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■ ISLAND'S BEACH BUSINESSES TORN DOWN, REMOVED

Free sand

■ No punches held as west coast beaches are returned to nature

By **Woranut Pechdee**

BEACH clubs illegally occupying the sands of Surin, Bang Tao and Layan this week bore the brunt of a bold campaign spearheaded by Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada to clear Phuket's beaches of all encroachers.

All structures extending onto public beach land along the Cherng Talay coast were demolished by their owners in order to meet a one-week deadline that expired on Wednesday.

Cherng Talay Mayor Ma-ann Samran confirmed on Tuesday that "more than 70 per cent of illegal structures" had been removed from the beaches in his ambit.

"The order is applied equally, whether the business is valued at more than 10 million baht or less than 1mn baht," he explained.

Businesses which had not started deconstruction by the deadline were to face legal action, but lenience was to be shown to operators who could prove the need for more time, he said. However, any illegal building or part of a building still standing after the deadline would not be permitted to open for business.

At Diamond Beach Club, staff were busy packing and moving bar equipment on Tuesday.

"We have to follow the law," said Mittipong Porjai, a member of the club's operations department.

"But the soonest we can have our tent and other...



Beach clubs land in the spotlight as beaches are reclaimed. Photo: Saran Mitratat

Continued on Page 4

SPECIAL REPORT

Peeking into the kitchen for MSG

DESPITE more than 40 years of research concluding that monosodium glutamate is safe to eat, and the stamps of approval of multiple food safety groups, detractors of MSG believe that it causes everything from hair loss to cancer.

What is it, and what caused us to be so concerned about it?

Full story on Pages 4-5

Deadly sea waves leave beachgoers at risk: lifeguards

LIFEGUARDS continued to make pleas through the week for beachgoers to obey verbal warnings and red flags indicating "No Swim" zones.

Despite their pleas, many continue to ignore the real dangers posed by rip tides and heavy waves. Last week, six were swept out by a single wave: one died. The 13-year-old local who drowned was playing in an area marked by red flags with a friend before he was swept out to sea.

Full story on Page 3

Cambodians flee, fear NCPO attack on migrant labor

OVER 100 Cambodians illegally working at a construction site on Koh Yao Noi were caught attempting to flee Thailand amid fear of a coup-related crackdown.

The mass exodus was part of illegal migrant laborers panicking through out the nation.

Full story on Pages 9 and 10

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This Week



Business

An in-depth look at Phuket's own booming gelato industry. **Page 15**



Property

Own a slice of paradise by the lake in idyllic Nai Harn. **Page 33**



Food

Food lovers flock to Wine Lovers to share their passion. **Page 35**



Tech

The unfriendly side of Facebook, like it or not. **Page 36**



Explore

Baz cycles around Yao Yai island in the rainy season. **Page 40**



Sport

Schumacher wakes up from coma but recovery is still far off. **Page 43**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Wednesday



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World Cup gambling watch leads to arrests

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE are keeping a close eye out for gambling during the World Cup, and within three days arrested 11 people in raids on gambling dens.

On June 14, an impromptu search of an abandoned house south of Phuket International Airport resulted in 10 arrests.

The raid, in Sakoo, took place at about 4pm after patrol officers noticed a large number of cars parked in front of the home, Tah Chat Chai Police Deputy Superintendent Teerawat Liam-suwan told the *Gazette*.

"Officers also saw several people carrying food and drinks into the house," he said.

Inside the abode, officers found a collection of betting markers – three for 10,400 baht, three for 1,040 baht and three for 520 baht – and 1,270 baht in cash.

Officers also seized a mat used for the popular gambling game *Gung-pla* (literally, "shrimp-fish").

Three days before, at a raid in Patong, suspected gamblers had fled and police were able to arrest only one person.

"We were notified by an undercover officer of an illegal online gambling den in a retail shop on Soi Paradise," said Lt Col



Officers dismantle the backroom gambling den in Patong. Inset: the mat used to play Gung-pla, 'shrimp-fish', a popular gambling game.

Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"We raided the shop and found computers set up for gambling in the back room."

The shop owner, known only as "Mr Lee", and gamblers fled the scene when police arrived, said Col Sutthichai, but officers were able to capture an employee, 47-year-old Lae Choomjit.

Police seized five computers and transported them, as well as Mr Lae, to the Patong Police Station.

"Mr Lae will be charged with gambling," Col Sutthichai said.

"We have set up a special team to patrol Patong for illegal gambling during the World Cup. If we catch anyone gambling, we will arrest them immediately."

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The victim is recovering at her mother's house on a quiet Thalang street.

Mother denies rumors that rape victim suicidal

THE mother of the pregnant woman who was raped by twins earlier this year has denied rumors that her daughter had committed suicide.

The mother, who in not being named to protect her daughter's identity, pleaded for people to stop spreading the rumors, which she learned of through Facebook, the online chat application Line and by word of mouth.

"Please stop saying things like this. They're just rumors. My daughter is alive and recovering. She is still living with me at home," she said.

"If the rumors do not cease, I'll have to file a complaint with the police to make sure they do," she said.

Case investigator Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai

Police said the mother had notified police of the problem but had not yet filed a formal complaint.

The twin brothers, who are minors and remain unnamed by police, kicked the pregnant woman off her motorcycle, causing her to break a leg, and then dragged her off the road and raped and robbed her in Mai Khao on April 20.

The twins were arrested within 48 hours and confessed to the charges.

Maj Santi said police were waiting for DNA test results before passing the case to the Phuket Public Prosecutor.

"This will give us an absolute conviction in case the suspects decide to change their plea in court," he said. — *Saran Mitratat*

Rawai wreck kills Russian



Witnesses said Mr Zhukov lost control of his car on a curve.

A RUSSIAN tourist was thrown from his vehicle and died on the night of June 15 after overshooting a curve and crashing into a wall on Wiset Road.

Chalong Police called to the scene at about 11:30pm discovered a badly damaged Toyota Fortuner lying on its side in the middle of the road and the body of Andrey Zhukov, 26, about 25 meters away.

Witnesses told police that Mr Zhukov was driving north, toward Chalong Circle, when he lost control of his vehicle near the Vijitt Resort, said Maj Patiwat Yodkwan of the Chalong Police.

"His car crashed into a wall and then hit a power pole. The impact turned the vehicle onto its side," Maj Patiwat explained.

Mr Zhukov's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital and his family has been notified.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Heed our warnings, beg island lifeguards

By Gazette Reporters

A FLAGRANT disregard for red warning flags along the island's beaches as Phuket enters the southwest monsoon season has already claimed the life of one young swimmer.

Two foreigners and four others were caught by a single wave and dragged away from shore at Karon, Phuket's deadliest beach, on the afternoon of June 12.

Lifeguards in the area had just informed the *Gazette* earlier that day that red flags had been put out to warn swimmers of the strong surf.

Uten Singson, chief lifeguard at Kata-Karon, noted that all six were swimming in a "no swim zone" marked by red flags when the wave overtook them on June 12.

Lifeguards were able to immediately save five of the swimmers, but could not find Karon native Apisit Songkert, 13.

"We continued searching for Apisit all along the Kata and Karon beaches until 3am, but we couldn't find any trace of him," said Mr Uten.

At about 8am the following day, a lifeguard found his body at Kata Beach.

Eight people drowned at Karon Beach between October 2012 and



Tourists have been ignoring the warning flags. Photo: Phuket Lifesaving Club

September 2013, making it the deadliest beach in Phuket.

"Even though the flags are up, some tourists are still going in to swim. When we see them, we warn them and try to urge them

to get out of the water. Some listen to us, but some ignore us, which is very dangerous," Mr Uten said.

"We have lifeguards standing by in case an accident occurs. How-

ever, beachgoers' cooperation is essential for their safety."

Three days later, as bad weather and unsafe swimming conditions continued, lifeguards were prompted to beg beachgoers to respect the dangerous ocean conditions and stay out of the water as the annual southwest monsoon season came into full swing.

"There have been strong, high waves lately. I would like to warn tourists not to swim where there are red flags," said Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan.

Mr Prathaiyut issued the urgent, island-wide plea on the Monday morning.

"Please do not go into the sea, especially at Kata and Karon. I have also received reports of heavy, high waves in the Surin area that could be very dangerous," Mr Prathaiyut said.

Several photos were sent directly to the *Gazette* showing beachgoers disregarding warnings and signs of dangerous ocean situations.

"Not believing our warnings could leave you dead," said Mr Prathaiyut.

"I expect this warning to extend into next week."



Ms Amporn was slashed and beaten.

Police hunt down man who beat, slashed girlfriend

POLICE are searching for the boyfriend of a woman who was repeatedly slashed and beaten in Thalang on June 15.

