti suites. In addition to that, there are 73 condominium units located on about five rai of land. In other projects there is often two rai of land filled with as much as 200 units but we want our customers to be able to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere."

So, not only do you get some private space, you get a lot of it. Add 16 villa units, spa and fitness facilities, access to the Bugatti club for the owners and you have a really impressive project. The project will be completed by the end of next year but 20 per cent of units are already sold out. The apartments range from studio units to two-bedroom units, prices start at 3.6 million baht, and go up to around 50 million baht for the biggest, most exclusive units.

And if you crave even more privacy, Beach Projects is here to help. Just hop on a private boat and head to a private beach in the south west of Phi Phi island to enjoy one of the private, sea view apartments that are coming into existence under the name Bugatti Retreat Phi Phi.

The best way to get there? Kam explains, "To get to Phi Phi guests will have a dedicated hy-

drofoil connection. The smooth ride will take 45 minutes in business class conditions for 128 seats and it already operational, with scheduled trips everyday. The buyers will have 10 trips per year, free of charge, with more discounts to come."

The Bugatti Retreat Phi Phi is comprised of 16 two-storey buildings.

"We intend to have it operated as a hotel, making it the first Bugatti hotel project in Thailand. The hotel part will have 41 apartments and there will also be 26 apartments available for purchase, that can be managed as a part of the hotel," says Mr Kammalard.

The project has different types of units, starting from one bedroom, through to two and three-bedrooms, all with a sea view and most with a private plunge pool. To add to the experience, apartments are finished with high quality materials such as teak wood imported from Myanmar. All at a starting price of 8.2mn baht. And to make you or your guest stay even more enjoyable, two restaurants will be available, one on the beach level and one on top of the project, nine storeys above ground, called "The Avatar" a signature building by a renowned designer Bill Bensley, with a 360 degree view of the island. We can't wait to take a look.



Modern design and quality materials characterize Silver Beach's 16 villas.

Thriving tourism industry seminar

"Economic and investment trends in Phuket's thriving tourism industry" is the name of the seminar organized by SCB on Thursday, March 20 at the Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel. The seminar begins at 1:30 pm and will last for two hours.

Seminar topics include economic outlook in Phuket, investment advice, the thriving tourism industry in Phuket, rising residential property demand in Phuket, the market for apartments and condominiums in Phuket, as well as investment guide on buying and renting condominiums in Phuket. Some guest speakers invited to participate are: Miss Srinarin Poudpongpaiboon, senior analyst - Real Estate Sectoral Strategy, Economic Intelligence Center; Mr. Poomipak Julmanichoti, managing director Plus Property Co Ltd; and Miss Wannaprapha Sooksomboon, deputy director Tourism Authority of Thailand – Phuket Office.

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Samui staying strong



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

ONE of my favorite movies in recent memory has to be *Up in the Air*. Given a hectic travel schedule it's certainly a subject I can identify with. One of the classic scenes has to be George Clooney, jumping into line behind some people of Asian descent at the foreboding metal detector and commenting how they "travel light". Profiling, yes, but in my experience, the less I get repeatedly slapped in the face by oversized backpacks being lugged by Europeans down airplane aisles, the better.

Lately, I have often been asked how Thailand's resort markets are holding up in light of the country's political issues in Bangkok. Looking over at nearby Samui, the answer appears to be – quite well, apparently. Last year, a record high of 1.3 million passengers arrived at the island's airport.

Perhaps it's time to recall the key catch phrase that best applies to tourism destinations "you can't stay there, if you can't get there". Historically, air travel into Samui has taken a decidedly different path to that in Phuket. The latter's facility is operated by the Airport of Thailand (AOT) authority and has embraced the game-changing surge of low-cost carriers (LCC's) head-on.

While Samui's prospects have been defined by the existence of a private airport, controlled by Bangkok Airways, there is a limitation of 36 daily flights imposed by a decade's old environmental restriction. The destination cannot tap into either the LCC traffic or charter flights that operate into Phuket in the overnight time period, with the latter being a key

driver of mass tourism.

In 2013, the Samui airport hit 86 per cent capacity, and looking at the rise in hotel numbers, it was hard for us to reconcile where the island's growth was coming from. Hotel occupancy market-wide rose to 73 per cent and average room rates achieved seven per cent growth comparing year-on-year data.

Part of the answer came in viewing nearby Surat Thani's airport arrivals, which in 2012, pushed up 38 per cent, and in 2013, another 32 per cent. Looking in to the numbers, you find AirAsia and China Eastern Airlines, with their direct flights from mainland China and nearby Malaysia. Additionally, there was a lift in charter flights, with almost 60,000 passengers through the airport last year.

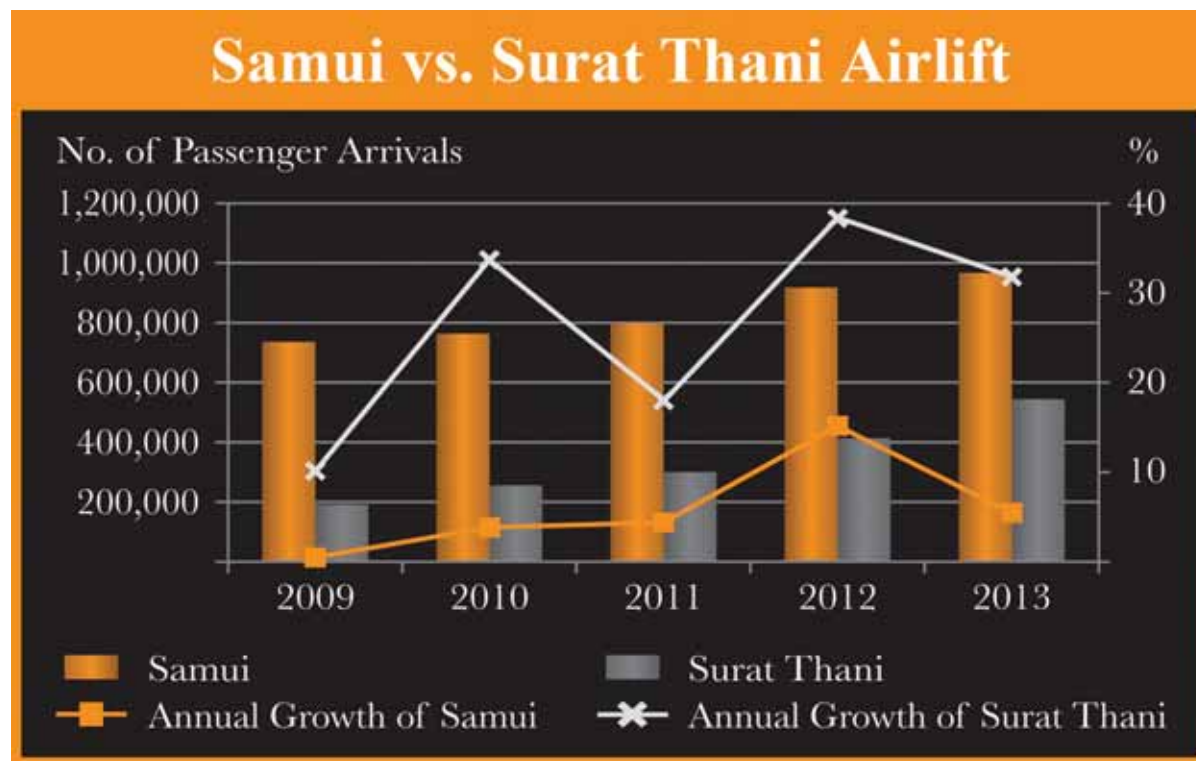
Effectively, Surat Thani has become Samui's "Plan B" in creating new airlift to the island, and these rising numbers are driving new levels of business. While the logistic are complicated, with passengers required to be transported to Don Sak for ferry transport, the reality on the ground is the Samui airlift conundrum has found a partner in

Profiling, yes, but in my experience, the less I get repeatedly slapped in the face by oversized backpacks being lugged by Europeans down airplane aisles, the better.

nearby Surat Thani.

That said, the island's tourism market for the full year 2013 was still dominated by international visitors, which constituted 88 per cent of the market. Western Europeans still account for over half of this amount but China and Russia are knocking at the door, with each showing triple digit growth compared to the previous year.

What is decidedly different



Source: Department of Civil Aviation and C9 Hotelworks Market Research

between Samui and Phuket are the incoming hotel pipelines. Presently Phuket has just over 46,000 registered hotel units, and Samui comes in just shy of 18,000. The number of new hotels under development on the former stands at 26 properties, while the latter has five, hence supply and demand in Samui remains on solid footing. Simply put, there is not a broad danger of oversupply in the short to medium term.

Wrapping up our visit to Samui, the sunny island in the gulf of Thailand, the tourism prospects remain strong. What has the island currently buzzing is the opening of the Central Festival mall in Chaweng on March 29. Like it or not, the push higher in the development cycle changes every island's dynamics the world over. For now though, Samui's hotel trading outlook appears set to go from strength to strength.



Over 44 per cent of visitors to Koh Samui are from Western Europe. Photo: KF

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In 2013, the Koh Samui airport hit 86 per cent capacity. Photo: Binderdonadat

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Your lease could be buried with you

Property Legal

By International Law Office

LEASING has become a popular option for foreign property buyers to acquire interest in land or apartment units, due to legal restrictions applying to the purchasing of property in Thailand. Many of us may have heard that the maximum term under Thai law for residential leases, that a lessor and his lessee can agree to register with the land department, is 30 years – where after renewal options are usually granted.

However, when it comes to protection of the lessee's inheritance, in respect to the beneficiaries, many of us may not be aware of the fact that lease rights basically cannot be passed on to loved ones in the case of the lessee's death. Unfortunately, the Thai Civil and Commercial Code (CCC) does not provide for a transfer of lease rights by way of inheritance. This means that upon the lessee's demise, a lease is extinguished and ceases to exist.

This may have serious consequences in regard to your investment, particularly in regard to your beneficiaries, who may not be entitled to use and enjoy your property any longer. This seems to be even more draconian if you consider that long term leases, which are usually used in order to acquire interest in land or apartment units, must be fully paid up in advance by the lessee to their lessor.

In order to protect the inheritance of lease rights, lessor and lessee may agree under the lease that the agreement shall be binding upon and enure onto their heirs, in case of either party's demise. However, such succession or inheritance clauses may not be accepted by a court if it comes to a dispute between the lessor and lessee's heirs – it needs to be remembered that a lease right is basically considered as a personal right of the lessee, which cannot be transferred



Upon a lessee's demise, a lease is extinguished and ceases to exist. Photo: Tristan Nitot

upon their demise. Therefore, caution is advisable if such individual agreements shall be the only safeguard in regard to the inheritance of your lease rights.

However, courts have decided that under

Unfortunately, the Thai Civil Commercial Code (CCC) does not provide for a transfer of lease rights by way of inheritance.

certain conditions a lease shall be inheritable. This shall be the case if the structure, such as a villa has been erected on the leased land and lessor and lessee agreed that such structure shall be conveyed into the lessor's name upon expiration of the lease

or its extensions. Nevertheless, property buyers should be aware that courts from time to time may change their opinion and rule differently in the future.

It would be surely helpful, in order to increase investors confidence in buying property in Thailand, if the inheritance of lease rights could be guaranteed by law, which would require respective amendment of the CCC.

However, until such an amendment comes into effect (if ever) the safest way of acquiring lease rights seems to be to use the name of a corporate body, as such entities do not usually die if properly maintained. And it is preferable to use an off-shore company, which are generally easier to maintain. Acquisition of lease rights

under the name of an off-shore company may offer further advantages, however, should be discussed with professional advisers in order to ensure that the chosen legal structure satisfies your personal requirements on a safe investment.

For those who do not feel comfortable with holding property under the name of a company structure, it is advisable to enter into a lease together with your beneficiaries as the longer living lessees are entitled to benefit from the property until their passing.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. For inquiries, contact Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, senior partner, by email at sam@ilo-phuket.com or phone 076-222 1915.

Asean to discuss free-trade with EU

ASEAN is planning to resume free-trade talks with the European Union after its 2015 integration, as every country in the trade bloc is ready for more market liberalization with developed countries, Asean chief Le Luong Minh said.

Speaking at the sixth "Delhi Dialogue", the Asean secretary-general told *The Nation* that the

10-member group should be able to resume FTA talks with the EU after next year's birth of the one-market Asean Economic Community.

At present, some Asean countries have negotiated individual FTAs with the EU, including Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. But Minh believes that the other countries should be prompted to be more

committed through the AEC.

"Currently, Asean is too busy moving towards a single market under the 2015 target," he said. "But after the AEC has been achieved, then we should be ready for tighter cooperation with others, and the FTA negotiation with the EU is one of the top priorities after 2015."

Minh said that although it was

a different playing field between Asean and EU countries, it should not obstruct the talks or have a negative impact on Asean countries, as an FTA between the two regions should help increase development and cooperation. He said Asean would focus on co-operation and eliminating barriers to promote more trade and investment. The EU is not considered a competitor, so the FTA should help promote more trade and economic growth.

FTA talks with the EU began in 2006 but because of concerns, including the internal politics of some Asean members, several Southeast Asian countries decided to ink separate agreements.

The secretary-general said that after 2015 Asean should be focused more on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which would be one of the world's largest FTAs and consist of Asean and six key trading partners. They are China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

Minh believes the internal



The countries that form Asean.

political situation in some Asean countries, including the tension in Thailand, should not be an obstacle to the partnership. He said negotiations for the Asean-India FTA, which largely covers trade in services and investment, were completed but the agreement had not been signed because of the situation in Thailand, while Malaysia and Indonesia would soon have general elections.

However, the Asean blueprint and plan to move towards a single market in 2015 would proceed.

– *The Nation*



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Quality and convenient coffee

By Mark Knowles

GETTING great espresso or coffee for your home, office or hospitality business in Phuket can be a trying task at times. Dealing with messy coffee grounds, cleaning complicated espresso machines, getting a good froth with your milk and training yourself or your staff to make a consistently good coffee are just some of the troubles you have probably faced in pursuit of the perfect cup of black gold.

You've probably got enough to worry about already, so why not make great coffee the easy way with W Cafe? The company's motto, "Living your dream is good; consistency in coffee even better" sums up their whole approach. In a nutshell, W Cafe believes making great coffee should be a simple, quick, clean and consistent process that anyone can do.

To achieve this aim, they have combined Italian engineering with Swiss precision, to create an affordable coffee capsule system that delivers the perfect cup every time. Years of research have gone into the development of the Caffitaly System used by W Cafe. It is a combined system, consisting of machines and capsules whose components are protected by international patents.



“With our system, when the customer has one good coffee, they can come back and be sure they will get the same good cup of coffee every time.”

Starting at 5990 baht, the affordably priced Caffitaly machines come in three models depending on the level of use and functionality you require, from home to commercial applications. The elegantly styled machines are also a breeze to use – it's as simple as inserting a capsule and pressing a button – and hey, presto, you have a perfect espresso.

This simplicity is what makes W Cafe such a tempting proposition for your home, office or business – there is nothing to learn and no training for your staff – anyone can make the perfect cup of coffee, every time, in under one minute.

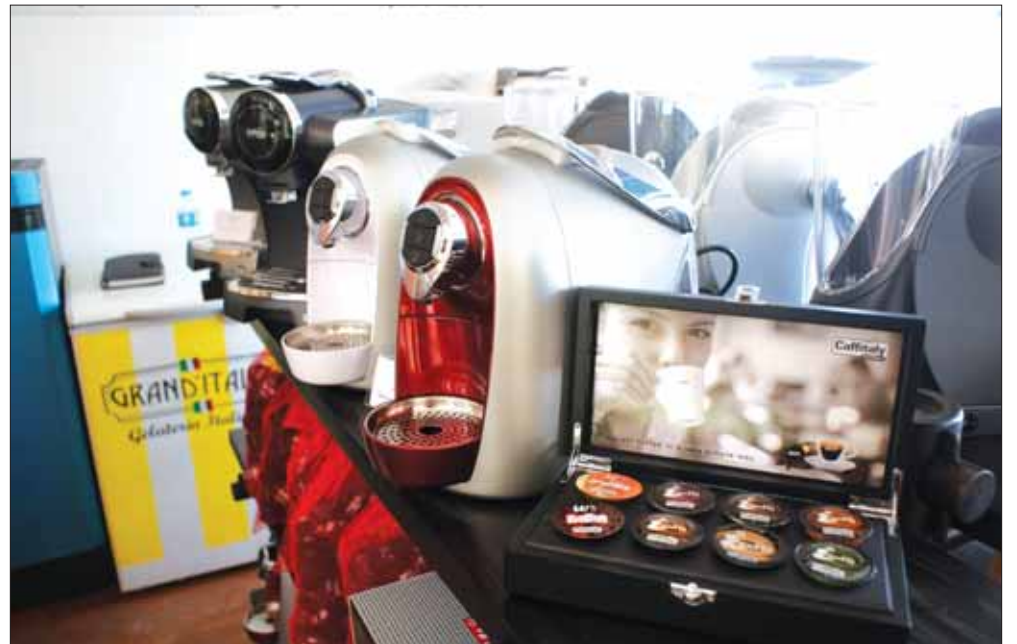
“If you buy the big industrial machines, you

need the barista training for your staff if you want to give consistent coffee to your customers. With our system, when the customer has one good coffee, they can come back and be sure they will get the same good cup of coffee every time,” says Eniko Kovacs, sales and marketing director of W Cafe Phuket.

