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Teen twins
confess
to rape

Police make arrest after
25-year-old pregnant
woman attacked

INSIDE TODAY

April 26 - May 2, 2014

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Bungy jump raids

Deadly test at illegal bungy tower leads to island-wide safety blitz

By Chutharat Plerin

TWO men plummeting 52 meters to their deaths from a bungy-jump tower in Chalong last Friday night has incited a safety blitz on all bungy towers across Phuket.

"Any bungy jumps on the island found to be unsafe must be shut down," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut ordered this week.

Co-owner of the operation Tossaporn Suksri, 27, and his bungy-jump mechanic Pitakchai Wongsricha, 30, fell to their deaths at about 9pm after a cable attached to the platform they were standing on snapped.

A third man, Anupong Kantawong, 37, had been tethered to a bungy cord and jumped from the platform just before...



World Bungy Jump Patong has been safely operating their 60-meter tower, claimed to be the tallest in Thailand, for over a decade. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

Continued on Page 4

Frenchman killed during robbery: cops

POLICE believe that a French national found beaten to death in a rented bungalow at a Rawai resort on April 18 was killed during a robbery.

CCTV footage from the area shows one of the two suspects carrying a white towel that is believed to conceal the Frenchman's laptop.

Full story on Page 3

Kata officials stand against Club Med

LOCAL officials marched on the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization office demanding that a new lease for Club Med not be signed.

The establishment's lease for 39 rai of government land fronting Kata Beach will end in 2015.

Full story on Page 5

Kamala joins battle against black water

RESIDENTS in Kamala have demanded something be done about rancid black water running into a canal that leads to the ocean.

Hoping to avoid a similar fate to Karon Beach, they have applied for a 300-million-baht wastewater treatment plant.

Full story on Page 7

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This Week



Property

Seacon announces 1bn baht development in Phuket. **Page 13**



Business

Patong bars take a hit with several recent alcohol bans. **Page 17**



Food

Controversial French delicacy in all its shades at Trisara. **Page 36**



Cycling

Take off on a quick day trip to serene Coconut Island. **Page 40**



Aviation

Phuket Airpark set to expand aerial offerings this year. **Page 42-43**



Sport

Man Utd sacks manager after ten months of failure. **Page 51**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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PACC to plunge into police graft inquiry

By Chutharat Plerin

A PUBLIC-sector Anti Corruption Commission (PACC) team on April 28 will begin its investigation into extortion charges lodged last month by 41 members of the Phuket dive community.

"At least nine PACC officers will form the investigation team. They will stay for as long as it takes to ensure that we have enough information to proceed with the case," Director of PACC Region 4 Lt Col Wannop Somjintanakul told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"They will question all parties involved, including the accused police officers and the dive instructors who filed the complaints against them."

The PACC declined to reveal any of the information already gathered.

"We have some information regarding the extortion allegations. However, we cannot reveal how many officers are under investigation or what charges will be pressed," Lt Col Wannop said.

"Any officer deemed guilty will be prosecuted. We will announce our findings and relevant charges as soon as we can."

PACC Secretary Prayong Preeyachitt vowed on March 27



Lt Col Wannop (left) and Mr Prayong were both present to receive a complaint from dive instructors late last month. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

to organize a thorough investigation that would conclude with legal action against any officer believed guilty of extortion.

Then, on April 2, Phuket Provincial Police Commander

Ong-art Phiewruangnont revealed that he had ordered the transfer of Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazintharasorn amid graft charges levied against him.

Politics no laughing matter

ANTI-government protesters have prevented another well-known celebrity from performing in Phuket, this time the nationally renowned comedian Pongsak Pongsuwan, better known by his stage name Teng Terdtheong.

Mr Teng was set to appear in the Sam Cha Carniwow event at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town last Friday night.

Mr Teng, an open supporter of Thaksin Shinawatra, did not perform so as to avoid conflicts in Phuket, said Pantipa Upatising, managing director of S U Suzuki Phuket, one of the event sponsors.

Protest leader Suratin Lianudom told the *Gazette*, "Last year, Mr Teng got on stage at red-shirt leader Nutthawut Saikua's birth-

day party and called for Mr Thaksin to come home, which made a lot of people very angry.

"Mr Teng supports Mr Thaksin, so I am glad he is not showing up. It is only Mr Teng we do not want in town; the rest of the performers are fine."

On January 5, anti-government protesters forced the cancellation of a Phuket Red Cross concert because Sek "Seksan Sukpimai" Loso, who supported the national election and called out for people to cast their votes, was scheduled to perform. — Chutharat Plerin



Mr Teng (right). Photo: Supplied

Hit-and-run Russians run

CHALONG Police have obtained arrest warrants for two Russians who fled the country amid an investigation into a fatal hit-and-run of a 16-year-old boy in Phuket in the early hours of April 5.

Thananbavorn "Lotus" Durongpan was struck by a black Vios driven by Larisa Kim, 40, while riding his motorbike near Chalong Circle, explained Capt Thada Sodarak of the Chalong Police.

"Phuket Immigration has confirmed that Ms Kim and her



Larisa Kim (above) and Valentin Kim. Photos: Supplied



Mr Kim was following in another car. — Woranut Pechdee

husband, Valentin, left Thailand on the night of April 5," Capt Thada said.

"The Immigration Bureau has added the couple to the border watch list, and we are working with the Russian honorary consul in Phuket on what can be done from here."

Witnesses reported that the Vios made a sharp u-turn near a gas station and crashed into Mr Thananbavorn, who was driving alongside the car.



A sword through a heart.

Unique tattoos may identify body at beach

POLICE are trying to establish the identity of a body, believed to be of a foreign man, found floating off Pansea Beach on Monday morning.

The gruesome discovery was made by Santisuk Patkhim, a beach guard at the upscale Amanpuri Resort.

The body has two tattoos that might help identify who the man was, explained Lt Col Rassada Kluengwong of the Cherng Talay Police.

"A tattoo on the back of the left hand looks like a letter. Another tattoo on the inner right forearm pictures a sword through a heart," he told the *Gazette*.

Any persons who believe they have information that might help identify the body are urged to call Lt Thanapop Rattanaburi at 083-0124999 or the Cherng Talay Police Station at 076-325630.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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Teen twins confess to raping pregnant woman

TWIN brothers on Tuesday confessed to the rape, sexual assault, assault and robbery of a 25-year-old pregnant woman along a dark road in Mai Khao last Sunday.

"The suspects face all four charges including 'use of a vehicle in a robbery and evasion of police'," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee said on Tuesday.

"They claim that they had not originally intended to rape the woman, but had set out to rob her," Col Peerayut said.

"However, after kicking the bike out from under her, they dragged her into the woods and both raped her."

The woman told police earlier that she had begged the teens to leave her alone, as

she was five months pregnant.

One of the 17-year-old boys denied any knowledge of her being pregnant, but the other said he ceased his part in the rape after hearing the woman scream she was with child.

Police hunted down the twins after questioning the woman and locals in the area of the attack. The pair was arrested in their house in Thepkasattri subdistrict.

"We found the suspects in the house with the clothes they were wearing during the attack. We also found the motorbike they were driving," Col Peerayut said.

The twins were taken to Tah Chat Chai Police Station, where they confessed.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



The twins confessed to attacking and raping the woman. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong



Poorly fitted life jackets may ride up and endanger snorkellers' lives. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Tourist drowns, prompts life jacket warning

THE chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has issued a warning over the improper use of life jackets following a Chinese tourist drowning while snorkelling off Racha Yai Island last Saturday.

Ting Hong, 29, was found unconscious while snorkelling on a day trip with about 30 other tourists who had departed Chalong Pier early that morning.

"At about 11:30am, Ms Ting was spotted floating far away from the other snorkellers," said Lt Wuttiwat Liang-boonjinda of the Chalong Police.

"After a lifeguard rescued the unconscious woman, she was rushed to The Racha Resort, the only place on the island where a nurse was on duty."

The nurse at the resort attempted to resuscitate Ms Ting for an hour, but was not able to revive her, said Lt Wuttiwat.

Ms Ting was wearing a life jacket while snorkelling.

"But if you are not a good swimmer, you need to have someone keeping an eye on you while you are in the water," said PPHO chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus.

"Moreover, boat passengers must make sure they are wearing their life jackets properly. The jacket must be fastened at the chest and also in between the legs.

"If it is only fastened at the top and someone jumps into the water, the pressure could push the jacket up around the neck and make it hard to manage."

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Police begin manhunt for Frenchman's killers

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MORE than 100 police officers were dispatched on Monday to scour Rawai for clues in apprehending two men suspected of murdering a French national in his rented bungalow last Friday night.

"The officers were sent out to collect more evidence and search the Rawai area," Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee said on Tuesday.

"The officers are to pay particular attention workers' camps."

The body of Fabrice Boigeol, 37, was found lying in a pool of blood partially under a stripped mattress in his rented room at the Moragot [Emerald] Resort, off Saiyuan Road.

Officers believe the Frenchman was killed in the midst of a bungled robbery.

"Mr Boigeol's room looked as though it had been ransacked, so we believe he was killed during a robbery," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee at a briefing on Monday.

"While searching the room, we found a laptop charger, but could



Police believe Frenchman Fabrice Boigeol was murdered during a bungled robbery. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

not find the laptop. We also noticed that the bungalow next to Mr Boigeol's showed signs of a break-in – the door knob to the room was broken."

Police checked the resort's CCTV and found footage of two men, whom the receptionist did not recognize, in the hotel about

the time they believe the killing occurred.

"We can see two men on CCTV, one of whom was carrying a white towel. We believe the towel was used to conceal stolen property," said Col Peerayut.

"We are working on identifying the suspects, but the video

footage was low quality. We will check more CCTV footage in the area for any information that might lead us to them."

Mr Boigeol checked into the resort on March 6, and had planned to check out on April 21.

The French Embassy has been informed of the death.



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Laundry raided over wastewater poisoning wells

A COMMERCIAL laundry in Chalong has been ordered to restrict its operations pending an inquiry into untreated wastewater poisoning private wells and killing fish in a nearby canal.

Officials led by Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol on April 18 raided the laundry, located along a dirt track off Soi Klumyang, about 300 meters south of Wat Chalong.

"Just the stench alone can be unbearable," Mayor Samran said.

"Also, it seems the wastewater has permeated the water table and contaminated the underground water sources that local residents use to cook with and bathe in."

Mayor Samran ordered that the laundry restrict its operations to ensure that all wastewater dispensed by the facility was comprehensively treated at its on-site water-treatment plant.

"We have called the laundry's management to meet with officials at Chalong Municipality. The laundry has its own water-treatment plant, but it may not have the capacity to treat all the wastewater being discharged by the facility," he said. — **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Navy defamation case against PhuketWan moves forward

By Gazette Reporters

ALAN Morison and Chutima Sidasathian of local blog *PhuketWan* were released on bail on April 17 after facing charges of criminal defamation and other offenses in connection with a story they published on trafficking in Rohingya.

Mr Morison and Ms Chutima published a story last July that contained excerpts from a Reuters Special Report alleging that some Thai naval security forces worked with people smugglers to profit from the exodus.

The court ruled that the case against the two journalists should proceed and set the first hearing for May 26.

Bail was said to be posted on their behalf by the 'Andaman Community Rights and Legal Aid Centre'. The accused had made repeated claims over several months that they themselves would not pay bail as a matter of principle.

Two Reuters journalists, Jason

Szep and Andrew RC Marshall, won a Pulitzer prize on April 14 for a year-long series of stories on the Rohingya written from Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia.

The complaint against *PhuketWan* was filed by a naval officer based in Phuket.

The officer has also filed a criminal complaint against Reuters, Mr Szep and another Reuters journalist, Stuart Grudgings, alleging violations of the Computer Crimes Act. That complaint is believed to be under review by Thai authorities, a Reuters spokeswoman said on April 17.

Reuters has not been charged and stands by its reporting, she said.

"Our story was the product of extensive reporting and is fair, balanced and contextualized," the spokeswoman said.

Mr Morison and Ms Chutima face up to two years in prison on the defamation charges and five years for offenses under the Computer Crimes Act.

An officer at the Phuket Pro-



Alan Morison and Chutima Sidasathian stand outside the court.

vincial Court affirmed that the *Gazette* is not permitted to report any testimony during the trial.

"The media can report who arrived on which days to testify, but

no statements given in court can be publicly reported until the trial has concluded," the officer said.

Phuket's mainline English-language media have not voiced an opinion on the case.

Officials launch blitz after bungy jumping fatalities



Jungle Bungy was one of several established bungy jumping businesses facing safety checks after the deaths at the illegal jump. Photo: Supplied

From page 1

...it collapsed, crashing into the pond below.

He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital immediately after the accident, later transferred to Phuket International Hospital, and discharged the next day after being treated for a broken cheek bone, a hospital staffer told the *Gazette*.

After inspecting the site of the fatal fall, Governor Maitri ordered police to investigate the legality of the yet-to-open tower located off Soi Palai, near the Phuket Zoo.

"I have received a report that the tower was illegal. The owners were issued a permit to construct a building 12 meters tall, but they erected a structure reaching up to 52 meters," he said.

The governor blamed recklessness for the fatal fall, though police confirmed that Mr Tossaporn had

the system tested several times using heavy items, including a 75kg sandbag.

As the tests went well, Mr Tossaporn reportedly suggested a final test using people.

However, Gov Maitri pointed out that the tests were carried out at night.

"They would have had a hard time checking the equipment properly," he said. "Moreover, they did not have experience. Bungy jumps must be built to standards and tested by experts."

Gov Maitri called on local administration officials to ensure building regulations were being followed.

"Officials must inspect construction sites after issuing building permits. They must also make sure buildings are not in risk areas, such as places prone to landslides, and that the structures do not breach height restrictions."

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Locals threaten rally over Club Med lease

By Saran Mitrarat

KATA-KARON officials on April 17 threatened public protests if the lease for the Club Med resort located on 39 rai of public land along the Kata beachfront is renewed.

The 30-year lease, which began in 1985, will expire on September 24 next year.

"For 30 years we have been waiting for the contract to expire," said Kamnan Winai Chidchiew, who led a delegation of 10 Kata and Karon officials to file the petition at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) office.

"We do not want the PPAO to renew the contract for the Holiday Villages (Thailand) Co, Ltd, also known as Club Med Phuket."

The application to renew the contract must be filed at least 30 days before the contract expires. Holiday Villages (Thailand) has applied to renew the contract, explained PPAO Vice President Chawalit Na Nakorn.

"If you want us to have a public feedback hearing before we make a decision, we can do that," Mr Chawalit said.

Kamnan Winai argued that the land could be better used for the benefit of residents.

"This land could be a beach zone for tourists and local people. We could build a public park here, or set up an exhibition that would help preserve local culture," he said.

The lease began on September 25, 1985, and requires Holiday Village (Thailand) to pay rent and donations to the PPAO and Karon



Officers sign the petition against allowing Club Med to renew its contract on the Kata beachfront.

Municipality. The rent of 5,982 baht has not changed, but the amount of donations has increased incrementally over the course of the lease.

In 1985, the yearly donation to the PPAO was 650,000 baht and to Karon Municipality 250,000 baht, with an additional 100,000 baht to be used for Kata Beach maintenance. The donation to the PPAO is now three million baht

and to the Karon Municipality, 650,000 baht; the cost of Kata Beach maintenance remains at 100,000, Mr Chawalit said.

In the lease, Holiday Village (Thailand) also agreed to finance various public works, including the construction of a road, beachfront sidewalk, two parking lots, public bathrooms and changing rooms, and the purchase and remodeling of a school.

The meeting on April 17 to consider the renewal of the contract was postponed, as PPAO President Paiboon Upatising was in Bangkok.

"I will consider the petition and raise your concerns in the meeting. We have to look after the interest of the majority. If they don't want us to renew the contract, then, for sure, President Paiboon won't do it," Mr Chawalit said.



The one-stop yacht center is finally open. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

One-stop yacht center opens, amid confusion

TWO years behind schedule and 70 million baht in the making, Phuket's long-awaited one-stop yacht center opened on Monday for a two-week trial period.

The opening came with some system bugs, including issues with computers to register yachts as they entered, creating long queues as officers scrambled to log everyone in hard copy, explained Phuket Provincial Administration Office Transportation Division Chief Prasit Yotharak on Tuesday.

The rotunda-style building at the end of Chalong Pier, originally slated for completion in 2012, has an administration room, immigration office, customs office, plant and animal quarantine area and an office for Phuket Marine officials, Phuket Marine Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut said.

Yachts will be tracked by the Automatic Identification System (AIS). The control center for the system is at the one-stop center, and relay towers have been installed in Karon, Rawai and at the Phuket Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut hopes that the one-stop yacht center will raise yachting standards in Phuket and benefit the island as part of the future Asean Economic Community (AEC), which comes into effect next year.

— Woranut Pechdee




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Korean Association to collect donations for ferry victims, celebrate fair

THE Korean Association in Phuket is collecting money to help those affected by the sinking of the South Korean ferry last week – both survivors and victims' families.

Only 174 of the 476 people on board the sinking ferry were rescued, and as the *Gazette* went to print on Wednesday, the death toll had reached 146 with more than 100 still missing.

"We have called on Korean Associations throughout Thailand to collect donations for the victims of the accident," said Kim Tae Weon, president of the Korean Association in Phuket.

"At this stage we have yet to plan any fundraisers or open accounts into which people can deposit donations. However, if anyone would like to donate, please call our office at 076-211 499."

At a press conference led by Governor Maitri Inthasut on April 17, Mr Kim announced the plans for Korean Day 2014 on May 11, which will feature the popular K-Tiger Taekwondo demonstration team.

"The highlight of this year's fair will be the K-Tigers Taekwondo Show, a taekwondo fight demonstration mixed with Korean pop music. It will be a very impressive show," said Mr Kim.

"The event will showcase Korean culture, and will feature a fashion doll exhibition, 3-D art and traditional Korean food, as well as games, paper crafts and folk art.

"Proceeds will go toward a scholarship to help promote education for children in Thailand and will also help to build schools in rural areas of Phuket," said Mr Kim.

Korean Day 2014 kicks off at 3pm, and the K-Tigers show will begin at 5:30pm.

Tickets for the fair at Saphan Hin Stadium are priced at 200 baht for general admission and 500 baht for VIP seating. Only 1,500 tickets are available.

– *Saran Mittrarat*



The K-Tigers show their fighting spirit.

Residents cheer on Chalong north-south underpass road

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

LOCAL residents voted on Monday to approve a route for the Chalong underpass: a two-way underpass stretching one kilometer long that joins Chao Fa West Road and Wiset Road.

The selected route was chosen at the second public hearing for the project, held at The Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town.

The chosen route was among four options presented on Monday. The other three options were:

- A two-way underpass joining Chao Fa West Road and Wiset Road, and a two-way flyover joining Chao Fa East Road and Wiset Road;

- A one-way southbound

underpass from Chao Fa East Road and a one-way southbound underpass from Chao Fa West Road, both joining Wiset Road;

- A two-way flyover joining Chao Fa West Road and Wiset Road.

Two options presented at the first public hearing, held in July

last year, were dropped due to lack of support.

"Solving the traffic problem at Chalong Circle is critical. We have to fix it as fast as possible," said Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol also voiced his support for the project.

"More than 10,000 motorists use the circle every day, causing heavy traffic during rush hours. I support the underpass chosen, as it will help to ease traffic while not creating an eyesore," he said.

"I admit that traffic will be worse while the underpass is being built, but we will try to find alternative routes for motorists during the construction phase."

Flood prevention was a key concern for Mayor Samran.

"This [flood prevention] must be sorted out. We all know that flash floods can strike at any time when heavy rain comes," he said.

Rawai Mayor Arun Solos joined others in voicing his support for the project.



'Solving the traffic problem at Chalong Circle is critical. We have to fix it as fast as possible'

– *Phuket Governor, Maitri Inthasut*



Rawai Mayor Arun Solos voiced his approval of the underpass project, noting the importance of the Chalong intersection.

"Chalong Circle is very important. It connects the main roads from the north of the island to many tourist attractions: Kata Beach, Karon Beach, Promthep Cape, Rawai Beach, Nai Harn

Beach and Chalong Pier," Mayor Arun said.

Monday's hearing was held as part of the 9-million-baht feasibility study for the project, which is scheduled to conclude in August.

Beauty from down under films promo



Miss Universe Australia 2010, Jesinta Campbell. Photo: TAT

PHUKET hosted Miss Universe Australia 2010 for this year's Songkran Festival.

Jesinta Campbell, 22, was in town shooting an Australian TV show to showcase tourist destinations in Thailand.

Ms Campbell was chosen by *The Getaway* to be the face of a six-episode series covering tourist hot spots in Phuket and Phang Nga, said Anoma Wongyai, director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Phuket Office.

"*The Getaway* contacted the TAT office in Sydney and mentioned they would like to do a story about Phuket and Phang Nga, and that Ms Campbell would be hosting it," Ms Anoma said.

"TAT Phuket suggested activities and destinations for the show to cover. Ms Campbell stayed at Vijitt Resort at Friendship Beach in Rawai, and the show highlighted luxury accommodations, spa treatments and beaches in the area."

Ms Campbell took advantage of Thai culture during the Songkran holiday by making merit at Wat Suwankirirong in Patong, engaging in Soi Bangla's massive water fight and building sand stupa on Kata Beach.

The Australian beauty ambassador also took a Thai cooking class at the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town, after which she was scheduled to film in Phang Nga taking a tour of the islands and going on an elephant trek.

"Ms Campbell's visit with *The Getaway* is a good opportunity to promote Phuket as a tourist destination, and to present our rich Thai culture to foreigners," said Ms Anoma.

– *Saran Mittrarat*



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Rancid klong riles villagers

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET officials pushed for a 300-million-baht water-treatment plant on April 18 after Kamala residents filed a complaint about stinking black wastewater.