Amporn Paraweche, 23, suffered a deep cut in the neck and had multiple cuts and bruises on her back when she arrived at a shop near her house pleading for help, said Lt Col Sanit Nookong of the Thalang Police.

Rescue workers stopped the bleeding and took her to Thalang Hospital as police mounted a hunt for her boyfriend, named by officers only as "Jao".

"The shopkeeper said she had come to the shop at noon to buy beer to drink with her boyfriend," said Col Sanit.

"At about 10pm she returned to the shop pleading for help. She was bleeding and frightened, and looked for a place to hide in the shop until we arrived."

Police have yet to question Ms Amporn about the incident.

- **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Gun-toting Aussie out on bail arrested again for possession of drugs

MARK Robert Coutelas, 53, was arrested again for drug possession on June 12, while the Australian was out on bail waiting for his trial to be heard on previous drug and illegal handgun charges.

Patong Police first arrested Mr Coutelas on May 27 after finding him in possession of 530mg of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), a 9mm handgun and ammunition. He was also found with drug paraphernalia and a BB gun.

Mr Coutelas was charged with illegal possession of a firearm and corresponding ammunition, as well as possession of a Category 1 drug, said Lt Col Suttichai Thianpho of the Patong Police after the

May 27 arrest.

At about 10pm on June 12, Tourist Police officers moved in to make the second arrest. Mr Coutelas was found at the Green Mango Apartment complex on Nanai Road, in the same apartment where he was first arrested.

"We got a tip-off that Mr Coutelas was



Mr Coutelas has been arrested twice in Phuket.

four packages of the drug with a total weight of 2.45 grams."

selling *ya ice*," Capt Somdej Saraban of the Phuket Tourist Police told the *Gazette*.

"We set up a plainclothes officer to buy some *ya ice* from him at his apartment, and found him in possession of

Mr Coutelas was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

"He has since been handed over to the Patong Police for further prosecution," Capt Somdej added.

Mr Coutelas made world headlines as the first Australian arrested under martial law, which was introduced on May 20, two days before the coup.

Many reports postulated that Mr Coutelas would face court martial.

The *Gazette* has yet to be informed of any cases in Phuket brought to trial in military court since the Army took over.

- **Thawit Bilabdullar**



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Seaside shops see last day

From page 1

CLEAN SLATE

...equipment, which we rent from a private company, taken away is June 22. We have already notified the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization [OrBorTor] and promised not to open that section."

The rush to comply followed Vice Governor Chamroen warning operators they faced forced demolition of their premises, hefty fines of up to 500,000 baht, several years in jail and payments of 10,000 baht per square meter of land if they were found to be encroaching on the sands.

V/Gov Chamroen warned of the stern penalties two weeks ago, as reported in the *Gazette's* page 1 story 'Fight for Kamala', where the campaign began.

V/Gov Chamroen and Mayor Ma-ann Samran, supported by about 50 officers, informed the Cherng Talay beach vendors of the Wednesday deadline during a morning raid last week.

"More than 100 businesses are operating along the beachfronts at Surin, Bang Tao, Laypang and Layan beaches," Mr Ma-ann said at the raid on June 12.

By Wednesday, even the beach chair and umbrella rental operators had been banned from returning to the beaches in Cherng Talay.

"We ordered all of them to stop. This includes all the legal vendors who previously had permits to rent out beach chairs and umbrellas," Mr Ma-ann said.

"At this stage, we're not considering allowing any beach chair and umbrella operators back."

Not all beach operators are down and out, however. The popular Catch Beach Club has already started to revel in the publicity by promoting its re-opening party, slated for June 21, under the banner, "Size doesn't matter, it's how you use it."

BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET

In an exclusive interview with the *Gazette* on Wednesday, Mr Ma-ann specifically denied English-language reports in Phuket that buildings on the east side of the beachfront path at Surin Beach would be demolished.

"What I did say was that if the



Beach cleanup. Photo: Saran Mitratat

Army asked us to pull them down, we would have to – but at this stage we have received no such order to do so," he said.

Cherng Talay Police Superintendent Paworn Pornpromma also denied reports that he had said there was a chance that the east-side buildings would be torn down.

"I didn't say that businesses on that side of the road might be demolished," Col Paworn told the *Gazette*.

"I am prepared to answer to the Army if they ask me why only one side was pulled down. The answer is: those other buildings [on the east side] are legal. Only the buildings on the beachfront side of the path are to be removed."

Spoonful

Entire websites are devoted to warnings about monosodium glutamate (MSG). Its detractors claim that it causes cancer, headaches, palpitations, excessive neurological excitement, hair loss and more.

Is it really not good for us? What are the facts? The *Gazette's* Leslie Porterfield reports.

MSG was first produced in 1908 by Japanese chemist Kikunae Ikeda, who wanted to identify the unique flavor of a popular broth made from a seaweed called kombu. Ikeda felt the flavor was neither salty, sweet, sour or bitter.

He discovered that the taste came from the glutamate the seaweed was rich in, and gave the new, "fifth taste" – neither salty, sweet, sour or bitter – the name "umami".

If you like meaty stews, parmesan cheese, ripe tomatoes or mushrooms, you like umami – which is a rich, savory flavor.

Though the Japanese name is relatively new, the taste itself has long been appreciated. The ancient Romans prized a fermented fish sauce called "garum" which was rich in glutamates.

The website of an American cooking magazine, *Cook's Country*, lists ingredients rich in glutamates that can be added to recipes to boost flavor: soy sauce, fish sauce, Worcestershire sauce, anchovies, tomato paste, mushrooms, olives, miso, parmesan, marmite, kombu and beef stock.

Chefs interested in molecular gastronomy – how chemicals in foods interact to create or boost flavor – know that it's not only glutamate that gives the flavor of umami, but two other compounds as well: inosinate and guanylate.

Combining two of these turbocharges

taste, which explains why recipes around the world combine the elements: the Japanese add dry fish flakes (inosinate) to their kombu broth (glutamate); a western stew might combine onion and potatoes (glutamate) with beef (inosinate); Chinese chefs add cabbage (glutamate) with chicken (inosinate).

The classic American cheeseburger mixes beef (inosinate) and cheese (glutamate). And don't forget the slice of tomato or tomato ketchup, both rich in glutamates.

MSG, it turns out, is a shortcut to yummy.

WHAT IT'S MADE OF

Professor Ikeda patented MSG and founded a company to manufacture it – Ajinomoto – which to this

day is the world's leading producer.

In the early days, MSG was made from wheat gluten; nowadays it's made by a process of fermentation using sugar, such as molasses from sugarcane or beet, and a starch that is locally abundant – in the US, corn; in Thailand, cassava flour.

WORRIES START

If glutamate has been prized for centuries and we like umami flavor, why the concerns about MSG?

Anxiety about the product seems to stem from 1968, when a biochemist wrote a letter to the *New England Journal of Science* saying that Chinese restaurant food left him lightheaded and with odd aches and pains. The following issue of the journal published more purported ill-effects. Robert Ho Man Kwok, the letter-writer, had hypothesized that MSG, high sodium or excessive alcohol intake were the culprits, but public attention focus ed only on MSG.

Chinese restaurant owners at the time disputed the idea. "There

are 700 million people on earth who eat Chinese food every day, and nothing has ever happened to them," said one. "The only headaches I get are from running this place and paying taxes," said another.

Yet more than 40 years later, the concerns persist.

At a popular morning boiled rice shop in Phuket Town, about 5 per cent of the customers request no MSG, the owner, Ann Sukjaroen, told the *Gazette*.

"Mostly it's parents asking me not to put it in their children's food, or people very concerned about their health," said Ann, who normally adds a quarter teaspoon of MSG to each bowl of boiled rice with pork stock and goes through about five kilos of the white powder per month.

"Most people want it, but they don't want to know about it," she said.

A recent email to the *Gazette* highlighted misunderstandings about the product. "I would like to find out what the local health authorities in Phuket have to say about the use of MSG," the writer



Years of research conclude MSG is safe, but doubters remain.

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Armed robbers make off with almost B1mn, police on hunt

PHUKET Provincial Police are now involved in a hunt for two men who robbed gas station staffers at gunpoint and made off on a motorbike with nearly 1 million baht on June 11.

The person riding pillion on the motorbike pulled out a gun and demanded money from the staffers transporting it from the Shell gas station on Phra Phuket Keaw Road to the Tesco Lotus shopping mall on the bypass road.

"Investigators from the Phuket Provincial Police are joining us in the investigation," said Phuket City Police Su-

perintendent Sermphan Sirikong.

"We have also sent out an alert to all police stations in Phuket to keep an eye out for the suspects and to provide us with any information they may have."

After further questioning of the robbed staffers, police no longer believe that the suspects were operating an inside job, Col Sermphan told the Gazette Wednesday.