To achieve this consistency, each W Cafe capsule contains eight grams of pure ground coffee, which they say is the perfect amount of coffee in order to preserve the flavor and aroma of all blends and employ the technology of the system in the best way.

“If you are using our system in a commercial setting, it is also very easy to control your stock, so at the end of the day, you can count up the used capsules and you know exactly how many cups you have sold and how much profit you have made. There is no wastage or spoilage either because the individual capsules stay fresh for 18 months,” adds Eniko.

The capsule system is also great for home use – with 11 different styles to choose from including nine coffee blends (including decaffeinated) along with black tea and cocoa – everyone in the



The W Cafe coffee capsule system is quick, clean and consistent. Photos: Mark Knowles

family can enjoy their favorite.

For lovers of cappuccinos, W Cafe also stocks two models of automated milk frothers, again simplicity is key here, just add milk, press the button, and in 30 seconds you have hot foamy milk ready to pour into your espresso.

But perhaps the best reason to use W Cafe is the price – they offer the cheapest per capsule price of any coffee capsule system in Thailand – just 19 baht per capsule. No matter which way you look at it, for home or commercial use, paying less than 20 baht for a cup of quality espresso coffee is incredible value.

An additional convenience of adopting the W Cafe capsule system is the fact that they are the official service and repair facility for Phuket.

If you want to take the hassle out of making great coffee, visit W Cafe Phuket to see just how easy it can be.

The W Cafe Store is located at The Courtyard on Chao Fa West Road, between the Honda car dealership and Kajonkietsuksa School – open Monday to Saturday, 8:30am to 5:30pm. For more information visit the W Cafe website at: coffeecapsulesphuket.com



Sales and marketing director of W Cafe Phuket Eniko Kovacs.

Banyan Tree named top hotel in Phuket

BANYAN Tree Phuket, flagship property for Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts has been awarded The Best Hotel in Phuket in The DestinAsian Reader's Choice Awards 2014. This is the seventh time that the resort has clinched the award, validating its reputation for service excellence and strong brand loyalty amongst the discerning readers of DestinAsian. The award winning Banyan Tree Spa, also took the prize for Best Hotel Spa.

Conducted from August to October 2013 and with more than 3,900 respondents from around the world, the survey gave DestinAsian readers an avenue to vote for 2014's top global travel brands.

“The primary reasons why our readers have consistently embraced these brands have remained consistent throughout the years. It's always about



Photo: Gazette File

The Banyan Tree voted best hotel in Phuket for the seventh time.

elegance, service, and luxury,” says DestinAsian publisher Ronald Liem.

“When it comes to travel, everyone is spoiled for a choice and has an array options to choose from; business or first class seats, five-star or boutique hotels, villas or serviced apartments, and even package tours or free-and-easy adventures. One thing is unchanged though: their undying loyalty to the best brands out there,” adds Liem.

– Phuket Gazette

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Passport malpractice

THE revelation that two passengers aboard the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 were travelling on passports stolen in Phuket once again highlights the need for a serious and sustained crackdown on the use of travel documents as collateral on motorbike, car, and jet-ski rentals [see page 1].

The need to end this ridiculous practice has already been the subject of much futile editorializing in this space. It is also one of the most consistent complaints during the equally futile meetings of Phuket's honorary consuls with the ever-shifting brigade of government leaders on the island.

A much overlooked aspect of the widespread use of passports as collateral on financial transactions is the fact that it is, and always has been, an illegal practice.

While these documents are borne by the individuals in whose names they are issued, they nevertheless remain the legal property of the government that issues them, which can demand their return at any time.

These facts are clearly stated on passports issued by every country, at least that we are aware of, along with reference to statutes that indicate how and when they can be legally used. We are not aware of a single country that allows these documents to be used as collateral.

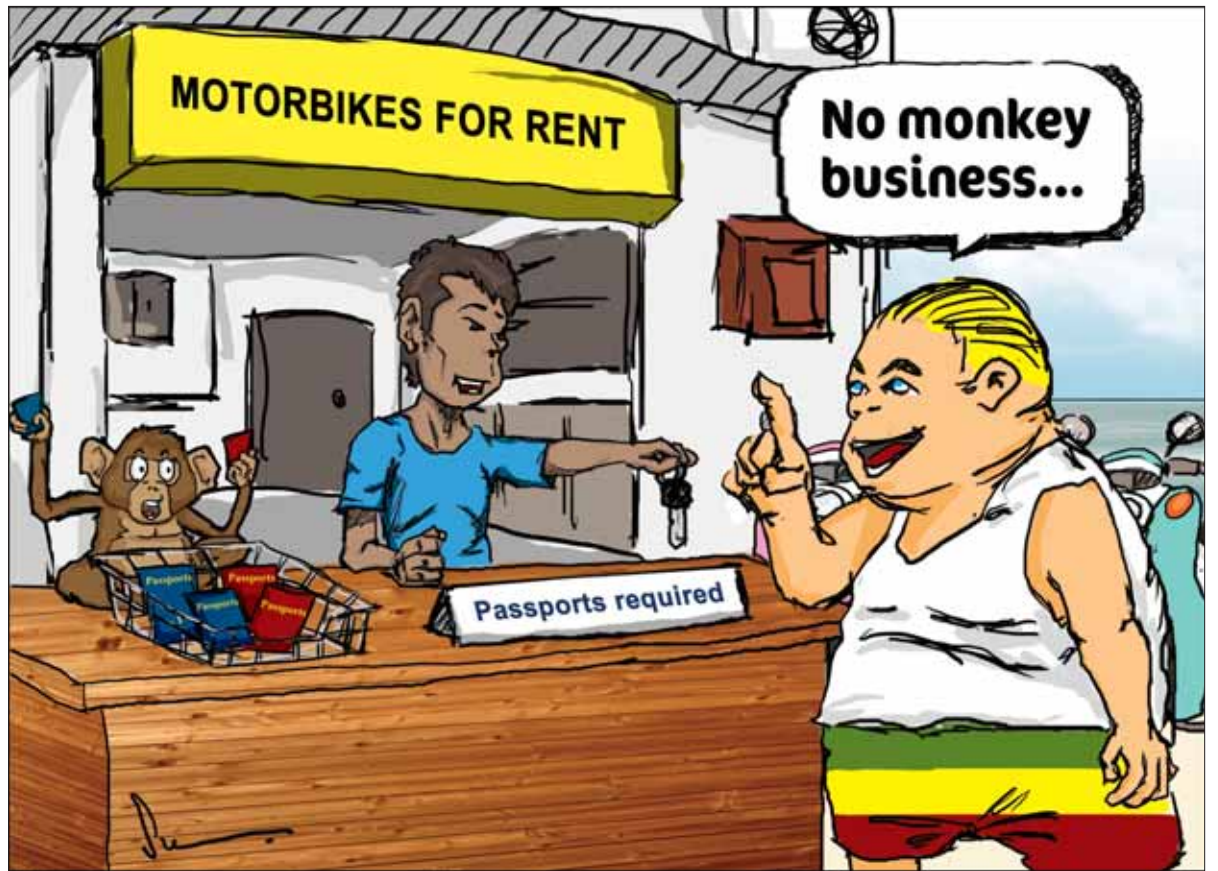
Sadly, those tasked with the enforcement of passport law in Thailand, the police, are generally unaware of its existence. Even worse, many low-ranking officers are actively engaged in the tourist-oriented vehicle rental business, either directly or indirectly, as a sideline to boost their own meager official salaries.

Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been reported as recording some 60,000 passports – both Thai and foreign – as missing or stolen in the 18 months from January 2012 to June 2013.

Even taking into consideration the massive scale of the Thai tourism industry, this remains a truly staggering figure; one which might be significantly reduced if the practice of using passports as collateral could be ended.

Sadly, the fact that those tasked with upholding these laws are among those most actively engaged in breaking them does not bode well for any real change in the status quo in the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, the best avenue is to steer clear of vehicle rental outfits and other operations that demand passports as surety. If dealing with such a place is inevitable, it may be possible to use a photocopy of the first page of your passport with a line drawn through it instead.



We keep the passports for a reason

Re: Gazette online, Phuket stolen passports may unravel missing Malaysian flight mystery, March 10

I used to run a travel company and we rented out cars and motorbikes too. I understand that people don't want to leave their passports with rental operators, but please keep in mind that it's done to protect against cheating operators.

Here are some of the things that happened to me: I would rent a bike out for three days, and after five days it still wouldn't be returned. Often when this happened, customers brought the bike back and paid for the extra two days, but sometimes they didn't.

In one case I went to the guy's hotel and was told that he had checked out a few days before. I waited one more day and then reported him to Patong Police, but they were unable to help. Finally, about a year and a half later, I found my bike in the mountains.

That was the worst case. In the good cases, customers sometimes left a bike at the airport and I had to pay a lot of money to get it out because it had been parked there for a month.

Sometimes they didn't pay and just left the motorbike in front of their guesthouse.

So the dodginess goes two ways – rental operators and renters too.

Salt Pepper Steak Seafood
Facebook

Clean water has got to be a priority

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials combat Karon wastewater, put heat on hotels, March 11

We read endless stories about wastewater.

At this point, it shouldn't be a matter of waiting for a budget. On an island that generates important revenue for the nation from tourists who come here expressly for the beaches, the beaches can't have stinky water flowing over them.

Letters to the Editor

Local people shouldn't have to put up with rank and polluted canals either.

Water purist
Thalang

TV for road safety

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Road safety: what we're doing wrong, March 9

There should be five minutes of driver safety information on TV every day, or a 30-second spot every two hours. And maybe we shouldn't allow advertisements for cars that focus on how fast they can be driven.

Paul Richle
Facebook

...and punish parents who let kids ride

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Road safety: what we're doing wrong, March 9

I like your article, yet the most important item was missing – underage kids driving like maniacs, without driver's licence or helmet.

In such cases, the police should be more strict in order to stop these children. They should confiscate the bike and summon the parents, who should be charged heavily for allowing their youngsters to drive.

Very concerned biker
Kathu

No pain in the sting

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport taxis face undercover sting operation, March 6

What's the point of a sting? Nothing will be done about it. Sustained

enforcement is the answer to everything but no one has the power or the inclination to carry this out.

Samantha McCue
Facebook

Airport transport is not the big problem

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Marketing failing airport bus service, March 10

Instead of an airport bus service only for tourists, we need a better public bus service around the island for everyone.

After a 12-hour flight, tourists don't mind paying high taxi fares to get to their hotel as soon as possible, and for many of them, the transfer service is included. So why do we need the airport bus?

Alessandro Carafa
Facebook

Don't reward what should be the norm

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Marine Police conduct boat safety raids, March 5

Surely if the Marine Police (actually all police) stuck to consistently enforcing laws there would be no need for their picture in the paper doing boat-safety raids.

Gazette, please stop making the law enforcement agencies look like they are heroes for doing what they should be doing every day.

Phil Phelan
Facebook

Criminal re-election

Re: Gazette online, Patong Mayor Pian guilty of vote fraud, but will run for re-election, March 8

Found guilty of voter fraud, but still allowed to run for re-election ... something is not right here.

Pete Nicolau
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Managing Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli
Managing Editor – Features: Mark Knowles
News Manager: Chris Husted

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
Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net
Event Sponsorships: events@phuketgazette.net
General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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Helping youths who have lost their way

FIRST PERSON

JUVENILE crime is the most serious problem Phuket faces, and we need to worry about it more than we worry about tourism.

We're starting to see younger and younger juvenile offenders. They used to be mostly 16 and 17-year-olds, but now they are as young as 14. Not surprisingly, as the age range has expanded, so has the number of underage criminals.

These juveniles are involved in some very serious crimes, including murder. Last year, 22 youths were charged with homicide, and four were arrested for rape.

The most common arrests are for drugs and theft. Police made 175 juvenile drug arrests and 109 theft arrests last year. There were five arrests for assault and 19 arrests for illegal possession of a gun. Six juveniles were arrested for reckless driving causing death.

About 40 per cent of the kids arrested are middle class or wealthy and come from more suburban or urban environments, while 60 per cent are from more rural settings and not as well-off. There's not just one reason why juveniles get involved with crime – it's a complicated interplay between family, friends, school and community.

Sometimes we find that the parents are not very involved with their children, and don't dedicate the time to teach them good morals or do activities together, with the result that the kids feel distant from them.

When children aren't close to their parents, they aren't likely to turn to them for advice or sup-



Here, he talks about the problem of juvenile crime in Phuket and suggests ways to deal with it.

Chatree Taveesup, 47, is a Krabi native who graduated from the Faculty of Law at Ramkhamhaeng University in 1989. He worked at Juvenile Observation and Protection Centers in Songkla, Phang Nga and Yala before becoming Director of the Juvenile Center in Phuket in 2012.

port. They may depend on school friends instead. If they stake their happiness with the wrong group of friends, they could be led into drugs, violence and crime.

Schools and communities that take a lax approach to misbehavior, even criminal activity, allow the problem to continue and develop.

One way to keep young people on the right path is obvious: get parents more involved.

Schools and communities need to do their part to keep young people from committing criminal acts as well. Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) have a lot of money. They should use some of it to set up community centers.

Both schools and communities should teach kids the aftereffects of their actions. If they act violently within a gang, there may be retribution. If they continue to commit crimes when they are 18, they will go to prison.

Obviously, the goal is to keep kids from committing crimes. But if they do, we'll try our best to put them back onto the right path.

We know that a youth who commits a crime isn't always destined for a life of it.

We have 30 youths in our center – right now just boys. They are eligible to come here if they are under 18 years old. If they turn 18 while they are in the center, they can stay until they are 24. Some stay for months, some for years and some live at home and only come during the day, it depends on the judge's sentence.

We have a psychologist who helps the boys work through their problems, and we teach career skills, such as cooking, sewing and welding. We teach English too.

We try to help them see what a dead-end crime is.

The most important thing we all can do for a young person who has been involved in crime is give him or her another chance. When schools or communities don't do this, kids are more inclined to become involved with crime again.

We should think of these kids not as bad people, but as people who have lost their way.



We complain that the media focuses on the negative, but maybe we ought to try to turn the bad news into good. Photo: Harshil Shah

What bad news can do

IT IS an all too common rant, and I'm certainly guilty of it from time to time, that the media just force feeds us negative content. Most of the time, what we read in the news is bad news.

Maybe the rant is true, as it is editors who make the choices which determine content. However, those choices reflect what people have given the most attention to in the past.

Does that mean we enjoy reading bad news? Are we attracted to bad news? Maybe it's not an attraction but we do have a tendency to give negative stories more attention.

The fact is, news isn't supposed to always be enjoyable, and an important function of the media is to show the world what is happening around them. It's not easy to put a halt to atrocities that you don't know exist. It's difficult to help fix problems that you don't know are there. Publishing the bad is a way for everyone to see a little bit into the dark so we can shed some light.

Although it may seem like a drop in the bucket, take a look at the story the *Gazette* ran recently about the gentleman whose motorbike-crepe stall caught on fire and burned to the ground. He lost his livelihood and only form of income

Island View

By Jeremie Schatz

Do you have an opinion to voice?

in the process. Not a feel-good story. Anyone with a heart would be sympathetic to his plight even though it pales in comparison to what's happening in, say, Bangkok or the Ukraine these days.

The story continues that a woman in New Zealand just happened to see the article on the *Gazette* website and it struck a chord with her. Now, the web is absolutely flooded with bad news on a continual basis, but this particular woman just happened to read this story, make a decision and think, here is a battle I can win.

It was pretty simple. He needed 20,000 baht for a new crepe stall and she had the 20,000 baht at her disposal. It is the initiative and compassion that she has shown that made the difference.

He didn't have to go to a loan shark. There was no charitable organization or bureaucracy involved. It was just a simple little news story – a bad news story – that brought about a little bit of good in the world.

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

Fuming over Phuket diesel smoke

According to Thai traffic law, vehicle engines should not produce black smoke, which is unhealthy for people and nature. But a lot of cars on the road are producing this noxious smoke. Isn't it the responsibility of the police to stop them?