Officials and residents chalked the rancid water up to laundries and residents washing clothes and releasing the untreated wastewater into a canal that connects to the sea, said Krit Sariya, chief of the Kamala branch of the Community Organizations Development Institute.

"We want the Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) to find a solution to the wastewater problem as soon as possible," Mr Krit said.

"If we do nothing, we will end up with a black water problem like Karon and Bang Tao. We want solutions, so this does not affect our environmental image or tourism."

Phuket officials met at the Kamala OrBorTor office to discuss both long-term and short-term solutions to the problem in an effort to prevent an overflow of wastewater into the sea.

"For the long-term, I think a



Kamala residents want solutions for the rancid water running through the local canal. Photo: Nirut Sariya

water treatment plant is important. We have already applied for 300mn baht from the 2015 fiscal year budget to build it," said Kamala Mayor Karun Sriden.

"In the meantime, we will dredge the canal to remove the

smelly mud and install a net at the mouth of the canal to catch any garbage. The dredging should be completed in three months.

"Officers will be randomly inspecting houses and laundries, including washing machine ser-

vices, to make sure they are not dumping untreated wastewater into the canal."

See related editorial on page 18 and wastewater issues in Chalong on page 4

Health office on the watch for MERS

HEALTH officials at Phuket International Airport have ramped up efforts to identify anyone arriving in Phuket suspected of carrying the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

The news follows the death of a Malaysian man from complications caused by MERS after he returned from Saudi Arabia, in what appears to be the first fatal case in Southeast Asia.

"We received an order from the Ministry of Public Health in Bangkok on Friday," Phuket Provincial Health Organization (PPHO) chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"We have been told to boost surveillance of all arriving tourists who may be carrying the virus, especially those arriving from the Middle East."

Any travellers showing signs of influenza will be checked at the airport's Disease Control Center.

— Woranut Pechdee

For more information, see page 11

Pride parade to block beach road in Patong

PHUKET Pride Week 2014 will go out with a bang on Sunday with its Grand Parade – the highlight of the eight-day event – marching down Patong's beachfront road.

The beach road will be blocked during the parade, which starts at 3pm at Soi Tan and will present a plethora of floats, fantastically dressed people, street entertainment and music.

The Grand Parade has been a big crowd-pleaser for years, and hordes of people are expected to line the streets on Sunday for the wild and colorful spectacle.

Phuket Pride Week 2014 has been a fun week for all – gay,



The parade will take place on Sunday. Photo: Gazette file

straight or undecided.

All profits made from the event will be donated to The Phuket Loves You Club (PLU)/PRIDE charities. — Chutharat Plerin

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Lives lost down the drain

City council contractors escape jail terms for sewer deaths

By Chutharat Plerin

THE investigation into the deaths of four workers in a Phuket Town sewer last month has ruled that the two companies involved will face fines only.

The news follows the Phuket office of the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare (DLPW) concluding its investigation last Saturday.

"The next step is to send the case to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut," said Saijai Luesup, who headed the investigation. "He will review the case and decide how much to fine the companies."

The maximum fine that can be imposed per company is 400,000 baht per incident, not per death, as stipulated by the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act 2011.

The act also mandates that provincial governors decide on the fines to be imposed on employers in cases where the DLPW rules that the employer under investigation should not face a jail term or criminal negligence charges.

"However, if they do not pay the fines, we will hand the case over to the police so that they can press charges," Ms Saijai said.

"The criminal charges in these cases carry a fine of up to 400,000 baht, up to one year in prison, or both."

The four workers died on March 26 after becoming overpowered by lethal amounts of hydrogen sulfide in the sewer they were cleaning.

Four others were hospitalized because of the fumes.

However, Ms Saijai said her investigation found that the workers



The four men descended into a Phuket Town sewer after allowing it to air out for more than 45 minutes, but the fumes still overwhelmed them. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

were mainly at fault for their own deaths.

"From the statements given, we learned that the maintenance team followed most of the regulations before they went down into the sewer, but did not wear the appropriate safety equipment," she said.

"The workers made a grave mistake by not wearing their masks and safety gear. All of the equipment was found in the car next to the site."

Two representatives from Southern Thai Consulting Co Ltd, the company that directly hired the four workers, attested that the workers attended a safety and job-planning meeting on the morning of the accident.

"The workers arrived and, as part of the safety regulations, opened the sewer and allowed it to air out for 30 minutes. Then they tested the gas inside to make sure it was not at a dangerous level.

"The first results came back safe, so Thawat Chitchollatarn went into the drain," Ms Saijai explained.

"Mr Thawat was in the sewer for 10 minutes before he came back up to report that the odor in the pipe was overwhelming him."

The workers then decided to air out the pipe for 15 more minutes before Mr Thawat went back down.

"The second time they aired it out, they did not re-test the gas

levels before entering the drain," she said.

Minutes later, Ms Saijai explained, Sanan Buachoom noticed that Mr Thawat had fallen unconscious, so he descended the ladder to assist him. The other two men, Apisit Tipprasong and Mr Thawat's brother Suchet, watched as Mr Sanan passed out as well, so they went inside in an attempt to rescue the others.

The foreman overseeing the four workers was standing by during the entire sequence of events, watching as the four men fatally entered the sewer one by one, Ms Saijai confirmed.

However, she added, "There is no need to name the foreman because the investigation has concluded."

The investigation team extended partial liability for the four deaths to Southern Thai Consulting's parent company, Eastern Thai Consulting 1992 Co Ltd, but not to Phuket City Municipality, which offered the government contract.

Pimook Sornmee, manager of Eastern Thai Consulting, on March 27 branded the incident as "tragic" and "both an accident and a mistake".

Mr Pimook announced that his company would compensate the families of the deceased for their loss and cover the treatment costs for his staff, and the rescue workers, harmed in the incident.

"We are taking into account the economic situations of each family, and how we can take care of them," he explained.

Each family who lost a loved one will receive 100,000 baht for the funeral arrangements, he said.

Seven Days of Danger leaves one dead, 22 injured during Songkran

THE Songkran Seven Days of Danger national road-safety campaign drew to a close at midnight on April 17 with Phuket amassing a tally of one death and 22 people injured during the week-long holiday period.

"There were 22 accidents during the campaign, which is 15.38 per cent fewer than last year. The number of people injured decreased by 18.52 per cent," reported Saeree Panitkul, the chief administrative officer at the Phuket Provincial Office.

The final statistics for the period, compiled by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket), showed no deaths, no injuries and no accidents in the final 24 hours of the campaign.

"Of the 15 males and seven females injured, 11 were not from Phuket. However, five were chil-



Three men were injured when a water truck flipped in Kata, but only one entered the island's casualty statistics. Photo: Supplied

dren," Mr Saeree reported.

The most dangerous time on the roads was from 4 to 8pm, during which 12 accidents occurred, he added.

Phuket's sole fatality during the campaign was Nannika Boonchorn, 27, from Chaiphum, who died in a high-speed head-on collision with a motorcycle with

a sidecar last Sunday. Her blood alcohol concentration was recorded at 0.268 BAC.

Mr Saeree pointed out that Phang Nga recorded no road deaths during the seven days, while Krabi had three fatalities.

Police stopped 26,981 vehicles during the week, and reported 5,142 moving violations. Of those, 2,578 were motorists caught driving without a licence.

The Phuket Marine office reported zero fatalities and zero injuries during the campaign, despite 69,169 passengers on 1,968 boats arriving in Phuket and 71,536 passengers on 1,975 boats departing during the seven days.

The DDPM national headquarters in Bangkok reported the nationwide road death toll for the entire seven days as 322 dead and 3,225 injured in 2,992 accidents.

— Saran Mitratat

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AROUND THE nation



One concerned raised was over the habitat of the Siamese crocodiles. Photo: The Nation

Thailand battles UNESCO forest complex listing

TO PREVENT the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex receiving an undesired World Heritage Sites in Danger listing, Thailand needs to get more than 10 votes of support from the World Heritage Committee when it meets in Qatar in June.

In a bid to enhance its chances of warding off the listing, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) will set up a special committee to oversee the forest complex.

UNESCO's World Heritage Center recently sent an official letter to Thai authorities, informing them that it would list the forest complex – a World Heritage site since 2005 – as an area in danger unless a number of concerns could be clarified, reported *The Nation*.

"We need to work hard to explain and convince the World Heritage Committee about what we have done to protect this area in the past several years," said Songtam Suksawang, who heads the National Parks and Protected Areas Innovation Institute.

The DNP submitted on Tuesday a full report explaining its operations to protect this World Heritage site from threats such as dam constructions, road extensions and illegal logging.

Thaksin to 'sacrifice family'

FORMER prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is ready to "sacrifice his family" by ending its political roles so the country can emerge from the ongoing political impasse and move forward, his close aide said on Monday.

However, Mr Thaksin wants his political enemies to adhere to the rules and laws, according to Noppadon Pattama, Thaksin's legal adviser and spokesman.

"He is not the root cause of the country's problem. The problem was caused by the failure to adhere to the rules and the failure to respect the people's decision [at the ballot box]."

"He is ready to sacrifice for the country and to have his family end their political career so that the country can move forward."

"But other people also must be ready to sacrifice. It's no use if he ends his roles but Suthep [Suthep Thaugsuban, secretary-general of the anti-government People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC)] still sends the PDRC to interrupt the election," he said.

The PDRC shrugged off Mr Thaksin's latest offer.

"Our goal is to get Thaksin into jail. We don't care who will get out of politics or not," key PDRC leader Thaworn Senneam said.

Mr Thaksin's offer came as the embattled government led by his sister Yingluck Shinawatra faces mounting political pressure.

The caretaker prime minister is being investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) for alleged dereliction of duty over the government's rice-



Thaksin Shinawatra is living abroad, avoiding a two-year-jail sentence handed out in 2008. Photo: The Nation

pledging scheme.

Ms Yingluck is also accused of malfeasance in a case being heard by the Constitutional Court in connection with her transfer of National Security Council Secretary-General Thawil Pliensri.

Mr Thaksin, who left the country shortly before the Supreme Court in 2008 sentenced him to two years in jail for abuse of power, has been in self-exile overseas.

He is believed to be pulling

strings behind the scenes at the ruling Pheu Thai Party, reported *The Nation*.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said on Monday that he believed Mr Thaksin wanted to return to Thailand in order to spend the latter part of his life peacefully in his home country.

Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said people in the Shinawatra family had the right to be in politics and nobody had the

right to prohibit them.

"The Shinawatras have the right to be in or out of politics. But if you are in, you should comply with the law and are ready for scrutiny," Mr Abhisit said.

He said that to ensure peace in this country, the law must be respected.

"That means Thaksin should accept the [2008] court ruling and come back to get the penalty," the Democrat leader said.

Call for speed in search for Karen activist

SEVERAL organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International Thailand, are pressing Thai authorities to speed up investigation into the disappearance of a leading Karen activist.

Por Cha Lee Rakchongcharoen, also known as "Billy", has been missing since April 17, reported *The Nation*.

"The disappearance of this prominent activist demands an immediate government response," Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said.

Amnesty International Thailand



Mr Lee went missing on April 17. Photo: The Nation

said Mr Lee's disappearance proved that activists working to protect human rights were subject to intimidation, especially when they have conflicts with

state officials.

The head of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Chaiwat Limlikhit-aksorn, who is known to have had conflicts with Mr Lee has denied having had anything to do with the man's disappearance.

The Karen Network for Culture and Environment's Tanintharyi Region and the Cross Cultural Foundation have also demanded that police locate Mr Lee as soon as possible.

They suspect that Mr Lee's role in suing Mr Chaiwat and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation

(DNP) might have had something to do with his disappearance. Three years ago, officials burned down the homes of Karen villagers living in the national park, and Mr Lee helped the villagers take their case to the Administrative Court.

Meanwhile, witnesses said Mr Lee was allegedly detained at a checkpoint last on April 17 for allegedly having several bottles of wild-bee honey. Mr Chaiwat also showed up to question him. However, there are no official records of Mr Lee's detention or charges, and he has not been seen since.



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B 10mn timepiece nicked

THREE Chinese suspects have left the country after allegedly stealing a Mont Blanc wristwatch worth over 10 million baht from a luxury shopping mall in the heart of Bangkok, Immigration Police Bureau chief Panu Kerdlarphol said on Monday.

The stolen item is the Villeret Bi-Cylindrique Tourbillon Model Number 106494. There are only eight such timepieces in the world, reported *The Nation*.

"Their flight landed in Thailand very early on April 15 and they flew out of the country at 7:30pm



CCTV captured images of the suspects. Photo: The Nation

on the same day," Lt Gen Panu said.

Based on closed-circuit TV images, the suspects have been identified as Fajun He, Shaohua Ye and Zhenzu Wu.

Refugee rescue

Indonesia calls for 'shared responsibility' of boat people

AROUND THE region

JAKARTA called on governments Monday to stop "shifting responsibility" for asylum-seekers, in veiled criticism of Australia's hardline policy of towing boatloads of refugees back into Indonesian waters.

The military-led operation has caused anger in Indonesia, which has been forced to take back seven boatloads of asylum-seekers turned around by the Australian navy since December.

At the opening of the two-day International Workshop on the Protection of the Irregular Movement of Persons at Sea, attended by senior officials from 14 countries, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said countries should stand by commitments to cooperate on the issue made at a conference last year.

Those commitments "confirmed our shared responsibility –



An Indonesian policeman carries an exhausted boy after a boat filled with migrants sank in February. Photo: Reuters

shared responsibility, not [the] shifting of responsibility. Shared responsibility that requires co-ordination and cooperation," Mr Natalegawa said.

"For Indonesia the message is crystal-clear – the cross-border and complex nature of irregular

movement of persons defies... national solution."

Asylum-seekers have for years used Indonesia as a transit point to cross to Australia, usually on rickety fishing boats.

More than 1,000 asylum-seekers have died at sea in recent years

attempting the perilous journey.

"We need to take the politics out of this whole endeavor," Mr Natalegawa said, adding that there must be alternative ways of stopping the flow of asylum-seekers across Southeast Asia.

– Jakarta Post

In brief...

Kachin rebels ply new plea for US to ensure peace

THE last ethnic insurgent group still fighting Myanmar's government has issued a new plea for the United States to become involved in peace efforts in order to guarantee future minority rights.

General Gun Maw, deputy commander in chief of the Kachin Independence Army and a member of the insurgents' main political committee, said the invitation was first extended to the US, Britain, China and the United Nations in February last year.

– Reuters

Pirates seize tanker in Malacca Strait

ARMED pirates boarded a Japanese oil tanker in the Strait of Malacca at about 1am on Tuesday, kidnapping three Indonesian crew and stealing more than two million liters of the vessel's shipment of diesel fuel.

The attack occurred about 16 nautical miles off the coast.

The incident in the Malacca Strait, a route for about a quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade, has fuelled fears piracy could be on the rise in the area and drive up ship insurance premiums.

– The Star

MERS scare prompts mass passenger hunt

PHILIPPINES health authorities have opened a Facebook account and bought newspaper ad space for the names of 174 of the 415 passengers of a flight from the Middle East who had yet to submit themselves as of Monday to nose-and-throat swab test for a deadly virus, and enlisted the help of the police in tracing them.

President Benigno Aquino III would have wanted all the co-passengers of a male Filipino nurse, who initially tested positive for the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Corona Virus (MERS-CoV), to be contacted by the Department of Health (DOH) by Tuesday.

At a press briefing, Dr Lyndon Lee Suy, DOH Emerging Infectious Diseases program manager, said on Tuesday that Mr Aquino had strongly recommended that the agency's contact-tracing efforts for all the passengers of Etihad Airways Flight EY 0424 should have been completed a week after they had arrived in the country.

The male nurse, who arrived in Manila from the United Arab Emirates on April 15, was initially diagnosed with MERS-CoV while he was still in the UAE. But the two tests conducted on him by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Muntinlupa



Air travel passengers have their body temperatures scanned on arrival. Photo: Reuters

City yielded negative results.

The nurse came into contact with a Filipino paramedic who died of MERS-CoV in the UAE.

"The strong recommendation by the President is for us to be able to contact and locate all the passengers within today [Monday]," Mr Lee Suy said.

"We are working hard and all our efforts are focused on finding these passengers. We are optimistic we can meet the President's deadline.

"So far, we're doing good. We don't see any problem with [contact tracing]. But of course, the faster, the better," he added.

– Philippine Daily Inquirer

See 'Health office on the watch for MERS' on page 7.



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In brief...

Peace deal with Russia falters

AN INTERNATIONAL agreement to avert wider conflict in Ukraine was faltering on Monday, with pro-Moscow separatist gunmen showing no sign of surrendering government buildings they have seized over the past two weeks.

United States and European officials say they will hold Moscow responsible and impose new economic sanctions if separatist gunmen do not clear out.

Protesters battle Venezuelan cops

MASKED youths battled police, protesters burned and hung effigies of President Nicolas Maduro from lamp-posts and marchers demanded the "resurrection" of democracy on a volatile Easter Sunday in Venezuela.

Police responded with teargas and water-cannons, as residents banged pots and pans from windows in a form of protest.

Rebels slaughter scores in Sudan

REBELS slaughtered hundreds when they seized the South Sudan oil hub of Bentiu, hunting down men, women and children who had sought refuge, the United Nations said on Monday.

More than one million people have fled their homes since fighting erupted in the world's youngest country in December between troops backing President Salva Kiir and soldiers loyal to his sacked vice president, Riek Machar.

Teen stows away in plane wheel

A TEENAGED boy survived a five-hour flight from California to Hawaii in the frozen, oxygen-deprived wheel well of a jetliner last Sunday, the FBI said.

The boy told investigators he was trying to travel to Somalia to see his mother, a law enforcement official told CNN. A local CBS-affiliate reported the boy was living with his father in Santa Clara, but his mother lives in Somalia.

Crew's actions tantamount to murder, says president

By Ju-min Park

SOUTH Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Monday the actions of the captain and crew of the ferry that sank last week were tantamount to murder, as authorities arrested four more officers of the vessel.

As the *Gazette* went to print on Wednesday, 174 people had been rescued, and the confirmed death toll from the April 16 disaster was 146 with more than 100 people still missing.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 69, and two other crew members were arrested last week on negligence charges, with prosecutors announcing four further arrests – two first mates, one second mate and a chief engineer – on Monday.

Several crew members, including the captain, left the ferry as it was sinking, ahead of the passengers, witnesses have said.

Ms Park said the crew's desertion was tantamount to murder.

"Above all, the conduct of the captain and some crew members is unfathomable from the viewpoint of common sense, and it was like an act of murder that cannot and should not be tolerated," Yonhap news agency quoted her as saying during a meeting with aides.

Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers on a school outing.

Parents of the children missing



Captain Lee Joon-seok was arrested on negligence charges, along with six crew members. Photo: Reuters

in the accident in what is likely to turn out to be one of South Korea's worst maritime disasters sat exhausted from days of grief on Monday, waiting for the almost inevitable news that their loved ones had died.

Two United States underwater drones have been deployed in the search for bodies, a coastguard official said. Korean divers have also taken to the dark waters, feeling around for bodies within the

sunken vessel.

A clearer picture has started to emerge of the time around the accident after coastguards released a recording of a conversation between vessel controllers and the ship.

Witnesses have said the *Sewol* turned sharply before it began listing. It is still not clear why it turned.

It took more than two hours for it to capsize completely but passengers were ordered to stay

put in their cabins.

According to the transcript, the controllers told the captain to "decide how best to evacuate the passengers" and that he should "make the final decision on whether or not to evacuate".

The vice-principal of the school, who survived the accident, hanged himself outside the gymnasium in Jindo in another blow to the school. His body was discovered by police last Friday. – *Reuters*

Death toll climbs in worst Everest tragedy

RESCUERS recovered the body of a mountain guide last Saturday after an ice avalanche swept the lower slopes of Mount Everest, bringing the death toll to at least 13 in the deadliest accident on the world's highest mountain.

The avalanche struck a perilous passage called the Khumbu Icefall, which is riddled with serac – or huge chunks of ice – that can break free without warning.

"We were tied on a rope and carrying gas to camp when there was a sudden hrrrr sound," said Ang Kami Sherpa, 25, one of at least three survivors flown by helicopter to Kathmandu. "We knew it was an avalanche but we couldn't run away or do anything."

Climbers declared a four-day halt to efforts to scale the 8,848-meter summit and, while some decided to abandon their mission, others said they would go ahead after talking to their guides. All of the victims were sherpa mountain guides.

Although relatively low on the mountain, climbers say the icefall is one of the most dangerous places on Mount Everest. There are, however, no safer paths along the famous South Col route.

Some 250 mountaineers have died on the mountain, which is on the border between Nepal and the Chinese region of Tibet.

– *Reuters*



The father of one of the guides that died on Everest comforts his grandson. Photo: Reuters

Nigerian islamists still holding schoolgirls

NIGERIAN Islamist militant group Boko Haram is still holding 85 girls it abducted from a raid on a secondary school in northeastern Borno state this week, although the other 44 were free, the state government said last Saturday.

Monday's mass abduction of schoolgirls aged 15 to 18 by Boko Haram, who are fighting for a breakaway Islamic state in northern Nigeria, shocked Africa's most populous country.

The Islamists attacked Chibok school, in remote Borno state, which had 129 girls staying in it,



on April 14. Most of them were abducted, although the precise numbers were not clear.

Borno state education commissioner Inuwa Kubo said in a statement late last Saturday that 16 students had managed to flee back home during the night of the

attack, while another 28 had escaped after being abducted. The other 85 were still missing.

The armed forces said on April 16 that the military had freed all but eight of the schoolgirls in a rescue operation, but it retracted that statement a day later.