"The staffers said that they saw the suspects' faces and did not recognize them," he said.

Three days ago, the police received a tip-off that the pair had been found, but the

claim turned out to be false, said Col Sermphan.

However, he remains confident that the true suspects are still on the island and that his officers will apprehend them.

"We are confident that our evidence, witness statements and CCTV footage will lead us to the suspects. Although we know it will be difficult, we will not abandon the case," he said.

"We have follow-up meetings about the case every day. Please give us time to track down the men. We believe we will find them soon."

— Chutharat Plerin



The two men were caught escaping on CCTV. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong



Officials believe the damage is not a threat to the road. Photo: Kee Van

Patong Hill victim of heavy rains

OFFICIALS are scrambling to repair land near the Patong Hill road which slid as a result of heavy rains earlier this month.

"We have inspected the road already and have determined that the landslide will not affect residents in the area, as no one lives near the site," said Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad.

The area – to the left, just past the shooting range as the road ascends from Kathu – is under the jurisdiction of Kathu Municipality, Mr Samak said.

Kathu Mayor Chaianan Sutthikul confirmed to the Gazette that he had been notified of the landslide and that his officers are working on solutions.

"We are working on a plan to fix it as soon as possible so that the damage does not expand to the road," Mr Chaianan.

Anyone in Kathu who is inconvenienced by the landslide is urged to call 076-321 500.

— Saran Mittrarat

Island maintains radio silence

By Saran Mittrarat

POPULAR English-language radio stations in Phuket remained off-air as the Gazette went to print on Wednesday, 28 days since the military seized power and silenced the airwaves with a ban on all private community radio broadcasts.

The ban continues despite the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) announcing on Saturday that Voice TV, which is owned by fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, may resume broadcasting.

The same proclamation, NCPO Order 66, also announced that all licensed community radio stations could resume broadcasts.

However, the proclamation on Saturday came with one guarded condition: community radio stations were allowed to resume broadcasts – but only at the discretion of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC).

"The NBTC committee in Bangkok is now considering allowing private community radio stations to apply to resume broadcasting," Chief Wanna Sretthapong of NBTC Region 11, which is based in Phuket and covers Phang Nga and Krabi, told the Gazette on Tuesday.

Mr Wanna explained that "to be allowed to resume broadcasting" meant "to be issued a temporary permit" on a "trial basis".

"The permit is to be valid for only one year and can be revoked at any time for breaking conditions laid out by the NCPO," Mr Wanna said.

Such conditions include broad-



Island DJs are being kept off-air at the discretion of the NBTC. Photo: James Cridland

casting statements that could be considered as anti-NCPO, that call for political gatherings or that could be construed as possibly inciting civil unrest, he noted.

"I have no idea when the NBTC chiefs will start allowing people to apply to resume broadcasting, but all community radio stations must go through the process – regardless of whether or not the radio stations had operated legally for years," Mr Wanna added.

Six radio stations, all either gov-

ernment-run or operating under a licence granted by the Public Relations Department, are currently broadcasting in Phuket.

All other radio stations in Phuket remain off-air, despite Commanding General of the 41st Military Circle Peerapol Wiriyakul confirming that none of them were under investigation for the "likelihood of someone talking on-air about the political situation in a way that could cause turmoil".

The NCPO itself recognized

Phuket to be such an important tourist destination that the nationwide curfew was lifted on the island and in Pattaya and Samui on June 3, before anywhere else in the country.

Yet when Mr Wanna was asked why English-language radio stations in Phuket were subjected to the same red tape all other Thai-language radio stations were being bound by, Mr Wanna simply replied, "All private community radio stations must abide by these orders."

BMW baby saved from potential disaster

RESCUE workers averted a potential tragedy on June 15 when they recovered a two-year-old boy from a locked BMW that was still running while parked at a Phuket gas station.

Manus Chailiem, the boy's grandfather, alerted Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers to the danger at 6:30am.

Mr Manus, his daughter and Nong Phi, age 2, were en route to Nakhon Sri Thammarat to visit a relative when he parked at the Shell gas station near Wat Pra Thong in Thalang so he could use the toilet.

When he returned, Nong Phi was in the car, which was locked, but his daughter was nowhere to be found, rescue worker Sakul Nabnien explained to the Gazette. Concerned, Mr Manus called for help.

After about seven minutes of unsuccessfully trying to open the doors, rescue workers decided to smash the glass quarter-panel on a rear passenger door of the brand new BMW X3.

"Please do not leave children alone in a car. They can die if they're locked in cars that are still running,"



Rescue workers broke a window.

rescue worker Sakul said.

"And it's especially dangerous at gas stations, where an accident could endanger many other people's lives." — Thawit Bilabdullar

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Parks chief asks NCPO to tackle encroachment

By Woranut Pechdee

THAILAND'S national parks chief has appealed to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to take over investigations into encroachment of Sirinath National Park to expedite the return of 360 stolen plots of park land.

"This process has taken far too long already. We want the NCPO to take over so we can finally return the land to the park," Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) Chief Samak Donnapee told a meeting with relevant officers on Monday.

Reports from land encroachment investigations led by former park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham and current chief Kitiphat Taraphiban were compiled

and sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) headquarters in Bangkok, explained Chief Samak.

"Last week, we compiled all of our information and sent it to MNRE Permanent Secretary Choat Trachoo so that he could present it to the NCPO," he said.

Mr Choat confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday that he had received the reports and had passed them on to the NCPO.

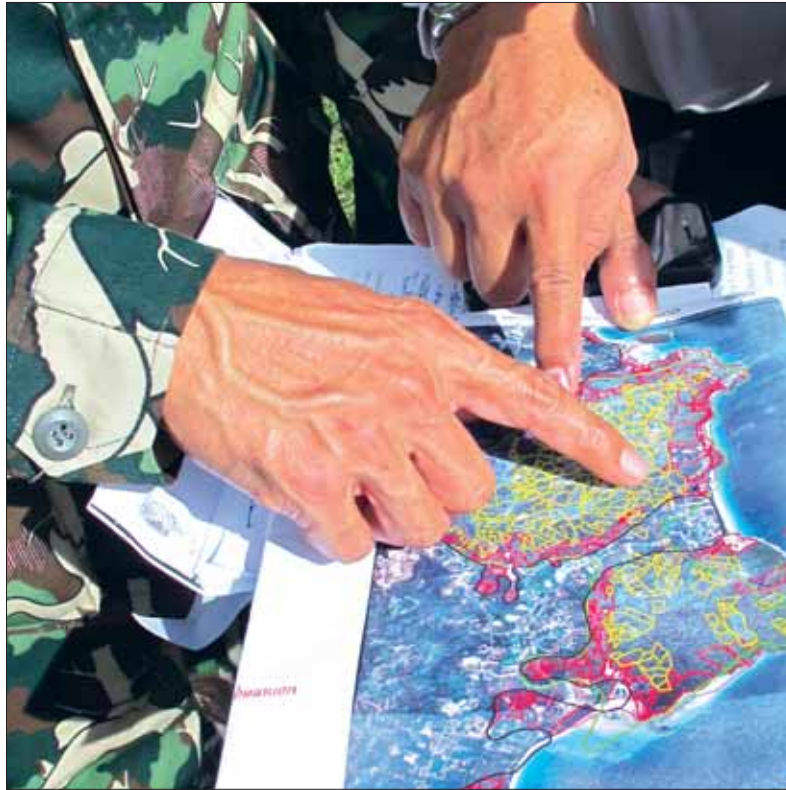
"The park land being encroached on is

clearly mapped out for us in the reports we received last week. At this stage, the information is under consideration by the NCPO," he said.

The next item on Chief Samak's encroachment to-do list is to follow up on illegally held land near Freedom Beach on the headland



'A big cleanup of encroached land will happen in Phuket soon'
– DNP Chief Samak Donnapee



Officers look over a map that shows plots of land suspected to be encroaching on Sirinath National Park. Photo: Gazette file

to the south of Patong, he said.

Last month, Phuket officials found four illegal shacks built in a protected forest near Freedom Beach. Illegal drugs and guns were

found in the shacks, but no people.

"A big cleanup of encroached land will happen in Phuket soon," Chief Samak warned.



Get an extension. Photo: Gazette file

UK passport rush prompts extensions

THE British embassy in Bangkok on Monday began accepting applications for passport extensions for up to one year in order to help stave off the flood of applications received by Her Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO) in the UK.

A British Government notice issued on June 13 cited Home Secretary Theresa May as announcing the news as part of "a series of additional measures to ensure people and families receive their passports in good time for their summer holidays".

"The HMPO is dealing with the highest demand for passports in 12 years and has issued over three million passports so far in 2014," said the notice.