Adam,
Phuket

Lt Col Sarayuth Meeboon, Deputy Superintendent of the Thalang Police, replies:

We can stop vehicles that are emitting black smoke, since they are violating the Traffic Act. However, by the time we see them, the chance to stop them has often passed.

After we stop them, we have to send them to the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) to get an emissions test in order to secure the evidence needed to

press formal charges.

Jaturong Kaewkasi of Phuket Land Transportation Office replies:

We are the only department that checks vehicle emissions. We do it on a yearly basis during the registration renewal process. If a vehicle fails the emissions test, it cannot be registered.

We can't set up a checkpoint to test emissions because we don't have enough machines to do so.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

What are the rates, anyway?

A friend and I arrived at Phuket airport two days ago and went to the metered taxi area to request a cab to Kamala Beach. We were quoted 700 baht for the journey.

I asked if they would use the meter instead as I have previously paid less than 700 baht. The woman tout standing outside the office said we could, but we would have to pay an extra 100 baht per person for the airport charge, so: meter plus 200 baht. We declined and found an alternative service.

I travel to and from the airport regularly and find a new rate quoted and a reluctance to use the meter each time. What are the current rates and charges from the airport?

Taxi User
Kamala

Jaturong Kaewkasi of the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) replies:

These are the official maximum taxi fares, in baht, from Phuket International Airport set by the PLTO for not more than four passengers:

- Surin Beach, Phuket town: 550
- Chalong Bay: 650
- Kathu, Kamala, Chermg Talay: 700
- Ao Makham, Deep Sea Harbor and Cape Panwa: 750
- Patong, Koh Sireh: 800
- Rawai, Nai Harn, Phromthep Cape, Kata, Karon: 1,000

Passengers are free to try to negotiate a lower price, but the drivers must not charge a fare higher than this.

Anyone who is quoted a higher price or has problems with a driver, please note the name of the driver, number on the side of the taxi, li-

cense plate number and hold on to the ticket voucher (if you were given one). Then you can report the problem to the nearest police, the PLTO or an Organized Crime Center at Phuket Airport in Phuket Town.



You may bargain at the metered taxi booth. Image: Saran Mitratrat

YOUR Phuket

EXCLUSIVE FRANCOIS LURTON WINE TASTING

Andaman Cruises, with Phuket’s most exciting and stylish contemporary luxury yachts at its disposal, hosted an exclusive wine tasting aboard the *MY Olympia* with managers of some of Phuket’s top luxury resorts.



Monsieur Julien Barthe, director of the French winery Francois Lurton, Bordeaux; Tobias Lauinger, general manager, Black Forest Wine Distribution.



Brice Borin, general manager of Regent Panwa Phuket and his wife Jintana Borin; Ian Lancaster; and Scot Toon, general manager of Paresa.

P-REA AUCTION



The Phuket Real Estate Association (P-REA) joined Harrison Public to host an auction in Phuket. Pictured: Apichaya Watanakulchai (1st left standing), international sales manager of Harrison Public Company Ltd; Sahachai Kwanchen, executive vice president of Harrison Public Company Ltd; The P-REA committee was led by Thanusak Phungdet (center sitting), President of P-REA.

DAD GRAND OPENING



From left: Pattanasiri Dechakul, sales and marketing director; Katsuhiko Yasuoka, DAD President; Vitchuda Leenutaphong, vice president; Yusof Dajponrungruang, branch manager for Phuket.

CONGRATULATIONS



Phuket Gazette Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand and her husband Jan recently celebrated the milestone of their son Gavin David von Hildebrand graduating kindergarten at Kajonkiet Suksa School. The proud parents recently attended the graduation ceremony, along with David's fellow classmates and their parents. Congratulations David!



Mr Zhas Bakhassarov, Mrs Liliya Tulegenova, Miss Inzhu Oral, and baby Mr Zhan Oral.

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

PROPERTY of the week

MES

CONDO FOR SALE



See page 23

JOB of the week



dmg-thailand.com

See page 27

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 29

BOAT of the week



SUZUKI MARINE

See page 31

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HABITIA KOH KAEW FOR SALE

Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approximately. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Please call 087-270 90 93.

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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3-BEDROOM VILLA 3.95 MILLION BAHT

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HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 beds, 3 baths, 47sq wah. Please call 089-909 2771.

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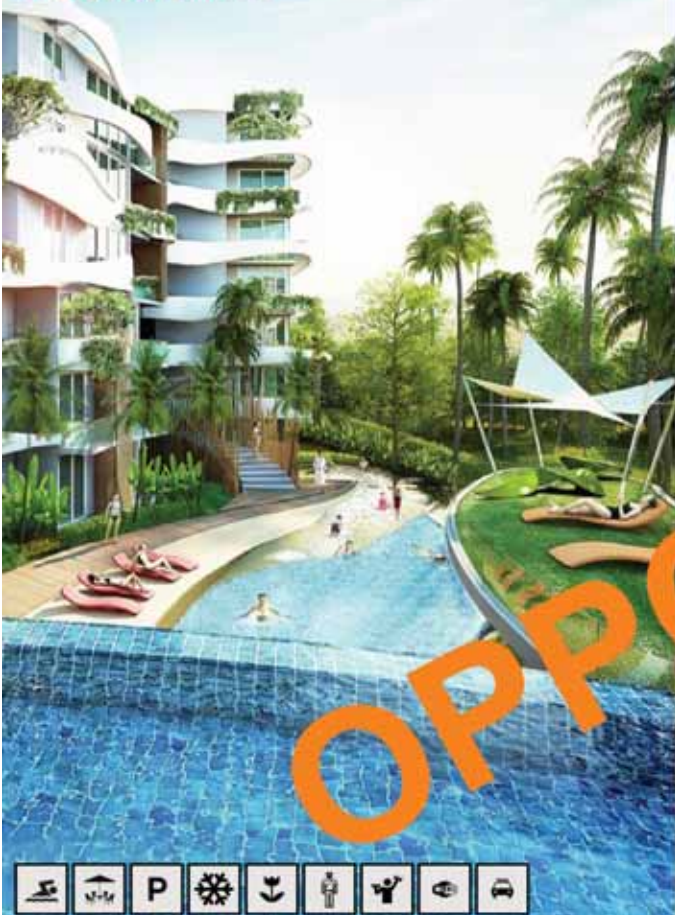
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PR & MARKETING

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**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

**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.

**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@luxury villasandhomes.com

**RESTAURANT
STAFF**

New restaurant "Thai Basil". Bartender: 15,000 baht. Waiters/waitresses: 14,000 baht plus tips. Manager: 25,000 baht. Soi Bangla, 58/7-8, contact, between 4pm and 7pm. Email: office@thai basil.phuket.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

KARON CLIFF

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

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE
MANAGER**

New 4-star hotel in Malaysia looking for young and energetic expat to run the food and beverage department. Previous experience in similar position not required but this position requires a strong kitchen background. Email: Nazri@an casanet.com

**THAI RECEPTIONIST
NEEDED**

Small Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani) is looking for 2 receptionists (Thai only) with proper English skills. Salary from 10,000 to 15,000 baht depending on experience, accommodation, 3 meals a day and social security or free of charge provided by the resort. Tel: 081-273 8324 (Thai). Please send an email to khaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaosok-hotels.com

**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-year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: info@phuketitaly.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

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

Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

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

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

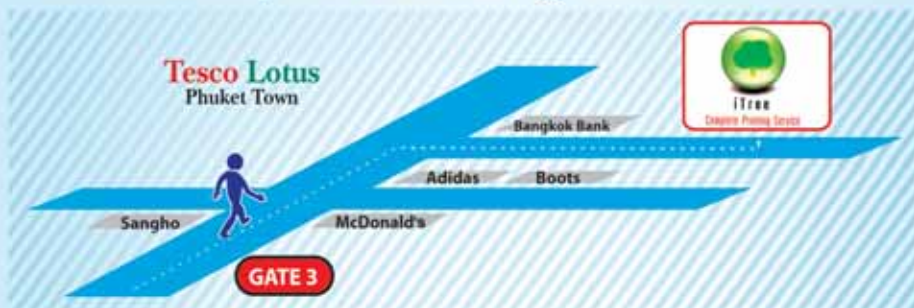
KARON

- ▶ **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!

THAI LAWYER

Thai national with BA in Laws, experience working in law firm, good English, excellent salary and benefits. Send English resume to lawphuket@yahoo.com

WEB DEVELOPER / PROGRAMMER

Bachelor's degree in related field. Knowledge of PHP, Javascript, jQuery, MySQL required. 2 years experience, English speaking. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

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 micknpr@hotmail.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

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

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

THAI OFFICE WORKER FOR GYM

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

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

ASSIST. SALES MANAGER ASIA

Pfleiderer Asia Pacific representatives are looking for an Assistant Sales Manager Asia. Age: 25-30 years. Excellent English language skills required. Mandarin would be a plus. Approx 50% travel in Asia. Office location: Phuket. Please contact: jobs@apr-pfleiderer.com For further details, please see our website at www.pfleiderer.com



Development Management Group Co., Ltd. is looking for the best candidates to join our successful team on a high profile hotel development project in Phuket. Thai nationals with relevant construction experience desired.

We have the following positions open:

Contracts Manager The successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contract work in a construction environment.

Quantity Surveyor The quantity surveyor will be responsible for managing all costs relating to building and civil engineering projects, from the initial calculations to the final figures.

Tel: 076-617763.
Email: hr@dmg-thailand.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

Joob Joob designer cupcakes

Learn how to make and decorate cupcakes with Thailand's leading cupcake makers - Joob Joob!

We have 3 FULL TIME vacancies for girls keen to learn with us and have fun.

No previous experience is necessary, all that is required is a big smile and positive attitude. Females preferred. English and / or another language (e.g. Russian, Chinese) is a big advantage, but not essential.

We pay a good salary with performance bonus, and you will have the opportunity to work in both our shops, Patong at The Kids Club in The Promenade, and also Central Festival on Level 1, opposite Swensens, behind Mr. Donut. We also give English lessons each week by a qualified foreigner.

Please call
Khun: Ant on 081-601 2523, Khun Kea: 087-934 7089
or Anthony: 080 609-1128 anytime.

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Brainy House is looking for part-time native English teachers. Start as soon as possible. Tel: 076-522822, 080-907 7466 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER, KHAO SOK

Our Jungle House is the top resort in Khao Sok, Surat Thani. Qualifications: Thai national only, minimum 2 years experience in resort, must truly love nature, excellent English and computer skills. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://khaosokaccommodation.com>

YOGA TEACHER WANTED

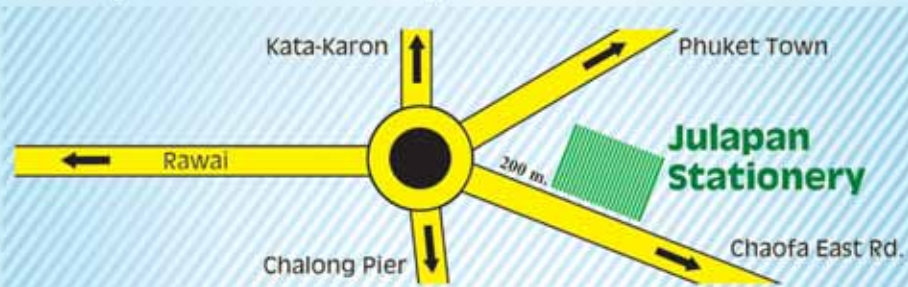
Qualified yoga instructor to teach at PhuketFit Resort. Please apply with resume and qualifications. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

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

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 Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)

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!](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net)**

Business Opportunities

**HIGHLY RATED
PATONG HOTEL**

Successful, 2 years old, 17-room guesthouse. 1.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 080-143 3660 (English). Email: marcusmccown@gmail.com, http://themark4sale.weebly.com/

**OWN EXCITING
PARTY STORE**

By owning a party supply business and have fun. Complete training provided. Exclusive product range. Ready for take over now! Tel: 082-989 8280. Email: funtasticmillionaire@gmail.com

**THAI CO., LTD.
FOR SALE**

Name: Scuba-Travel-Trade Co., Ltd. No property! Just clean papers. Price: 9,999 baht + lawyers bill + etc. Tel: 084-744 2101 (English). Email: dieter_seubert@yahoo.de

SPACE FOR RENT

On the first floor of hotel, 100sqm, 12m from street front, 300m from Kata Beach. Contact Wisuth. Tel: 081-376 9019. Email: suthsiam@hotmail.com

**COMMERCIAL
BUILDING**

Land, building business for sale. 4 storeys with 6-room guesthouse + restaurant with a large steady clients. Patong, just 60m from the Beach. 16 million baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

FOR RENT

New restaurant at Kata Beach center. 30 plus seats with complete bar. Professional cooling equipment, professional kitchen with space for catering, looking for serious people who would like to open a specialty restaurant. **No key money, only good reference.** Completely new furnishings and ready to open. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 3-month deposit, 3-year contract. Contact Charles. Tel: 084-441 3871 (English), 090-163 2140 (Thai)

**MARINA VIEW
RESTAURANT**

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

**INCREDIBLE PROJECT
INVESTMENT**

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

**GUESTHOUSE
CENTER OF PATONG**

Good opportunity, 15-room guesthouse, fully furnished, in center of Patong, for lease. 5 minutes from the beach and 15 minutes from Bangla. 2 shops at ground floor for rent and 1 apartment for accommodation. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 076-290 496, 083-526 4485. For further details, please see our website at www.orangehotelp Phuket.com

**SEA VIEW
RESTAURANT**

With 6 rooms, Patong Beach Road. Lease / sale. Tel: 081-797 7199.

**SOLID INVESTMENT
KATA PHUKET**

Do you want 10% income on your investment without risk? You have 30 million baht, we have a nice and solid property deal for you! Rental income 3 million baht per year. Email sawasdeekhrap@hotmail.com

**BUSINESS
FOR SALE**

2 storeys, 9 rooms, 6 bathrooms. Upstairs: 4 bedrooms with ensembles for rent. Downstairs: 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 1 beauty salon, 1 restaurant and bar, front/back entrances. Asking price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 081-270 6310.

**BAR & GRILL
NAI HARN**

Shipwrecks Bar & Grill. 1.2 million baht, excellent facilities, large commercial kitchen, 2-bedroom house attached, total 700sqm land. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Please call 088-760 50 03. Email: jasegaleano@gmail.com

**FREEHOLD
POOL VILLA**

Freehold pool villa. From 1.1 million baht. 800m from Nai Harn Beach. For more information, please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**BAR FOR SALE
BANGLA**

900,000 baht for everything. 3 years on lease. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. Good place. Tel: 089-471 8188 (English & Thai). Email: cocodioster@gmail.com

**PATONG
16 ROOMS - 1MB**

Must leave Thailand! Your gain! 18 months old, top rated 16-room guesthouse. 1 million baht or best offer. Email: patonghotel4sale@gmail.com

Bulletins

**Alcoholics
Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with red headline	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with black background	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with color background	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	650 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: **issue(s)**

ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week 350 baht ☐

Total cost of your classified **baht**

Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.

Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net, or Diaa@phuketgazette.net

PROMOTION PRICE
Your Ad on PGTV

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

Pick-up. 4-door. 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box: 1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

**NATIVE TEACHER
OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG
CHILDREN SEEKS
CHALLENGING
POSITION IN PHUKET**

I will move to Phuket soon.
Three yrs teaching in Bangkok

Phone Mr Reece
(02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

.....	(Headline)
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

Online: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Lifetime family membership 480,000 baht. Tel: 087-469 3151 (English), 081-895 2165 (Thai). Email: william sanig@yahoo.co.uk

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

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

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

350,000 baht + transfer, expires 2024. Tel: 089-868 68 42. 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

Education

**Oak Meadow International School**

From 1 - 16 Years Old
Providing quality, affordable primary education
076 521 550
www.oakmeadowphuket.com



Personal Services

LEGAL SERVICES

Contract drafting, counseling, civil & criminal action, court interpreter. For more information, please call 089-873 6533. Fax: 076-273399. Email: info@suwatchana-law-office.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: steve hull@me.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

BACKGAMMON

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

TAKE CARE & RELATIONSHIP

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



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





2013 Lagoon 400S2 - EUR 397,000

Reduced



2008 Azimut 47 - EUR 499,000



2011 Princess 42 - USD 650,000



2012 Fusion 40 - EUR 345,000

Yachting Freedom begins with a call to our team:

<p>Sergio Loiacono +66 (0) 86 277 3360 sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com</p>	<p>Максим Волков +66 (0) 84 745 9900 maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com</p>	<p>Adam Blackmore +66 (0) 81 892 8919 adam.blackmore@simpsonmarine.com</p>	<p>Nicole van de Wall +66 (0) 93 140 5088 nicole.vandewall@simpsonmarine.com</p>
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SUZUKI MARINE

SHOWROOM IS NOW OPEN!