Kidnapping girls is a tactic Boko Haram began using early last year. It is eerily reminiscent of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army, which abducted thousands of school-aged girls across central Africa to use as forced "wives" for their commanders. – *Reuters*

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Seacon Group predicts growth

SEACON Group plans to launch three new villa projects worth 1-billion baht in Phuket, aiming for sales growth of about 5% this year as the property market in Bangkok has declined.

The group's executive director Piya Sosothikul said the company predicted that demand for homes in Phuket would grow by 15-20% annually over the next three years, driven by new Russian buyers and returning European customers, who have traditionally been the main purchasers of real estate on the resort island. He said foreign investment in the Phuket property market was recovering very nicely from its low in 2008.

The main push in the past few years has been from Russians, who now account for about half of total sales.

Last year, the market began to see a significant return of traditional European buyers, especially the British, who practically stopped buying during the peak of the European financial crisis that started in 2010.

This year, Seacon expects revenues from foreign buyers to be around 8-billion baht. The new condominium supplies in Bang Tao, Patong, Kata, Karon and along the east coast of the island are also attracting a lot of interest, Piya said.

The company targets sales

worth 500-million baht from its new residential projects launched in Phuket this year.

Seacon Group has expanded its investment in Phuket since 2004 by way of its subsidiary Erawana Co. Since then, Erawana has developed and completely sold out 12 projects, all of which are private-pool villa products around the island, with total sales exceeding 1.5 billion baht. The most recent launch was Tanode 5, a project comprising 14 private-pool villas near Layan beach valued at 300-million baht.

Erawana has just secured two more plots of land, also in the Layan area. It plans to begin construction in the fourth quarter of this year and launch both projects by mid-2015. Combined project value is 500-million baht.

"Russian and European buyers will continue to be our main customer base, and the political situation in Bangkok has had very little impact on our sales," Piya said.

"Most of them fly directly to Phuket by either scheduled or charter flights, and many do understand Thailand's frequent but non-violent protests, which are mostly confined to Bangkok."

"My major concern is, however, the situation in Ukraine. Actually, the majority of the affluent Russian buyers are from the eastern part of the country and not from Moscow or the west. Still, the company expects the market to expand at a healthy rate of 15-20% over the next three years," he said.

— *The Nation*



Photo: Sarah Ackerman

Since 2004, Seacon subsidiary Erawana Co has developed and sold out 12 projects, all of which are private-pool villa products around the island.



New customers from Russia and returning buyers from Europe stimulate growth of demand for homes in Phuket. Photo: Joi

YKK AP in Thailand

YKK AP, a Japanese manufacturer of architectural products, is expanding into the Thai market with a plan to establish an assembly plant in the Kingdom next year. The company aims to offer more comfortable living and urban spaces with innovative aluminium windows and doors.

Early this year, PT YKK AP Indonesia, the firm's Asean headquarters and manufacturing center, set up a representative office in Thailand and officially launched products to property developers and contractors.

Korakot Phasuk, product specialist at PT YKK AP Indonesia's representative office in Thailand, revealed that YKK AP will introduce the NEXSTA series, a brand-new product exclusively developed for the Asean region, at the Architect 2014 exposition.

Mr Korakot said that the NEXSTA series is a further improvement based on current market trends and also market needs. Besides basic quality assurance, the new products offer easily understandable functions with operability, safety and crime-prevention features, as well as the



flexibility and environmentally-friendly qualities required by large high-rise projects.

Another new product is lightweight aluminium handles, which allow elderly and wheelchair-bound people and children to more easily open doors and windows, with 50% less effort.

He also pointed out that high durability, water tightness to prevent leakage, sound insulation, and door/window frames with air-infiltration performance are also strong points in response to the customers' needs.

Korakot said that in order to comply with installation standards, YKK AP provides consultation and

technical support to assist an integration of YKK AP products for maximum comfort and convenience.

In addition, YKK AP will this year appoint a distributor in Nakhon Ratchasima before expanding further into other potential provinces.

"Since the launch of brand products in January this year, YKK AP has gained recognition from many property developers to integrate its products into their residential projects such as Private Nirvana, Pruksa Kanthanaburi and Prestige Srinakarin," said Korakot.

In addition to window products, interior and exterior doors, as well as folding doors for residential development, YKK AP has branched out its business into facade curtain walls for high-rise buildings.

YKK AP supplies curtain walls to bring more comfort and energy savings to commercial buildings. The company also offers products for coordination of living spaces from entrances to interiors and balconies.

— *The Nation*

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Connecting the dots

Could Phuket become the new hub to feed Myanmar's growing tourism industry?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

MYANMAR is on my mind as I recall the famous line from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's classic poem *Paul Revere's Ride*, "One if by land, and two if by sea". The bard might very well have been speaking about Asia's rising tourism dragon and Thailand's neighbor Myanmar, though this slight annotation might also be apt, "Three if by low-cost airline carrier".

Over the past year, I've been travelling for work to Yangon and beyond more times than I care to remember. The tropical coconut telegraph remains frenzied that the upside if the country is unlimited. And while I agree, the reality is that aside from the major attractions of the capital city along with Inle Lake, Mandalay and Bagan, getting to the beaches is no easy feat.

Access and seasonal weather are key barriers to entry for the resort areas. On the ground, the reality is that from May through September the monsoon season makes most of the beaches a no-go zone. Complicating this even more is the lack of electricity infrastructure in even the more developed destinations. No one ever said opening up a country

was going to be easy.

One vast destination so far away from Phuket and yet so very near is the Mergui Archipelago. The broad dimensions of the area cover over 50,000 square kilometers with more than 800 islands. Prior to 1997, the Mergui Archipelago was cut off from foreign travelers. As for a gateway, Myeik is the most popular, but has limited domestic flights on a sporadic basis.

Dramatic limestone islands remain a signature of the island chain which is in many ways reminiscent of Phang Nga Bay or Halong in Vietnam. Local inhabitants are sparse and are mainly sea gypsies

or Moken (the same ethnic group of fisherfolk who are found in Phuket's coastal areas). Aside from the fishing, there is little other industry and the remoteness of the Archipelago makes it one of the region's leading undiscovered jewels.

Rich in marine and animal life, Phuket's charter yacht and dive operators have been gradually drifting into the area for a decade, as a natural continuation north of the Similan islands and up north in the Burma banks. For now, accommodation is mostly shipboard though a growing number of entrepreneurs are looking at establishing island resorts.

Of course, seasonality and infra-



While the capital Yangon, along with Mandalay and Bagan, remain popular with tourists, Myanmar's southern beaches and islands are not easily accessible and lack basic infrastructure for tourism. Photo: Justin Vidamo

structure remain firm obstacles, as does getting there. While Myanmar is rife with development, most of this is in more established areas, and the southern regions are going at a much slower pace. One much heralded development was the massive Dawei special economic development port zone which had been partnered by Ital-Thai who pulled out of the venture late last year.

As I speak to tourism players, it's increasingly apparent that the natural fast track entry point looks to be through Phuket and then by boat from Phang Nga's

Tap Lamu or Kuraburi ports. Earlier this year there were announcements in the Thai media that the respective ports were going to expand their offerings to attract a renewed interest in marine vessels.

From my armchair in Phuket the natural connection between Phang Nga and Mergui is clear, as the push from an overdeveloped island here heads up north and starts connecting the dots towards Myanmar. It's not easy developing an island-based tourism economy – just ask the Philippines where they have 7,107

of the things. However, the Maldives have proven to be a shining example of what can be achieved despite the lack of land bridges.

For those in Phuket, the Myanmar tourism threat and opportunity remain highly visible, in much the same way as our international airport has created a vital hub, a sea hub can easily attain the same desired effect.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9hotelworks and can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com

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In brief...

Dinso condo hits Patong

Phuket's low-cost residential housing is continuing to boom, with the new Dinso Residence Patong being the latest entry.

Priced from just 2.88 million baht the usual offering of studio, one and two bedroom units

are for sale.

The seven-storey condominium project is located on the hillside and offers select ocean views.

A key sales perk is that units come fully furnished.

– thephuketinsider.com

QUO CEO wants a revolution

One of the highlights of last month's hotel investment conference in Singapore, HICAP was QUO Global's David Keen.

Bangkok-based Keen delivered a rousing presentation on why the hotel industry needs drastic change and innovation

Notable Keen quotes from the session included, "If your vision

is to create a hotel that is different, you will fail."

"If your vision is to create desire, and you are prepared to challenge every moment of the experience and deliver those experiences, you will succeed."

"In the modern world, luxury equals desire."

– thephuketinsider.com

Accor's Ibis Styles in Krabi

French chain Accor will open an Ibis Styles in Krabi this year.

Developed by the Erawan group, the property is set to cash in on a

current boom in midscale visitors. Last year Krabi experienced over 50% growth in international passenger airlift. – thephuketinsider.com



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How to choose an offshore broker



Finance

By Don Freeman

AS AN expatriate, there is a number of important aspects to consider before choosing an offshore broker or a custodian to hold your investment assets. At the same time, you will need to keep in mind that not every offshore broker will be able to offer a perfect solution for all of your needs – especially if your financial situation is overly complex or unique. However, these considerations are the most important ones:

Regulatory oversight

Offshore jurisdictions offer varying levels of protection for expat clients of offshore brokers and this level of protection can be different for someone who is a local versus a foreigner. Moreover, don't take any offshore broker's word for it that they have all the proper licenses in their respected jurisdiction to do business. Instead, check with the appropriate regulatory authorities yourself to confirm they are in good legal standing and don't have any serious complaints filed against them.

24/7 Access and support

Given that there could be significant time differences between your physical location and the broker's location, you need to make sure they can offer 24/7 online access (barring reasonable amounts of system "downtime") and telephone support.

And if 24-hour phone support with a live human being is an unrealistic expectation, then you need to make sure that they can offer you voice support at a reasonable hour given your location or potential locations (e.g. when you are visiting your home country and when you are abroad).

Financial product availability

At the very least, your offshore broker should be able to offer you stocks that trade on major global stock exchanges (e.g. NYSE and the NASDAQ), individual fixed income investments, low cost ETF fund products (as opposed to just managed fund products which tend to have higher fees) and money market type of funds. You should also be able to buy and sell these products online and by yourself without having to call someone to place a trade.

Account transparency

You will need to make sure that your offshore broker provides quarterly or monthly statements and account balances and positions can be accessed online daily. Statements and online accounts (at a minimum) should detail any transactions, distributions and any and all fees, commissions or foreign taxes paid as you will likely need all of this information to prepare your income taxes. Finally, you need to know the procedures, any fees and how long it will take to transfer funds in and out of your account. Most importantly there should be no restrictions or lock-in periods to redeem your funds.

Account maintenance fees and commissions

In addition to the usual trading commissions generated when investments are bought or sold, your offshore broker may charge fees for opening, transferring or closing accounts; for accounts that fall below a certain minimum values; for accounts that have no trading activity; or for any number of other reasons that should be clearly disclosed in a fee schedule.

Special considerations

If you are an American citizen, there will be some special considerations as the offshore broker may not even want you as a client while using a broker based in some jurisdictions known to be tax havens or so-called "money laundering" centers may invite extra scrutiny from US regulatory authorities. Moreover and if your financial accounts in foreign jurisdictions are worth more than \$10,000, you will need to complete a Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) report to report those accounts to US financial regulators. In other words, you will need to check with a tax accountant or financial advisor who understands expat tax and financial reporting issues for American citizens.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket and Chiang Mai, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth



Not every offshore broker will be able to offer a perfect solution but if you consider all the aspects, you'll keep your money safer. Photo: Ljprllc

ADB advises on reducing household debt

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has suggested that once Thailand has a permanent government in place, it should drop its populist policies as a way to rein in rising household debt.

Luxmon Attapich, ADB senior

country economist, said the high level of household debt last year had lowered people's purchasing ability, and this situation had continued into this year at the same time as reduced income as the slump in the economy had

affected consumers' ability to repay their debts.

She said a short-term solution to increase people's ability to repay their loans was for the economy to pick up, but there were also long-term solutions such as the promotion of a money-saving culture and discouraging people from taking out superfluous loans.

She also suggested that the new government adopt fewer populist policies that have the effect of eventually raising personal debt, and for financial institutions to moderate the use of campaigns that lure customers into borrowing for impractical reasons.

The Bank of Thailand reported that at the end of last year, household debt stood at 9.79 trillion baht, or 82% of gross domestic product. This compared with just 55.8% of GDP at the end of 2008.

And the debt-to-GDP ratio has continued growing according to

Kasikorn Research Center, which estimates it will rise to 84% by the end of 2014.

The World Bank's "Thailand Economic Monitor" reported last month that the high level of household debt was one of the factors constraining Thai consumers' purchasing power last year.

However, BOT spokeswoman Dr Roong Mallikamas said it was hard to quantify how much high household debt had contributed to the current slowdown of domestic consumption because there were other factors in play such as reduced income.

She noted that most households were still able to make their loan payments normally. The number of special-mention and non-performing loans (NPLs) at commercial banks had risen by only a small margin, from 5.4% in the third quarter to 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Roong said the problem was the reduced cash-flow within the household. When this is coupled with the already high level of debt, people have started to try to stabilize their financial situation, and this contributed to the slowdown in domestic consumption.

"The high level of household debt is a factor that has contributed to the current slowdown of domestic consumption, but the size of its effect cannot be identified," she said.

Still, the BOT has been warning about high household debt since last year, and the problem appears to be continuing.

Somchai Amornthum, executive vice president of the research department at Krung Thai Asset Management, said the current rise in household debt was a short-term phenomenon that would slow down once the economy recovers from the political turmoil.

– The Nation



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Bans put pressure on Patong bars

By Mauri Grant

DESPITE a handful of unexpected alcohol bans due to elections brought about by ongoing, nationwide political protesting, business seems to be barreling forward as usual in Phuket's premier party town.

Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand Anoma Wongyai told the *Gazette*, "I think because the alcohol bans were short-lived, only one or two days long, they did not have a great affect on most businesses. Although some companies like bars and discos, whose business depends on alcohol sales, were affected a little bit."

So far this year there have been eight alcohol bans, one of which was a standard Buddhist-holiday prohibition and two as part of the originally-planned February 2 national election, which was ultimately shut down by protesters. This shutdown ushered in five additional, unexpected alcohol bans, creating unusual circumstances for business operators, specifically those whose profits come from mainly from alcohol sales.

Patong will be quiet again this weekend, on both Friday and Saturday nights, as the town rides out two more hits to its tourism-driven income while the country takes another stab at its national MP election.

Revenue on the weekends is higher than at any other time of the week, confirmed President of Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) Weerawit

Kurasombut, with Friday and Saturday nights boasting up to a 50 per cent increase during high season and a 20-30 per cent increase in the low season.

"The only day that seems to be busy year-round is Saturday. This is likely because in Western countries Saturday is the night to go out, so tourists do the same here," one Patong bar owner, who declined to be named, told the *Gazette*.

A bar owner on Nanai Road has felt the weekend strain, and told the *Gazette*, "Our revenue has decreased a bit from the unexpected closures since they happened to be on nights when we usually have a lot of business."

Patong Municipality reported the total income in Patong last year as being about 472 million baht, with the average tourist spending 1,000 baht on a night out, added Mr Kurasombut.

"The number of tourists coming to Patong has dropped quite a lot from last year, up to 20 per cent, as a result of the political and economic problems in Thailand. Moreover, many countries have been promoting their tourism, which provides many more holiday options for travellers," said Mr Kurasombut.

However, it seems that it is not the tourists, but the regulars that can make or break a bar.

"The differences in sales on the slower nights of the week depend on if you have regulars coming in or not. In terms of tourist customers, I would say the difference in a slow and busy night



It seems that it is not the tourists, but the regulars that can make or break a bar. Photo: Gazette File

is a good 50 per cent," said the Patong bar owner.

"A lot of places need a really good high season in order to cover the simple costs [such as rent, salaries and alcohol supply] during the low season. For me, it's a bit different. I am in a decent location and I've been here for a while, so I have revolving clientele who visit regularly, as well as a good, local customer base."

But, even income from regular customers can't always cover

everything in a bar's revenue stream, especially when tourist numbers veer off course.

Patong Municipality reported the total income in Patong last year as being about 472 million baht, with the average tourist spending 1,000 baht on a night out

"As soon as Bangkok went down, so did the numbers. The beginning of high season was okay, but since the problems have escalated, my revenue has dropped a solid 40 per cent," said the bar owner.

"I'm hoping that since the high season was not so great because of all the trip cancellations, the low season will show some of

these people coming back to Thailand at a time they normally wouldn't, making the season better than usual. I suppose time will tell."

When the economy is thrown a curve-ball like it has been so far this year, businesses without established customer bases could be hit harder than those that have a regular clientele. But even the seasoned bar owner knows that anything can happen.

For now it seems that, despite a few more slow nights than normal, it is business as usual for the party town's bars. Some will sink, and some will swim.

— Additional reporting by Woranut Pechdee

Revamped Tesco Lotus Extra ready for business

RENOVATIONS on the Tesco Lotus Extra Phuket mall, located off the bypass road in Sam Kong, were recently completed and the revamped mall was fully open for business as of Wednesday this week.

Tesco says that more shops, famous brands, and a new food court have been added to the mall, including: Starbucks, Fuji, Giordano, Air Asia, as well as Japanese apparel store Uniqlo.

To celebrate the launch of the refreshed mall, Tesco Lotus will be holding a grand opening event on Thursday, May 1, where there will be giveaways, including: cash coupons and special activities such as meeting with celebrities, dining, shopping, cooking and afternoon tea.

Tesco Lotus says that 9,000 new product lines have been added, including 700 new local and international brand products in the fresh food department.

The new "Digital Zone" consolidates all new technology

products in a customer-friendly shopping environment. The clothing section has received a makeover with a new display for F&F – an international fashion brand sold exclusively at Tesco Lotus. A new "Virtual Fitting Kiosk" now allows customers to "Touch, Try and Share" how they look in F&F outfits.

New shops have also been added to the sales floor to provide essential services to customers, including a pharmacy, an optician, a money and services center – which offers financial services such as bill payment, personal loans, Tesco credit cards and insurance.

Tesco Lotus Extra Phuket now also offers an online shopping service where customers can order from tescolotus.com for home delivery.

Customer services at Tesco Lotus Extra Phuket have also been upgraded with new check-out designs and self-service checkouts, another alternative



Over 9,000 new product lines have been added at the Sam Kong mall.

which Tesco says will provide more convenience to customers.

In addition, over 80 new parking spaces have been added, as

well as dedicated parking zones for special groups of customers, such as the elderly and mothers with children. — *Phuket Gazette*



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Putrid wake

HARDLY a week passes nowadays without a damaging news report about water-related issues in Phuket. Of these, none could be more harmful to the island's reputation than reports of untreated wastewater flowing directly into the sea at some of the island's most popular beaches.

Such reports are nothing new. Sadly, untreated wastewater entering Patong Bay is now so common that it is hardly considered newsworthy. Judging from the lack of real debate over environmental issues in the current mayoral campaign, little change can be expected. The town will simply continue to rely on its "onshore attractions" to keep the tourists coming.

Yet the emergence of similar problems at other west coast beaches, all the way from Karon to Bang Tao, is alarming.

In Cherno Talay, work on a 320mn-baht wastewater treatment project has stalled; the state of water where Bang Tao Canal reaches the sea remains in an often putrid, potentially dangerous state.

To the south in Kamala, residents confronted with similar problems are calling for a similar project, with a similar price tag (see page 7).

Karon's problems go back years and were the subject of a German documentary that caused great harm to the beach's reputation, yet development there has continued apace.

That town's black water problem is now considered sufficiently severe that some local leaders, including many who approved the new development in the first place, are threatening to revoke licenses of hotels found in violation of wastewater release standards.

The unprecedented step of Karon Municipality signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA), a state agency set up in 1995 to deal specifically with wastewater issues in greater Bangkok, is surely a signal that the island's water issues are out of control.

What a mess; what an embarrassment; what a shame. Many of us who had the good fortune to visit these locations a few decades ago can hardly hold back tears when seeing what has become of them. But even back then, many locals were teaching their children to swim in pools because seawater was intrinsically "dirty". Sadly, this mind-set has now manifested itself as our depressing reality.

If history has taught us one thing, it should be not to expect any help from Bangkok. The more "help" we get from the capital, the more our island comes to resemble it: black water, traffic congestion and all.

These are local problems that must be solved locally, within each of the communities that allowed them to develop in the first place. Fortunately, once the noxious inputs cease, water quality can improve very quickly. However, any number of mega-budget treatment facilities will not solve the problem until the underlying issues – unregulated development, corruption and so on – are finally addressed.



Choosing the best steward for Kata

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials threaten protest over Club Med lease, April 18

I remember far back to 1985 when the Club Med was built, respecting the natural environment without cutting down trees or building higher than was allowed.

Leaving this beautiful natural area in local village hands would be a crime. To understand this, look what's happened to Patong in the same time frame. We can easily see that Club Med has saved the beauty of Kata so far.

Now, with the expiration of the lease, the greedy sharks are circling in the bay ready for the slaughter.

Claude
Gazette forum

Life jacket failures...

Re: Gazette online, Chinese tourist drowns while snorkelling, prompts life jacket warning, April 21

In my experience, many life jackets are not large enough for Europeans. I could only just fasten mine and there was no way my husband could. I had no idea they needed to be fastened between the legs. No one showed us how to put them on.

Lorraine
Gazette forum

...and no buddy in the water cost lives

Re: Gazette online, Chinese tourist drowns while snorkelling, prompts life jacket warning, April 21

Only snorkel, dive or swim in the open ocean with a buddy, and always know where your buddy is. Even experienced swimmers may at sometime need assistance due to cramping and so on.

Steve Drago
Facebook

Letters to the Editor

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

Beaches used to be kept clean and tidy

Re: Gazette online, Shady Business: Phuket beaches kept out of the sun, April 20

Many years ago I stayed at Diamond Cliff in Patong and every morning a group of people from a government office walked along the beach, checking that the beach was clean and ashtrays were available.