"Overseas customers renewing an existing passport will be able to apply for it to be extended for 12 months. This will be done by consular staff in the country where they apply." – *Phuket Gazette*



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KFC cleared for Phuket Muslims

Rumors prompt Islamic Committee to test chains for halal safety

By Saran Mitrarat

A FUROR among local Muslims over whether the fast-food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) serves halal food, which Islamic law permits to be eaten, has been resolved – yes it does.

Rumors were circulating on Facebook and Thai forums that KFC's food was not halal because the chain does not display a "halal approved" sign on its shops, Komol Dumluck, chairman of the Phuket Islamic Committee said at a press conference on June 14.

"I would like to announce to all Muslims in Phuket that we have tested each of the 11 KFC shops in Phuket and all of them qualify as halal," Mr Komol said.

A group of Islamic committee members conducted the investigation, sending samples of KFC ingredients to a laboratory at Prince of Songkla University to be checked, he said.

"The lab found nothing that



Muslims no longer have to worry about whether or not KFC stores on the island serve halal-certified food. Photo: Marufish

Muslims can not eat. The chicken, the oil, the sauces and all other ingredients meet the requirements of the Thai Islamic Committee. Furthermore, each KFC shop has at

least one Muslim in the kitchen overseeing the cooking process," Mr Komol explained.

Halal certification must be displayed on products that are

imported or exported, Mr Komol said. However, because KFC's food is domestically produced and sold, the chain is not required to display the certificate.

"We don't need to debate this topic anymore," he concluded. "We have confirmed that every KFC restaurant in Phuket has received a halal certificate from us."

Drivers escape serious injury as heavy rain, powerful wind downs trees, electrical poles



Workers attempt to move a downed tree and power pole.

A MOTORIST narrowly escaped injury on the night of June 15 when a falling tree toppled power poles onto the road, tearing off the driver's rearview mirror, but leaving the rest of the car undamaged.

Worawut Trisook, 32, was driving along the Baan Sakoo-Nai Yang Road at about 8:30pm when a rubber tree fell, striking power lines and pulling down five utility poles.

Mr Worawut and his car escaped serious injury. However, the area experienced a two-hour blackout and traffic was halted while the poles and tree were removed.

"I was driving home, and there

was heavy rain and strong wind. I'm so lucky the tree and the poles didn't hit me," he said.

In a separate incident, a taxi driver was headed to Phuket International Airport at 5:30am on June 14 when a large tree fell on the hood of his car near the Tah Chat Chai Temple in Thalang.

Rescue workers called to the scene found the driver, uninjured, removing branches from around his vehicle.

Phuket was pummelled by strong winds on June 15, with gusts at Phuket International Airport broaching 50km/h, near gale force on the Beaufort scale.

– **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Man arrested for possession of weapon, World Cup gambling

ONLY one gun was discovered during a sweep for illegal firearms in Phuket's premier party town of Patong in the early hours of June 14.

The five-team sweep, composed of Patong Police officers and Civil Volunteers, raided five targets after securing search warrants from the Phuket Provincial Court, Lt Col Suttichai Chairat of Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

"We received orders to increase our efforts between June 13 and 15 to rid the area of illegal weapons," Col Suttichai said.

The crackdown comes in the wake of the Army's amnesty deadline for turning over weapons of war, which ended on June 10. The Army's call was echoed by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut earlier this month.

"The gun we found does have a licence number, but the owner was unable to show the necessary paperwork to prove that he owned it legally. We will give him time to provide us with documents," Col Suttichai said after the arrest.

Later, police named the gun



Police seized the illegal gun and ammunition. Photo: Patong Police

owner as Natsongwat Piramrit, 48. He was not able to produce the documents requested by police and was charged with illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Police also found Mr Natsongwat with gambling paraphernalia during their raid and charged him with illegal gambling.

"We found papers with bets placed on World Cup football

matches written on it," Col Suttichai said.

"We believe that he had been involved in a lot of gambling."

As of Tuesday afternoon, Mr Natsongwat had been the only person caught in Patong for gambling on World Cup matches since the tournament started, he added.

The raids also uncovered a stash of marijuana.

– **Saran Mitrarat**

Police hunt for possible theft, arson suspect

POLICE are investigating the possible theft and arson of a motorbike that was found engulfed in flames in the middle of a street in Bang Tao on Monday.

Local villager Sompong Samerpop, 35, notified Chergn Talay Police of the blazing motorbike on Soi Bang Tao 4 at about 1:30am.

Police officers promptly called the Chergn Talay Fire Department, but Mr Sompong had already subdued the flames by the time firefighters arrived, said Lt Sakkarit Parnkao of the Chergn Talay Police.

"When we arrived at the scene, we saw that Mr Sompong was already throwing a bucket of water onto the black Suzuki motorbike to put out the flames," he told the *Gazette*.

Police believe the motorbike had been stolen and set on fire by the thief, as the owner was nowhere to be found, said Lt Sakkarit.

"We are searching for the owner of the motorbike and possible suspects to find out what happened," said Lt Sakkarit. – **Thawit Bilabdullar**

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Cambodians flee Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

IMMIGRATION officers at Phuket's Rassada Pier arrested 37 Cambodian workers on June 12 who claimed to be fleeing Thailand amid fear of a coup-related crackdown on illegal immigrants.

This round-up brings the number of Cambodians arrested in Phuket to well over 1,000. The number of migrant workers who have tried to leave Thailand since the crackdown rumors started is more than 100,000, cited *The Nation* (see page 10).

One of the workers explained to the *Gazette* why they had decided to leave.

"We came to Thailand to work at a construction site on Koh Yao Noi for a year. After we heard about the coup and crackdown on immigrants, we decided to go back home. Now we are all getting arrested," he said.

An undercover officer notified police that the Cambodians were arriving to Phuket by boat at about 7:30pm on June 12.

"We arrested 27 men and 10



Workers from Koh Yao Noi were arrested in Rassada on June 12 for illegally entering the country.

women when they landed at the pier," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sanchai Chokhayaikij.

"They were unable to present their passports, permits-to-stay and work permits, so we took

them to the Phuket Immigration Office to check their records."

All of the workers were charged with illegally entering the country and will be deported, Col Sanchai said that day.

"We are transporting them to

Sa Kaew province, in Northeastern Thailand," said Col Sanchai.

"Since there have been so many arrested, it will take three days to get them all to the border."

On June 11, 65 Cambodian construction workers were

arrested under similar circumstances in Rassada. The group had finished work at a hotel on Koh Yao Noi and were arrested after landing on Phuket, en route to their home country.

The back-to-back arrests and mass deportations in Phuket follow the deportation of 1,500 Cambodians from Sa Kaew province on June 10.

Department of Employment Director-General Pravit Khiengpol, however, has denied the rumors of a junta-ordered crackdown.

"Some ill-intentioned people have spread this false stuff," he told *The Nation*.

Mr Pravit insisted that all 441,569 legally registered Cambodian workers could still work in Thailand as usual.

He disclosed that relevant authorities had in fact planned to extend the grace period for registered foreign workers who have not yet completed all procedures in the nationality-proving process.

Without the extension, they would have to leave Thailand by August 11, he said.

Cinemas clog as crowds queue up for free movie



Former Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban (center, pink shirt) joins Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak at the screening. Photo: PR Dept

HUNDREDS of people turned out at major cinemas throughout Phuket last Sunday to enjoy a free screening of *The Legend of King Naresuan 5*.

The latest cinematic installment recounting the insurmountable odds overcome by the famed king who laid the foundation for Thailand as a nation was shown free of charge at cinemas throughout the country under the "Return Happiness to the Thai People" campaign by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

People started queuing in front of shopping malls from 9am, well before the 11am showtime, with hundreds turning out at each of the three venues in Phuket where the movie was shown: the Coliseum Paradise cinema in Phuket Town; the SFX Cinema at Central Festival Phuket; and SF Cinema City at Jungceylon Phuket in Patong.

The NCPO's mandate to show the King Naresuan 5 movie for free garnered strong support from film distributors and cinema operators nationwide, NCPO spokeswoman Patamaporn Rattanadilok Na Phuket told the *Gazette*.

"This movie makes Thai people love and want to protect the Kingdom, and also learn the history of Thailand," she said.

Those who were denied entry for lack of seats may get a second chance, Ms Patamaporn added.

"The NCPO, the movie's producers and theater operators have all been notified of this concern. It is now up to them whether they will ask for the movie to be screened again for free," she said.

"It might just happen, as all of the companies and the people involved want to play a part in keeping all the Thai people smiling."

— Saran Mitrarat



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The military displays illegal weapons seized in raids under the coup. Photo: Reuters

Curfew could be reimposed in areas with security issues

A CURFEW may be reimposed in any area found to have security threats, a junta spokesperson said on June 14, just one day after the nationwide curfew was lifted.