Authorized dealer of Suzuki Motor Corporation

- Outboard engines from 2.5 to 300hp spare parts and accessories
- Forward inflatable reinforced boats and RIBs of hypalon, trailers, marine equipment
- Servicing


5/44-45 Moo 5, Wiset Rd., Rawai, Phuket.
(Fisherman Way Business Center, 1km from Chalong roundabout on the way to Rawai beach)




SUZUKI MARINE TEL. 076 390 585 | 092 265 7221

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Management
After Sales Service


www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th



Happiness is a Choice







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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@princessyachtsthailand.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'
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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

PACE 40FT SPORTFISHER



Twin CAT 3208 TA, needs repair, new fiber glass and paint to hull October 2013. Sale: 1.2 million baht ono. Tel: 082-839 7701. Email: gerryhodes@live.com.au

BAYLINER 190

115hp Mercury 4-stroke. 15hp auxiliary 4-stroke, new 300W stereo, GPS, trailer, Thai registered, 2009, price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

PRINCESS P42 FOR SALE

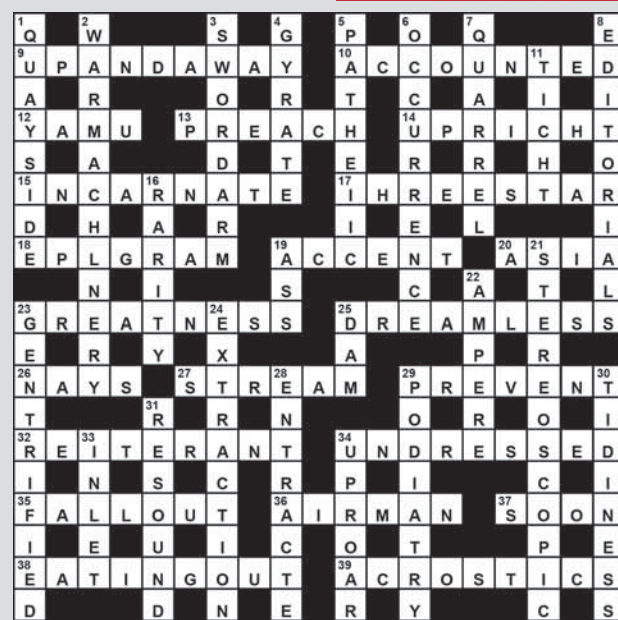
42' Flybridge, 2008. Excellent condition at an attractive price. Tel: 080-142 0420 (English). Email: jmi@chellemonnier@orange.fr

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

THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S Cryptic Crossword

COFFEE break



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

RESERVE ASSOCIATION CHARITY EVENT



Ms Rinrapat Puwanutthachai – Director, Human Resources (4th from right) and Ms Penprapa Chooklin – Manager, Marketing Communications (5th from right) recently represented Amari Phuket as participants of the 38th annual charity event held by the Reserve Association of the Southern Navy.

CELEBRITIES HOLIDAY IN STYLE



Mr Denis Thouvard (3rd left), Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's general manager, along with Mr Manish Pratap, executive assistant manager of revenue and rooms (center), were delighted to welcome five Asian celebrities, including (from left to right): Lau Dominic James Ho Wing (1st left) also known as Dom Lau; Jamie Sarah Ong (2nd left), is an Australian model and actress; Kelly Vaughn (5th left), is a host, actress, voice-over artist and producer; Keagan Frank Gerrard Kang (6th left), is an actor and talented voice-over artist; Paul Edmond Foster (7th left), is an actor, model, host and media personality.

MULTIHULL SOLUTIONS

NAT Accounting congratulated Multihull Solutions, Thailand on their blessing ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Teerarat Tangthirasunan, NAT Accounting; Jane Kilburn, financial controller MHS; Andrew De Bruin, MHS general manager SE Asia; and Jantima Nangtong, NAT regional manager.

PHUKET ITF SENIOR PRO CIRCUIT 2014

7-12 APRIL 2014

ITF Senior Pro Tournament in Phuket
Played on world-class covered plexicushion tennis courts

MEN'S SINGLES & DOUBLES	35,40,45,50,55,60,65,70
WOMEN'S SINGLES & DOUBLES	35,40,45,50
MIXED DOUBLES	35,45

ENTRY DEADLINE 19 MARCH 2014

Sign in for Singles on 6 April (Sunday) from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Start date 7 April (Monday)
Sign in for Doubles on 7 April (Monday) by 4:00 pm. Start date 8 April (Tuesday)

The official welcome dinner will be held on 8 April (Tuesday)
at 7:00 pm at DiVine Restaurant THB 700 per person.



Phuket Gazette

Entry Fee: Singles / Doubles THB 1,500
IPIN: All players must have an IPIN and valid IPIN membership to enter an ITF Seniors Circuit event. If players do not already have an IPIN they must go to www.Itfennis.com/IPIN to register.

7 Nights Package: Single THB 31,050 / Double THB 23,000
Accommodation / 1 Entry / 3 Meals per day / Airport transportation



For more information, please contact Club Services
T: +66 76 336 000 Ext. 5055 E: tslc@thanyapura.com
www.thanyapura.com [facebook.com/Thanyapura](https://www.facebook.com/Thanyapura)

Vichit Bicycle Cup kicks off

THIS weekend will see the start of the Vichit Bicycle Cup 2014 tournament, which kicks off on Sunday, March 16. The competition aims to promote tourism in the area and encourage more people to use a bicycle.

On March 7, at the Suan Sriphunat Park in Phuket, a press conference was held to announce the Cup and was hosted by Vichit Municipality Mayor Mr Kreetha Chotwitpipat, President of Phuket Bicycle Club Mr Kawee Tansuktanon, Head of the Sport and Recreation, at the Phuket Tourism and Sport Office, Mr Surhain Preechai, and Superintendent of Vichit Police Station Lt Gen Mr Ampol Jantarakul.

"The moorlands and escarpments of the Vichit district and its surrounding areas are very appropriate for cycling, moreover, the area is filled with natural beauty for cyclists to enjoy along the way. The Vichit municipality wants to promote the use of bicycles in everyday

life. This is what we have organized the Vichit Bicycle Cup, to promote cycling for health, reduce fossil energy use, as well as to promote tourism within the Vichit district," said Mayor Kreetha.

Mr Kawee Tansuktanon, president of Phuket Bicycle Club supported Mr Kreetha statements.

"Cycling is a trend that has been increasing, with many choosing to cycle for health benefits and also to become professional sports cyclists. This competition is a great activity to encourage people to exercise by using a bicycle," said Mr Kawee.

Vichit Police Station officers will be responsible for the security of the competition, as well as traffic management and road safety for the competitors, as it will take place on public roads.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Competitors can register on the day of the competition before 10am. For more information contact: 076-525100



Yet another chance for local athletes to show off their skills. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Cyclists are happy with the growing number of biking events in Phuket.

Surfing contest in Khao Lak

IT HAS just been announced that this year will mark the first annual Khao Lak Surfing Contest.

This is sure to make area wave shredders happy as it appears that the Quicksilver Surfing Competition that once graced the shores of Phuket has met its demise.

The competition is scheduled to be held from April 26-28 on Pakarang beach and will consist of six divisions including open shortboard, open longboard, women's, grommets (under 15-years-old) and beginners (all ages).

Lets hope for a big swell!



Surfers are hoping for big waves in Khao Lak in April. Photo: Damian Gadal



Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Naiyang Beach Resort has joined the effort to save sea turtles.

More turtles released

"KEEP calm & love turtles" is the name of yet another sea turtles release event, this time in Naiyang Beach. The event, organized by Naiyang Beach Resort in cooperation with the Honda dealership company Anuphas Vividhkarn, Massa Luna Condominium and Zeek Design will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 11am to 6pm at Naiyang Beach Resort.

Mr Thanat Tantipiriyakij, managing director of Naiyang Beach Resort said, "The purpose of this event is to raise public awareness of the importance of sea turtles conservation. It's also a chance for people to support Sea Turtle Conservation Program."

Ms Natchaya Suebsak of Anuphas Vividhkarn said, "We support this event because we

have we realize the importance of sea turtles and other marine resources conservation."

"We're aiming to make the sea turtle release in Naiyang Beach an important annual tradition," Mr Thanat added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information call Naiyang Beach Resort on 081 968 1729, 076 328 300 or 076 328 400.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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, 6-11:30pm. 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

Mar 23, 8:30am-9pm. PVC-PHUKET.COM Invitational Car Rally 2014

PVCPHUKET.COM Invitational Car Rally 2014. Maximum 50 entries on first come basis. The entry fee is 2,000 baht per car and two person team. This includes entry to the event, commemorative T-shirts for the driver and navigator and lunch stop food, plus buffet dinner at the finish point. Additional adult passengers are 350 baht per person which includes lunch and dinner. Children up to, and including 12-years-old as passengers with a parent or guardian are 100 baht, which covers lunch and dinner. The finish is at Bliss Beach Club Bang Tao.

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and the 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 85 and 59). For more information call Rung on 089 000 4664 oremailrung@mbsthailand.com

Apr 5-12. Phuket ITF Senior Pro Circuit 2014

ITF Senior Pro Tournament in Phuket at Thanyapura. Played on world-class covered plexicushion tennis courts. Entry deadline: March 19. For more information contact Club Services on 76 336 000 ext. 5055, email tslc@thanyapura.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.

May 17, 10am-6pm. IELTS in Phuket

An International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test will be held in Phuket and organized by Phuket Australian Visa and Student Services (AVSS). To register for the test contact: 076 210934 or 086-595 5148, email avssouth@gmail.com or go to theavss.net

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).

June 12 to July 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Football (soccer) fans around the world look forward to the excitement of the 20th edition of the World Cup. This year will 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 Srikrit Kitiyakara's 82nd Birthday. Also celebrated as Mother's day in Thailand. Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday.

Looking for a place to stay?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Music is my playground

By Maciek Klimowicz

POLISH born pianist, Katarzyna Wieczorek has turned music into her way of life. Her skills and reputation have taken her to countless festivals, won her numerous awards and let her visit the farthest corners of the globe – turning her life into a never-ending adventure filled with melody.

Katarzyna Wieczorek recently performed at the British International School Phuket where she also conducted a series of private master classes. The accomplished pianist talks to the *Phuket Gazette* about the importance of music in life, its role in children's education and its power to make life better.

How important is music for you?

Katarzyna Wieczorek: It's as important as food or sleep. It's part of my life, and my body is always hungry for it. It doesn't necessarily have to be making music but also listening, dancing, something to do with sounds. I'm crazy about sounds, even here in Thailand I pay a lot of attention to the sound, like the insects I hear when I visit the beach. I never even thought I could live with or without music, I don't have such choice, I need it to survive.

But it's also your job, doesn't it sometimes kill the joy of music for you?

The most dangerous thing that can happen to a musician is to get stuck in one place, stop enjoying it, and get the feeling that it's their obligation to do it. As

for myself, even now, more than 20 years since I started playing, when I hear good music, when I see great musicians perform, I get inspired. I still want to develop. We all go to work everyday, but there are many ways to get there. You either choose to use the same way everyday or you take a different way everyday. It's the same thing with music. You can take it as it is, take it for granted, or you can become curious, start asking why is it changing us as it does, why is it moving us so much, making us happy or sad. It is a great mystery.

And how does playing music make you feel?

Alive! Last year I ran a marathon in Germany and I discovered that my breathing during the run was similar to my breathing when I play a demanding, complicated piece. Those are these moments when you feel your brain vibrating. It's refreshing, you can feel new neural connections being created in your brain.

When did you decide to become a musician?

I started playing the piano when I was seven years old. Both my parents are musicians. I remember my father used to bring a lot of music from the local flea market, not only classical, but also jazz and swing and other types. And I used just to sit down and play for hours and I wouldn't get tired or bored. That's because music is never the same, you always have a choice to play a different melody

in a different way. It's like a never-ending story.

You make playing music sound like a wonderful career, a way of life. Yet many parents would rather see their children study math or biology than spending hours playing music. Why do you think that is so?

I think the world is very left-brain oriented, focused on using logical thinking and reason. Music on the other hand requires you to use the right-brain, which is responsible for imagination, instinctive feeling and empathy. I think it's beautiful to use the part of your brain that is not focused on doing the dishes or following the beaten path. Yet many parents who are left-brain oriented want their children to become doctors or lawyers rather than musicians.

But you have to admit that you're one in a million who can make a living by playing music. You can't blame parents for wanting their children to succeed in different areas.

But there is no lack of jobs for musicians, you just have to go out and look for them! The only thing that is missing in musical education these days is the self-marketing skills that teach musicians how to go out there and find opportunities. Many of the jobs I got came about when I was the one who contacted other people, I was the active side. You can't just sit, practice and get depressed, you have to go out to the world and the energy you will send out will come back in one form or another.



Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Katarzyna Wieczorek: 'Music gives you a life without boredom.'

Of course the only people you hear about on the TV are the lawyers, the doctors and other big things. But music is a big thing too, and it's no less important and there are countless opportunities for musicians out there.

What are the greatest benefits of playing music?

Music gives you a life without boredom as you always have your invisible friend who you don't need to call or go out with as he's always there with you. Music is not only happening when you're sitting with an instrument, it's happening in your head all the time. And you never get to the point when you can say 'I'm done with it' because it's always challenging, and you can always play with sound. Music is like a playground.

But one thing you surely need to succeed as a musician is talent. What about the kids who simply don't have it?

It's not exactly like that. I know many musicians who are not that talented but they get better jobs and make more money than the talented ones. A great example are teaching jobs which are often per-

formed better by people who don't show that much actual musical talent and will not become international stars, but can take much better care of the students. On the other hand, many people do not really know what to do with their talent because a talent is not a guarantee of success, it's just a beginning, a potential.

Is there a way for parents to help their children discover their talent, to help them follow their passion but not get lost in it?

I think parents should trust their children, believe in them and let them be who they are. And on the more practical side, music gives us a chance to grow as people. For example, here in Thailand there aren't any schools to study music on an international level, so it's a great opportunity for children to study abroad. And it's really not that risky – after all, you can always change your job after three or four years, though I don't think many musicians would. The thing is, for many musicians, money is not the most important thing. If it is for the parents, that's their problem.



Skills that catch the eye and melodies that touch the heart in the BISP auditorium.



Ms Wieczorek found time to join a music class in the school and conduct some master classes.

Humility is rising

CURRENTLY in town is Ms Grovella Meek, who is pioneering a new kind of self-improvement therapy. I interviewed her at the Dionysus Sybaritica Resort the following is a transcript of our conversation:



imagine. When have you ever seen me do anything but talk?' When Chris Christie runs, he'll say, 'I'm not only a fat loud-mouth, I come from New Jersey. You can't do any

worse than that.' They'll vie to outdo each other in self-abasement. The electorate will be charmed by their modesty."

Somehow I have a feeling this is not going to catch on. What does humility training involve?

"We have a Humility Boot Camp that destroys our trainees' self-esteem through systematic degradation, the same way military academies do. Dialogues between our instructors and cadets often go like this:

Instructor: What is your miserable name, cadet?

Cadet: SIR, this crawling maggot is named Cadet Dogpoo, SIR!

Instructor: Let's have a worthlessness report, Cadet Dog Poo. How do you rate your wretched self today?

Cadet: SIR, yesterday this pustulating scumwad was utterly contemptible, unfit



Fixing overgrown egos with military style humility training. Photo: John Kennicutt, US Marine Corps

to be trodden underfoot by worms. Today I am even more despicable, comparable in loathsomeness to cockroach droppings, SIR!

Instructor: Very good, Cadet Dog Poo. Henceforth your name will be Cadet Cockroach Dropping.

Cadet: Yes, SIR! Thank you, SIR!

Instructor: What is your personal mantra, Cadet Cockroach Dropping?

Cadet: SIR, this filthy excrescence scraped from the inside of a drainpipe has the personal mantra, "I AM LOUSY! I AM LOW! I AM A WORTHLESS SO-AND-SO!"

"That's nice. I like the lyricism. We also make our cadets clean sewers and lick their instructors' boots. But after we've completely broken a cadet's ego, we don't build

it up again the way they do in military academies. We just leave it to fester and suppurate in a puddle of self-contempt."

That sounds lovely. Well, I wish you luck in your noble attempt to reconfigure the human species. If you'd been around at the Creation, I bet Adam would never have eaten the apple.

"That's true. Once our program becomes universal, human pride will vanish, meekness will reign over all, and our species, formerly known as homo sapiens, will become homo humblus. It will certainly be a brave new world. Well, actually, it will be a cowardly new world.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be humiliated c/o s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's undergoing humility training for the cowardly new world.