I spoke with a guy who rented sun beds and he told me that if the beach was found not to be pristine he would lose his licence. The beach then had two rows of beach chairs and no litter.

How sad that things have gone downhill so fast. Sadder is that Surin and Bang Tao beaches are following suit. I also thought that after the tsunami, the government said wooden sun beds should not be used, as they caused many deaths, but sadly it's all about money.

Moyra Elliott
Facebook

Track the fishermen

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Phuket's B70mn one-stop yacht center to open Monday, April 19

The Phuket Marine Office, Fishery Department, Department of National Parks, Marine Police and Thai Navy should use a GPS tracking system called "Automatic Identification System (AIS)" to monitor all fishing boats to stop illegal fishing in Marine National Parks and the other prohibited zones along the coast.

Asterix
Gazette forum

Black and blue at the Krabi emerald pools

Re: Gazette online, Emerald pools and more just across the bay from Phuket, April 21

"The limestone is often very slippery" is an absolute understatement. Be prepared to stay in the emerald pools overnight until someone finds you the next morning. Enter at your own risk.

La-La-Land
Gazette forum

Not optimistic about black water beaches

Re: Gazette online, Kamala combats black water threat, April 20

A regular occurrence here on Kamala Beach, black silt from the canals being washed up on the sand. I have seen black water running into the sea here also. You can smell the bad water in the air some days.

I have seen many tourists looking disgusted and making remarks, and leaving the beach early. Like elsewhere in Phuket, it's a big problem now. 300 million baht? Will the job get done? Look at Bang Tao.

Artistman
Gazette forum

Charge the foreman

Re: Gazette online, Employers escape jail terms for Phuket sewer deaths, April 21

The foreman had his job for a reason and the responsibility lies clearly on his shoulders, but he gets away with it as the investigation has been concluded?

The buck stops with him as he was the company's senior man on the ground that day and he ultimately bears the deaths on his shoulders.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

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Building society from the laws up

FIRST PERSON

THERE are a lot of problems in Phuket, but there are only a couple of issues that I consider as critical to improving the island in the immediate future.

One thing I'd like to see shaped up is the traffic problem – we have too many vehicles for the current number of roads.

The lack of public transport options in Phuket has forced every household to have some form of private transport, be it a car or a motorbike. Some households have several vehicles, and this is causing our huge traffic problems. The way to reduce traffic congestion is to provide public transport.

We need a bus network and taxi fares that are affordable. If we can provide cost-effective transport, then people will use it.

The other thing we need is for the law to be improved to protect tourism and foreigners living here. For example, there are some loopholes that are exploited by people – Thais and foreigners – to set up businesses that target the foreign tourist market.

When the Asean Economic Community comes into effect next year, these loopholes will be open to be exploited by many more people coming here to set up businesses.

I have been actively involved with politics in Phuket and probably everyone already knows that I oppose caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. However, as senator, I have to put all my political opinions aside and work with whoever is the prime minister in the best interests of Phuket.



Here, Mr Chaiyot talks about the role of senators and how he plans to represent the people of Phuket.

Phuket Senator **Chaiyot Punyawai**, 47, officially became Senator of Phuket on April 10. A graduate in law from Ramkhamhaeng University and now studying for his master's in law, Senator Chaiyot works in a local law firm and is the president of the Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand.

As I now represent all the people of Phuket, my decisions have to be for the good of everyone, not just one group. I will do my best to perform my duties neutrally and to base my decisions solely on information and facts.

One of the jobs of a senator is to approve laws proposed by Members of Parliament. I'm a lawyer and am very familiar with Thai law; this will help me to do the job well.

As I see it, my task will be deciding which laws are good for the Thai people and which are not. For example, in my opinion, the amnesty bill was not a good law. It was rightfully not approved by the Senate.

When I decide on a law, I'll have to think deeply about its effect on people and its ramifications. These decisions are important because

laws build the foundation of our society.

Another part of my job is scrutinizing the legislature and making sure they're acting in accordance with the law.

Being a Senator is an important position and requires honesty and a focus on the common good

rather than personal gain. Senators must be free from graft.

It's difficult for the government to work right now because we don't have MPs and there seems to be no way to elect them. I'm not sure how we will

get our work done in the foreseeable future.

Still, I am optimistic about the country and about Phuket, and I'd like to thank the people who voted for me. I will do my best for Phuket. Please be patient as I learn my new job.

'...my task will be deciding which laws are good for the Thai people and which are not...'



Regardless of the new year, you can always keep trying. Photo: Marc Liyanage

Resolution checkup

Island View

By Rae Kelly

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

THE Thai New Year has come and gone, and I can't help but think about the resolutions I made for my own new year in January.

For Westerners like me, the half-year point is quickly approaching and thoughts of resolutions made in good faith on January 1 are probably a distant memory.

As I stared into the face of yet another wake-up call on Songkran, I was finally able to land on a few reasonable and, hopefully, achievable resolutions.

I can't deny now, after the addition of both Thai and Chinese new years, that it is time to get my life together and at least take a stab at the goals I have set out for myself to achieve by 2015.

Resolution 1: Learn Thai

By no means do I expect to be fluent by January; I have a much more modest goal. My dream is to eliminate the back-and-forth confusion in which I say something in Thai which is received with a blank stare, I repeat myself multiple times, my message finally gets across and is repeated – but sounds exactly the same as when I said it.

Resolution 2: Shed the unexpected Thailand poundage

I moved to Thailand with the expectation of losing a few pounds. What with the stories of outrageously spicy food and the seemingly unavoidable bout of food poisoning I was sure to encounter,

I thought I would be supermodel-status in no time. Little did I know the streets of Phuket would be filled with delicious food at all hours of the day and night – and for cheaper than I ever imagined. This island is a dangerous place for a foodie with a questionable level of self-control.

Resolution 3: Take advantage of my backyard

Southern Thailand has so much to offer in the way of aesthetically super-charged views, beaches, jungles and excursions, and I have barely scratched the surface of places to visit and things to do. Gorgeous locales like Krabi, Phang Nga, Khao Lak and Sok, the Similans and more are perfect getaways for working expats like me. My one-year anniversary in Phuket is rapidly approaching, and I hereby commit to fully take advantage of my new home.

Although the newest year is in full swing, and I could set my end-date for next Songkran, I still am aiming for the Gregorian deadline of January 2015. As a self-proclaimed procrastinator, this will give me the push I need to get the ball rolling. So, I'd better get started... bright and early tomorrow.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

The case of the wife who went to meditate and never came home again

Can you explain the background and intentions of the group at the Amarirak Wat? It is a place which does not look like a temple. They keep women in white robes with shaved heads and try to raise funds to build a temple.

My wife left two years ago and never returned from this sect. It looks like she has been brainwashed and is no longer the person I used to know.

Puzzled husband,
Phuket

Mae Chi Paw, head of the Mae Chi Amarirak Meditation Center in Chonburi, replies:

Mae Chi Amarirak Meditation Center gives the opportunity to everybody, men or women of any age, to be ordained and to study Buddhist Dhamma. There are nine

branches, and the founder, Mae Chi Amarirak Sridarak, is the head of the Surat Thani branch.

We have a number of different programs, and a lot of people come to all branches throughout the year.

The period of ordination varies. The minimum period for the Chi-Brahmin (those who do not shave their hair) is 12 days. The head of the center may recommend a

longer time. Some people choose to stay their whole lives.

The daily practice schedule focuses on praying, worshipping the Buddha, meditation, studying the Dhamma and karma defusing (making merit to make your bad karma less potent).

If you are interested in practicing, you can go to a Mae Chi Amarirak Meditation Center any time. The address of the branch in Surat Thani is: Moo 3, Baan Tha Satorn, Thambon Tha Sathorn, Amphoe Phunphin, Surat Thani 84130.

An officer at the Office of National Buddhism in Surat Thani replies:

Meditation centers are not under the control of the Office of National Buddhism, so meditation

centers don't have to register with us. We only take care of temples and monks.

However, Mae Chi Amarirak Meditation Center is a legitimate

meditation center and I'm not aware of any negative comments about it.

Jakapong Boonsawang, an officer at the Phuket Cultural Office, replies:

Ordination is not brainwashing, but it's possible that after being ordained people act and speak more politely than before.

Buddhists believe that being ordained is the best way to make merit. Being cut off from the world helps people purify their minds.

Women can be ordained at a temple or at a meditation center, but most prefer to go to a meditation center.

I've never heard any negative comments about Mae Chi Amarirak Meditation Center in Surat Thani.



Being cut off from the world helps purify one's mind. Photo: Jesus Bonilla

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

YOUR Phuket



Executive Chef of Boathouse by Montara Bryan Burge (left) and F&B Director of Boathouse by Montara Santiago Lopez manning the lobster grill on Sunday.

Island-famous lobster brunch

Boathouse Wine & Grill in Kata hosted its last island-famous Lobster Brunch of the season on Easter Sunday. With unlimited succulent lobsters, oysters, and traditional roast leg of lamb on offer, dinners were assured of a sumptuous feast.



A brightly colored team of entertainers were on hand to make balloon animals.



Tiphonie Doucet and Geoffrey Chaurand of La Parisienne Band entertained diners with silky smooth jazz classics.

Thayapura Elite Junior Sport Academy launch



Thanyapura Phuket CEO Michael Gilliam (left), Thai tennis star Wichaya 'Junior' Trongcharoenchaikul, Sports Authority of Thailand's Professional Sports and Muay Thai Thailand Director Rashell Daiphontunya were present at the launch of Thanyapura's Elite Junior Sport Academies.

70 years in the making



Leif Boner celebrated his 70th birthday with the Katalina Collection team at Koh Yoa Noi.

Earth Day pays out for Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



Centara Grand management visit the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GRP) after donating the proceeds from their World Earth Hour Activity. Executive Assistant Manager Paul Orny (left), Assistant Project Manager of GRP Owart Maprang, Hotel Manager Michael Gaarde-Nielsen, Area General Manager Darren Shaw, Project Manager of GRP Phamon Samphanthamit, Operations Coordinator Sopita Kamchaiya and Director of Human Resources Tiwaporn Mahaprom.



Celebrity emcee Peerapol 'Champ' Euariyakul (left), four-time triathlon world champion and Executive Chairman of Thanyapura Phuket Chris 'Macca' McCormack, and celebrity Navin Tar, who trains at Thanyapura, also attended the launch.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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April 26 - May 2, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

PLAZA DEL MAR
Entrance to Laguna Phuket



See page 24

JOB of the week

Atmanjai
cleansing, energy, vitality



See page 27

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 29

BOAT of the week



See page 31

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

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

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- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
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- Motor Insurance

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

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

1.5 rai land: 30 mins from Bang Tao Beach, for hotel & condo. 2 rai land: Soi Pasak 4. 100m from Pasak Road, for housing condominium. Tel: 076-340559, 081-937 8152.

BANG TAO HOUSE

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. For more information, please call 093-713 2278.

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

Land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tambon Bornok, Prachuap Khiri Khan, 20km from Prachuap Khiri Khan Town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 086-615 9719.

LAND NEXT TO LOCH PALM

Land on main road next to Loch Palm golf course. Ready to build, Chanote, perfect for commercial or residential development. Tel: 081-956 3166.

LAND & HOUSES 88 NEW

Chalong, only pool villa, 75sq wah, 3 bedrooms, exclusive modern interior design, corner house. Urgent sale: 9.75 million baht. Contact Thilo. Tel: 089-874 3376.

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. For more information, please call 082-277 5971.

CHARMING HOME NEAR BEACH

Big lot, 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, office, 4 baths, fully furnished, secure, like new, freehold. For more details, please call 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com, www.villa-sale-phuket.com

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

Location: Phanom District, Surat Thani, near Khao Sok National Park.
- Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 2.2 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

Baan Yamu Residences

Condominium available for sale

PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY

- Award-winning design
- Luxurious lifestyle facilities
- Secure residential and investment opportunity

Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126
E-mail: info@baanyamu.com
Tel: 076-310507

HEROINES' MONUMENT

Pa Khlok land for sale. 6 rai, 18 million baht. Please call 087-884 9288.

500,000 BAHT KAMALA LEASEHOLD
Hotel room, 30sqm, complex has 2 pools and jacuzzi. Tel: 084-716 0502.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished and fully equipped, 4th floor, 37 sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Please call 081-828 0615 (English & Thai).

LUXURY APARTMENT FOR SALE !! IN KATA BEACH - SEA VIEW

PRICE: 5,500,000 THB

URGENT SALE !!

- ➡ Apt. Located on Kata Ocean View
- ➡ Enjoy 91sqm Spacious Living Room
- ➡ Fully Equipped Kitchen
- ➡ Fully Tiled Floors in all Areas
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- ➡ Wi-Fi
- ➡ Terrace
- ➡ Bus
- ➡ Spa
- ➡ Cable TV
- ➡ Taxi
- ➡ Gym
- ➡ Parking
- ➡ Restaurant



DIRECT OWNER !! Tel: 080-141 6040 zeuxbangla@gmail.com

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

NEW COZY POOL VILLA



Bang Tao close to Tesco Lotus and beaches, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, private pool, furnished, aircon, parking, small garden, long term: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-737 1687.

KATA SEAVIEW APT.

Fully furnished, quiet, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311.

APARTMENT AT KATHU FOR RENT

The Green Golf Residence offers 48-168sqm studios and 1 to 3-bedroom apartments located in the Phuket Country Club. Evergreen fairway views and natural lake views. Fully furnished, WiFi. Tel: 076-319338, 085-068 9794 (English & Thai). Email: m_monpriya@hotmail.com, www.thegreengolfresidence.com

BEACH HOUSES CHALONG

Furnished, 3-bedroom houses, from 12,000 baht per month, pool, cable TV, WiFi. Tel: 089-470 6104. www.houserentalsphuket.com

B.L. APARTMENT

At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, hot shower, ADSL, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-692 3163.



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Please contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

SPACIOUS 2-BED POOL VILLA

Spacious Thai-style pool villa for holidays and vacation rent. This villa is an unbelievably large property for 2 bedrooms, ideal for your family. The villa is located in a nice, quiet neighborhood, but still near to the beaches, shops and restaurants. This villa comes fully equipped with everything you need. Available for the next 6 months. Minimum rental 1 week. Tel: 091-523 2776 (English). Email: farang742@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN



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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE WITH POOL



Located in Pa Khlok, nice 3 bedrooms with enclosed private garden and large swimming pool. Long-term rent: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: +1-613-851 5783, +1-613-885 3677 (English & Thai). Email: desmot@icloud.com

SURIN BEACH

1-2 bedroom(s). 300m to beach. Fully furnished. Direct pool access. Please call 081-835 0158 (English). Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

PATONG QUIET HOUSE



2-bedroom, 1-bathroom house, large pool and enclosed yard, great for pets or kids, furnished, very nice, long term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

1-BED BUNGALOW RAWAI

Fully furnished, aircon, WiFi, kitchen. 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: briccothailand@hotmail.com

KATA HILL BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, aircon, internet and cable TV. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

FOR RENT RAWAI/NAI HARN



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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. http://palai-green.weebly.com

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80-120 sq. meter units available.

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



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Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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

TEACHERS WANTED

ELT Phuket is looking for English, Science and Maths teachers. Very competitive salaries, bonuses and benefits. Apply within 076-221940, 084-847 3033. Email: maxbeardsley@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A private family is looking for a personal assistant to be located in Bang Jo, Phuket, full time, start as soon as possible. Must be fluent in Thai & English educated, love animals, be flexible with work hours, be a fast and motive worker. Attractive salary offered, please email CV to sherin.peace@gmail.com

MARKETING FOR PROPERTY

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our successful real estate company. Thai nationals only. We are looking for staff at Jungceylon, Homepro Chalong and Kamala Beach. Good spoken English is a must. High salaries and commissions will be given. Send CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). www.phuketcondoshomes.com

RECEPTIONIST

Small hotel in Patong needs reliable female Thai with good English skills. Tel: 081-892 1621.

RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

GM TOP ECO-RESORT KHAO SOK

Manager must speak good Thai, be strong in web marketing, knowledge of local nature, and people skills to deal with Thai staff, resort guests, local community. Farang with Thai partner welcome. Work permit, housing and meals provided. Compensation: 1.2 to 3 million baht/year depending on experience. Email: dicksandl@gmail.com

THAI FEMALE BUSINESS PARTNER

Needed for proven farang entrepreneur, full training in massage therapy, any age, all offers considered. Tel: 094-652 2029.

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

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our real estate company. We are looking for staff at Jungceylon, Homepro Chalong and Kamala Beach. Good spoken English is a must. Send CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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- Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- Photography skills
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- Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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

COOK / CHEF

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

ADMIN HOTEL WANTED

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

PR & MARKETING

The View Condominium.

- Female, 20-35 years.
- To promote the property with prospective customers at our booth
- Coordinate with recruiters
- Collaborate with team
- Language: English and Russian or English and Chinese. Tel: 086-439 9996, 081-666 6622. Email: sales@theviewphuket.com, info@theviewphuket.com

Employment Wanted**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Multiple positions are now open, also for licensed tour guides, tour operations staff. Must be Thai and have good English or Chinese communication skills. Send CV via email or fax. Fax: 076-383320. Email: info@very-thai.com Website: www.very-thai.com/jobs

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.

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A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

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

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

BRANCH MANAGER

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

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

- NEW ► Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoey Seafood)
- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: 076-341644
Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468

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: 076-388144

KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong?

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

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.casenet.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

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH

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

3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

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

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakit School is looking for native English speakers. A bachelor's degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Send your CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com, please contact Clark

EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

PROJECT SECRETARY (THAI) WANTED

At least 3 years experience in the construction industry. Able to speak, write and read English and Thai. Full understanding of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook and Word). Salary based on experience, excellent benefits. Send your CV to info@avcpuket.com

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

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

SALES MANAGER

For designer ladies fashion boutique in Surin. Good salary plus commissions, must speak English. Tel: 085-153 1403.

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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

SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Social Media Officer to lead our Facebook page and create and publish content. Excellent creative writing, strong video and photo skills, and empathy for animals required. Tel: 087-263 0827, 081-788 4222 (English & Thai). Email: gregg@soidog.org Learn more at www.SoiDog.org

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 kaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kaosok-hotels.com

**Fasting & Detox Professionals for Atmanjai**

Atmanjai (www.atmanjai.com) is a world class fasting and detox center located in Rawai Beach - Phuket. We are now looking to strengthen our team of dedicated and caring professionals with passionate people interested in health and wellbeing.

Assistant Manager (Thai or Expatriate)

This position is responsible to assist the manager with the day to day operation.

Qualifications:

- Min. 2 years in a similar role in a health and fitness environment
- Prior experience working in Thailand an advantage
- Certified yoga instructor and possibly experience in meditation
- Coaching and/or counselling qualifications an advantage

Detox Assistant (Thai Nationals only)

Responsible for day to day client care and support.

Qualifications:

- Able to schedule daily activities for clients
- Ensuring guests are the happiest detoxers in the world!
- Excellent English language knowledge is essential
- Minimum 3 years in guest contact environment
- Mature personality and personal interest in health and fitness



Please submit your application with cover letter, CV with recent photograph and expected salary to Michael Massey at info@atmanjai.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@thaibasil.phuket.com

RESORT STAFF WANTED

Urgently: night reception, house-keeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: yussies@gmail.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.aqua-master.net/job.html

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

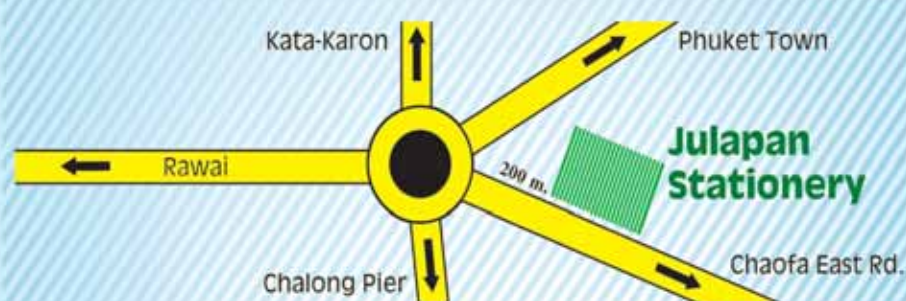
Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+ monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

BUILDING MANAGER @BANGTAO

Bachelor's degree, excellent in both written and spoken English, strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Tel: 076-238299. Email: Thomrath.Anantaworapoth@ap.jll.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!**

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Business Products & Services

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Australian Taxation & accounting services for Australian expatriates in Thailand & abroad. Please contact Anabel. Tel: +61 404 006 236. Email: anabeld1@me.com or anabeldasilva@dasilva-accounting.com For further details, please see our website at www.dasilva-accounting.com

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

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. Please call 081-476 5808.

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



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A customized campaign by our SEO specialists will improve your Google ranking and focus your internet marketing efforts. Free quote. Please contact by email: julianburgess@myway.com

VISA SERVICES

UAE and Singapore for 3 days. For more information, please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

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

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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.

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

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

Pets

ADOPT A DOG from Doggie Heaven

Visit DOGGIE HEAVEN & meet our gorgeous rescued dogs. All our dogs are socialized in a home environment & ready for loving families.

Contact Sherin
Ph 084-877 3566
www.doggieheaven.net
sherin.peace@gmail.com



Personal Services

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

US licensed counselor. Children-Adults-Families. Phuket mental health counseling. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

Education

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

Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND

- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

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

Pool Tables

Personals

SNOOKER

Like new, marble top, 1.35 x 2.35m. 25,000 baht (new 66,000 baht). Tel: 080-528 1536. Email: christian10thailand@gmail.com

BACKGAMMON

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



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Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
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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.