Any area with the risk of disturbances that threaten national security may see the curfew invoked again, said Pathamakorn Ratanadilok Na-Phuket, a spokeswoman for the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

She said the country would remain under martial law although the authorities would focus on enforcing ordinary laws to deal with law-breakers.

Col Winthai Suwaree, another NCPO spokesperson, thanked the public for their cooperation.

"We have to thank the public members for their understanding toward the need to use different measures. The NCPO has obtained good cooperation," he said.

The junta said in its announcement on the night of June 13 that the curfew was lifted as the overall situation had improved.

Exodus endgame

Junta moves to stem migrant mass stampede

By Pravit Rojanaphruk

TO PLUG the exodus of much-needed migrant workers, the junta and the authorities on Tuesday quashed rumors of a crackdown, gave another chance to their employers and vowed to uphold human rights of alien workers.

The junta's order issued on Tuesday encouraged employers to register their migrant workers so authorities could regulate them and protect them from forced labor and other rights violations, reported *The Nation*.

Agencies must enforce the law effectively to suppress human traffickers. "Officials involved in trafficking syndicates or taking bribes from them will be punished," it said.

Recent rumors have sent more than 100,000 low-paid migrant workers, mostly Cambodians, back home. The mass exodus might spell problems for the Thai economy, especially in the real estate and fisheries industries.

Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, met with Cambodian Ambassador Eat Sophea to seek ways to end the flight. Thailand has assured Cambodia that it had no policy to crack down on migrant workers and also guaranteed to protect their rights.

"I trust that the assurance [by Thailand] would be observed," Ms Eat Sophea told the press.

Mr Sihasak said he had no idea where the rumors came from, but insisted that even undocumented workers would be treated in accordance with Thailand's human rights obligations.



Cambodian workers walk across the border at Aranyaprathet in Sa Kaew. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE nation

A hotline has been set up at the Cambodian Embassy and it is now receiving calls every two minutes seeking clarification on the rights and status of Cambodian workers in the Kingdom. "We've already spread the news to our workers. We have to give our assurance that this [persecution] is not happening," she said.

Cambodian workers, particularly those with work permits,

should not panic, she said. Mr Sihasak said the Foreign Ministry and the embassy will be communicating and working closely to allay concerns and quash rumors.

The National Council for Peace and Order wants to reorganize migrant workers so they can enjoy the same protection, welfare and rights as their Thai peers and not be exploited by their employers, reported *The Nation*.

"I have insisted to [the Cambodian ambassador] that the rumors are unfounded," said Mr Sihasak, acting as foreign minister under the military government.

The Labour Ministry will hand out leaflets in the Myanmar, Lao

and Cambodian languages to employers to pass on to their migrant workers explaining the situation and the foreign-labor policy of the junta, permanent secretary Jirasuk Sugandhajati said. The leaflets will reassure workers that the ministry was not indiscriminately prosecuting them.

Yongyuth Chalamwong, from the Thailand Development Research Institute, suggested that the junta grant an amnesty to employers of illegal migrants to allow them to register the workers within a few months.

Migrants from Myanmar are also panicking but have not yet left, said Sirigorn Leardchayopit of the Raksthai Foundation.

Thailand reverses stance, supports anti-slavery act

THAILAND has reversed its position and decided to back an international protocol on forced labor, despite initially voting against it in Geneva last week.

The decision reaffirms commitments to eliminate forced labor, permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva Thani Thongpakdi said.

The Labour Ministry would later send a formal letter to inform the Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Guy Ryder of the new decision, he said.

The ILO conference in Geneva considered and adopted new instruments on June 11 to supplement the 1930 Forced Labour Convention.

At the meeting, Thailand voted for a non-binding recommendation but said no to the binding protocol. Its lone vote in opposition on this point drew strong criticism from the international community.

More than 4,700 government, employer and worker delegates at the Geneva conference adopted the new legally binding ILO Protocol on Forced Labour, which aims to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, as well as to intensify efforts to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery, according to an ILO press statement.

"To adopt any specific instrument, we have to consider our readiness to implement [it]," Mr Thani explained.

The Labour Ministry then revised its stance – Mr Thani explained that it was deemed necessary to join the international consensus in addressing the issue of forced labor seriously.

"We don't want to send a wrong signal to the international community but wanted to cooperate with the ILO on the matter," Mr Thani said.

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Nationalism rises in Indonesia poll race

AROUND THE region

By Fransiska Nangoy
and Jonathan Thatcher

INDONESIA'S two presidential candidates traded nationalist rhetoric last Sunday in a debate ahead of July's election, with the front-runner suggesting he would make Southeast Asia's biggest economy more protectionist.

The tone of the debate, which focused on the economy and was the second ahead of the July 9 vote, is likely to add to concerns among foreign investors over how welcome they are in the resource-rich state whose fast-growing, fast-consuming, middle class is offering mouth-watering business opportunities.

"Every country has barriers... [we can] make it a bit more difficult for foreign investors," front-runner Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said during the televised debate, in response to a question about the proposed opening up of Southeast Asian economies from next year.

"I believe our economy can grow by more than 7 per cent [compared with little more than 5 per cent estimated this year] with conditions. First, the investment climate has to be more open and



Presidential candidate Prabowo greets supporters during a campaign rally in Medan, North Sumatra. Photo: Reuters

let local investors create growth."

Some recent opinion polls have suggested Mr Jokowi's lead is narrowing against his rival, ex-general Prabowo Subianto, who has adopted a heavily nationalist campaign from the outset.

It was a theme Mr Prabowo repeated in Sunday's debate.

"Our sources of wealth are controlled by foreign hands, foreign companies, so the wealth flows out from the country... Indonesia's wealth should be controlled by our country," said a confident Mr Prabowo, in his campaign white safari shirt and wearing the national black peci hat.

By contrast, Mr Jokowi, in a dark suit, looked more ill-at-ease than in the previous debate when he was accompanied by his running mate, Jusuf Kalla.

Mr Kalla was widely seen to have helped win the first round by targeting Mr Prabowo's controversial human rights record when he was a senior general.

Mr Jokowi made an oblique jibe at Mr Prabowo's periods living overseas, when he referred to his own upbringing and education as being entirely in Indonesia.

Mr Prabowo is the son of one of Indonesia's best known economists and his brother is one of its

richest businessmen. His ex-wife, a daughter of former autocrat Suharto, sat in the front row with other members of his team.

Mr Jokowi comes from a humble background and developed a successful furniture business before moving into regional politics.

There were few surprises in the well-mannered debate and at one point Mr Prabowo crossed the stage to embrace his rival and express agreement with Mr Jokowi's reference to the importance of a creative economy. Mr Prabowo's only son is in the fashion business.

— Reuters

In brief...

Singaporean firm charged for dealing North Korea arms

SINGAPORE authorities have filed criminal charges against a company implicated in an illegal shipment of arms seized near the Panama Canal last year on a North Korean container ship.

Chinpo Shipping Company (Private) Ltd has been charged for transferring financial assets or resources that may reasonably be used to contribute to North Korea's weapon programs, which are subject to United Nations sanctions. — Reuters

Myanmar monks jailed for state ire

MYANMAR officials detained five Buddhist monks from Maha Thandi Thukha monastery in Yangon who were disrobed and held at Insein prison for offending the state religious ruling committee.

The religious dispute came to a head Tuesday when police, officials from the Religious Affairs Ministry and some 250 monks from Yangon Sangha Nayaka Committee raided and shut down the monastery, run by the venerable abbot Penang Sayadaw.

— Eleven Media

Farmer gets death sentence, and smiles

A 27-year-old farmer in Alor Star, Malaysia, managed to smile despite being sentenced to death by the High Court for trafficking 1.9kg of cannabis.

Fauzi Naim Muhamad Zaki from Taiping appeared calm as the sentence was read out, and managed to smile as he was led out of the dock on Monday. — The Star

Sabah kidnap victim escapes

ONE of the two people kidnapped by Filipino gunmen from a fish farm near Kunak, on the east coast of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, early Monday morning has escaped.

In the third kidnapping in Sabah in three months, a 20-year-old Filipino worker identified only as Maslan jumped off the speedboat of the gunmen while heading towards the Alice Reef route into the southern Philippines.

The whereabouts of his employer, fish breeder Chan Sai Chiun from Perak, 32, who was kidnapped in the same raid, was still unknown as of Wednesday.

Maslan is believed to have made his escape as the boat was speeding off and swam ashore to lodge a police report.

The gunmen had snatched Chan and Maslan at about 12:45am from the fish farm at Kampung Sapang.