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More vinous virtuosos



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ASKED what “vinous” means, most people would opt for something to do with grape vines or wine. But in fact the epithet can be applied to any kind of vine or climbing plant, of which there are literally hundreds, ranging from creeping figs and ivies to towering tropical *lianas*. For the gardener, the important distinction is between tendrillous or self-supporting vines, and the kind – scandent is one relevant technical word – that need to be trained or tied to stop them from ending up as a tangled mass of hanging stems with nowhere to go.

As we pointed out before, in our low-maintenance garden the ones that are self-sufficient are a better bet. *Passiflora* is a case in point. I still have trouble finding this climber in plant nurseries – a shame because it is a most alluring shrub, easy to cultivate and with unique blooms. Though the 400 or so species hail mostly from tropical America, they do well in South East Asia. Vigorous growers, they climb by means of tendrils on their stems, and possess exotic, scented and visually spectacular flowers.

The star-shaped blooms typically have ten-pointed petals,

and vary in hue from blue (*caerulea*) to purplish-white (*edulis*) and deep red (*coccinea* and *vitifolia*). The complex structure of the flower has inspired associations with the Passion of Jesus in Christian mythology – for instance, the tendrils represent the whips used in his flagellation, the three stigmas at the center of the flower stand for the three nails on the cross. The unique floral structure means that pollination is difficult for all but large insects such as carpenter bees or, in America, humming birds. When I had a red passion flower in the garden, alas no more, I noticed that there was a perceptible increase in the number of carpenter bees boring into my trellis.

The fruits of *passiflora* have a range of medicinal uses, being extremely rich in alkaloids, organic acids and esters. They are becoming increasingly used as a treatment for depression and anxiety disorders. If you have a touch of the blues, your local supermarket has supplies of fresh juice.

This climber likes a well-drained soil and a sunny position. It is good against a wall or fence and will climb happily over a trellis. If a friend has one, try striking it from hard-wood cuttings. Keep a look out for the passion flower as it is well worth a try.



Photo: M. Martin Vicente

Although *passiflora* may be hard to find in nurseries on Phuket, it is great for a low maintenance garden.



Photo: Ton Rulkens

Tristellateia is a climbing vine that only comes in yellow.

Clerodendrum is another useful, if less spectacular climber. Unlike the passion flower, this woody shrub prefers some shade, and does particularly well draped around the bole of a large tree. It has a bushy habit and produces bunches of crimson or purplish flowers atop masses of dark green foliage. Since it blooms almost continuously, it is another good choice for the work-shy gardener. One variety, *C. thomsoniae*, also known as the bleeding heart vine, is smaller and is often grown as a potted specimen. The dense sprays of flowers are white with distinctive red petals. In both species, the seeds turn green and finally black. They can be used to propagate the vine, though potted versions should be easy to find.

There are no yellow passion flowers or *clerodendrums*, but *tristellateia* come only in this color. It does share with these other climbers an equable temperament and a propensity for year-round flowering. A robust fellow, it grows vigorously – if you need to cover a fence or wall, the *galphimia* vine, as it is commonly known, will oblige.



Photo: Ryan Somma

C. thomsoniae is also known as the bleeding heart vine.

Like many fast growers, it needs good soil to flourish and a sunny spot with plenty of organic fertilizer. Once installed, it will produce clusters of five-petaled yellow blooms and lush pale green foliage. It seeds freely, and can also, as with most hard-

wood vines, be resurrected from cuttings. Three easy-care vines. More next week... if you have the energy to read about them.

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

Tip of the week

I NOTE that in the present dry spell, a number of large bamboo screens, some as many as four meters tall, are suffering, and have in many cases have already turned brown. The general wisdom is that bamboo, partly because it has a massive root system, is drought-proof, but even these mature plants are suffering. Come the first heavy rains, however, and they will probably spring back into green life.

Potted bamboos are a different matter. They will resent even a day or two without water. Left without moisture, the slender leaves will curl up into thin needles and many will drop off. The result is an unsightly carpet of dead leaves. Personally, I think that bamboo, along with other shrubs such as gingers, *heliconias* and canna lilies, is not suitable for a container unless you are prepared to keep the rich soil permanently moist.



Even so-called ‘drought-proof’ bamboo can suffer in dry times. Photo: Michele

Dog of the week

THIS is Spot and as you can see, he only has one ear. Somehow, he ended up getting attacked by a person or a dog who tried to rip it off his head. After hiding away because of the pain, the infection to spread into his inner ear and got badly infected, which was very difficult to treat.

After moving into Doggie Heaven he was treated with antibiotics for several months and although the infection appeared to be under control, it was still festering. Threatened with a risky operation to remove the whole inner ear, he has pulled through and recovered over the past few months.

Spot is a different dog now and has become more sociable and loving, and is grateful to the people who donated the money for his operation.

After a rough few months, this sociable and loving pooch is ready to be adopted.

Doggie Heaven can be reached at: Sherin.peace@gmail.com or call 084-877 3566



Spot would love be your new pooch.

World-standard ISO safety practices to be applied at Nai Harn

By Mark Knowles

THE island's grass-roots water safety initiative Safer Phuket recently announced its plan to introduce the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to Nai Harn Beach.

"Phuket can be a lead location in establishing ISO beach standards, which would also make it the first place in the world to introduce these standards," said Mr Duncan Stewart, managing director and co-founder of Safer Phuket.

ISO is set to release its *ISO 13009 Tourism Services – Beach Operation Standards* document, which has been developed over several years with the consultation of experts in beach management, water safety and international standards practices.

"Essentially, what it is about is taking all the standards: water quality, life guards, cleanliness, management – all the different components which they [ISO] have been working on for years – and implementing it in to Phuket

It's really just about finding the best way to adopt that standard here, and obviously with Safer Phuket and the other stakeholders, it seems like a good place to be the world's first to implement the standards.

beaches," said Mr Duncan.

"We will then be in a position where Phuket will be able to demonstrate that we are as good as anywhere in the world."

Steve Wills, international development manager of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (a UK based water safety organization) and Chairman of the ISO

committee on Beach Management and Safety, recently visited Phuket to discuss the plan for implementation of this world standard to the island.

"There are so many resorts around the world that are growing, which is great, but there is a lack of guidance for people who are managing beaches. Basically, they need a system like this [ISO standard 13009] to adopt," said Mr Wills.

He went on to say that he had had received support and encouragement from local stakeholders including resorts, hotels, lifeguard organizations and local government for implementing the standard in Phuket.

"It's really just about finding the best way to adopt that standard here, and obviously with Safer Phuket and the other stakeholders, it seems like a good place to be the world's first to implement the standards," said Steve Wills.

The ISO 13009 standard expected to be published in the next few months will encompass a



range of issues affecting beach management and safety, and set out clearly defined guidelines for achieving world's best practice in these areas. Some of the issues the document will address include: linking beach management with hazard management; ownership and legislation; stakeholder communication; promoting the beach; performance measurement; customer satisfaction and feedback compilation; responsibilities and regulation; permanent infrastructure; access for ramps, roads and vehicles; information services; beach safety services; beach cleaning and waste removal; and commercial services.

"It's a big deal, it covers the whole gamut of water safety and beach management practices – we are a tourist location and we will

be right up there at the top of the tree and able to demonstrate that we have world's best practice," said Mr Stewart.

He said that the successful implementation of the standards would have a huge impact on Phuket as a popular beach holiday destination, and underline the importance of Phuket's beaches in maintaining its tourism economy.

"This is also about building the credibility and success of Safer Phuket, we are now in a position where we are delivering, moving from discussion, ideas and concepts, to real hard action and delivery of promises.

"It's about saying that this is something that can be achieved, and if we can do it in Nai Harn, then we can roll it out all over the island," he added.



The ISO 13009 Tourism Services – Beach Operation Standards will include provisions for beach safety equipment. Photo: Joost J. Bakker



World-standard safety signage would also be part of implementing the ISO standard. Photo: Marragem

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Sea Gypsies' vanishing world

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE Emmy nominated director of *Iceland Volcano Eruption*, Johann Sigfusson, has teamed up with his wife and producer Anna Dis Olafsdottir once again, this time to create their latest documentary film *Vanishing World of Sea Gypsies*, which was filmed along the Andaman coast of Thailand.

Following their release of *Elephant Whisperer*—a film documenting the struggle of Lek, a woman who has dedicated her life to saving the Asian elephant from slavery and extinction—the husband and wife filmmakers have cast their eyes towards Thailand's coastlines to film their latest project.

Vanishing World of Sea Gypsies focuses on the Chao Ley people, or sea gypsies, whose ancient nomadic culture is diminishing as they struggle to establish their place in modern society.

"The story of the sea gypsies is a truly moving one, it's about a culture disappearing before our eyes due to integration into modern society and progress," Johann told the *Gazette*.

"Also, the sea gypsies provide a great way to dive into the story of the ocean and what is happening there. No one is more in touch with the sea than the people that live in it, making our story two-fold: focusing on the sea gypsies and the state of our oceans."

To gain a better understanding

of the plight of the Chao Ley people, Johann interviewed the indigenous people in Surin, along with anthropologists, the Managing Editor of the *Gazette* and various experts who have helped document their ongoing struggle for land rights and cultural recognition.

The film is underscored by the stunning underwater cinematography of Stewart Whitfield, a resident of neighboring Krabi province. The sublime footage captures the Chao Ley people freediving, scouring the reefs with spears in hand, searching for sea life. They glide silently, clearly in their element, as they live their traditional lifestyle, which is rapidly disappearing.

"There are no fish where there used to be. They are all gone," an elderly Chao Ley man says in the film's trailer.

The filmmakers agree, citing a statistic that says 85 per cent of the world's fishing grounds have been pushed beyond their biological limits by commercial fishing.

"We make nature conservation documentaries, and hopefully this film will help bring attention to the rapid decline that nature is facing," Johann says.

Johann and Anna have been making documentaries for their own company Pro-films since 1990, and have since won several awards, including the "Outstand-

The story of the Sea Gypsies is a truly moving one, it's about a culture disappearing before our eyes due to integration into modern society and progress

**— Johann Sigfusson
Director of Vanishing
World of Sea Gypsies**



The film captures both the essence of the sea gypsies, as well as the degradation of the ocean. Photos: ProFilm

ing Contribution to Nature" Award at the prestigious Japan Wildlife Film Festival, along with an Emmy nomination for "Director of Photography for Outstanding Cinematography in the Documentaries/News category".

Johann has 56 cinematographic credits to his name and has worked with the National Geographic Channel and

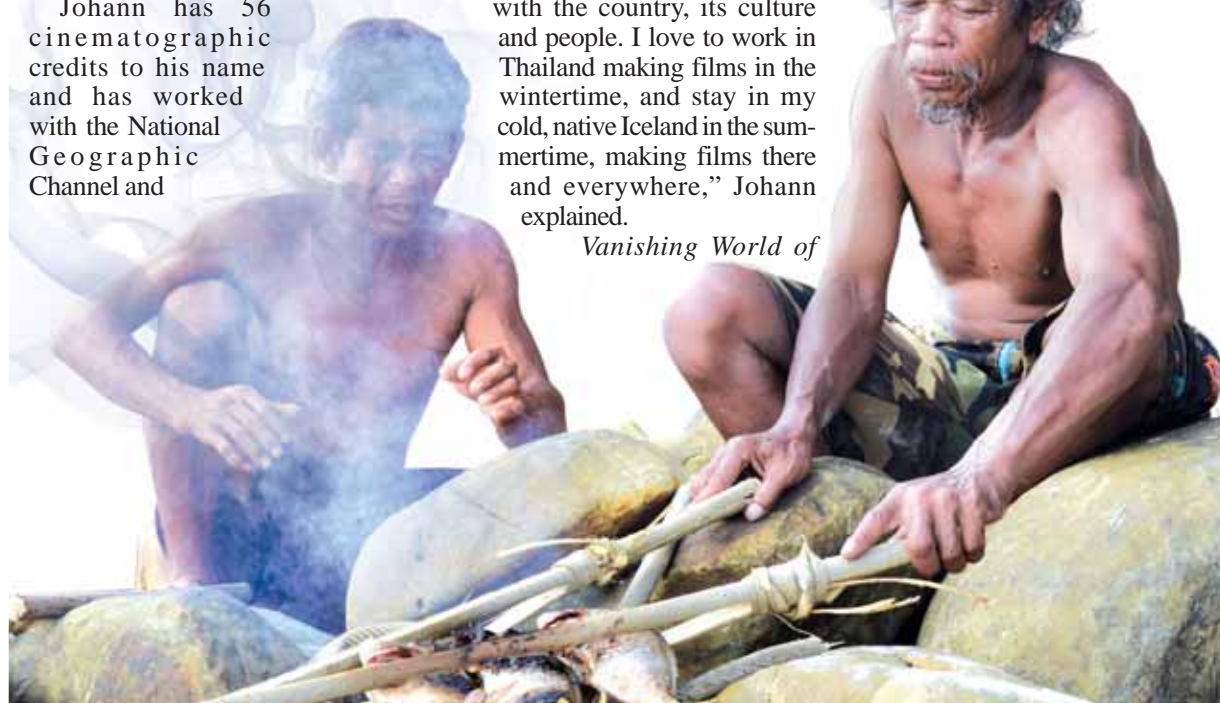
the BBC, while his wife Anna has four production credits to her name, including co-writer of the 50-minute documentary film *Elephant Whisperer*.

"I first came to Thailand on a project in 1998, and I fell in love with the country, its culture and people. I love to work in Thailand making films in the wintertime, and stay in my cold, native Iceland in the summertime, making films there and everywhere," Johann explained.

Vanishing World of

Sea Gypsies was released on March 13. At the moment it is not showing in Phuket, however, the trailer is available online.

See related story on Page 4



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Proposed projects 'will destroy Krabi'

By Pongphon Sarnsamak

FOSSILIZED shells at a beach dating back 75 million years and over 10,000 rai of the country's second-largest seagrass area in Krabi would be destroyed if the coal seaport and coal-fired power-plant project goes ahead, an environmental watch agency warned on March 6.

Adding to the concerns over the project, the local tourism association in Koh Lanta is worried that the project would jeopardize the area's tourism, an industry which generates between 1.4 and 1.5 billion baht annually for the local economy.

In response to the backlash, a consultancy company hired by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), which would construct the plant, will listen to public concerns about the project in Krabi, this Sunday.

"We fear that the public scoping for the Ban Klong Ruo Coal Seaport project will not be different to the one organized earlier for the coal plant," said Chariya Senpong, a campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia's Climate Change and Energy division.

"Both assessments only identify the impacts that they are able

to mitigate, and play down the environmental, societal and economic harm the project will cause."

The 700 megawatt power plant would be fueled by bituminous and subbituminous coal, which would likely be imported from Indonesia, Australia and Africa.

Construction of the 30bn baht facility is scheduled to be completed in 2019. EGAT is conducting an environmental and health-impact assessment of the project, which is expected to be completed soon.

"The report will just be procedural compliance for EGAT to carry on with the project," Mr Chariya said.

A Greenpeace report states that the marine life surrounding the proposed project and the sea route to transport coal to the port includes the 17,725 rai of seagrass area, a mangrove forest, an area where dugongs live, the nursing grounds for aquatic species and the habitat of over 21 species of wild birds.

The mouth of the Krabi River is also recognized under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands.

Koh Lanta Tourism Association



Phra Nang Beach is a popular destination for tourists in Krabi. Photo: Kallerna



Could coal ships like this soon be plowing the waters off Krabi's coast? Photo: Vmenkov

Chairman Therapot Kasirawat said he was worried that hundreds of thousands of tourists, especially from Sweden, would shun the area if the project went ahead.

Mr Therapot said about 150,000 Swedish tourists annually visited Koh Lanta, staying on average 19 days, while about 95,000 visited Koh Phi Phi.

"We learned that they will go to other places once they see the first coal ship pass the island," he said.

— The Nation

Villagers build barriers to protect Krabi coast

AFTER enduring huge waves and strong winds for several years, residents of a seaside village in the province of Krabi have adapted to the effects of climate change by using bamboo to build temporary barriers to prevent coastal erosion.

The barriers were built along a 500-meter stretch of coastal area in the fishing community in Klong Prasong, Muang district, to reduce the impact of huge, strong waves that erode the seashore and destroy residential areas.

Located along the shore of an isolated island, Klong Prasong village has been faced with strong winds, huge waves and rising sea levels.

Sea waves have eroded more than one kilometer of coastline, said local fisherman Sanit Rotkerd, 40. He and other villagers have been forced to relocate to higher land.

"In my lifetime I have had to move twice because of [coastal erosion] by strong waves," he said.