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Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
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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 357,000

Reduced



2008 Azimut 47 - EUR 499,000

Reduced



2011 Princess 42 - USD 650,000



2012 Fusion 40 - EUR 345,000

Sistership

Yachting Freedom begins with a call to our team:

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sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

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adam.blackmore@simpsonmarine.com

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Jeanneau 45 SO Performance \$230,000 USD

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

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NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). High quality Hypalon tubes. Free Chart plotter and VHF, 175hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,695,000 baht. Contact Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.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). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanaduo.fr

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@krabikonnnect.com please see our website at www.krabikonnnect.com/#boat-for-sale/c10mg

FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'

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

HOBIE CAT 17

Catamaran for sale: Hobie 17 with wings, road trailer, beach trailer. Tel: 086-773 4538 (English). Email: skgf@skgf.asia

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

1989 Bertram 50S convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

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

VOLVO PENTA 380HP



Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAMD71B, 6 cylinder, 380hp, 2500 rpm, turbo charged. 1) Engine number 207112 4065, with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, 5M74752. 2) Engine number 2071 1240 64 with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, number 5M7 474. Net Weight: 850kg per engine. Two silencers: MGS IN /OUT 5', 45°. Price: 1 million baht per engine. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@foodcomthailand.com

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER

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

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: han spaessler@me.com

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). High quality Hypalon tubes. Free Chart plotter and VHF, 175hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,695,000 baht. Contact Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

RIB WILLIAMS 325 TURBOJET



Williams 325 turbojet for sale. 2010, excellent condition. 40 knots in 4 seconds! Sunbrella covers. Price for new unit: 991,620 baht. Price now: 550,000 baht! Tel: 093-631 0874 (English), 084-744 4304 (Thai). Email: 345589@inbox.ru

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword



NOTATION:-
Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).
Normal spelling: lower case.
Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).
Letters left out: underlined.
Across: 9. TOLERANCE: *note*clear 10. BURRITOS: *orib*urst 12. ELAN: *lean* 13. AOSANE: *no*asea 14. EVIDENT: *ev*-I'd-ent 15. INTEGRATE: *treating*-E 17. ANTIPATHY: *anti*-way-Y 18. GRANITE: *tearing* 20. TREMOR: *remoter* 21. URDU: U-Rd.-U 24. FAREWELL: *flew*real 26. CODDLING: *codling* 28. HATE: *hat*-E 29. SPIRAL: *palis*(R) 31. CONGEAL: *goclean* 34. RETREATED: *re*-treated 36. ROASTBEEF: *roast*, *beef* 38. PATTANI: *patanti* 39. ROCOCO: *co*cor 40. FINO: *if*(rev)-no 41. DOMESTIC: *D*-itscome 42. PERMUTATE: *amere*putt
Down: 1. UTTERING: *utter*-in-G 2. PLAINT: *plain*-T 3. ANNOTATE: *not*neata 4. DEFACE: *faced*-E 5. ABNEGATE: *beaten*(Ga) 6. PRIESTHOOD: *poor*shedit 7. TILIAPA: *atipail* 8. COGENT: *Co*-gent 11. STAYPUT: *asputty* 16. GAITER: *greati* 19. ABAFT: *A.B*-aft 20. TIL: *til* 22. RINSE: *siren* 23. PLANET: *plane*-T 25. EXPATRIATE: *Ex*-pat-I rate 26. COL: *Col* 27. THERAPY: *party*he 30. REDIRECT: *Re*-credit 31. CHANCERY: *risk*-Ry 32. LEFTOVER: *abandoned* above 33. RELATED: *related* 35. TATTOO: *beat* drum 36. RECIPE: *epicure* 37. EPICAL: (1)place

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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

Willy Wonka arrives to adorn the chocolate walls of Trisara for Easter



Alain Rougie hosted a six-course foie gras dinner party with Trisara Executive Assistant Manager Helen Clarke (see page 36).



Pastry Chef Somboon Sakhonjaroen (left); stands with Trisara Executive Assistant Manager Helen Clarke, a resort guest and Executive Chef Chalermchai Prakobkit in front of the chocolate wall created by Chef Somboon and Peter Webber.



Trisara Executive Chef Chalermchai Prakobkit stands against the Willy Wonka wall of chocolate constructed for Easter.

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A high quality residential project you can trust from Land & Houses.

Start at **6.3 MB***

Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pittaya Tantipiyakij. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2948, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Sam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



Boeing-Boeing bringing talent

HAVING done the rounds in Broadway and the West End with a string of rave reviews, the hit comedy play

Boeing-Boeing is now coming to Phuket with a cast of talented and accomplished actors.

The play follows the story of a swinging bachelor, Bernard, played by Robert Colvin, a successful architect living in Paris, who is balancing his love affairs with three air hostesses at the same time, with the help of his long-suffering housekeeper Bertha, played by Sarah Stringer.

Meet the cast and crew of this hilarious production:

Bernard: A British architect living in Paris played by Robert Colvin.

Roberts' acting credits include Kenickie in *Grease* and Troy in *High School Musical*.

His most notable performance is as Mr Hopper in Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windemere's Fan* and, most recently, Billy Flynn in *Chicago*.

Robert: Bernard's old university professor from Oxford played by Kevin Tillett.

He has appeared in a wide range of plays including *Blihe Spirit*, *Habeas Corpus*, *California Suite*, *Alfie*,

Sauce for the Goose, *Spring and Port Wine*, *Dracula* and many more. He appears regularly in new plays at the annual Birmingham Arts Fest and played the lead role in a new adaptation of *The Brothers Kazamarov* at the prestigious Hay Festival.

Bertha: A House Maid of Russian origin played by Sarah Stringer.

A few acts from Sarah's repertoire include: *The Weekend*, *The Odd Couple*, *Passion Play*, *Farndale Avenue*, *Macbeth*, *Season's Greetings*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Playing Sinatra*, *Dead Funny* and *April in Paris*.

Gretchen: A German air hostess played by Lauren Hoskins.

Having starred as Millie in the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, she then went on to appear in the Hit musical *We Will Rock You*.

Her other credits include: Mimi in *Rent*, Anita in *West Side Story* and Eliza in the production of *My Fair Lady*.

Gloria: An American air hostess played by Danielle Court.

Danielle joins the cast of

Boeing-Boeing having completed work with the West End cast of *Grease*, *Jersey Boys* and *Legally Blonde*.

Gabriella: An Italian air hostess played by Jessica Holland.

Well known in the UK as the cover girl for BMW's electric car campaign, she has just finished work on the Lovable Rogues debut album "What a night".

Recently she performed as a dancer in the adaptation of the opera *Carmina Burana*.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For a riotous good time make sure you pick up your tickets today for this fantastic Gazette Headline Event presented by Jagota and promoted by Events International. Tickets are available for 1,200 baht at: Les Diables at the Boat Lagoon and Laguna Canal Village. Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings.



A culinary journey

MOM Tri's Villa Royale will be hosting the "Key to Thai Food Treasure Box" on Saturday, May 3 from 11am to 12pm. The event offers guests a unique experience to delve into the world of Thai cuisine and explore the reasons why scientists are exploring the medicinal benefits of Thai cuisine.

Guests will be served a special

set lunch menu by celebrity chef and cook book author Su-Mei Yu. Tickets are 650 baht per person and space is limited to 40 seats.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For reservations and more information please phone 076-333568 or send an email to info@villaroyalephuket.com

Laguna launches new mobile learning center

LAGUNA Phuket has announced that it will be launching a new community project, "Fully Booked!", which will see the opening of a new mobile learning center for schoolchildren.

The project is one of many initiatives set up by Laguna Phuket to support its wider strategic goal on social and educational development, which aims to build the capacities of local communities through socially beneficial projects, adequate educational support and access to quality educational services.

The "Fully Booked!" mobile learning center is aimed at helping to inspire younger schoolchildren to develop interests with books and improve their literacy through assisted reading.

As part of the long-term plan, the center will also work with rural parents to teach them how to read "to" and "with" their children, to encourage the learning process.

The center will travel to target schools, setting up a "pop-up" classroom on the grounds to provide schoolchildren with access to materials that are crucial for learning, but are very expensive and therefore unaffordable for many rural schools and families. It is hoped that this will reduce the literacy gap between urban and rural schools.

A qualified librarian cum teacher will be employed to manage the mobile learning center and ensure



The mobile learning center will provide greater access to educational resources for the community. Photo: Supplied

the program runs efficiently. During the first semester of the academic 2014 year, the center will visit three pilot schools each week, servicing each target student at least one time a week for the duration of the term.

Guests staying at any Laguna Phuket hotels will be invited to visit the mobile learning center at schools and join the teachers through interactive involvement by reading and playing interactive learning games with the children.

Since the project's initiation two years ago, more than 2.2 million baht has been raised for the center through the generous support of Laguna Phuket triathletes, marathoners, associates and community members. A matching

donation of 2.2 million baht was made by Banyan Tree Global Foundation to purchase and outfit the mobile vehicle, along with an additional 500,000 baht for purchase of books and learning materials.

"The 'Fully Booked!' program will benefit schoolchildren in Laguna Phuket's community as well as neighboring areas, whilst maintaining close links with the group-wide Banyan Tree Seedlings initiative launched six years ago," said Mr Ravi Chandran, managing director of Laguna Phuket.

The launch was scheduled for Friday, April 25, and will be followed by the center's operation launch later in June this year.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 27, 1-5pm. Kid Expo Phuket

QSI International School of Phuket presents the ultimate children and teens activity fair. Meet the exhibitors to learn about productive and exciting extra-curricular activities and summer holiday fun. Plus, the QSI "Kid Bazaar" for children 8-18 years, sell your old toys, books, sports equipment etc. 100 baht per mat, bring your own! Register at phuketexpo@pkt.qsi.org

May 1. Labor Day

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

May 3, 7-9pm. Boeing Boeing - A laugh out loud comedy play!

Broadway. West End. Now in Phuket. A swinging bachelor, in a love affair with three stewardesses at the same time. Their flights are expected to land at different times, but as luck would have it, the three muses of his life touch down at the same time! It's hilarious. Don't miss this the fun! Cast and crew from London.

For a riotous good time make sure you get your tickets today for this fantastic Gazette Headline Event presented by Jagota and promoted by Events International. Tickets are available for 1,200 baht at: Les Diabes at the Boat Lagoon and Laguna Canal Village. Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com

This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

May 5. Coronation Day

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

May 15, 11:30am - 2pm. Phuket International Women's Club May Lunch

The May lunch will be at DeDos restaurant in Tinlay Place, Chong Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact Maggy at info@piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club.

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 23, 6-11:30pm. Beatles Tribute Night at Two Chefs.

We serve a large buffet with smoked salmon, pulled pork burgers, roast beef, stuffed pork tenderloin, Yorkshire puddings, grilled rib-eye steaks with bearnaise sauce, pork crackling, lamb stew, bloody mary mussels, strawberry tarts, chocolate cup cakes, apple crumble pie and much more. All this plus the show and a welcome drink for only 795 baht for adults, 395 baht for kids.

The famous Two Chefs house band will be doing a full 20-song set with the most famous Beatles classics. We start serving the buffet at 6pm, then at 9pm the Two Chefs Beatles Tribute show will begin. Make your reservations now! Email: karon@twochefs.com, visit the website at: twochefs.com, or call 076-286479.

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).

May 31, 7-9pm. Bollywood Party Nite at XANA Beach Club.

Indian DJ, Indian dancers and an Indian feast. Watch, learn and groove with them the Indian way! This Bollywood themes night of music and dance will feature Bollywood hits, hip hop, funk, house and soul music. It's a Bollywood affair, so dress as you like and breathe in the colorful spirit of India.

Call 091-326-0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

June 7, 9am-midday. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

A family musical held at Phuket town's Simon Star Theater. A wonderful experience for children, parents and grandparents! A great visual treat with dances, music and pictures to be taken with your favorite character.

Call 091-326-0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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.

June 28 to July 27. Ramadan

Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the 9th month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

July 11. Asarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the 8th 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.

July 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat – the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada

practitioners. It is the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as monks, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the southwesterly monsoon is in full force.

August 12. Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's 82nd Birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand. Her Majesty's birthday is a public holiday.

November 4, 9am - 4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup

Once again the PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". Location: Underwoods Art Factory. For more information contact Carole Dux on 066 76 31671, email info@piwc-phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

November 6. Loy Krathong

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, which usually falls in November. A krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the River Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday in the Kingdom.

November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament

Registration is on the evening of November 19 from 6pm on-

wards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weigh station will be at the Tamarind on all three fishing days, November 20-22. The final evening and prize giving party will also be held at the Tamarind. In an effort to showcase individual team skills, the rules of the tournament (PIST) this year have been designed to allow teams to fish the event as they would while fun fishing.

This annual event, now in its 15th year, is proudly sponsored by the *Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107). For more information send an email to uweschitte@yahoo.com

Six degrees of foie gras

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

GLANCING over the custom menu for a six-course foie gras dinner party, one doesn't expect to be caught up with foie gras gelato. Even less likely to be the culinary star of the evening is the foie gras lollipop hidden at the bottom, next to the coffee selection. However, when anyone sits down for a gastronomic meal at Trisara Seafood, the unexpected is exactly what is on the menu.

The host for the evening, Alain Rougie, a fourth generation producer of some of the finest foie gras in the world – supplying about half of all Michelin-star restaurants – stood to welcome his guests and introduce one of the more controversial gourmet delicacies on the market.

Alain wasted no time in grabbing the bull by the horns, or the duck by the bill, so to speak, and exploring the controversy, educating the table of fine diners and not skipping the fact that the item was banned in the US state of California in 2012.

The controversy focuses on the force-feeding of mallard ducks, which have traditionally been a migratory bird that fattens its liver for the long flight. The tradition of force-feeding migratory birds dates back to ancient Egyptian times, and has continued for centuries in many countries across the globe.

Foie gras itself is so fundamen-

tal to the essence of French culinary art that it is protected under article L654 of France's 2006 Rural Code which decrees: "Foie gras is part of the protected cultural and gastronomic heritage of France."

Alain assures the dinner party that at least his company (after four generations) has become so in tune with the process that it takes expert feeders less than 20 seconds to feed a bird.

"If the animal is suffering or stressed it will not produce good foie gras," Alain said with a heavy French accent.

However, it wasn't the controversy that had drawn guests down Trisara's winding, shady pathways to the beachside restaurant – it was the texture, flavor and adaptability of foie gras. It is an ingredient that can be seamlessly transformed from home-

style cooking to the avant garde, finding a happy home in Asian cuisines along the way.

To this effect, even Alain was in for a treat, as Trisara's head chef Chalermchai Prakobkit rolled out his take on foie gras.

The mousse, elegantly served on a puffed bulgur crisp with pickled orange was exactly what a connoisseur would expect. The greedy gobbled down the tasty morsel, and were quickly back to their Penedes (Spain) white wine. However, those slower to chew

felt the crisp bulgur crack away and the savory, semi-sweet flavor of the orange resonate across the palate, transported by the silky smooth foie gras.

Conversation continued until the terrine was served. The slowly cooked terrine, offered at room temperature, was plated with apple strips, grape chutney and balsamic vinegar – bringing together many of the flavors of spring. There was a masterful contrast between the sweetness of the grape chutney and tartness of the slivers of green apple as they played in the texture of the foie gras.

Next up, pan fried foie gras, which has become an Asian classic. The slab-cut foie gras, quick in and quick out of the pan, has taken hold in many Asian countries, including Thailand and China.

With little fat rendered, the crisply seared outside contains a more delicate, less pungent taste of foie gras which is unbelievably soft on the tongue. The thick scallop and strips of black truffle served alongside give body to the dish as a sunchoke cream intensifies the smooth texture.

Before the consomme is served, it is time for a change of wine, moving to a 2009 Beaujolais (France).

The consomme appeared without broth – very gastronomic – who needs soup with their consomme? In a shallow bowl, amid a forest of baby vegetables stood a small, chilled tower of poached foie gras with spring onions. Before even the most eager was able to launch in, servers appeared pouring a rich broth into the bowls, allowing the cold of the creamy foie gras to play against the warmth of the soup.

Though the next dish, duck magret ballotine served with foie



The artistic presentation married foie gras with a scallop.

gras, baby artichoke, crispy chanterelle, parsnip and peas was succulent and flavorful, it, like all the other dishes, fell into the shadow of the foie gras gelato.

Served with fresh strawberries, creme fraiche and black sesame cake, the foie gras gelato was surprising and complex, supporting chocolate and coffee flavors. The natural creaminess of the foie gras blended into the gelato sublimely. Having expected stronger foie gras flavors and salt, the subtlety of dessert was spectacular. Even the expert agreed.

"It's not easy to do. Sometimes it's too sweet. This was really the right taste and I was very happy," Alain said. "The whole meal was perfect, I very much enjoyed."

Sipping on a sweet Moscato from Napa Valley, it was obvious that everyone at the table was pleased with how things had gone. Some ordered tea, and others coffee, just to balance out the three-hour meal. Few, if any, were aware that the evening's foie gras gem had yet to be served.

On a rectangular white plate came the single dish that truly challenged and expanded the diners' minds. The dark chocolate ball with white chocolate streaks looked like a truffle with a thin, stiff blade of grass poking out as a handle.

Up to this point Chef Chalermchai had been holding back on the strong foie gras flavors, letting it work in conjunction with oranges, grapes, black truffles, broth and gelato. He had been pulling the flavor to find balance and harmony for each dish, exploring some of the subtleties of the delicacy. Then, as diners reflected on the meal, he decided to move in with a tour de force – chocolate foie gras lollipops.

The hard chocolate shell cracked between the teeth as the foie gras burst out. Strong, pungent, salty flavors stood in stark contrast with the sweetness of the chocolate. The flavors battled, and the mind awakened – grasping for an understanding, and rejoicing for the gastronomic disposition that takes food beyond essential into art.



Alain Rougie tackled the controversy surrounding the French delicacy foie gras before dinner was served, foie gras lollipops and all. Photos: Supplied

How Siamized are you?



NOTED anthropologist Antoinette Anthropolopoulos is in Phuket completing a study on Siamized expats, or *homo expatriatus Siamensis*. I interviewed her at the Rat & Cockroach Pub on Soi SomTam:

Dr Anthropolopoulos, what is a Siamized Expat?

That's an expatriate living in Thailand, usually a long-time resident, who has become so thoroughly acculturated that we can say he's become "siamized".

Are there many people like that?

Not many. Usually they live upcountry. I've devised a scale to measure degrees of Siamization. So far, I've identified three: Utterly Un-Siamized, Semi-Siamized and Completely Siamized.

Can you tell me about these categories?

Yes. The Utterly Un-Siamized Expat is completely unacc-

ulturated. He won't touch Thai food, refuses to learn Thai, hates everything about Thailand and complains constantly. Perennially loud, rude, impatient and arrogant, he gets angry at the traffic, the heat and the noise.

He slops around in shorts, sandals and singlet, and is often covered with tattoos and piercings.

Usually he's a tourist, so Thailand doesn't have to put up with him for long.

Not a pretty picture. What about the Semi-Siamized Expat?

Usually he's been here awhile. He's learned how to speak Thai, may even know how to read it, and has studied Thai culture. He loves Thai food, can handle chillies in moderation, but is not keen on fried grasshoppers.

He tolerates the traffic, the heat, and the noise without complaining. He doesn't mind being in bars where the music ruptures his eardrums. He doesn't get angry unless really provoked; doesn't get upset when people are late; and even watches Thai TV sometimes. Whenever he returns to his home country, he feels a little disoriented.

And the Completely Siamized Expat?

This is a rare bird. He reads, writes and speaks Thai fluently. He's very knowledgeable about Thai culture. Usually, he's settled here and is married and raising a family. He sends his kids to Thai schools and contributes to the local temple.

He eats nothing but Thai food, and tosses down handfuls of "mouse-turd" chillies with joyous abandon. He loves eating fried grasshoppers, except for the legs.

He likes traffic jams, thrives on hot weather and shivers if the temperature plunges below 35 degrees. He enjoys noise, loves karaoke bars and is ecstatic when loudspeakers in his village blare Morlam music at brain-shattering volume throughout the night.

He's addicted to Thai TV, too – especially the soap operas and the slapstick comedy.

He expects people to be late, and is shocked when they're not. Delays and hassles don't bother him. He waves aside with a cheery smile every inconvenience, every provocation, for he knows that all is transient. His twin mottoes are "Jai yen yen" and "Mai pen rai." Whenever he



Bankok's Khao San Road, natural habitat of large numbers of Utterly Un-Siamized expats, in other words – tourists. Photo: Takeaway

returns to his home country, he feels completely out of place.

is good enough. It's in line with the Middle Way.

Which of these do you feel is best?

If you're going to live here, obviously Completely Siamized is best. Otherwise, Semi-Siamized

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's wondering what Completely Siamized Expats have against eating fried grasshopper legs.



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The Indian connection



The Ixora is a ubiquitous shrub with Indian origins. Photo: Meneerke bloem



The Lagerstroemia speciosa's wood is used in construction. Photo: J.M.Garg



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

OF ALL the tropical plants beginning with the letter "I", the *Ixora* (khem in Thai) is probably the most ubiquitous. Yet another shrub with Indian origins, there are few cared-for public spaces in Phuket that do not have a bed or border of orange or dwarf pink and white *Ixoras*. Small

specimens are invariably available in plant nurseries, growing happily in small plastic pouches – testimony to its toughness, its adaptability to various soils (though it prefers an acidic one) and its willingness to be propagated from cuttings. It is one of the least expensive plants around.

Indeed, for most people arriving in Southeast Asia for the first time, the *Ixora* will probably be the first tropical plant they encounter, at an airport or flank-

ing an avenue nearby. Why? Because *Ixoras* – and the name is taken from an Indian deity – are not only extremely durable, and not only bloom throughout the year, but can be pruned drastically to create neat, bonsai-like shapes. Right now, the orange *Ixora coccinea* is flowering everywhere, apparently impervious to the protracted spell of dry weather we have been experiencing. A true tropical, it loves the sun and its small evergreen leathery leaves seem impervious to its hot caresses.