Armed with rifles, two masked men sneaked under the cover of darkness into the workers quarters of the fish farms and grabbed



Tourists take cover as armed men occupy a resort near Semporna, in Sabah, on April 2. The Kunak abduction on Monday was the third Sabah kidnapping in three months. Photo: Reuters

the two, who were sleeping in their rooms, according to sources.

Chan and Maslan were seen being shoved into a speedboat, while two more accomplices were waiting in another boat.

Police are hunting for the gunmen, who have apparently crossed over to Tawi Tawi province in the

southern Philippines with their hostage.

Sabah CID chief Senior Asst Comm Omar Mammah said the kidnappers, who were apparently wielding "long guns" — possibly M16 rifles — rowed into the fish farm jetty, some 500m from the Sapang coast. — The Star

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Purge high

FOLLOWING the unprecedented crackdown on the island's notorious transport syndicates in recent weeks, it is becoming clear that few provinces in Thailand are benefitting more from the nonsense measures ordered by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) than Phuket.

Now the clean-up, aimed at ending illegal businesses in Phuket, has targeted another scourge that has increasingly tarnished Phuket's reputation as a tropical beach resort destination: the proliferation of businesses operating illegally on public beaches.

If there is another destination on the planet that has seen more greedy profiteers encroach directly on beach sands than Phuket has, we would not like to visit it. There is hardly a west coast beach that is unaffected, and those few that remain so because of resort owners who manage to restrict access.

Even the destruction wrought by the 2004 tsunami disaster proved no long-term match for the relentless tide of human greed, corruption and ignorance that allowed the beach encroachment problem to return to, and quickly surpass, pre-disaster proportions.

News that a real crackdown was underway at four beaches in Cherng Talay had residents of other coastal towns crying out for their locale to be next. Cherng Talay seems as good a place as any to start, however. Home to one of the highest concentrations of high-end resorts on the island, visiting guests arrive there to find their views of, and pathways to, the sea blocked by illegal businesses of just about every nature and description. In addition to beach clubs, beer bars and other kinds of operations one might expect, the variety has extended to the ridiculous, including even brightly-lit, air-conditioned tailor shops right on the sand – as if tourists come to the interface between land and sea to purchase bespoke suits.

Greater political considerations aside, the *Gazette* sincerely hopes that this initial crackdown is successful, giving authorities the momentum they will need to extend this long-overdue purge to other beaches, including the mother-of-all strands when it comes to greed-fuelled, unregulated seaside development: Patong.

It goes without saying that the current situation could never have developed without the consent of corrupt state officials and elected members of the local administrative bodies that have jurisdiction. Only the most naïve among us would be prepared to believe that the existence of such encroachment stems from mere oversight or “dereliction of duty” – and not outright corruption.

Those responsible, those at the top, need to be arrested and prosecuted in a transparent way to set an example for the future.

Ironically, some of their numbers have been among those crying out most vocally to ‘restart Thailand’. If the restart we get is the one we really need, and not just another extra-political purge, then those aforementioned parties might truly fall victim to the portents of the age-old adage: be careful what you wish for.



It's time to put a meter in every taxi

Re: Gazette online, Governor outlines new transport plans, with Kata-Karon as model, June 11

Phuket needs a modern air-conditioned bus transport system and all taxis and tuk-tuks equipped with meters which record the route and indicate the rate charged and the amount payable. All other systems will be corrupt.

Asterix
Gazette forum

Status quo is a no-go

Re: Gazette online, Governor outlines new transport plans, with Kata-Karon as model, June 11

Unfortunately, they seem to be already trying to protect the status quo by suggesting the Kata Community Service Taxi as a model.

Though it is, I'm sure, good in many ways, it is still based on the old fixed fares and protected area of operation model.

What we need is a system where taxis can pick up anywhere and with a fairly-priced meter system. The prices may need to be a little more than Bangkok but not hugely higher.

Andy P
Gazette forum

Put building on hold

Re: Gazette online, Officials clear vendors from four Phuket beaches, June 12

There are many new developments all over the island.

I think the General and his team need to put a moratorium on all new developments. This will provide the time needed to check these developments to ensure they are properly permitted, and that measures have been integrated into the projects to ensure that no more environmental degradation occurs.

Phuket needs to protect its natural resources.

Great point for the General
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Allow beach clubs on Patong Beach only

Re: Gazette online, Thai parks chief turns to junta to reclaim Phuket national park, June 17

Yes, it seems that the army is the only entity that doesn't have a financial stake in maintaining the encroachment of the beaches.

Please prioritize getting rid of the annoying beach clubs. Patong is where that kind of “entertainment” should be contained.

This may be the best and last chance for some badly needed respect for the environment.

Thai dreamer
Gazette forum

Median problems

Re: Gazette online, Road divider to feature lights and landscaping, June 12

The median means we will have more motorbikes driving on the wrong side of the road, because the typical Thai biker will not go in the “wrong” direction to make a u-turn about 100 meters further down the road.

Fritz Penguin
Gazette forum

Who should do what

Re: Gazette online, Tourists told to avoid speedboat trips as weather warning issued, June 14

Rather than tourists being asked to avoid speedboat trips, wouldn't it be preferable for operators to use some common-sense and stop running them?

Agogohome
Facebook

Hope for the park

Re: Gazette online, Thai parks chief turns to junta to reclaim Phuket national park, June 17

The news keeps getting better every day. I just returned from Kamala and loved the view of the palm lined beach.

I'm so glad they are carrying this march into Sirinath National Park. We were worried that the loss of Cheewapap Cheewatham would spell disaster for Sirinath, but the current chief, Kitiphat Taraphiban, has picked up the baton nicely to preserve Thailand's natural resources. You guys are saviors.

Better every day
Gazette forum

Save lives with stats

Re: Gazette online, Lifeguards beg beachgoers to stay safe as waves become deadly, June 14

Maybe sharing some cold facts would do the trick, as people don't tend to obey the nice way of saying please.

Make large posters and place them at Kata-Karon beaches, giving beach stats in numbers: how many lives lost, how many new widows, how many children left without a parent.

Think before entering the water. The red flags are there for a reason.

Pekka Oilinki
Facebook

Take care this season

Re: Gazette online, Pick-up avoiding motorcyclist flips onto rocky Kalim shore, June 14

I'm sorry to hear about this. I usually pass this way to go to my workplace. Please be careful when you are on the road. Rain is not good when we are riding or driving.

Jariyaporn Artpakdee
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

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Protecting Phuket's image, day and night

FIRST PERSON

OUR job in the PR Department is to protect and enhance the image of Phuket. We have to keep track of everything that's going on in the province and disseminate news and information to the media and to the people who live here.

We send out at least five stories a day to local media – including radio, TV and newspapers – and we also send stories to Ch3, Ch5, Ch7 and to the National PR office in Bangkok. If something happens of international interest, for example, if an ambassador or consul meets with the governor, we send stories to international media too.

We report on local events; important island visitors; tourism information, such as the number of tourists coming to the island; the expansion of the airport to accommodate those visitors; and on the private sector too: new shops or property developments, for example.

Last year we sent out 2,300 stories. Our team has won a national excellence award for "most reporting" three years in a row.

Sometimes we have to report things that are not positive. The best way to do that is to focus on the solution rather than the problem.

For example, the road block at Mai Khao at the end of April was bad news – it caused a big traffic



Sopon Keamkan, 43, a native of Trang, is Acting Chief of Phuket's Public Relations Department. He has a master's degree in Political Science from Ramkhamheang University and has worked in the island's PR Dept for more than 15 years. During that time, he and his colleagues have received numerous

national-level awards for their work.

Here, he talks about how he tells Phuket's stories.

jam and made it hard for tourists to get to the airport. Instead of focusing on the angry protesters, we tried to provide useful information regarding alternate routes to the airport, announced an official meeting to discuss a solution, and reported that the governor went to the scene to try to help.

To do this job well, you need to be ready 24/7 because stories can come in at any time. Pretty much everyone in the province can report a story to me: government officers, police, local officials and private companies too.

Sometimes I'm in my office past midnight. Sometimes I go home and go to sleep and then I get a call and have to start investigating. Luckily, my wife understands.

An important part of my job is communicating with the media and

having a good relationship with them. I do a morning briefing for the press every day in the PR office, and we have a whiteboard in the office where we write the latest stories. Reporters can stop by at any time and check it. Following the policy of the National PR office, we also provide transportation to the media when we can.

In the old days, there wasn't much news in Phuket. I used a cassette recorder for interviews and sent out stories by fax, one by one. Now, there's a lot more going on here. If there's breaking news, I send it by the LINE application, then at the end of the day I send the full story in a mass email.

Social media has made my job a lot easier, but it does have a downside. Nowadays, everyone is a reporter, and even those who don't post stories and photos can press "share" and help information to spread – true or false.