Previously, the village was surrounded by a beautiful sandy beach and mangrove forests, which protected residential areas from erosion. But since the sea waves have become stronger and more destructive, Mr Sanit's land, about a kilometer from his current home, has been slightly eroded and submerged under seawater.

Another fisherman, Suradej Ornboot, 50, recounted a similar experience. He said the fierce winds and furious waves destroyed the

mangrove forest where local villagers once obtained fish, seaweed and other food sources.

"Since the mangrove forest was destroyed by the strong waves, it is really difficult to find food, not only for eating but also for making money," he said.

"I will have to stay here for the rest of my life, as I have no place else to go," he said.

After learning that the strong winds and huge waves were a threat to local villagers, the local administration organization built a concrete wall along the coastal area to prevent erosion. Unfortunately, while the wall can protect residential areas from erosion, it cannot help the damaged mangroves recover or replace the soil in the coastal zone.

Supported by the Rak Thai Foundation, villagers started discussing ways to protect their village. They came up with the idea of using bamboo to build temporary barriers to protect the land, an idea they borrowed from residents of Samut Sakhon province who were also affected by coastal erosion.

The Klong Prasong villagers installed the bamboo barriers last year.

"After the establishment of the bamboo dams, we found that the mangrove soil returned and some species of mangrove tree have grown back," said Vinai Yongkit, an Islamic-studies teacher who led the villagers building the barriers.

—The Nation



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Phuket Gazette 

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At the table with the king

By Leslie Porterfield

A HUSH fell over our table at the Regent Phuket's Lombard & Cie dinner last Saturday when the main course was served. It wasn't the silence of ravenous diners devouring their food in a few bitefuls – we hadn't yet picked up our forks. It was a reverential quiet for the beauty of the presentation, and it lasted a good long moment.

The dinner, the first the year-old resort has hosted, showcased the king of wine, France's precious Champagne – not just as an aperitif, but with every course of the meal.

"We were given the wine list first, then built the menu to suit it," explained Regent executive chef Justin Baziuk, whose career has taken him from his native New Zealand to five-star resorts around the world.

"Justin has very high standards; he's very strict about quality," Regent GM Brice Borin explained over *hors d'oeuvres* – spicy gazpacho, samosas and toast rounds spread with wild mushroom parfait – in the resort's library.

Basing his creations as much as possible on farm raised, free range meats and organic produce, Chef Baziuk says that he takes "The fundamentals of cooking the simple things, and the classic techniques... and looks to the future, examining every aspect of eating to try and create new sensations, textures, experiences, and emotions."

There were 28 guests at the 2,500 baht per head meal, and when we moved to The Restaurant to eat, we sat together at three tables, giving the event the feel of a dinner party.

The kind of dinner party where servers stream from the kitchen in a long line and set down the food in front of diners simultaneously, in a choreography that makes you feel, well, rather regal.

But back to the food, and the plate that struck us dumb. It was a harmony of fall colors, a golden orange crescent of carrot puree that held seared pieces of deep red lamb and bright green peas. Clear brown *jus* pooled to the side, and faint purple slivers of beetroot cress adorned the meat, which hid a mound of mashed turnip. Off to the northern end of the plate were pebbles of black olive liquorice.

We broke through our haze and began

to eat, but were silent still, this time appreciating how each taste added to the last and built on the next. And we puzzled over that little pile of olive bits, and marveled at the alchemy that allowed it to enhance all the other flavors.

"We dehydrate Kalamata olives, then chop them up in a coffee grinder, add almond meal, brown sugar, and then flavor it with star anise," Chef Baziuk said.

"The saltiness of the olives hits you first, and then the buttery puree and earthy lamb take over, but it's not until you swallow that the anise flavor is released," he added. It wasn't a single taste he had in mind for us, but a symphony with the main soloist – the Champagne. Did the wine complement the food? Or maybe the food complemented the wine? Hard to say, but the pairing was impeccable.

Special as it was, our lamb reverie wasn't the only highlight of the meal. Just before, we'd been delighted by the spectacle of science meeting haute cuisine.

It was ostensibly a simple between-courses dish, a sorbet palate cleanser. As the serving corps marched somberly towards us, carrying what appeared to be small goldfish bowls, white clouds of fog wafted up and around them. It was dry ice, and in a little dish above the bowl, yuzu flavored foam, orange-colored crystals and a lemon grass and ginger sorbet which somehow brought forth only the mellow side of the root, leaving behind its spicy sharpness.

But the drama didn't end with the fog. Suddenly, I heard an odd noise – coming from the mouth of my dining companion. Those crystals were exploding in his mouth like fireworks, mimicking the bubbles endlessly rising in our glasses, and making us smile and feel ten years old.

By that point, we'd eaten our way through a seafood tasting plate, where we raved about a soft cured salmon, "cooked at 45 degrees for 25 minutes," Chef Baziuk said, which took the fish just to the other side of raw and left it to fall apart under the stroke of our forks – and a white rabbit potage, with each course accompanied by a different bubbly.

The course that followed the lamb, the mysterious *Rocamadour*, was served in a



Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Champagne, 'The king of wines' requires regal food and the Regent's chef lived up to the task.

teacup, along with a sliver of toast strewn with tiny flower petals.

"It's a goat cheese from my region of France, the southwest," revealed GM Borin. "I use it every chance I get. We just got it in and it's only about two weeks old, so it still has a light flavor."

Mixed with *creme fraiche* and small chunks of tomatoes, it almost resembled a soup and made for a remarkable cheese course.

A *mille-feuille* with not one, but two kinds of Valrhona chocolate mousse,

blonde chocolate truffle, blueberries, four perfect raspberries, two crispy biscuits and a flake of gold leaf, along with a glass of a rose Champagne, finished the meal perfectly.

More dinners will follow, assured GM Borin. They will be well worth attending.

Regent Phuket Cape Panwa is located at 84 Moo 8, Sakdidej Rd. Tambol Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000. For more information call 02 653 0555 or go to regenthotels.com



The starter provided four different flavor combinations, all perfectly paired with the bubbly.



Hidden beneath a toast with flower petals is Rocamadour, mild cheese from South West France.



Lamb with carrot puree and black olive liquorice delivered unexpected pleasure.

The juice of life

By Mark Knowles

ARE you sick and tired of feeling sick and tired? Yes? Then chances are you could be eating healthier, but like so many of us living hectic modern lives, you probably struggle to find the time to prepare healthy food. But now there is a solution – juice it up!

Pura Organics, the island's premier organic food supplier, has recently introduced a fantastic range of super-fresh, slow/cold pressed organic juices that are bursting with vitamins, minerals and, of course, flavor – which can be delivered daily, right to your door.

To get the full benefits of these delicious juices, it is best to try one of Pura Organic's "Juice Feast" programs. Each of these programs has been designed to target specific outcomes and include: Base, weight loss, glow/skin repair, sports/energize and detox.

So, how does a juice diet work? Well, when you consume only juice, your system is flooded with an abundance of vitamins, minerals and phyto-nutrients that help your body remove toxins, lower the risk of life-threatening diseases, strengthen your immune system and basically reboot your overall energy levels.

Each of these juicing programs contains all the energy, vitamins and minerals you need – your seven daily 330ml bottles of juice equate to 2.2 liters of juice, with a total of 1,000 to 1,200 calories, for this about five kilograms of vegetables are needed. Try eating that much healthy food in a day with a knife and fork!

By removing most of the hard to digest fibers, slow juicing extracts all the goodness and leaves your body free to absorb it more

directly, instead of having to digest and extract the nutrients itself. Generally, digesting food requires a lot of energy (that's why you're tired after eating hard-to-digest foods), by giving yourself an easy-to-digest diet, this energy can be used to "repair" your health.

Each program can be individually tailored to suit your goals, and for those not wanting to attempt the full juice-only diet, Pura Organics can also supply a range of healthy organic snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, nut milks, seeds, superfoods, protein supplements and more.

"They are designed as day programs, you can select any number of days but I suggest to do a minimum of seven days, because it can take a few days to get used to it, and by the third day the toxins are leaving your system and the good and healthy stuff is replacing these," says Martin Smeters, managing director of Pura Organic.

"Somewhere between days four and seven, you will get the full benefit of being in a healthy program, you suddenly realize 'wow, this is energizing me, this is making me feel good, I'm able to focus, I'm able to do things and I don't feel tired anymore', you simply stop feeling sick and tired!" continues Martin.

And it seems Pura Organics customers – from pro-athletes to office workers – agree.

"We just had a professional athlete, a 46-year old, who did a seven day program, during that time he cycled 600km, swam 16km and ran 40km – all while drinking only juice – the juice clearly gives you enough energy to do so," continues Martin.

"The best thing about the program is that once you have gone

through it, you feel the motivation to stay healthy, you find you don't want to eat processed foods, because you can really feel the benefits immediately and you will *not* feel hungry!"

Martin gets constant feedback from customers who all say that they love what they experience.

"One important thing to remember when you go to do anything else, but in particular these juicing programs, is that it does not work if you use unhealthy products, we use all organic fruit and vegetables, if you use produce that has pesticides and chemicals, you are introducing the same toxins you are trying to get rid of!"

While all the health benefits of an organic juice diet are impressive, it's important to remember that it tastes great too. Have a quick look at some of the many juice blends on offer and you can start to see just how delicious they will be, with blends such as: sweet potato, pumpkin, carrot, pineapple, cucumber, apple and ginger; or asparagus, kale, papaya, cucumber, mint and apple.

So, if you are sick and tired of feeling sick and tired, get down to Pura Organic today and start your own personalized "Juice Feast" detox diet, your body will thank you for it.

Pura Organic has two shops: On highway 402 near the entrance/exit to Thanyapura (office and shop) and at Bang Tao Place (opposite the Wine Connection) in Bang Tao, Cherng Talay (shop and juice factory). More information can also be found on Pura's website: puraorganic.org or simply feel free to call Pura's dedicated "juice phone" for your orders and/or questions: 093-584-1850



Seven bottles of freshly squeezed organic juice gives you all the vitamins, minerals, calories and energy you need for the day.



At the new shop and 'juice factory' in Bang Tao, Pura Organic's staff pumps out hundreds of bottles of fresh juice a day, which is delivered right to customers' doors.

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Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

The power of Yao Yai island

NEW Age guru Eckhart Tolle sold millions of copies of his book *The Power of Now* which expounded the blindingly obvious premise that we would all be much happier if we lived our lives in the here and now. Tolle tells us over 256 repetitive pages, that rather than worrying about what might happen tomorrow, or regretting our misdeeds of the past, we should just relax and concentrate on the intense beauty of being alive, right at this very moment.

While this may be a blindingly simple premise to state in a book, it's a lot more difficult to put into practice in Phuket these days. Increasingly, we inhabit a globally wired, 24/7 world, where our livelihood and possibly our very survival depend upon a sort of continuous information overload. The result is an increasingly stressed populace whose consciousness is severely fragmented, so that the apparently simple practice of being present here and now starts to seem like an unattainable transcendent state from a simpler, quieter century.

Phuket cyclists are certainly victim to this fragmentation, and our very survival does indeed depend upon unrelenting vigilance, in



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

order to cope with the myriad problems that make cycling on the island such a challenge.

Inevitably we seek quieter, cyclist-friendly environments, which fortunately, abound right upon our doorstep.

Although only an hour by boat from Phuket's east coast, the two verdant Yao islands (Yao Noi the smaller and Yao Yai the larger) are a refreshing step back in time, where relaxed cycling in the here and now is a joy once again.

On a recent sizzling morning I loaded my trusty mountain bike into the prow of a speedboat from Bang Rong Pier on the northeastern coast of Phuket and headed for Koh Yao Yai Island. Just 70 minutes later, bike and man were hauled up the concrete steps at Klong Hia Pier, and almost immediately, I found myself back in the quiet undisturbed now of a by-gone age.

Koh Yao Yai transliterates as "Big Long Island" and indeed it is a long boomerang-shaped expanse stretching for about 50 kilometers north to south, equidistant from Phuket to its west and Krabi to the east.

The cycling is very relaxing and the main road which runs right down the spine of the island is well paved with just enough hills to make life interesting and aerobic. About half a click from the pier you can take either the west coastal, or east coastal road – either offers you great sea vistas where they run along the island's coast. They join again about half way down the island and then it's one straight road all the way down to Pru Nai Township near the southern tip.

I chose to cycle down the island's east coast road through spindly rubber trees, each with a tapper's cup appended and spotted ancient black steel rubber presses standing sentinel outside some of the little shacks, with pressed sheets of latex flapping in the island's breeze.

I passed little Muslim homes, flower-bedecked and proudly maintained, often with sleeping cats (but of



Cycling in Koh Yao Yai is relaxing thanks to a number of paved roads and limited traffic.

course no doggies) on their porches. Almost all the doors stood open to the island's breezes, even though no one was around, strong testament to the close sense of community and trust that characterizes the island.

Cresting a hill, I almost crashed into a couple of black and white goats lying in the middle of the road – such is the traffic density in these parts. These denizens of Hades elected to clomp along just ahead of my front wheel, neck bells clanging, for about a hundred meters, before figuring out that a sharp left turn into the safety of the rubber trees was called for.

Skirting a hillside of terraced paddies hosting a convention of silently munching buffaloes, I came to the village school at Klong Don just as it was disgorging its boisterous contents. Here I saw three kiddies, whose combined age was probably under 16, on a Honda Dream – any laws that might apply to the age of drivers being summarily ignored.

These under-age speedsters were clad in perfectly-pressed scouting uniforms, presumably heading off to some camp-

fire jamboree and sing-along. A motorcycle and sidecar overtook me bedecked with perhaps ten further acolytes of Lord Baden Powell, almost knocking me ditchwards in a happy greeting of "hello farang".

In Pru Nai Town I stopped at a little shop to buy some gluay... little ladies' fingers bananas costing just 20 baht for a bunch so big that I had to call in eating reinforcements in the form of three pig-tailed girls, who rewarded me with luxuriant gap-toothed smiles.

I eventually cycled to the charming Yao Yai Resort with its wooden beach cottages overlooking spectacular Loh Pared Beach, undoubtedly Koh Yao's best, on the island's east coast.

Settling into the resort's lovely open sala restaurant, I took off my cycling boots and savored a fabulous first icy beer. With a shock, I realized that for more than four hours I had been totally engrossed and charmed by the now of Yao. It's a lot cheaper than doing the Eckhart Tolle course and it's only 70 minutes from Phuket!

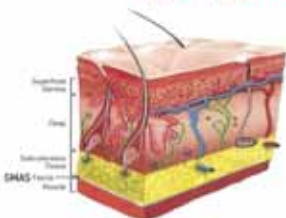


Koh Yao Yai has enough charm to fall in love with.

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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: other skin layer or epidermis, inner skin layer or dermis, fat, SMAS, muscles and bone have been totally affected. As a result, the keys to approach and reverse facial aging must be universally addressed layer by layer and choose the right targeted devices and procedural dermatology to correct the defect layers.

Outer skin layer or epidermis

Epidermis is the most outer part of the skin composing cell layers that are responsible for skin texture, moisture and skin color. Thinning of the skin, dyspigmentation such as sun spots, age spots and melasma, skin dullness as well as roughness are the aesthetic complaints from epidermal aging.

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



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

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

Inner skin layer or dermis

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



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



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

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.