While *I. coccinea* will settle happily in a container, it is a compact shrub and the larger *I. javanica*, or *chinensis*, which have handsome light green foliage and clusters of orange, red, yellow or white blooms, are a more suitable choice for pots. Better to keep *I. coccinea* with its tiny, dark leaves for your borders, or use it to create a neat, low hedge. In my Chalong garden, I had yet another variety *I. finlayson*, which grew to a height of about two meters and became a prominent feature with its large, fragrant, pure-white flowers. A good choice as a

specimen shrub. All species – and there are some 500 – are low-maintenance, and so long as the temperature does not drop below 18C (64F), they will thrive. Hardly a problem in Phuket... It is a shrub I would not be without.

Another plant often seen in public parks and along roadsides is the *inthanin*, also known as the Pride of India. Another Indian connection. But there the similarities end. For the *inthanin* is a substantial tree, up to 10 meters tall when mature. And in order to include it under "I", I am cheating by using the Thai name by which my partner invariably refers to it. Its botanical moniker is *lagerstroemia speciosa* and it belongs to the family of crape myrtles (others include *floribunda*, *loudonii* and *macrocarpa*). In common with all its kind, the or queen crape myrtle is not only showy and decorative, but is hardy enough to be employed as a wayside tree, especially in South Thailand. It used to be a sight for sore eyes along the airport road, but has long since been replaced by characterless sugar palms.

Lagerstroemia speciosa has gray, sometimes almost white bark and the wood is used in construction. But its glory resides in its array of deep pink panicles of crinkly rosy-pink flowers. Crinkly? That's why the genus is referred to as the crape (or crepe) myrtle. That these floral clusters are produced all year round is an additional bonus. A multiple trunked tree, it is ideal for a tropical garden where you have plenty of room, especially as an ornamental specimen. For it is sun-loving and will grow vigorously in most soils. Like the *Ixora*, it is in full bloom right now. Available in nurseries, only the seed-grown species is normally for sale. But there should not be a problem with that. Any shortcomings? It's a deciduous tree, so expect some falling leaves from November onwards. A small price to pay.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com. Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com



The Ixora javanica is a larger variety more suited for pots. Photo: Serenity

Tip of the week

Evergreen or deciduous

IT IS worth knowing if a tree or large shrub will drop its leaves, as this characteristic may be an important consideration when planning a garden or buying a new plant. A tree is classed as deciduous even if it drops its leaves for only a brief period.

Thus, the flame tree (*delonix regia*), currently in flower, has already released half of its foliage before the orange blooms appear. Interestingly, it will keep most of these flowers and its new foliage well into the rainy season, but it is still classified as deciduous. Evergreen trees are generally lower-maintenance, since their foliage is usually tougher, and what few leaves they shed rarely litter the ground.

However, deciduous ones, especially those



The deciduous flame tree.

with an open habit, are more serviceable in flower beds since they provide dappled shade. Evergreens with dense foliage can make life difficult for understorey plants by blotting out too much light.

Dog of the week

Chill

CHILL is a medium-sized male dog, about 4-5 years old and got his name from being one very chilled-out dude. He is a real love bug, who loves nothing more than being cuddled. About seven months ago he was rescued from the horrific conditions of the local dog holding facility, where he was locked-up for a couple of years, and because he is not a fighter, he was being attacked by the larger dogs. When the Doggie Heaven rescue team found him he was covered in bite wounds that were infected and causing him great pain. He is available to travel to the UK, USA or stay here in Thailand. As you can see now, he is a handsome boy who's fully recovered, vaccinated,



Chill is waiting for you to adopt him.

sterilized and very keen to get out of the rescue center.

For private adoption details please contact : Sherin@DoggieHeavenrescuecenter.com at sherin.peace@gmail.com

Spider-Man does it again

Just like last time, and the time before that, *etc etc, ad nauseam*

By Alexander Maycock

MARVEL took quite a lot of stick from reviewers over the movies that they released prior to *The Avengers*, with *Thor*, *Captain America: The First Avenger* and *Iron Man 2* all being condemned by a certain element of the online whinge brigade as blatant prequels to the mega-success that was to become *The Avengers*.

While there may be a scintilla of truth behind that claim, it fails utterly to appreciate how the Marvel Universe works in the comic books.

As a kid, trying to keep track of everything that was going on in Stan Lee's massively intertextualized empire required way more pocket money than I was getting, but if I didn't buy Captain America #117, I would have no idea why Spiderman was cheesed off with Johnny Storm – and it wouldn't require Cap or the Human Torch to appear; just a footnote at the bottom of the panel.

It was a bit frustrating, but otherwise didn't detract from the story as a whole and, yes, if I really, really needed to know, I would do extra chores and put the pennies towards Cap #117... then #116 to work out what the heck was going on in #117 and probably #118 to make sure Cap survived whatever started in #116.

Ah, Stan Lee, you marketing genius. You made my childhood poorer, but at least it kept me off

the harder addictions... like Dark Horse comics.

Marvel's latest release, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, relies heavily on the viewer knowing what happened in *The First Avenger* and, while the studio's previous release, *Thor: The Dark World*, may have overdone the "remember what just happened in New York?" link-backs, the story and the action are a lot stronger for not having to spend hours and hours explaining who everyone is, where they are and why they dislike each other.

Meanwhile, over at *Iron Man 3*, Tony Stark becomes less of a two-dimensional character, not so much because of what happens in that film but because of what happened in *The Avengers*.

The Marvel cinematic universe works best because of its intertextuality. This is not because it forces you to go out and buy the last movie (which, ya know, it kinda does), but because we become more familiar with our heroes by having a fuller understanding of the "universe" within which they operate.

This, finally, brings us to Columbia Pictures' latest outing for Marvel's friendly neighborhood web-slinger – *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*. And here's the review: Angry aging teen with superpowers fights a bunch of third-string baddies that destroy half of New York in the process, while worrying about the girl he wants but cannot have.

How is that different from the

first *Amazing Spider-Man*? There are a couple of extra baddies and more stuff gets broken. How are both of these stories any different from the original Tobey Maguire-led trilogy? Errrr... oh yeah, Tobey fought A-list villains, while Andrew Garfield spends most of 2 trying to control his annoying facial ticks from the first movie. (Well done on that, Mr Garfield).

Columbia – either by design or clear desperation – have decided not to let the development of Peter Parkers universe get in the way by simply repackaging the same old story in slightly glossier special effects. And, be warned: THIS IS A PREQUEL

To be fair, Columbia does make that clear with the tagline: "His greatest battle begins". But – having rehased every previous Spidey movie plot in the first two thirds of the movie – they then spend the last part of it cueing up two sequels and possible spin-offs.

Emma Stone as Spidey's love interest, Gwen Stacy, does at least get to be much more than the stuck-to-the-wallflower she was in the first Garfield outing. So, what does director Mark Webb do? Well... let's just say she's really good in the first two thirds of the movie.

The B-list villain, Electro, gets a thorough makeover, with massively enhanced powers compared to the comic book version, but is hammed up unnecessarily by Jamie Foxx, while the much better baddie, The



The 'Amazing Spider-Man 2' would be much more amazing if we hadn't seen it before. Photo: Columbia Pictures

Rhino, only gets cameo status at the end of the movie, with Paul Giamatti's deliciously campy Russian mobster making it very clear he will be back for the 2016 sequel.

Suffice to say, Columbia isn't planning on relinquishing the Spidey franchise until the web-slinger's last pip has squeaked. Which is a great shame, because it means we are unlikely to see a Spidey and Cap/Iron Man/Hulk team-up this side of 2024.

As a footnote to the whole intertextuality thing, the mid-cred-

its teaser in *Amazing Spider-Man 2* is set in the late 60s features none of the characters from the movie and references events that will be happening in the completely screwed up alternate timeline of *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, which is the sequel to the prequel that was...errrr... oh heck, I give up. After all, why should I care, when Columbia patently doesn't.

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 will be in Phuket cinemas from May 1

Coming soon



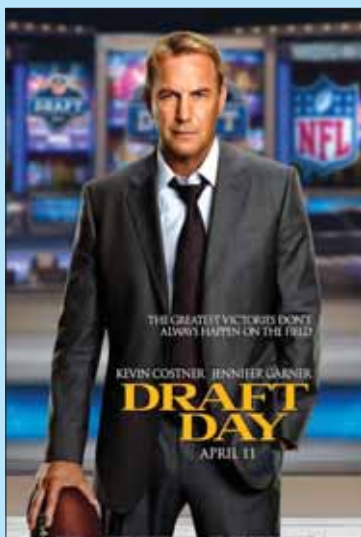
Railway Man

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Stellan Skarsgård, Colin Firth, Hiroyuki Sanada

Director: Jonathan Teplitzky

Genre: Drama

Premieres: April 24 (BKK, no Phuket release date as yet)



Draft Day

Starring: Kevin Costner, Denis Leary, Jennifer Garner, Chadwick Boseman

Director: Ivan Reitman

Genre: Drama

Premieres: May 8 (BKK, no Phuket release date as yet)

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Cycling on coconuts



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

I FIND myself writing increasingly about the concept of “escape” from Phuket these days. Talking to fellow cyclists and other residents alike, the need to find a sanctuary away from the everyday hassles, stress, traffic and urbanization of Phuket keeps coming up. It seems that the work week is taking its toll on people living in Phuket, and so a depressurizing and recharging escape to a nearby tranquil location is increasingly sought. This is particularly true of poor, blighted cyclists, who face not only heat and pollution, but continual danger in pursuit of their passion for pushing pedals.

When my friend, Wayne “Red” Graham, told me about the boutique villa he was buying in the newly-opened Jindarin Beachside Resort on Koh Maphrao, or Coconut Island, literally a five minute boat ride from Phuket’s east coast, it sounded exactly the sort of proximal cycling escape that my soul was craving.

Koh Maphrao is a small isle about 2.5 kilometers by 1.5km, located just 500 meters off Phuket’s east coast, near the popular Laem Hin seafood dining piers just north of Phuket Town. Koh Maphrao is still rather unde-

veloped because, amazingly enough, there’s no electricity on the island apart from private generators. However, during my March 2014 visit, contractors were, at last, erecting power poles... a cause of great celebration among the 400 or so resident Muslim islanders.

It took us only five minutes by long-tail boat, my mountain bike balanced precariously in the prow, to reach Koh Maphrao’s main pier, on the island’s west coast. The island is roughly rectangular and a good quarter of its south-western corner is covered with mangrove forest, home to long-tailed Macaques and a breeding nursery for all sorts of local fish. There’s only one paved road through the heart of the island from west to east, starting at the pier and finishing at a viewpoint in the east coast jungle, but there are lots of hilly and rocky tracks to entertain and challenge the pioneering mountain biker.

The main village is located on the northern coast, next to the first resort built on Koh Maphrao – The Village Coconut Island. Fishing and farming are the two main occupations, and rubber trees, plus local fruits and vegetables, are grown in the central

part of the island.

There are only three easily reachable beaches, the longest one being on the northern coast in front of the Village Coconut Island Resort; the second one on the southern coast, where the Jindarin Beach Club itself is situated; and the third one is a secluded little cove, accessible by bike, on the east coast.

In the late afternoon when it had cooled down a little, I cycled to the northeastern part of the island which is wild and superb with some mountainous rainforest. The one paved road gradually degenerates into a dirt track which follows the east coast up to its central part, where a crumbling, closed-up bungalow resort with a dilapidated restaurant stands. There are still some people living in this corner of the island – retired Europeans living their dream in peace, seemingly far away from it all, but in reality just five minutes by boat from Phuket. This is certainly one of the great advantages of settling here, as a retired Aussie couple I met told me. While

the island is still unspoilt and undeveloped, it’s only a short drive and boat ride to all the amenities (and hassles) of Phuket. The best of both worlds in fact!

Cycling around the hilly eastern part of the island proved quite challenging,

with some steep rocky climbs, but the view to the east was worth it. On a clear evening like the one I enjoyed, you can see the Phi Phi Islands and even the hazy outline of the Krabi coast.

After the ride, I settled down with Red on the terrace of his boutique villa at the Jindarin Resort. The Resort is being built as a natural “fantasy land” focused on nature, with cart paths and nature trails leading to grass-roofed cottages with their own Robinson Crusoe pier, a swimming pool and a sand-between-your-toes clubhouse and beach bar.

Jindarin boasts a genuine bucolic charm and is light years away in character and psychology from Phuket. Yet, as we sat there quaffing icy-cold beer on Red’s lovely terrace, I felt I could almost reach out and touch the lights as they flickered amidst the vegetation back on the main island.

Koh Maphrao is certainly a delightful place to visit if you’re a cyclist looking to discover authentic local life and a glimpse of the past where most of the modern world’s travails have yet to arrive. And it’s only a five minute boat ride away!



Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island) lies only 500 meters off of Phuket’s east coast.



The island is still unspoilt and undeveloped.



The resort is being built focused on nature.



Cycling around the eastern part of the island has steep climbs with rewarding views.

Hoping to heal from Heartbleed

By Jeremie Schatz

ON April 1, 2014 one of Google's security team members reported a disturbing discovery. Don't be misled, what was found to be a very serious security breach affecting half-a-million websites across cyberspace was, in fact, not a computer virus. It was a simple programming code mistake which turned out to have far-reaching implications for, what was thought to be, encrypted information. Meet Heartbleed.

The Heartbleed bug, as it has been grimly named, is a small coding error that somehow remained unseen by those responsible for catching such mistakes. The error was written into a security protocol called OpenSSL which is meant to provide a secure line of communication between networks and other computers and mobile devices. Numerous internet Goliaths such as Amazon, Facebook and Google run this protocol that was intended to keep the sensitive information users decide to share – think passwords, credit card numbers and social security numbers – under lock and key. At this point, it is widely considered one of the most serious security breaches in the history of the internet.

Following the discovery of this metaphorical hole in the bucket, a patch was created and released on April 7 to shore up the breach. Internet users can now breathe a little easier, but not quite a sigh of relief.

Although the error in the code has been taken care of, the problem was only discovered last month, while it has actually existed since it was implemented in an OpenSSL update on March 14, 2012.

At this point, unless you have already been affected, there really is no way of knowing if a hacking, thieving, scoundrel has acquired your info. Other than changing your online passwords, there is little you can do. What needs to happen is that the websites – about two-thirds of the internet – need to update the certificates and private keys that they use to encrypt communications. Certificates and private keys are used by networks to show you and your computer's browser that your connection is indeed secure. Ever notice the little padlock beside a website's address in your browser? That's the verification symbol showing security authenticity.

However, this does not happen with the click of a button – to recreate and employ certificates and private keys takes time and effort. For instance, Google took the necessary steps to protect their users right away, but smaller networks without nearly infinite resources at their disposal like Google may struggle to do the same. Keep in mind that Heartbleed is not a virus on your computer so your machine itself is not compromised.

But wait, there is more. Another risk posed by Heartbleed is the explicit possibility that some

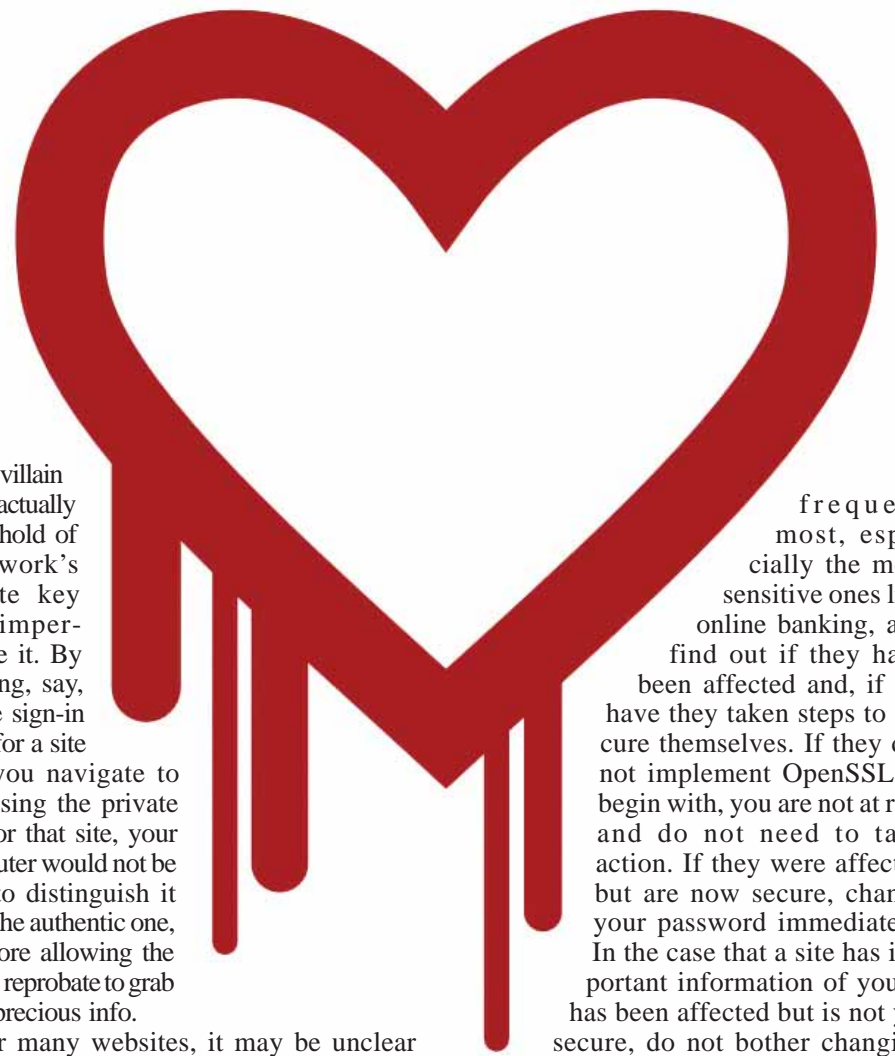
cyber-villain could actually get a hold of a network's private key and impersonate it. By creating, say, a fake sign-in page for a site that you navigate to and using the private key for that site, your computer would not be able to distinguish it from the authentic one, therefore allowing the online reprobate to grab your precious info.

For many websites, it may be unclear whether they have been affected by Heartbleed. Several tech websites (such as mashable.com) have posted a list of some popular sites with their status regarding security.

The best approach to begin protecting yourself is to identify the sites you

frequent most, especially the most sensitive ones like online banking, and find out if they have been affected and, if so, have they taken steps to secure themselves. If they did not implement OpenSSL to begin with, you are not at risk and do not need to take action. If they were affected but are now secure, change your password immediately. In the case that a site has important information of yours, has been affected but is not yet secure, do not bother changing your password until they have taken the necessary steps to keep your info safe.

More news will surface regarding Heartbleed and more people will be affected. For now, don't be lazy, be proactive and do what needs to be done to protect yourself.



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The sky's the limit



By Somchai Huasaikul

THERE has been a great deal of action recently at Phuket Airpark, Southern Thailand's only privately-run airstrip, among a diverse group of aviation enthusiasts and entrepreneurs.

The Airpark, which opened in Pa Khlok with a single ultralight six years ago, is now home to 11 light aircraft in a wide variety of designs. None are more eye-catching than the most recent addition to the fleet: Thailand's first "AutoGyro Cavalon", a tiny German-built two-seat "gyrocopter", a hybrid between a plane and a helicopter that looks like a futuristic version of the contraption made famous in the Australian film *Mad Max 2*.

Whirlybird

Phuket-based Danish expat and partial owner of the gyrocopter, Torben Jensen, told *Up in the Air* that the aircraft is one of the safest

in the world – virtually impossible to stall and capable of taking off or landing over extremely short distances. If the engine fails, it simply autorotates to a safe landing.

Together with well-known building contractor Best Wanamakok of Wanamakok Civil & Environmental Consultants and another Dane, Michael Lumby, Mr Jensen and his team have gained the exclusive rights to sell AutoGyros in Thailand. The first will serve as a demonstration model and the company plans to buy two more in coming months, thus establishing Phuket Airpark as home to AutoGyro's sole and exclusive dealership in Thailand.

The first AutoGyro arrived by container at the Airpark recently, and was quickly assembled by the enthusiastic team who swarmed about it like kids on Christmas morning.

Mr Jensen, who runs a property rental business in Nai Harn, told *Up In The Air* that he intends to use the aircraft to "add value" to the visits of guests staying at his resort apartments in the Nai Harn area by offering them bird's-eye views of iconic vistas such as Laem Promthep.

At about 6.5 million baht, the Cavalon is at the top end of three AutoGyro makes designed and produced by AutoGyro GmbH of Hildesheim, Germany.

The futuristic design features



The AutoGyro Cavalon, a tiny German-built two-seat gyrocopter is a hybrid between a plane and a helicopter.

a single main rotor more than eight meters across powered by a 100hp, four-stroke Rotax engine, considered among the most reliable in the aviation industry. Thrust is delivered by a composite three-bladed propeller mounted behind the teardrop-shaped fuselage, also made of lightweight composite material.

The team's plan is to invite two flight instructors from Europe to teach Airpark owner Suchard "Robert" Raksangob and Phuket Airpark Safety and Flight Operations manager Pat James, who will in turn teach Torben and his team how to operate and maintain the unique aircraft safely.

Italian girl

Another new addition to the Airpark's expanding fleet is Suchard's "new girl" – an Italian 1964 SIAI-Marchetti SF-260, the aerial equivalent of those classic Italian speedboats of yesteryear. Powered by a Lycoming 200hp engine and piloted by Suchard, this was the aircraft that took us on an eye-opening half hour tour around the island during which we snapped hundreds of aerial photos to document Phuket's ongoing transformation from real jungle to concrete jungle.