Without outside controls, we need to control ourselves. Take the time to find out if a story is true before posting or sharing it. Not doing so keeps a false story alive.



The team responsible for sharing information about Phuket with the world. Photo: Woranut Pechdee



There's no need to make a big deal about parallel parking. Photo: Godofgta42

Phuket driving 101

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

SOMEONE I know recently applied for a driver's license and failed the parallel parking test. "You hit the pole," announced the proctor from her little booth.

And I began to wonder: in the nation which has the third-highest road fatality rate in the world, does it really matter how well you parallel park?

Being third globally (according to the World Health Organization) signals a problem of profound proportions, especially among motorcyclists, who represent about 75 per cent of the deaths.

It's true that the Transport Department is trying to better prepare drivers, and recently raised the score needed to pass the theoretical part of the driver's test. But more needs to be done.

For one, the test route could more closely resemble real-life conditions. Using an example from my housing estate, park a bunch of cardboard cars at each corner of an intersection, and as the applicant approaches, have a little plastic motorcyclist pop out. If the applicant fails to stop, she hears, "You hit the biker."

And why not send officers into schools? Show students a picture of three young men squeezed together on a motorbike, all helmetless, darting out of a u-turn in front of oncoming traffic, and ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" I narrowly missed that trio the other day.

Show a two-lane road with a car signaling to turn right as a mo-

torcyclist passes it – also on the right. I managed to avoid that man a few weeks ago.

Use CCTV images to make educational videos, and include interviews of victims.

Talk to the two boys who survived after their friend, who was driving the motorbike they were all on, rammed into the back of a pick-up truck in Pa Khlok on February 11 and died.

Ask the family of Boonlert Udomtham, 46, how they've been doing financially since Mr Boonlert was killed on May 2 after a truck lost control on Chao Fa West Road and crashed into the car he was in.

Bring the problem to the center of national attention: publicize statistics, ask schools to make helmets part of the school uniform, get singers and actors to make trendy public service ads.

Law enforcement has a role to play too. A friend who never used to wear a helmet started wearing one because she didn't want to get caught by police. "I got used to it," she told me, "and now, if I don't have it on, it feels strange."

Let those who can't parallel park spend an extra few minutes searching for an angled parking place. The inconvenience isn't going to kill them.

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

Left the country without going through immigration: what to do now?

My wife and I left Phuket on February 3 and headed to Bangkok, where we transited and flew on to Amsterdam and then the UK. We left Phuket on Bangkok Airlines and flew to Amsterdam on KLM.

When we checked in at the airport in Phuket, our suitcases were booked through to the UK, and we were sent to the domestic gate. The staff at the gate checked our boarding passes, looked at our passports and sent us through. We did not go through Immigration.

When we arrived in Bangkok, we stayed in the transit area. We did not go through Immigration and our passports were never stamped.

We had a 60-day tourist visa which expired on February 10, and we're worried that if we re-

turn to Thailand we may have problems because we were never processed out.

Tom
UK

Sen Sgt Maj Mongkol Changchalard, Phuket Airport Immigration officer, replies:

I have no idea how this error occurred, but please do not be worried about it.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

When you return to Thailand, bring with you any documents you have that show the date you left Thailand – for example, your ticket or your boarding pass. If you don't have these, make sure you at least have your flight information, so immigration officials can use them to confirm your departure.

I would suggest that you enter the country via the airport that you departed from, because it will be easier for officials there to confirm the date you left.

When you arrive at the airport in Bangkok, report to Immigration and tell them what happened.

A representative of Bangkok Air replies:

Passengers flying from Phuket to Bangkok on Bangkok Air and

connecting with KLM in Bangkok are able to check their luggage through to their final destination in Phuket.

The airline staff will put a sticker on your luggage that says "CIQ" (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine) to indicate that you have cleared Immigration.

They will put a similar sticker on your boarding pass and give you a third sticker to wear on your shirt.

After that, you will go through Immigration and wait for your flight in the international area. Once you reach Bangkok, if you stay in the transit area, you will not need to go through Immigration again.

If you are with a friend who will fly on just the domestic leg, you can get seats together when

you check in, then the friend will go to the domestic gate and you will pass through Immigration and wait for your flight in the international section. You'll meet up again on the plane.



CIQ stickers are issued at check-in. Photo: Gazette file

How to generate a steady passive income stream

THE whole point of retirement planning is to get to a point where you no longer need to actively work to provide you with the things you need or want. This can be accomplished by saving enough money that you can draw it down slowly until you die, but the downside of this approach is that you obviously never know in advance exactly how long you will live. Mess up on that forecast and you may end up 90-years-old and broke, which is not the best time in life to have to try and re-enter the workforce. Generating a passive income stream which could take care of you in perpetuity is a much better approach, although one that has seemed very elusive for many retirees in today's low interest rate environment.

How exactly then, can you go about building a steady passive income in the current environment? There are actually quite a few ways to do it, but since each one carries with it a unique set of risks, the best approach is to try and create several separate streams. This way if

Finance

By David Mayes

...since each one carries with it a unique set of risks, the best approach is to try and create several separate streams. /

The first and most obvious form of passive income, which is most likely as old as the so-called world's oldest profession, is to buy or develop rental properties. These can be commercial or residential, and the great thing about real estate is that it is generally inflation-proof.

I won't spend too much time on real estate here since you have experts on the subject, such as Bill Barnett, writing columns dedicated to it every week. There are risks involved with real estate however, and as it is also one of the least liquid asset classes out there, you need to diversify across more liquid asset classes in case unforeseen events cause you to need cash in a hurry.

Dividend-paying blue chip stocks are another way to generate a passive income, and while their yields aren't great at the moment, careful selection can allow you to create a portfolio of solid companies

something unexpectedly goes wrong with one, your entire income hasn't been wiped out because of it.



The great thing about real estate is that it is generally inflation-proof. Photo: PT Money

which give a much better yield than bank deposits or money market funds. Of course, there is market risk, and I believe that within the next few years you will be able to buy most of the universe of stocks at much lower prices than today and with correspondingly much higher yields. However, if you don't have the luxury of waiting, you just need to be much more careful to avoid relatively overpriced companies based on their price to earnings ratio.

Bonds are another way to generate passive income, and while they do not offer great yields either at the moment, if you can make sure you hold a specific issue to maturity, then you eliminate the interest rate risk involved. Of course, this

exposes you to inflation risk, but a diversified stream of incomes would address this, as stocks and real estate tend to do well in inflationary environments. It's only in hindsight that it is ever evident which of these asset classes was the better pick, but diversifying across all three will help protect your income stream in the event you live into your hundreds.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on taxation and pensions. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335 8573.

Small business takes a hit

SMALL and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have become less competitive amid rising costs of production and lack of marketing strategies and funds, and more are at risk of closing down, according to a survey by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC).

The survey pegged the SME competitiveness index at 56 points out of 100 in the first quarter, down from 59.6 points for the previous quarter, due to higher operating costs but lower returns.

Meanwhile, at a press conference, the Business Development Department reported that about 4,000 SMEs had shut down in the first half of the year because of a lack of financial liquidity and missed business goals, along with tough competition. Chainarong Chochai, deputy director-general of the department, said about 93% of total business closures in the first five months of the year were SMEs.

The total number of business shutdowns of all sizes increased 8% to 4,564 in the January-to-May period. Last month alone, the number of closures rose 1% to 833 firms.

The department said most SMEs that had to close down had initial capital of less than 5 million baht. With higher costs of operations and production, and tougher competi-



A reported 4,000 SMEs had shut down in the first half of the year and more are at risk of closing down. Photo: Frechdachswelchen

tion, they went bankrupt.

However, Chainarong said that despite the rising number of business closures, the number of newly set-up companies was expected to increase on improved confidence for future economic growth after the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) seized control of the country. He said the number of new firms was likely to increase in the second half of the year as a result of this optimism for an economic recovery.

That has not been the case so far, however. The department reported that the number of newly set-up companies dropped 21% year on year to 24,267 firms in the first five months of the year on the

impact from the political mess.

Last month alone, the number of new companies dropped 26% year on year, though it increased 7% from April, to 4,583 companies.

Initial capital investment in May was valued at 20.28 billion baht, up by 17% from the previous month, and up 2% from May 2013.

New businesses in May were dominated by those in construction, property development, restaurants, machinery retail and wholesale, and advisories.

Saowanee Thairunroj, president of the UTCC, said SMEs had to close down as they faced higher costs of production, lower sales amid a slower economy

during the political turmoil since late last year, and lower financial liquidity and profit.

Businesses that have faced financial problems include those in food and beverages, retail and wholesale, small restaurants and food vendors, and fashion goods.