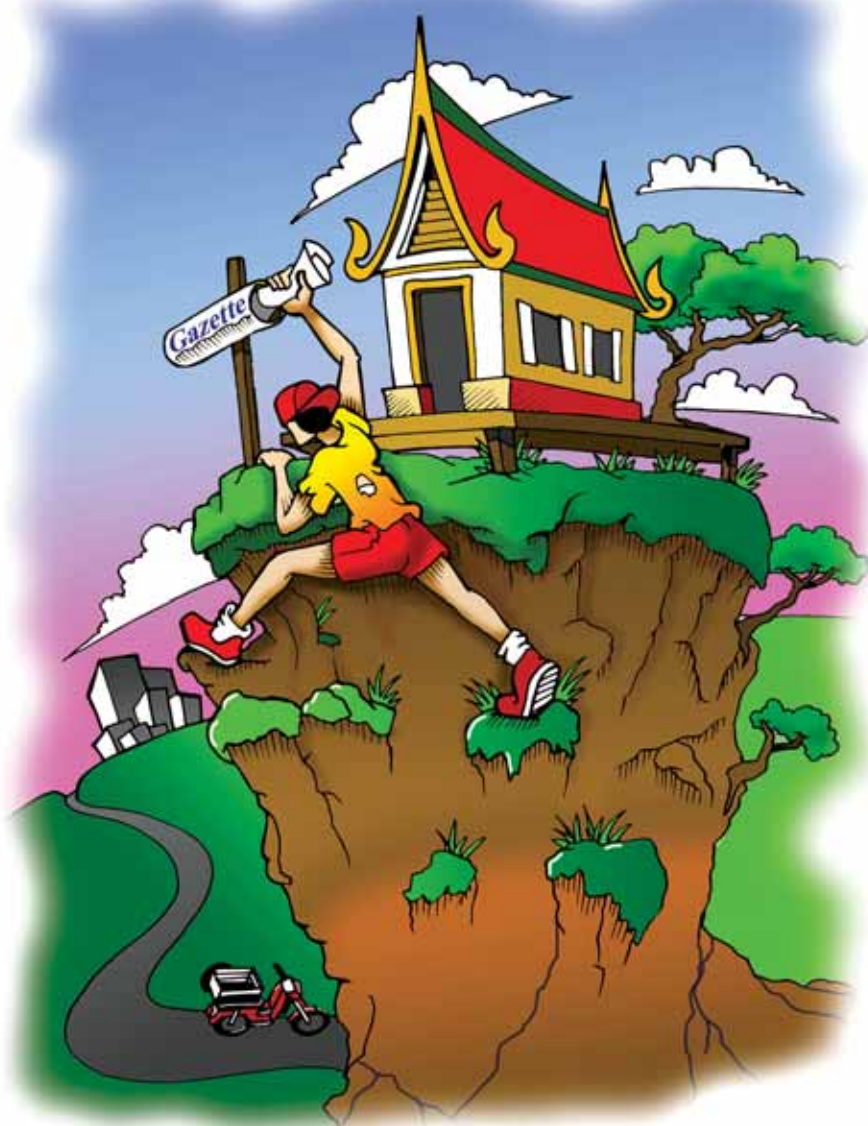


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Your weekly pith

"When we feel stuck, going nowhere – even starting to slip backward – we may actually be backing up to get a running start." – *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior* by Dan Millman

"Superhuman effort isn't worth a damn unless it achieves results." – *Ernest Shackleton*

Medium

	3	6				2	5	
7				2				1
9			5		4			7
		4	7		2	8		
	7						9	
		8	3		1	7		
4			1		9			8
8				6				2
	5	7				1	4	

Hard

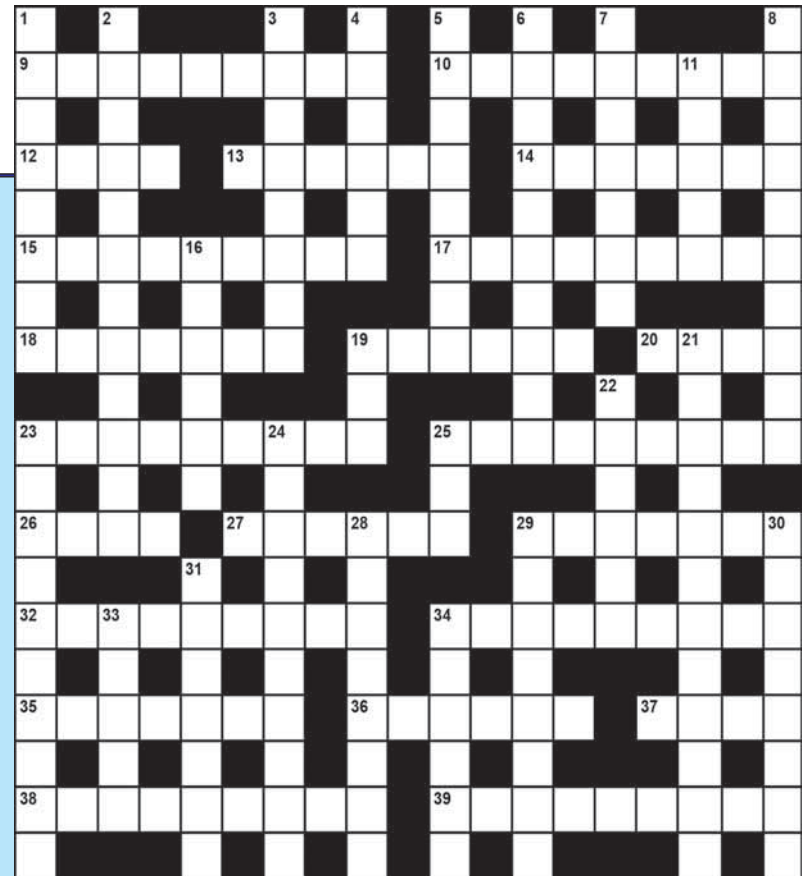
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	1						5	
3			4		2			1

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE
break

Across

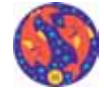
9. For a puny daw a move to get off the ground (2,3,4)
 10. Reckoned a chapter was worthy of note (9)
 12. May turn socially acceptable, a point in Phuket (4)
 13. Give moral advice for past stretch (6)
 14. Pig hurt, turned honorable (7)
 15. Reassembled car neat in physical form (9)
 17. Relax, rest heart in comfortable hotel (5,4)
 18. Rip game off in witticism (7)
 19. Draw attention to local pronunciation (6)
 20. As one, a large part of our planet (4)
 23. Eminence gives a big head (9)
 25. Mad, er - perhaps less in deep and peaceful sleep (9)
 26. Any arrangement, son, for those who don't agree? (4)
 27. Master moves with the flow (6)
 29. Put a stop to before opening? (7)
 32. Loudly repetitive about it, aren't disturbed! (9)
 34. Ruse - send out daughter without clothes (9)
 35. Come to blows in order to leave an army parade (4,3)
 36. Maybe I ram an aviator (6)
 37. So forward shortly (4)
 38. Going to a restaurant auntie got confused (6,3)
 39. A croc sits making word puzzles (9)



Down

1. Queasy, I'd move to the edge of the wharf (8)
 2. Warn I'm chary moving out East with battle equipment (12)
 3. Arrows M.D. treated in member holding weapon (5,3)
 4. Revolve tray, e.g. twist (6)
 5. That epic turned out to be pitiful (8)
 6. Happening to take place, right? Niece, not I, arranging (10)
 7. A crossbow missile fight (7)
 8. Art I so lied about in main newspaper articles (10)
 11. Difficult to squeeze through inebriated (5)
 16. Maybe I tarry, an unusual thing! (6)
 19. Idiot in a vessel (3)

21. 3D cost rose badly out East on small picture (12)
 22. The current measure in extended form (6)
 23. Torted up the house? Grief, I tend to go wild! (10)
 24. Taking out of former drawing (10)
 25. Black Thai animal's mother (3)
 28. Theater interval arranged at center (8)
 29. I pay, trod carefully from treatment for feet (8)
 30. I sent Sid out, a habit of being neat (8)
 31. Move under, so get echo (7)
 33. Part through which material enters bay (5)
 34. Pour out a river in turmoil (6)

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

This is a promising time to embark on new business ventures as the stars will support your efforts to leave stale situations behind and move forward. Another water sign shows interest in forming a partnership that can lead to success. Those with a birthday during the week ahead are forecast to feel more grounded in the coming year. The number five is fortunate for those born under the sign of Pisces this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Hopes are high for many Arians during the second half of March. Those who have made themselves too available for others are forecast to take some power back and concentrate on their own needs. Facing facts helps you take control of an ongoing financial dilemma – those in a committed relationship will find it easier to be firmer about their partner's excess spending. Your lucky number this week is three.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

A change of scenery could be just what Taureans need to break an edgy mood as the weekend starts. The stars advise focusing more on the present as worries

about what the future may bring appear to be unfounded. Money matters are auspicious this weekend, but it would not be wise to share news of a windfall with people who are short of cash. The number four can open a lucky door this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The stars advise that Geminis should know when to give up pursuing a dream they have been chasing since the start of the year. Information received this week reveals that you would not be as well off as you thought if this goal was achieved. In the meantime, another air sign has suggestions for a scheme that is both realistic and profitable. The number seven appears lucky this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Perseverance is due to pay off for many of those born under the sign of Cancer. Whether this relates to finances or a struggle to succeed in the world of work, the signs are all positive. Personal relationships are affected by an unsettled astral atmosphere – you could be tempted into making a commitment that you still have doubts about. The stars show that number nine will shine this week.

YOUR
horoscope
By Isla Star**LEO (July 24-Aug 22):**

Horizons expand for those born under the sign of Leo during the second half of March. A situation within your world of work is forecast to become less intense and lines of communication will open up. On a personal level, your spirit of adventure is activated by another fire sign's proposal this weekend. Glowing days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Your lucky number this week is eight.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Setting quality time aside for yourself will enable those born under the sign of Virgo to put personal issues in better perspective. A more down to earth outlook in the second half of this month allows practical solutions to be seen; if this concerns finances, the stars suggest that you may have overlooked important information that can make life easier. The number one can be fortunate this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

There are hints that you could soon have to put someone in their place. The stars suggest that this is likely to be a water sign who has been taking liberties with your generosity. In the romantic zone, the coast is clear for those wanting to get closer to a fire sign. A relationship with another air sign can be affected by a friend's interference. Librans' lucky number is two.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Seeing is believing for those born under the sign of Scorpio. The stars indicate that suspicions will be confirmed, particularly relating to a work or business matter. If this involves another fire sign who has been economical with the truth, Thursday is the most auspicious day for a serious discussion. In the realm of romance, an air sign shows they are ready for a more serious relationship. The number six seems fortunate this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Calling in a favor from an earth sign can be more complicated than you anticipate, but the stars advise keeping your cool. In the realm of romance, those who had reason

to doubt an earth sign's sincerity should be reassured this weekend. Single Sagittarians are keen to get closer to a water sign, but this person's life can be more complicated than first apparent. Number two stands out this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Capricorns should dare to be different during the second half of March. The astral atmosphere supports thinking outside the box and standing out from the crowd. Where work is concerned, things are not quite what they seem on Monday and it would not be sensible to react until you have a clearer idea of the facts. Finances are auspicious this weekend. The number one is important this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

The stars advise Aquarians to make more allowances for people this week. There are signs that you could be quickly irritated by some behavior and getting on the wrong side of someone whose support you need is highlighted. Where romance is concerned, nothing stays the same for ever, but regarding a relationship with another air sign, this is a good thing. Your lucky number this week is seven.

SPORT

Bike racing for the Heroines

DOZENS of cyclists gathered last Sunday at the Thalang Victory Memorial field to compete in an annual bicycle race. The “Thalang Victory 2014” event was the 14th of its kind and was organized by Thepkasattri Municipality in co-operation with Thalang Bicycle Club under the patronage of HM Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

This annual event commemorates the historical battle of 1785 in which Phuket’s own Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn, better known as the Phuket Heroines, led local villagers to repel a Burmese invasion.

Cyclists divided into six age groups and despite the heat com-

peted fiercely for the main prizes – a Royal Cup from HM Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and 1000 baht.

Winners by age group :

The winner of general public:
 30-34 Aekkalak Sophapan
 35-39 Satorn Kaoean
 40-44 Thamsan Wisarutsin
 45-49 Phanomkorn kamurai
 50-54 Kier Olser
 Over 55 Suthep Phakdee.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more photographs of the cycling action check out *Phuket Gazette* Facebook page on [facebook.com/phuketgazette](https://www.facebook.com/phuketgazette)



Despite the heat, dozens of fully geared-up contestants showed up at the starting line. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Ornate cups and cash prizes awaited the winners.



Seven cyclists went back home with the top prizes.

Soccer Schools camp announced

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) has announced that they will be offering a five-day football camp running from April 7 to 11 during the upcoming Songkran holiday.

To be held at Kajonkiet International School Phuket (KISP), the camp welcomes both girls and boys of all abilities between the ages of four to 12. Phuket Soccer Schools have a variety of fun games, football challenges and footwork exercises to help the children develop their technique and strategy while having fun and meeting new friends.

PSS staff utilize small groups and team settings so that each player improves his or her skills in the most optimal way. The children are grouped by age and ability in order to maximize the effectiveness of instruction. The expert and energetic PSS coaches will ensure a positive and fun-filled soccer experience for each young camper.

Additionally, awards will be handed out

to selected players at the end of each day with an MVP trophy at the end of the camp. All players will greatly improve their soccer skills, develop a new found love for the game of football, meet new friends and above all else, have fun.

PSS Head Coach Martin Hill says, “We are excited to be returning to KISP this Songkran to utilize their fantastic covered football facility in Kathu. The Phuket Sport Schools camp program is a feast of football, utilizing all of our professional programs and training equipment.”

“Football medals, quizzes and awards are all part of our camp program. This enables us to create an arena that produces football fun and memories for all our players.” he added.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For camp registration and more information on PSS programs available on Phuket, please visit phuketsoccerschools.com or [facebook.com/phuketsoccerschools](https://www.facebook.com/phuketsoccerschools)



Football camp is a chance to improve children’s skills – both physical and social. Photo: Supplied.

New sponsor of ACYC regatta

FOLLOWING its recent expansion into the Southeast Asian region with the establishment of a Phuket office based in the Phuket Boat Lagoon, the Australian based yacht broker Multihull Solutions has taken on major sponsorship and naming rights of the annual regatta organized by the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

As a result, this year's regatta is now officially known as "The Multihull Solutions Regatta – Phuket 2014. The *Gazette* spoke to Multihull Solutions Asia General Manager, Andrew de Bruin, along with Regatta Commodore Michael Kealy, to see how the sponsorship came about and learn what's in store for this year's regatta.

"I've been a member of the ACYC for 12 years, as well as being on the committee for several years, and I have watched this regatta grow since its inception to the successful event it is today," said Mr de Bruin.

"As this Ao Chalong Yacht Club event caters exclusively to multihulls, it was only natural that

Multihull Solutions came on board as a major sponsor. Through our association with this event, we aim to increase our exposure to the local marine market as well as continue promoting the many advantages of multihulls."

Commodore Michael Kealy said that the ACYC was proud to be associated with Multihull Solutions for this year's regatta, the fifth since it began in 2010.

"Multihull Solutions are new into Asia and this is the perfect platform to launch them in this region," he said.

He went on to say that some fantastic boats would be competing this year and that public spectators would be welcomed.

"We have the exciting Adrenalin which was built in the USA and is capable of speeds up near 30 knots.

"We also plan to have a spectator boat, so the general public can get out to watch the excitement," he added.

Mr de Bruin confirmed that the company has signed on for a two-year sponsorship of the regatta,

with the option to extend for future years. He said that sponsorship of the event was a key strategy to increase their brand presence in the region, and establish themselves as a strong player in the region's multihull yacht industry.

The company is the exclusive distributor of Fountaine Pajot and Catana Catamarans in Southeast Asia, and also represents Sunreef Yachts, TAG Yachts, NEEL Trimarans and Privilege Catamarans in the region. Through their Phuket office, they provide sales and service for new and pre-owned sail and power multihulls, and according to Mr de Bruin, plan to expand to Singapore in the very near future.

"Multihull Solutions has always been very active in Australia and New Zealand through our sponsoring and hosting of multihull rallies, regattas and special events. It is one of the best ways for us to meet people who are enthusiastic about sail or power multihulls, and discuss with them the various features of different models and brands. We've always found



The Multihull Solutions team at the Phuket Boat Show. Photos: Supplied

that people who participate in such regattas return year after year, and play an important part in our business success," he said.

Mr de Bruin was hopeful about Multihull Solutions entering one or more yachts from their represented brands in this year's regatta. Though unable to confirm any specific boats at this stage, he went on to speak about his hopes for the 2014 regatta.

"We are particularly keen to see cruising classes join the racing yachts to make this the ultimate multihull regatta to do in Southeast Asia. Depending on entry numbers, we want to tailor the regatta's courses to suit the boats. In years to come, we want to see Fountaine Pajot, Catana, Privilege, TAG Yachts, Sunreef Yachts and NEEL



MHS GM Andrew de Bruin.

Trimaran owners all joining in. The regatta is arguably the best value for money sailing event in the region, and we expect the event will continue to grow significantly in the next few years."

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, see the ACYC website at: acyc.asia

Laguna manages to regain top spot



Photos: Michael Way

Martin Platts and Tom Gordon kept Village in the game with an 11 over partnership of 96 runs.

LAGUNA remained undefeated and reclaimed top spot in the Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) Phuket cricket league by defeating The Village last Sunday, at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

Things started well for Laguna when they won the toss and chose to bat first, as most teams prefer to do. The extremely dry and hot conditions also meant batting first would favor Laguna.

A steady start by their openers Darren Shaw (6) and Manish Sadarangani (22) was exactly what Laguna was hoping for. However, things started taking a turn for the worse when Shaw was caught at cover off the bowling of Patterson in the 6th over.