For the record, Suchard was a supreme gentleman when my daughter, riding alone in the back, got air sick. [Note to self: bring plastic bags next time, if there is one.] Robert, who is half German, noted that Thais seem to experience air sickness far more often than their Caucasian counterparts.

De plane boss, de plane

Next month will see the Airpark fleet expand further when Pat and his Aero Pro Management

firm take possession of a pair of two-seat Brazilian sea planes, captained by factory-trained pilots, that should be perfect for "splashing and dashing" in the waters of Phang Nga Bay. These aircraft will be permanently based at Phuket Airpark starting next month, providing yet another exciting opportunity for the island's aerial enthusiasts. Pat and his team hope to take possession of the planes and fulfill all the regulatory requirements to have them flying by the start of the next high season.

Helicopter flight school

The old clubhouse at Phuket Airpark has been leased out to a company that will offer helicopter flight instruction using a pair of two-seat Robinson R44 light helicopters.

Pat, a former Vietnam combat helicopter pilot, will not be directly involved in the training, but will continue to oversee all safety aspects, including those brought about from having such a diverse array of aircraft operating out of the same facility.

Control issues

One of the most prominent features at the Airpark is the new flight control tower. The tower and covered canopy area below a cool place to hang out and watch all the activity while enjoying reasonably priced, ice-cold beer. With that in mind, it is fortunate that they also have added a new and comfortable wicker bathroom facility just a stone's throw away.

Big birds, little birds

The new tower was the center of activity at a special "monks blessing" ceremony of eight aircraft at the park last month.

After the ceremony, the monks were treated to a special show by none other than world-famous aerobatic pilot Les Vorosmarthy. Going up with Les by special request was a junior air traffic control officer at Phuket International Airport (HKT), one of a large contingent of AeroThai team members who turned up for the occasion. It was a good chance for the two air traffic control teams to meet and discuss methods of keeping "the big birds and the small birds" apart, as they like to put it.

Air traffic controllers at the crowded Phuket Airport monitor some 200 flights daily though that airfield alone and are also responsible for tracking flight movements across the entire southern region, so they have little time, space or inclination to deal with recreational aircraft. Airpark owner Suchard told *Up in the Air* that the turnout and special request to take part in the aerobatic show demonstrated the strength of the growing relationship between the two teams.

Balloon man

Another activity now available through Phuket Airpark is tethered hot air balloon flights offered by Muscovite Igor Naymilov and his team. Pat and Suchard explained that hot air balloons have a wide variety of recreational, promotional and commercial uses by hotels, shopping malls and MICE events. When aloft, the ten-story-high balloon is a real sight to behold, capable of carrying promotional banners offering publicity in an unrivaled eye-grabbing way that will not obstruct land-based activity like so many obnoxious



Suchard Raksangob with his 'Italian Girl', a 1964 SIAI-Marchetti SF-260, took the author and his daughter up for a scenic flight. Photo: Somchai Huasaikul

at Phuket Airpark



World-famous aerobatic pilot Les Vorosmarthy is a regular visitor to the Airpark. Photos: M Knowles



This hot air balloon was on display at the Phuket Airpark Airshow in 2013.

caravans of slow moving "sound trucks".

Ultralights

Discussions are well underway that would see a well-established company offering a variety of ultralight aircraft services in Hua Hin expanding and setting up an office at Phuket Airpark. The management of the company, which manufactures sails for paramotor aircraft and provides other services for

ultralights as well as microlights, hopes to be up and running at the Airpark as soon as July.

Leap of faith

Aero Pro Management is ready to offer sky diving flights from the Airpark and is only awaiting final approval of its commercial license from the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA). They already have a room full of parachutes and other equipment and successfully com-

pleted a series of test jumps in December, as well as a demonstration jump at last year's airshow.

Sky synergy

Pat and Suchard see the proliferation of services available or coming soon to the Airpark as synergistic, not competitive. In Pat's words:

"Even with all of these diverse services, we will still share the same customers. For example, a family comes out and the children would

love to go on the microlight, while the father wants to take some flight lessons and mom wants to go up in the hot air balloon. They all have different interests, and they can pursue them all in the same way they might at a place like Disney Land, with everyone going on six or seven rides over the course of a weekend."

"All of these things come together. One person's advertising will feed the others, and vice versa.

We are all working together and we are all good friends who have worked together for a long time, but we all have our little specialty. Khun Suchard's job is to make us all feel welcome and moving in the right direction, while my job is to keep us all safe and operational while each of the individual operators takes care of their own area of interest."

For more information and links to services visit: phuketAirpark.com

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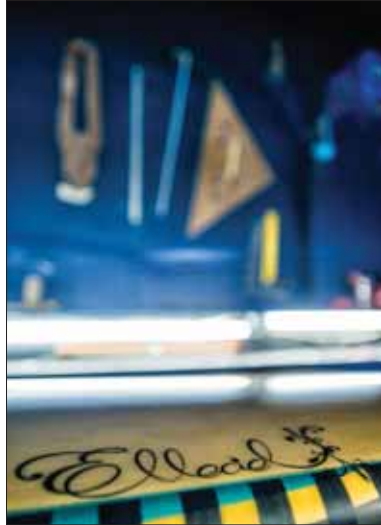
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Living the simple life



David at work placing a board in a vacuum bag in his shop in Nai Harn.



Sarong cloth is often used.



David prepares to apply epoxy resin to a board being made for a VIP.

By Jeremie Schatz

Live simple, consume less. This philosophy is engrained in the business and life of custom surfboard maker David "Mousset" Sautebin.

Originally from Bienne, Switzerland, the wiry 36-year-old stood in the entrance of his Nai Harn workshop clad only in Thai fisherman's pants. A quiver of surfboards lined the doorway which emitted a tinny soundtrack of Bob Marley from within.

"All of this story started with 1,500 dollars [US] to build the workshop, buy all of the materials and build two boards," says David of his business Ellecial Surfboards. The name is derived from the pronunciation of the letters LSCL, which stand for "live simple, consume less."

"The name came out of what I didn't want, and what I didn't want was a predator or raptor or any of these aggressive things. For me surfing is everything but aggressive. For me surfing is nature, it's organic, it's flowy."

What inspired the Swiss watchmaker turned surfboard shaper to make the leap from the micro-precision engineering of time-

pieces to the fluid design of surfboards was the direction he saw the surfboard industry going, "That's the industry, they make disposal things, you use it a few times and you throw it away... It's giant money for them."

With guidance and advice from people with vast experience in the industry, David set off to create the distinctive designs found lining his walls today. The construction method of Ellecial boards consists of a type of sandwich composite. They are still made with a foam core – although it is EPS (expanded polystyrene) opposed to the polyurethane found in more traditional boards – but he sandwiches a thin layer of material such as wood or cloth between layers of fiberglass cloth to create a structural shell. "The idea is many layers put together to make structure out of something that is not necessarily strong by itself," explains David.

The most tangible benefit of this construction method is the increased durability. A normally constructed fiberglass and polyurethane board dents and dings quite easily and may only survive a season or two. However, an Epoxy and EPS board of comparable size and weight can last for years.

It isn't readily apparent as you look at and handle an Ellecial board just how strong they are. As David explains his construction technique, he picks one up and punches it very hard several times

– strikes that would certainly dent a normal board. Of the more than 120 Ellecial boards in the water, David knows of only one that has succumbed under extreme conditions in Africa.

"I try to only work with Thai products... I try to source everything here," he says about the raw materials. The EPS he uses for the cores was manufactured right here in Phuket until recently, when they ran into problems, and now his source is in Hat Yai. He even incorporates materials such as Thai sarong cloth and other local textiles into his boards.

The less tangible but equally, if not more, impressive aspect of David's boards is the high level of craftsmanship. Many of the boards scattered around his workshop look like works of art intended to be hung on the wall instead of gliding underfoot in the ocean. This has been a big selling point he says, describing the eye-catching reputation building up around his boards, "My friend in California said that every time [he goes surfing] it takes him 45 minutes to get in the water."

So how does a Swiss watchmaker end up as a surfboard shaper in Phuket? Like many who have set up a home here, it is an interesting, and long, story. David had been plagued with knee problems for many years and has undergone dozens of surgeries. With the surgeries resulting in little success, he turned to Chinese medicine which, overtime, began

to lessen his suffering. While on surf trips he also began to realize that his knee problems were less severe when he was in warmer climates.

David embarked on numerous surfing trips to far-flung destinations like Hawaii and Morocco and enjoying some of the best breaks that the world has to offer. Later on he began sea-hitchhiking and finding himself in places like Sri Lanka and Indonesia – living the lifestyle that many surfers only dream of.

With a simple stop-off in Phuket, David's path in life led him in a different direction. Following a chance encounter and subsequent two month tour around Thailand with Thai reggae star Job 2 Do, David found himself back in Phuket where he stumbled upon his soul-mate and is still with her today. After being dropped off at the Ao Sane bungalows five years ago, David has literally set up shop in Nai Harn.

He has spent four of those years building up his business which blossomed out of humble beginnings where David struggled to find an adequate place for a workshop, dealt with the challenges of finding tools and materials, and patiently searched out resources and advice. He persisted and now maintains enough business to stay afloat.

David is realistic about the direction he is going and has no intention of sacrificing the high standards that he now adheres to.

From the beginning he has known that in his business, one must start with, and maintain, a clean reputation, "I knew that I had no chance to do anything that was not perfect." A flawed board floating around out there would bear his name and a product of sub-par quality would certainly come back to haunt him.

Currently, he is constrained to making only about two boards per week and with no grandiose dreams of dominating the world surfboard market, he has no complaints.

"Every board is a seed," says David. He started with just a few boards around Nai Harn, but each board sparks new interest and the potential to build upon his reputation. Now, a small selection of his boards can be found all over the island and even in Khao Lak.

Custom boards are available from 18,000 baht.

Ellecial is a sponsor of the Khao Lak Surfing Competition which will be held at Pakarang Beach on April 26-28.

To get your hands on one of David's custom creations, call him at 083-192 8161 or visit ellecial.com



David's boards are created using a sandwich composite method.



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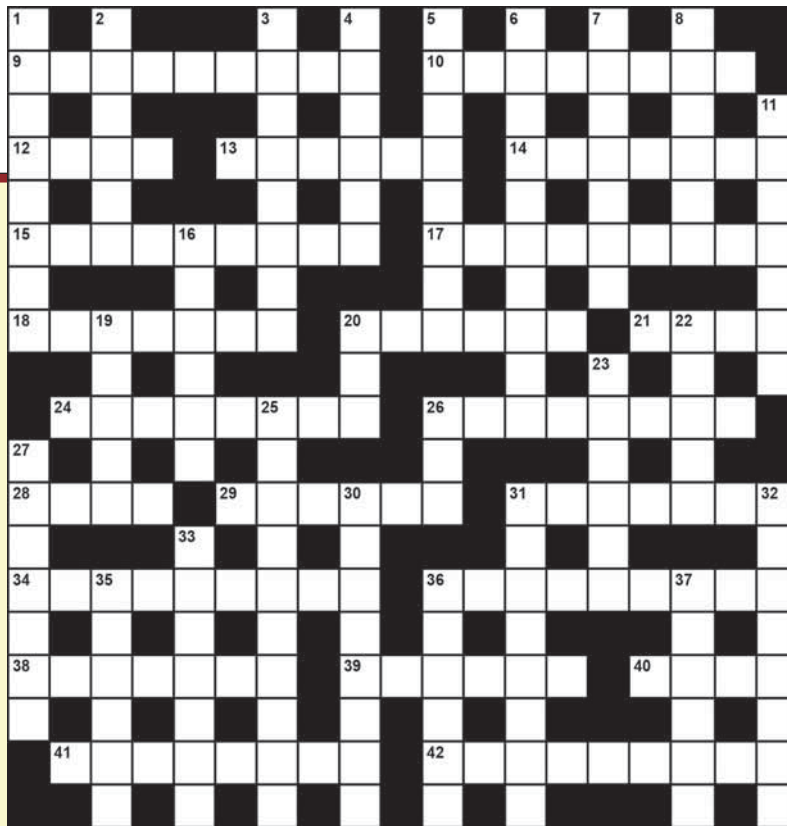
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COFFEE break

Across

9. Note clear unusual forbearance (9)
 10. Or I burst, explode, from Mexican snacks (8)
 12. Style from turning lean (4)
 13. No, a sea-change in a bay in S. Phuket (6)
 14. Obvious event I'd got into (7)
 15. Combine with treating out East (9)
 17. Aversion against way unknown (9)
 18. Tearing out hard rock (7)
 20. Maybe remoter out East for earthquake (6)
 21. University road socially acceptable for Hindustani (4)
 24. Flew, real upset by leave-taking (8)
 26. Pampering what sounds like a young fish! (8)
 28. Detest head covering, note (4)
 29. Pal is maybe about right to twist (6)
 31. Go clean crazy, clot (7)
 34. Went back and presented something that gave pleasure again? (9)
 36. Severely criticize, complain about, main meat course (5,4)
 38. Possibly apt, anti old Siamese vassal state (7)
 39. Coo! Cor! Terribly highly ornamented! (6)
 40. Turn back if no dry sherry (4)
 41. Servant died, it's come out of turn (8)
 42. Arrange different series for a mere putt misplaced (9)



Down

1. Speaking outright in golf (8)
 2. Accusation readily understood on time (6)
 3. Not neat, a move to add comments (8)
 4. Faced off East to vandalize (6)
 5. Possibly beaten around Georgia, deny oneself (8)
 6. Poor shed, it turned into the the office of a clergyman (10)
 7. A tip, ail badly from fish (7)
 8. Company chap is convincing (6)
 11. Do not move as putty goes off (4,3)
 16. Great, I arrange leg cover (6)
 19. Sailor back on the boat, towards the stern (5)
 20. Until shortly (3)
 22. Siren could be a wash-out (5)
 23. Flat tenor has heavenly body (6)
 25. Former girlfriend Pat I rate maybe as non-native resident (10)
 26. Pass shortly, Colonel (3)
 27. Party he arranged for treatment (7)
 30. Address again concerning possible credit (8)
 31. Risk railway to Embassy building (8)
 32. Residue abandoned above (8)
 33. Spoke about being family (7)
 35. Beat drum for body decoration (6)
 36. Turn away from epicure arranging cooking instructions (6)
 37. One in place arranged to do with a long poem (6)

Words from the wise:

"I taught them everything they know, but not everything I know." – James Brown

"You need a little bit of insanity to do great things." – Henry Rollins

Medium

	8	6				3	9	
4				9	1	2		7
9								1
	1			7		9		2
	4				3			5
	5			4		6		3
8								5
2				6	7	5		3
	6	3					2	7

Hard

	7						3	
6				8		2		4
			9		4		7	
	3			7		9		8
			4		2		3	
	9			4		8		1
			5		8		1	
9				5		3		2
	6						4	

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Your ability to focus is strong as the end of the month approaches and Taureans are advised to put this to practical use. A tricky issue concerning finances can be solved and this should mean that your bank balance is boosted. Those with a birthday in the days ahead are forecast to maintain a healthier lifestyle during the coming year. The number eight is forecast to be lucky this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

A charming stranger is predicted to have a powerful effect on those born under the sign of Gemini. It could be that this person inspires you to try something different in the world of work, but romance may also be involved. Those single and seeking should not have to wait much longer to find true love. Finances are fortunate on Wednesday. Number nine can shine for Geminis this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Cancerians who have had a hard time lately may feel that someone is rubbing salt in their wounds this week. The stars indicate that this is likely to be a fire sign who has

more personal problems than they are admitting. Making an effort to ignore negative input and showing understanding will go a long way towards preserving this friendship. The number three is important during the last few days of April.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Life's a breeze for Leos as April turns into May. The stars are smiling on those with unfulfilled dreams of getting away from the daily grind. Another fire sign is forecast to give good tips on how to take a low-cost break. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, spending quality time alone with an earth sign partner can refresh this relationship. Number six can attract good fortune this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Crying over spilt milk can keep you in a downbeat mood for too long. The stars advise those born under the sign of Virgo to put negative experiences firmly behind and look towards the future. The month of May promises to be a more rewarding time, with the spotlight shining on new and lasting friendships being formed. The number two can bring good luck for Virgoans this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Caution should be the name of your game when approaching figures of authority at the end of April. The stars suggest that Librans are likely to give unnecessary information that could be used against them. In the personal zone, you can be inclined to get things out of proportion; taking another air sign's words too much to heart may sour a relationship. Your lucky number this week is five.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

As April draws to a close, there are still hints that you may be using power in the wrong way. The stars suggest slowing down to examine your motives more closely as it is not too late to change your approach to certain situations. May promises to be a calmer month when it will be possible to devote more time to family and friends. Number eight seems special for Scorpions this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The stars suggest that Sagittarians are in need of a treat around the end of April. More relaxed astral energy should encourage you to put tedious tasks aside and concentrate on some personal pampering. The month of May is forecast to bring resolution to pressing problems and you should finally be able to focus on a romantic relationship that could use attention. The number four stands out this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Being patient pays dividends for those born under the sign of Capricorn as April draws to a close. Something you have wanted to happen for a long time is forecast to come to fruition. If this relates to work, expect an air sign to give valuable support. In the realm of romance, a water sign is ready to say the words you need to hear. Number seven can bring good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Streamlining commitments only becomes a viable option when Aquarians can admit they have too much going on in their lives. An earth sign friend is ready to help

out where your personal affairs are concerned and a fire sign colleague wants to prove they are capable of more than you assume. Most dazzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Aquarians' lucky number this week is two.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

A delayed project finally gets the go-ahead, which means that May will begin with Pisceans in a brighter frame of mind. In the realm of romance, the stars indicate that an air sign can mistake your friendliness for flirtation. Finances can be influenced by a cloudy cosmic climate at the beginning of May. The stars show that number seven is important for those born under the sign of Pisces this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

The stars advise Arians to revise their way of thinking about certain friends. There are hints that another fire sign feels you are expecting too much and an earth sign is tiring of being the one who makes the most contact. Those recently separated from a romantic partner should remember that loneliness is not a good reason to jump into a new relationship too quickly. Number one is your lucky number this week.

Phuket's own 'Swift Swede' records PB

LIVING and training in Phuket's tropical climate certainly paid off for Swedish professional triathlete, Fredrik Croneborg at the Challenge Taiwan triathlon held in Taitung on Saturday, April 19. Croneborg, who trains full-time at Thanyapura, finished strongly in second place recording his personal best time of 8:24:22 for an Iron distance triathlon (3.8km swim, 180km bike, 42km run), only seconds behind defending champion, New Zealand's Dylan McNeice who won the event in 8:23:44.

"Coming into this race I had good preparation training at Thanyapura and I was in really great shape, so it was very pleasing to have this confirmed by achieving my best race result ever. I may have finished only in second place, but it was a personal best for me at the Ironman distance, following a tough battle with Australian Jason Shortis who placed third, so coming second was not perfect but definitely good enough," said Croneborg.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Triathlete Fredrik Croneborg recently set a Personal Best at the Challenge Taiwan Triathlon.

Kayaking comp in Krabi

KRABI will host both the Krabi-Enlive Sea Kayak Thailand Championship and the 3rd Sea Kayak Asian Cup on May 3, through which the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) hopes to promote sustainable ecotourism in one of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations.

"The Krabi-Enlive Sea Kayak Thailand Championship and Sea Kayak Asian Cup have been organized not only as a way for canoeing and water enthusiasts to showcase their skills, but also to raise awareness of ecotourism, and to help cultivate a culture of sustainable tourism in Krabi," said TAT Governor Thawatchai Arunyik.

"These fun events are being held to help to reaffirm Krabi's commitment to encouraging tourism which does not harm the natural wonders of the land and sea."

The official opening ceremony will be held on the evening of May 2 at Krabi's Cultural Center in Krabi Municipality.

The Krabi-Enlive Sea Kayak Thailand Championship 2014 will comprise Surf Ski, Single-Seat and Two-Seat Sea Kayak competitions. The 3rd Sea Kayak Asian Cup 2014 will feature only the Surf Ski, comprising men's 22 kilometers and women's 12km races.



The 3rd Sea Kayak Asian Cup will be held in Krabi on May 3. Photo: Fred Hsu

Competitors in the race will take off from Krabi's attractive Ao Nang Bay and cross the finish line at Lan Pudam. Winners of the Surf Ski competition and the Enlive Sea Kayak Thailand Championship will be presented with the royal trophy of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Other than the sea kayak competition, there will be other eco-friendly activities in which tourists can take part.

Visitors can enjoy a range of activities such as scuba diving, rock climbing, canoeing, sea kayaking, cycling and community-based tourism, all while taking in the lovely

natural surroundings Krabi has to offer. Tourists will also have the chance to release sea turtles, sea crabs and marine creatures into the Andaman, under the direction of the Department of Fisheries.

TAT is organizing the events in collaboration with Krabi Provincial Authorities, Enlive Foundation, the Rowing and Canoeing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy.

Kayaking has long been an exciting and environmentally-friendly way to explore the offshore wonders of Krabi, and the sport has been growing there for several years.

— *TAT*

Patong Darts: Beer House B shoots for four-title run



THE Phuket Beer House B team opened the new season in the Patong Darts League Friday Night Series on April 18 with a 3-1 win over Mouse Hole.

The win was no easy feat, as Terry of Mouse Hole hit the bull's-eye to claim victory in his best-of-three singles games, while teammate Ian nailed a 140 during match play.

Beer House B turned to Gernot to close four games to secure wins, with Raymond scoring a 140.

If their winning ways continue, the Beer House B team will secure their fourth consecutive Friday Night darts league title come season's end.

Dilly of Presley Guest House made a plain statement of intent in his season opener, scoring a perfect 180, with Presley coming from behind to beat Ting Tong 6-4.