Shoeib Mushtaq (6) then fell soon after in the 8th over. Sriram Kailasam (18) and Sadarangani were both out in the 13th over, just after the drinks break, and with four wickets down for 57 runs, Laguna looked to be heading for a batting collapse.

They were looking for some much needed inspiration from two of their most experienced players, Sameer Khan and Stuart Reading. Khan (30) and Reading (63) provided exactly that with the pair taking it to the Village bowlers with a 74 run partnership from just 47 balls until Khan managed to get a fine edge which was well

caught by wicket-keeper Martin Foster standing up at the stumps.

Reading was involved in another 35 run partnership with Pir Sami (11). However, in the 28th over, both Sami and Reading were dismissed, followed in by Simon Samaan in the next over, and Laguna were languishing at nine wickets down for 175. Luckily for Laguna, a last wicket stand of 36 runs by their tail-enders, Sami Ali (14 not out) and Waqar Bhatt (18) ensured Laguna finished with a respectable total of 211 runs.

Pick of the bowlers for The Village were Craig Patterson (four wickets for 30) and Divan Mydeen (three wickets for 47) and well supported by some tight, economical bowling by Peter Coceni (one for 21 from seven overs).

The Village started their batting with long-serving openers Martin Foster (0) and Kevin Quilty (5). The early scalp of Foster in the first over (off the bowling of Sami) rang some alarm bells and the possibility of an early collapse.

Quilty and Simon Pettigrew (19) managed to steady things and although not accumulating many runs, made sure they avoided any more early wickets until Quilty fell in the 11th over. Pettigrew and Peter Coceni (21) managed to put on a 29 run partner-



Martin Platts adds another boundary on his way to 56 runs off 44 balls.

ship, to take the score along to four wickets down for 61 runs but a middle order batting collapse ensued with Village losing their next three batsmen for only 13 runs.

Martin Platts (56) who is more renowned for his bowling, batted out an excellent, well deserved innings piling on 56 runs off just 44 balls in just 60 minutes. The innings included nine fours to some raucous applause from his teammates and all at the ground.

Together with Tom Gordon (38) they put on a 96 run partnership with some lusty hitting (including a massive six by Gordon onto the ACG clubhouse roof), frustrating the Laguna bowling attack, until Platts was finally dismissed in the 33rd over with the score on eight wickets down for 170 runs. With renewed enthusiasm, Laguna then quickly finished off the Village tail-enders and secured another win maintaining a 100 per cent record and reclaiming top spot.

Pick of the bowlers for Laguna was Mushtaq (four wickets for 13 runs) in a man of the match performance which included



Martin Platts leaves the field after a popular and entertaining innings of 56.

two catches and two run-outs to be involved in eight of the Village batsmen's dismissals.

This Sunday March 16 will see the Village take on Patong. Play starts at 10am.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Hua Hin to host international golf tournament

AMATEUR Thai golfers and expats in Thailand will soon have an opportunity to play with others of similar ability from all over the world in a unique tournament to be held from June 15-20.

Hosted at four of Hua Hin's best courses – Black Mountain, Banyan, Majestic Creek and Imperial Lake View – the Centara World Masters will have prizes worth more than \$ US70,000 to be awarded, including numerous lucky draws.

The Centara World Masters will adopt a proven format that has worked successfully in Australia as the Mitsubishi Masters for the past 18 years.

The event, for male and female club golfers aged over 35 with an official handicap, allows them to play in a four-round, 72-hole event similar to a professional tournament, with a major difference: it is held in 15 different age and handicap divisions, and there will be many winners.

Stay-and-play packages, including six nights' accommodation at local Hua Hin hotels, four rounds of golf, caddie and cart, welcome pack and the opening tournament dinner start at 26,495 baht.

The event further recognizes Hua Hin as a world-class golf destination. Last November, Hua Hin was named at the International Association of Golf Tourism Operators' annual conference, held in Spain, as Golf Destination of the Year for Asia and Australasia.

The tournament's headline sponsor is Centara Hotels & Resorts. It has been joined by TaylorMade-adidas Golf, Coca-Cola Thailand, Thai Beverage, Thai Airways, Golfasian and D'ablo Sportswear as official sponsors of the event.

An estimated 600 golfers from more than 25 countries are expected to participate. Tournament organizer, Peter McCarthy, says participants will have the opportunity to meet and play with golfers from around



Photo: Supplied

The Centara World Masters international amateur golf tournament will be held in Hua Hin.

the world and have a lot of fun.

The headline sponsor, Centara Hotels & Resorts, has committed to three years' support for the event.

For more information visit ThailandWorldMasters.com or to register, contact Golfasian in Bangkok, golfasian.com or call +66 2 714 8470.

The confirmed qualifiers

CHINA'S Wu Ashun is sure to savor the prospect of making his second appearance at The Open Championship after he successfully earned one of four tickets with a second round four-under-par 68 at the Open Qualifying Series in Chon Buri on March 7.

Japan's Hiroshi Iwata, who held the overnight lead, topped the 36-hole qualifying event when he signed off with a 71, for a two-day total of five-under-par 139 at the Amata Spring Country Club.

Chinese Taipei amateur Pan Cheng-tung will also get the chance to tee off against the world's best players after he posted identical 70s over two rounds to finish tied in second with Wu.

Japan's Tsukada Yoshinobu survived a four-way play-off and emerged as the last man standing when a par on the fourth extra hole was enough to seal his passage into The Open Championship, which will be held at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake from July 17-20.

Now that he has earned his ticket to The Open Championship, Wu is determined to display the same fighting spirit that saw



Photo: Supplied

The Open Championship qualifiers, from left: Tsukada Yoshinobu, Wu Ashun, Hiroshi Iwata, Pan Cheng-tung.

him overcome a slow start and power his way back into contention at the hotly contested two-day qualifier.

"I'm extremely happy as I was struggling with my round yesterday, but I managed to make up for all of that by getting a good score today," said Wu, who opened his qualifier with a 72 and started his round four shots behind

Iwata tied in 22nd position.

"Making my debut at The Open Championship was an eye opener for me last year. Now that I've qualified again, I'll make the best of my opportunity and try to put up a better performance," added the Chinese, who missed the cut last year.

Iwata is also relishing the prospects of making an impression

on the biggest stage when he makes his return to the world's oldest Major after an absence of six years.

Having seized pole position after the first round, Iwata continued his stranglehold of the lead with two birdies in his opening four holes.

His charge was halted when he bogeyed seven and eight. However,

another birdie on 11 brought him back to five-under where he would then make pars on the rest of his holes coming home.

"It's great to return to The Open Championship. It has been a long time, and I'm happy to be back. I trained hard for this week, and I'm glad the efforts finally paid off. I've been striking the ball well, and I was confident of my chances. I hope to carry this form over The Open Championship," said Iwata.

Pan is still feeling ecstatic about teeing up at The Open Championship despite having made two Major appearances at the US Open in 2011 and 2013.

"I'm still in a state of shock but at the same time I'm really happy with how I've played considering how tough this qualifier has been. I really hung in there during the last couple of holes," said Pan, who has been living in Seattle, United States since 2007.

The Open 2014 will be held at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake from July 17-20.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information visit: theopen.com.

Blue Canyon hosts BMW golf tournament

PHUKET'S Blue Canyon Country Club was the venue for the World Final of this year's BMW Golf Cup International.

The finalists from each country experienced an action-packed week of golf with BMW from March 10-15.

Around 100,000 players teed off at 800 tournaments in 50 countries, making the tournament series the largest in the world for amateur golfers.

This year also saw tournaments held in Angola, Kuwait and Ukraine for the first time.

BMW invited British golf legend Sir Nick Faldo, who gave an exclusive golf clinic and presented trophies at the closing gala dinner, and German Luger and double Olympic champion Natalie Geisenberger.

Yoshikazu Kato, one of Japan's most prolific golf course architects, developed the club's two golf courses on an abandoned tin mine, flanked by rubber plantations. Both courses were created around existing canyons and woodland, with minimal disturbance to the natural landscape and wildlife.

Last season, 13,000 amateur



Photo: Supplied

The World Final of the BMW Golf Cup International was held at the Blue Canyon Country Club.

golfers entered over 110 tournaments in the BMW Golf Club International in Germany alone.

For a final tournament report, visit: phuketgazette.net.

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Ratchanok tripped in the semis by a champ

OLYMPIC champion Li Xuerui avenged the most shocking setback of her career by overcoming Thailand's teen sensation Ratchanok Intanon to reach the final of the All-England Open championships on Saturday, March 8.

Rachanok had become the youngest-ever world champion at the age of 18 years by beating Li in the final in Guangzhou just seven months ago. But after a good start in Birmingham on Saturday she was outplayed 21-18, 21-8 by the 23-year-old Chinese player in the semi-finals.

Li, one of the most talented of stroke-makers, ended the match with a rush, taking advantage of Ratchanok's increasing discomfort from a calf injury, although the difference in the states of mind of the players was also significant.

Li was less tense than before her home crowd in August and since then Intanon has found the pressure tough as a target for everyone to beat.

"Compared with my three pre-

vious matches this was a much more relaxed performance," Li said.

"I was also more relaxed than in the world championships and I just tried to go for it."

She was not distracted by the possibility that Ratchanok might be injured, she claimed.

"Once I'm on court, no matter what the conditions, I want to play my best. Everyone has a different level on injury when we play," Li added.

Rachanok, who played well against Michelle Li of Canada in the quarter-finals, surged to an 11-5 lead this time and looked capable of reaching the final for a second successive year. But her standard fell away as Li's accuracy improved. Her movement became limited, too, despite one extraordinary shovelling retrieve over her head while retreating full tilt towards the back line.

Once Li got her nose in front at 14-13 the match became one-sided. "I couldn't control the game at all," said Ratchanok.

"But I will try to gain more experience and get my level back up." Li's win ensured a Chinese player will win the women's singles for the 14th time in 18 years. Only Danish players have stopped them during these years; however this is the first All-England since 1937 in which no Danes have reached the semi-finals.

Li's final opponent is Wang Shixian, the 2011 All-England champion, who beat Wang Yihan, the former world champion, with surprising ease by 21-8, 21-15.

Earlier, Lee Chong Wei, the world No 1 from Malaysia, made a tremendous recovery from a game and 15-17 down against Son Wan Ho before squeezing out a thrilling 14-21, 21-19, 21-15 win against the Korean. It earned Lee a repeat of last year's final against Chen Long, the defending champion from China, who progressed more comfortably with a 21-17, 21-14 win over his compatriot Wang Zhengming.

— The Nation



Photo: B20180

Rachanok beat Li in the final in Guangzhou just seven months ago.

Time to kick on for paralyzed Thai soccer

GIVEN that the fallout from the Thai FA's controversial presidential election has left Thai footballing authorities paralysed since October, fans can only hope that the trial at the Court of Arbitration for Sport later this month will bring an end to the long drawn-out saga.

Since winning the election to retain his post for a fourth consecutive term five months ago, Worawi Makudi has yet to officially assume his role as the FA boss following allegations of irregularities in the poll.

The controversy centred on representatives of member clubs claiming voting rights they were allegedly not entitled to. The legal wrangle that ensued has left a power vacuum at the Football Association ever since.

Virach Chanpanich, who suffered a second successive defeat to Worawi in FA presidential elections, had exhausted all other options and brought the case to the Switzerland-based court, where the trial is scheduled for March 24-27. The 64-year-old, whose previous bid to dislodge the incumbent also ended in similar controversial circumstances, has accused the FA of violating rules governing the election.

Narinpong Jinaphak, the FA's lawyer, expressed confidence at a press conference on Friday that the association would win the case, saying he had documents to prove that the election was staged legally.

Virach's prospect of winning the case seemingly took a further blow when Wiwatchai Kunlamart, the chairman of the FA-appointed electoral committee's appeal panel, said at the same conference that he would not travel to Switzerland to testify as Virach's witness. It had earlier been reported that Wiwatchai's name was mentioned in a



Thailand's soccer is still in the shadow of the controversial Thai FA presidential election. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

complaint Virach filed with the CAS.

Whether the CAS rules in Virach's favour or not, those involved should accept the decision because we have already wasted too much time on this issue. We must be aware that the eventual loser in this power struggle won't just be an individual but the whole footballing community in Thailand.

It was heartening to see Thailand manage to clinch their first major international

trophy in six years by reclaiming the SEA Games title in Myanmar in December, despite the turmoil off the field. Former national striker Kiattisak "Zico" Senamuang was widely feted for his under-23 side's success in Nay Pyi Taw.

But, the 40-year-old coach was given a reality check in his first match in charge of the senior side against Lebanon in the Asian Cup qualifying match on Wednesday when

the Thais slumped to a 5-2 loss at home.

The result was of little importance to the Thais as they had already been eliminated ahead of the final Group B match. But it showed that there is still much work to be done if Thailand are to succeed at the international level. So the sooner this court battle ends, the better it will be for Thai football.

— The Nation

Sochi exceeding all expectations



Ukraine's Vitalii Sytnyk skis during the men's 20km cross-country. Photo: Alexander Demianchuk

By Alexei Anishchuk

THE world Paralympics chief praised Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday for staging a "fantastic" Winter Paralympic Games and said the competition in Sochi was on track to become the most successful ever.

"The Games are exceeding all expectations in every single area," International Paralympic Committee President Phil Cra-

ven said in a statement on the March 7-16 extravaganza in the Russian Black Sea resort.

In a meeting at Putin's residence in Sochi, Craven said the Games have been well-organised and "attended by amazing crowds, Russian crowds."

"With ... the organising committee and with your incredible support, we are having fantastic Games here," the Briton told Putin and other Russian officials.



Vladimir Putin meets with President of the International Paralympic Committee Philip Craven. Photo: REUTERS/Alexei Nikolskyi/RIA Novosti/Kremlin

Bayern Oust Arsenal, Costa Inspires Atletico

By Toby Davis

BAYERN Munich kept Arsenal at bay to reach the Champions League quarter-finals with a 3-1 aggregate win on Tuesday while Diego Costa scored twice as Atletico Madrid won 4-1 on the night to knock out AC Milan.

Bayern, defending a 2-0 lead from the first leg, increased their grip on the last 16 tie when Bastian Schweinsteiger was left unmarked to convert a Franck Ribery cross.

Arsenal's Lukas Podolski gave the visiting fans hope of an unlikely comeback when he beat goalkeeper Manuel Neuer at his near post, but Bayern finished stronger with Thomas Mueller missing a penalty.

Atletico welcomed Milan to the Calderon with a 1-0 lead from the first leg and increased their aggregate advantage to 2-0 after three minutes when Costa launched himself into the air to hook home a Koke cross from close range.

Milan drew level when Kaka headed in at the far post just before the half-hour mark but the wind was taken out of their sails when Arda Turan scored with a deflected effort from distance five minutes before the break.

Raul Garcia headed in a third with 19 minutes left and Costa made it 4-1 on the night and 5-1 over the two legs with a clinical finish across the face of goal that went in off the post.

— Reuters



Canada's Matt Hallat skis during the men's standing skiing Super G. Photo: Christian Hartmann.

More than 300,000 tickets have been sold for the event, eclipsing the previous Winter Paralympic record of 230,000 sold in Vancouver four years ago, the IPC said.

"To break the 300,000 barrier is sensational and I know the Organising Committee is working hard to try to create extra capacity to cater for the huge demand for tickets," Craven said in the statement.

"The Russian crowds also deserve huge credit for making these Games a huge success. Their vocal support has inspired the athletes and, what has pleased me the most, is that their support has not just been for Russian athletes but for athletes from all 45 countries.

"It's the Paralympic effect in action. No matter where the Games go, they have an ability to transform sports fans into sports fans for all, supporting all sides and all athletes."

Putin echoed those sentiments, "I was at some competitions and I must say that after a couple of minutes watching these competitions, one totally forgets that these are people with certain limited physical abilities. And this, of course, produces a very strong emotional impression," he said.

"And of course we cannot but be pleased with our team's progress at the competitions: 34 medals including 11

golds. We are very proud of our athletes."

Organisers said they had raised \$95 million from their marketing program, a new record for a Paralympic Winter Games.

"Companies are realising the full value of a Paralympic partnership, whilst broadcasters are delighted at the sensational pictures provided by OBS (Olympic Broadcast Service) and the inspirational stories from athletes that they can provide their viewers with around the world.

"The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games are on course to be the best and most successful ever."

The Paralympics follow the February 7-23 Sochi Winter Olympic Games for which Russia spent more than \$50 billion on hosting and related infrastructure in the Black Sea resort.

Neither Putin nor Craven publicly mentioned the standoff between Russia and the West over Ukraine, where Western governments say Russian forces have seized the Crimea region and Putin has reserved the right to send in the armed forces.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. It organises Summer and Winter Paralympic Games and serves as the International Federation for nine sports.

— Reuters

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