Lars and the boys at Lucky Luke outgunned the Phuket Beer House A team by 7-3. Lars hit two 140s and teammate Robert another 140 during match play, with Franky of PBH A Team scoring one 140 on the night.

Snorre of Mangmoom postponed the matchup between the Mangmoom A and B teams due to Phuket Bike Week.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Results for April 18:
Lucky Luke 3; Phuket Beer House A 1
Phuket Beer House B 3; Mouse Hole 1
Presley 3; Ting Tong 1
Mangmoom A vs Mangmoom B (Postponed)

Standings:
1)PHB B/Presley/Lucky Luke 3
2)Mouse Hole/PBH A/Ting Tong 1
3)Mangmoom A/Mangmoom B 0

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE				
PL	TEAM	P	PTS	
1	Angthong FC	8	19	
2	Nakhon Rachasima	8	18	
3	Royal Navy	8	15	
4	Bangkok FC	8	14	
5	Phuket FC	8	14	
6	TTM Customs	8	14	
7	Saraburi FC	8	13	
8	Chiangmai FC	8	12	
9	Ayuthaya FC	8	11	
10	BBCU	8	11	
11	Phitsanulok FC	8	11	
12	NakhonPathom	8	9	
13	Trat FC	8	9	
14	Pattaya Utd	8	9	
15	Krabi FC	8	8	
16	Khon Kaen FC	8	5	
17	Roi Et Utd	8	4	
18	Sri Racha FC	8	0	

*Last Update: 21/04/2014

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE		TOYOTA LEAGUE CUP (ROUND OF 32)	
FIXTURE		FIXTURE GAME	
PHUKET FC		NAKHONPATHOM UNITED	
APR 26 Surakul Stadium 6.30 pm		APR 29 Police United Surakul Stadium 6.30 pm	

*dates subject to change

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Superyacht season is nearly upon us



The Superyacht Rendezvous opening party will be held aboard the SY Silolona. Photo: Supplied

ASIA Superyacht Rendezvous 2014 organizers have confirmed that the event's opening cocktail party will be hosted aboard a luxury superyacht.

"As the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous starts preparations for another spectacular event in 2014, we are happy to announce that the opening night cocktail party will be held aboard the stunning superyacht *SY Silolona*," said Lucy Powell, Asia Superyacht Rendezvous event organizer.

"The *Sailing Yacht Silolona*, a traditional, Indonesian-style, gaff rig Phinisi is a truly fantastic vessel. At 50 meters in length, this beautiful vessel will no doubt leave you speechless when you step aboard and experience her wonders.

"Having hosted the cocktail party back in 2012, *Silolona* is a true favorite with re-

turning guests, who will be delighted to hear of her return – and a marvel that new guests will be able to enjoy," she added.

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous 2014 will be returning to the luxurious and visually breathtaking Kata Rocks Resort, at Kata Beach, from December 16-18, 2014.

In addition to the fabulous cocktail party to be held aboard *Silolona*, the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous will be hosting two days of sailboat racing, the now famous Feadship Challenge, the exclusive gala dinner and the final fun-filled finale that is the crew party.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Organizers are already accepting registrations for this year's event. To register or make further inquiries, please contact: pr_comm@asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com; or visit our website at: asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com.



Local flowboarding champ Annissa Flynn at the SurfHouse in Kata beach. Photo: Supplied

Local flowboarders head to Singapore

By Michael Flynn

PHUKET'S rising stars are set to depart our sunny shores for another installment in the new sport of flowboarding (surfing on an artificial wave) when they head to Singapore for the final round of the Asian FlowJam series at Sentosa Island, Singapore.

Locals may know that Annissa Flynn, who won the Asian Womens surfing trophy in 2012 when she was 14 years old, has already won the first two rounds of the FlowJam competition and will be going to see if she can make a clean sweep in the Pro Women's category along with Fin Ratanachan, also known as BM, who will be competing in the Junior Men's division after scoring second place in the local comp at Phuket's own SurfHouse located at Kata Beach.

Local men's champion Chaiyasit Sermasai, also known as "Surf", who is now manufacturing these high-tech flowboards, will also be going to challenge his rivals in the highly competitive Pro Men's division.

If Annissa wins the event she will be in

a commanding position to take on the FlowTour flowboarding series, whose eventual winner will be invited to attend the world finals in the US.

In preparation, Annissa has been training daily with the team at the SurfHouse and hitting the Elite gymnasium in Chalong to get in top physical shape. There is a long gap in the surf season here in Phuket and she says that, "Its great to have another thing to do in the high season."

In other news, the first local surf competition of the season is underway in Khao Lak from April 26-28.

The next local competition scheduled is the "Pearl of the Andaman Long Board Classic" to be held on the May 24. Young and old alike are encouraged to get out their longboards, rub on some Gecko Glue surf wax and throw on a wide hat for the fun family-oriented event.

Proceeds from this event and the recently completed "Stand Up Paddleboard" event held in Kamala beach will go towards Phuket's first skateboard park. The park, which is planned for Surin beach, will be constructed on land that the local OrBorJor has donated.

Hurricane blown in to win ACYC race

LOCAL catamaran *Hurricane* steamed around the course to claim top honors in race four of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship last Sunday.

Conditions were sunny with light, variable winds, reported race officer for the day Scott Duncanson.

"Five yachts started the race just after midday, with *Hurricane* taking an early lead overall, with *Linda* and *Gale Force* in hot pursuit," he said.

"The inshore course took competitors to a mark adjacent Fisherman's Way in the south of Chalong Bay then back north to the Baan Nit safe-water mark."

Fortunately, the light winds held up through the day and all boats finished around 3pm just in time for some mid-afternoon, ice-cold refreshments back at the club.

In the Multihull class, final results saw *Hurricane* finishing just over a minute in front of *Gale Force*.

In the Cruising class, *Aqua* lead the way, followed by *Austraeus* and *Linda* in second and third places, respectively.

The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) began in the early 1990's as the Ao Chalong Cruising Yacht Club (ACCYC). Established by several locals to get people together for cruising purposes, its first 'home' was Pan's Lighthouse with Horst Lakits serving as its first commodore.

The Ao Chalong Yacht Club formed several years later and offered Sunday races, giving it a more competitive nature.

Race five of the ACYC club championship is scheduled for May 4. All yachts, members and visitors are welcome to attend.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit the ACYC website: acyc.asia



Local catamaran Hurricane won race four of the ACYC Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship. Photo: Supplied

Swedes whitewash poor Thais

By Ian Ransom

HOSTS Sweden whitewashed erratic Thailand 4-0 in the Fed Cup World Group II tennis play-offs tie in Lidköping on Sunday.

The cheers of a group of 50 Thai supporters in the Swedish city went in vain as Thai No 1 Luksika Kumkhum lost to world No 88 Johanna Larsson 6-4 6-2, propelling Sweden, who were already leading 2-0 overnight after the singles, to victory.

With the 3-0 scoreline in the favour of the hosts, the two sides decided not to play the second singles match of the day and instead sent their doubles pairs onto the court, where Rebecca Peterson and Hilda Melander trounced Tamarine Tanasgarn and Varatchaya Wongteanchai 6-4, 6-2.

The consequence of the defeat meant Thailand would return to the Zone Asia/Oceania Qualifying Group I next year with Sweden remaining in the elite group.

"I gave everything I could, but Larsson really came with a good game plan. I was under great pressure and couldn't cope with it. But this is a great experience which will benefit me on the professional tour," said Luksika, who was impressed by the vocal support of her compatriots, most of whom were the Thai wives of Swedish men.

"They have been very supportive and even cooked delicious food for us. There are a lot of Thais in this city," said Luksika, who was bothered by a shoulder injury.

Tamarine said Thailand faced a tougher team, which did its homework prior to the tie.

"They have prepared very well. We

fought hard in every rubber and each of us had a strong determination to win. But they were a better team. However, we came here as the winners from Asia, which itself is quite a good achievement. Each of us just has to work on our weaknesses and hope to perform better next time," said Tammy, who has enormous experience playing in the Fed Cup.

Thai captain Priyakarn Salivorraroj pointed out that inconsistency was the major problem that contributed to her team's defeat.

"We made way too many errors compared to the Swedes, who played very solid tennis. It's the first World Group stage for most of the girls so they tried to do too much, but it just didn't happen. We need to be more patient and come up with a better preparation," said the skipper, a former Fed Cup player, who used to be known as Napaporn Tongsalee. The team is due to return home tomorrow.

Germany, Czech Republic in final

Germany reached their first Fed Cup final since 1992 on Sunday and will face the Czech Republic, who will be playing their third title match in four years.

Germany completed a 3-1 victory over Australia in Brisbane while the Czechs, the 2011 and 2012 winners, defeated defending champions Italy 4-0 in Ostrava.

The Czech Republic will host the final of the women's international tennis competition on November 8-9.

Angelique Kerber put Germany into their first final in 22 years – the last time being when Steffi Graf starred in the win over Spain – with a fighting victory over



Thai No 1 Luksika Kumkhum lost to world No 88 Johanna Larsson. Photo: robbiesaurus

Samantha Stosur.

World No 7 Kerber fought back from dropping the opening set to beat former US Open champion Stosur 4-6, 6-0, 6-4 in two hours, 14 minutes to give Germany an unassailable 3-0 lead.

The Australian pair of Casey Dellacqua and Ashleigh Barty prevented a wipe-out when they claimed the "dead" doubles rubber 6-2, 6-7, (5/7), 10-2 over Julia Goerges and Anna-Lena Groenefeld.

Pyjama party

Germany celebrated their victory by flying back to Europe in their pyjamas.

"We'll be flying home in pyjamas, that was the deal," Andrea Petkovic said. The team had previously said they would don nightwear given by the Australian team for the 24-hour flight home via Dubai, if they won.

In Ostrava, Petra Kvitova, the world number six and a former Wimbledon champion, saw off 20th-ranked Roberta Vinci 6-3, 7-5 in an hour-and-a-half to hand the Czechs an unbeatable 3-0 lead.

Klara Koukalova and Andrea Hlavackova then earned the fourth point for the hosts after beating Camila Giorgi and Karin Knapp 6-2, 5-7, 11-9 in the dead doubles rubber.

– *The Nation*

Thais eye improvement after defeat

HOSTS Nakhon Ratchasima lost a three-set thriller to fired-up Japanese champs Hisamitsu Springs in their last round-robin preliminary for a second-place finish in Pool A of the Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship. The Thais earned themselves a clash against Taipei in the

last eight of the tournament.

Nakhon Ratchasima fought hard against a squad dominated by Japan national-team players led by powerful left-hander Miyu Nagaoka, Risa Shinnabe, Kanako Hirai, Nana Iwasaka, Yumi Mizuta and Maiko Kano.

Nakhon Ratchasima boasted

five national players of their own, including Thaphaphaiphon Chaisri, Thatdao Nuekjang, Pornpun Guedpard and Wanichaya Luangthonglang.

Nagaoka's spectacular attacks and solid blocks by Iwasaka and Hirai saw the Japanese power through the first two sets 25-18, 25-18. Nakhon Ratchasima regrouped and fought back in the third, but Thai hopes were finally snuffed with a 25-21 victory for the Japanese.

The other Pool A match saw Iran's Matin Varamin come from nowhere to stun Vietnam's Thong Tin Lienvietpostbank in a gruelling 119 minutes and five sets, 25-23, 16-25, 25-21, 15-25, 15-9.

Meanwhile, four-time champions Bohai Bank Tianjin of China overwhelmed India's KSEB 25-8 25-7 25-10 in Pool B, while Kazakhstan's Zhetysu outclassed Taipei 25-21, 23-25, 25-9, 25-16, and PLDT of the Philippines thrashed Singapore's VAS 25-8, 25-19, 25-9.

At the end of the round-robin preliminaries on Monday, Hisamitsu Springs top Group A with nine points from a perfect three wins out of three, followed by Nakhonratchasima with four points from one win against two losses. Thong Tin Lienvietpostbank and

Matin Varamin were third and fourth, respectively. Tianjin lead Group B with 15 points from straight five wins, followed by Zhetysu, Taipei, PLDT, KSEB and VAS.

On Wednesday, April 23

Hisamitsu took on PLDT, Tianjin play Matin Varamin, Nakhon Ratchasima challenged Taipei and Zhetysu faced Lienvietpostbank in the round of eight.

– *The Nation*



Thailand faced Taipei in the last eight of the tournament. Photo: Yakov Fedorov

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US comes on top in Boston Marathon

By Scott Malone

BOSTON (Reuters) - Meb Keflezighi on Monday became the first U.S. male athlete to win the Boston Marathon in three decades as onlookers chanted "USA! USA!" an emotional performance in a city still recovering from last year's fatal bombing attack.

Keflezighi, who was born in Eritrea but is now a U.S. citizen, pulled ahead of a pack of elite African runners a little more than halfway into the race and held off a late challenge by Kenya's Wilson Chebet to finish in two hours, eight minutes and 37 seconds.

Among the women, Kenya's Rita Jeptoo notched her second consecutive win of the race, smashing a 12-year course record with a blistering time of two hours, 18 minutes and 57 seconds, reeling in American Shalane Flanagan, who had set a punishing pace as she led the women for the first 20 miles of the 26.2-mile (42.2-km) race.

"This is probably the most meaningful victory for an American, just because of what happened here last year," Keflezighi told reporters after his win. "Up

till now I'd say my career was 99.9 percent fulfilled. Today I'd say it is 110 percent fulfilled."

Noting that the Boston Red Sox's World Series championship last year had lifted the city's spirits, he added that he wanted to provide a similar boost: "When the Red Sox did it, I said, 'I want to do it for Boston.'"

Flanagan, who finished seventh, said she had decided to run this year's race immediately after last year's attack.

"I just wanted to send a message that I was not afraid to be back here and I was not afraid to be a part of this day," said Flanagan, who vowed to return next year, and to keep returning until she notched a victory.

Last year, three people, including an 8-year-old boy, were killed and 264 were hurt when, prosecutors say, a pair of ethnic Chechen brothers left homemade bombs at the crowded finish line, which tore through the crowd.

'SYMBOLIC' VICTORY

Fans had packed the course, waving American flags and wearing T-shirts bearing the "Boston Strong" motto the city adopted

as a rallying cry after last year's attack. Their screams grew deafening as Keflezighi tore through the final miles.

"It is very symbolic that an American won this race today one year after the bombing, said Veronica Carroll, who had travelled from New Jersey to watch her husband run. "It represents the strength of our country."

Some 35,755 runners from 96 countries competed in the second-largest field in history for the 118th running of the Boston Marathon.

Among the women runners, Buzunesh Deba of Ethiopia was second and compatriot Mare Dibaba third. They too turned in faster performances than the previous course record of 2:20:43 set in 2002 by Margaret Okayno of Kenya.

Among the male runners, Wilson Chebet of Kenya finished second and Frankline Chepkwony, also of Kenya, was third.

Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa, last year's winner, did not finish, race officials said.

No American athlete has stood atop the podium on Boston's Boylston Street, not far from the site



Meb Keflezighi of the U.S. celebrates after winning the men's division at the 118th Boston Marathon. Photo: REUTERS/Gretchen Ertl

of last year's bombing, since 1985 when Lisa Larsen-Weidenbach of Michigan won the women's race. The drought has been longer for U.S. men: Greg Meyer of Massachusetts won in 1983.

Race organizers expanded the field by some 9,000 runners this year, to allow the roughly 5,000 athletes who had been left on the course last year when the twin

pressure-cooker bombs went off near the finish line another chance to compete.

One of the two brothers who are accused of the bombing died after a shootout with police a few days after the blasts while the other, 20-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, is awaiting trial. If convicted, he may face execution.

- Reuters

Injured Cech to miss rest of season

By Iain Rogers

CHELSEA goalkeeper Petr Cech will miss the rest of the season after landing heavily and injuring his right elbow in Tuesday's 0-0 draw with Atletico Madrid in their Champions League semi-final first leg.

Captain John Terry will also be sidelined for the last three Premier League games of the

campaign after twisting his ankle in the second half but he could be fit for next month's Champions League final in Lisbon if Chelsea get through.

Czech Republic international Cech was replaced by 41-year-old Mark Schwarzer in the 18th minute at the Vicente Calderon after Atletico midfielder Raul Garcia took a tumble and felled the keeper at a corner.

"Petr Cech was knocked over. I don't remember which player it was but he has an injury that means his season is over," Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho told reporters.

"And John...we'll have to get to the final for him to be able to play again this season."

The injuries represent a blow to second-placed Chelsea's chances of catching Premier

League leaders Liverpool, who are five points clear of the London club.

The two title rivals meet at Anfield this Sunday.

Understudy Schwarzer deputised for an unwell Cech on Saturday when Chelsea slipped to a shock 2-1 home defeat by bottom club

Sunderland.

Australian Schwarzer, making only his second Champions League appearance on Tuesday, became the oldest player to feature in the knockout phase.

The second leg against Atletico is at Stamford Bridge on April 30.

- Reuters



Petr Cech receives medical treatment during Champions League semi-final match against Atletico Madrid. Photo: REUTERS/Paul Hanna

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Man Utd manager canned

By Mitch Phillips

MANCHESTER United's succession planning for life after Alex Ferguson was left in tatters on Tuesday when manager David Moyes was sacked after 10 troubled months of failure and frustration at a club used to seamless success.

Moyes, appointed with a six-year contract on the direction of retiring fellow-Scot Ferguson last July after 11 years at Everton, did not even get to complete his first season as the club's American owners, the Glazer family, ran out of patience.

Announcing his departure in a terse, two-line statement, United thanked Moyes for "the hard work, honesty and integrity he brought to the role" at Old Trafford, but his spell in charge will be remembered more for dire performances, humiliating defeats and a failure to qualify for the all-important Champions League for the first time since 1995/96.

United have lost six home league games, won only one match in 12 against the Premier League's top six and will finish outside the top four for the first time since 1991.

Midfielder Ryan Giggs, 40, was appointed to take interim charge of the team for the final four games of the season with United mired in seventh place, 23 points behind league leaders Liverpool.

Speculation immediately turned to who might take over at Old Trafford, with the club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward leading the recruitment process.

A decision on Moyes's successor will be taken by the board as a whole but senior figures, including Ferguson, will be consulted.

Dutchman Louis van Gaal was installed as the bookmakers' favorite.

The former Barcelona, Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich boss is coach of the Netherlands but has already said he will stand down after the World Cup in Brazil, and has talked of a move to the Premier League.

Other leading coaches distanced themselves from the role, with Juergen Klopp saying he was happy to stay with Borussia Dortmund, and Pep Guardiola also indicating he had no desire to walk away from a Bayern Munich side he has forged into probably the best in world football.

ALSO-RANS

Tuesday's announcement was widely expected after being leaked to British media on Monday – a day after United's meek 2-0 loss at Moyes's former club Everton.

The manner of the defeat, and of many of the other 14 under Moyes' troubled 51-game stewardship, would have been unthinkable under Ferguson, as newspaper stories that many of

the current squad had no faith in their manager seemed to be borne out by their lackluster displays in recent weeks.

The sacking of Moyes, less than a year into a contract of a reported four million pounds per year, is an indication of the profit-focused approach of the Glazer family.

While able to accept the US\$50 million (29 million pounds) shortfall caused by missing the Champions League – partly due to a huge new shirt sponsorship deal with General Motors – the prospect of giving Moyes a close-season transfer money pot in a market where the best players might not want to come, proved an unpalatable one.

United's shares, which trade on the New York Stock Exchange, were up just over six percent at US\$18.80 at 8:24pm London time, signalling investor relief at the decision to sack Moyes.

Former United stalwart Gary Neville suggested Moyes should have been given more time to make his mark and said the fault was not his alone.

"The idea of giving people three and four and six year contracts and then getting rid of them after 10 months is something that is foreign to me," he told Sky Sports.

"However, there is no disguising that the football this season has been poor, the results have been poor. As a fan, I've not enjoyed watching it. I'm sure David Moyes himself hasn't enjoyed watching it.

"I've played with a lot of those players, they love the club and are desperate to do well for the club but they've just completely lost confidence and belief. That's ultimately what's cost David Moyes."

FINAL STRAW

The loss at Moyes's former club Everton last Sunday proved to be the final straw, and the United hierarchy reached a decision to dispense with the Scot late on Monday night. Woodward met the manager to confirm his fate early on Tuesday.

Moyes's first major signing, Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini, who followed from Everton, looked ponderous and out of his depth as United failed to show attacking spark while his January purchase of Juan Mata for a club record 37.1 million pounds, even though the former Chelsea midfielder was ineligible for the Champions League, looked like a desperate move.

Questions were being asked in Old Trafford's corridors of power not about who Moyes would sign but about what he would get out of the players.

Rumours emerged of player dissatisfaction with Moyes's training regime while the new manager was further alienated by virtually

ignoring Giggs, who is worshipped at Old Trafford.

The few bright sparks came in the Champions League but they were extinguished when United were knocked out by holders Bayern Munich with the minimum of fuss.

The knives had been out before then, with disgruntled fans paying for a plane trailing a banner over Old Trafford reading 'Wrong One – Moyes Out' in a game against Aston Villa in March – which United won 4-1.

Fans of rival teams started to chant 'David Moyes, we want you to stay', stewards stood guard to keep home supporters away from the prominent banner inside Old Trafford declaring the manager to be 'The Chosen One' while at Everton last weekend Moyes was taunted by one fan posing as the Grim Reaper, complete with inflatable scythe.

When Ferguson left Old Trafford after 26 years, he told the fans in a farewell speech, "Your job now is to get behind



Manchester United's manager David Moyes looks on during a news conference at Old Trafford in Manchester. Photo: Stefan Wermuth/Reuters

our new manager".

As 70,000 roared their approval, the last thing he would have expected would have been

to be repeating the plea 12 months later.

– Reuters

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