Thanavath Phonvichai, director of the UTCC's Economic and Business Forecasting Centre, said about 20% of SMEs or about 400,000-500,000 firms were at high risk of failure because of low financial support. To help them, the military government should provide liquidity and low-interest funding.

Bhumindr Harinsut, vice chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said a joint collaboration of seven business organizations would propose an SME support plan to the NCPO next week.

They will propose that the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation expand the debt ceiling for SMEs from 18% to 50% so that commercial banks will have more confidence to provide loans.

He said many SMEs had been affected by the political problem, and the junta needed to draw up urgent plans to help them and develop their competitiveness in the long run in preparation for the Asean Economic Community, which kicks off next year.

- The Nation

World Cup, electric up

THE Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has revealed that electricity consumption in Thailand during the first five months was recorded at around 26,500 megawatts, down by 0.59% from last year.

However, since May 2014, electricity consumption has increased 2.19% compared to the same month last year.

EGAT Deputy Governor for the Transmission System, Suthon Boonprasong, says electricity consumption has picked up again, thanks to a better political atmosphere and this year's FIFA World Cup. - NNT

Call for junta to aid tourism

THE Private sector has suggested the government sector lay down tourism promotional marketing plans to build trust with trading partners after the curfew was lifted across the country.

Sisdivachr Cheewarattanaporn, the President of the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) said that after the NCPO cancelled the curfew across Thailand, tourism businesses saw that as a good sign that the ongoing situation was beginning to ease and tourism could resume as normal. - NNT

Scooping out a niche

By Mauri Grant
and Leslie Porterfield

IN THE high season, more than 4,000 scoops of gelato and sorbet – chocolate, licorice, durian, rice and wasabi flavors among them – are produced every day on Phuket by local ice cream makers. Though that's nearly 10,000 kilograms a month, and does not include sales by big players such as Haagen Dazs and Movenpick, there is still room in the business for newcomers.

So says Pittaya "Net" Phasee, and he should know. Trained as a telecommunications engineer, Net's career course changed dramatically after a posting in Australia led him to discover the creamy delights of a Melbourne shop called Gelatissimo. He opened Gelato Time three years ago, and hasn't looked back.

"It's hot here, and there are a lot of tourists," he says, explaining the key ingredients of ice cream success.

Though the *Gazette's* four featured gelato makers all came to the business via different routes, learning their craft in school, from a relative or from a long-time professional, each has found a unique way to shine in the Phuket market.

CARVING OUT A NICHE

The biggest local producer is Giovanni Durante of Pluto Ice Cream. With a staff of 16, he churns out a staggering 9,000kg of gelato per month in high season.

With a certificate of authenticity from the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce, Giovanni, who has an uncle in the business in Italy, takes pride in making the real McCoy. He uses Italian machines and imports the best Italian ingredients.

"In Thailand, there are a lot of copies," he says. "I only use genuine ingredients."

He supplies about 80 per cent of Phuket's five-star hotels, numerous local restaurants, and exports his gelato to nearby provinces and as far afield as Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Two years ago he also opened a factory in Vietnam.

Fellow Italian Flavio Manzoni is a chef by profession and makes his Manzoni gelato as a hobby. Working with hotels and chefs to develop special flavors to pair with selected menu items, he has created more than 300 flavors.

"I once made a seaweed and wasabi flavor for a Japanese restaurant," he says. "It tasted fishy and spicy. They loved it."

He's also made goat milk with fruit, white carrot, and roasted cherry tomato sorbet with basil.

Many of Flavio's flavors are 100 per cent organic, made with milk sourced by Pura Organic and coconut flower syrup instead of sugar.

Since opening his shop five years ago, he has built up a client base that includes hotels, schools and restaurants in Phuket and Khao Lak.

The longest-running gelato producer is Kanchana Buranadunrongkul.

When she opened Gelati Natura in Patong more than 25 years ago, it was only the second ice cream shop in the town. The shop is closed now but the tradition continues, as the gelato is sold in Da Sandro, the restaurant she runs with her son, Alessandro Vassallo, and to a few long-standing hotel customers on the island.

Kanchana continues to use the recipes she learned in Italy from a family in the business for more than a century, with one small change.

"People want less sugar these days, so I've reduced the amount I use just a little bit," she says.

Newcomer Net's niche is Asian tourists and the fruit flavors that appeal to them.

"I'd say 70 per cent of my customers are Chinese," he says. "They love my durian and mango flavors."

He uses only the best durian – *montong*, as well as *nam dok mai* mango, star gooseberry and passionfruit.

Starting out, Net tried to sell to hotels, but most already had suppliers. Schools were a problem because "there were too many vacations".

He now sells his ice cream by the cup at key tourist locations on Phuket, including the Big Buddha, Simon Cabaret, O2 Beach Club and Phuket Paradise Trip, and also supplies a cafe and disco in Phang Nga.

COSTS

Getting started in the business is not cheap. A top of the line Carpigiani gelato machine costs more than seven million baht.

But treated right, machines can be a one-time charge. Alessandro told the *Gazette* that his machine was purchased secondhand – 20 years ago.

"It was an investment, even that many years ago, but it is still running," he said.

Imported ingredients aren't cheap either. The vanilla beans that go into Pluto's ice cream cost more than 15,000 baht per kilogram. They have an intoxicatingly deep and sweet scent unlike anything available in the grocery store and just three are enough to make 120kg of gelato.

CHALLENGES

Though machines do the mixing, a little elbow grease is still required.

On occasion, Net single-handedly scoops out 500 cupfuls of ice cream in a single day. And though Kanchana has help now, her recipes used to require her to crack open 210 eggs in one sitting.

Recipes that are sure-fire elsewhere may need revision to produce a delicious result here.

"The sugar is not as refined here, the milk and whipped cream are different, even the water is different – in Italy it has more minerals in it," Giovanni said. It took him three months of tweaking to adapt his Italian recipes to Thai ingredients.

PROFITS

For those who make the investment and stay the course, the rewards can be sweet: profits in the gelato business are good, very good.

Flavio broke it down: "I sell my organic gelato at a very competitive price of 320 baht per liter. One liter yields about 18 scoops, which means one scoop costs the restaurant no more than 20 baht. Most restaurants sell the scoops for at least double that."



growth, as well as new local high-end resorts and restaurants that he added to his client roster.

To those who think they've identified their own niche and want to enter the market, Net recommends consulting the Business Incubator Program at Rajabhat University Phuket first.

Net originally intended to rent a shop to sell his gelato from, but the university advisers nixed that idea. No shop, they said, use a distributor.

After three years spent building up his business, Net now has plans in the works to open his dream shop in Kathu later this year and is aiming to sell his gelato on local tourist cruises.

No matter where they are selling their delicious products, there's not much more these gelato makers need to say to make the sale than "enjoy".

Taste it yourself:

Gelati natura: buy at Da Sandro's on Chaofa East Road in Chalong, or call 081-569 7781.

Gelato Time: at select locations or contact Net at: 089-1500 755 or ppittaya15@gmail.com

Manzoni's is available at Pura Organic in Bang Tao or call Flavio at 083-998 2951.

Pluto's: call ahead to order from the Wichit factory at 076-393 398 or plutoicecream@gmail.com



Machines do the mixing, but elbow grease is still required.
Photo: Mauri Grant

GROWTH

Gelato is a healthy product – it normally contains just 6 per cent fat, Giovanni says,

compared to some high-end ice creams that have 15 per cent fat.

Sales are equally robust. Giovanni saw an increase of 40 per cent in 2010-2011, after he built his factory in Wichit, and 38 per cent the following year. Last year sales in Krabi accounted for a large part of his



Star gooseberry. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

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Central Festival Colors of Africa Fest

Thousands of people packed the Grand Hall at Central Festival Phuket on Saturday for an afternoon of sub-Saharan music, dance, fashion and theater for The Colors of Africa Fest. Under a canopy of giant birds of paradise, with hundreds of onlookers filling the four floors, visitors were treated to energizing African drumming and stunning male and female models in fashion wear inspired by the colors of Africa.



Guest of honor, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, praised Central Group for showcasing the fun side of life in challenging times.



Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Central Festival general manager and vice president of property management, poses next to a man in an African-inspired costume.



Teerasak Phonngarm (left), owner of Tablespoon restaurant, with a guest at the Colors of Africa Fest.

Exclusive dinner with Perfect Slim



Celebrity guest Ken Phupoom poses for a photo with a VIP guest at the Perfect Slim exclusive dinner.



Guests enjoyed an exclusive dinner, hosted by Sulalita Thanburee (center) of Perfect Slim, along with celebrity guests Ken Phupoom and Maprang Kannarun.

Nike Manchester United Premier Cup Southeast Asia

The Nike Manchester United Premier Cup Southeast Asia Finals 2014 had a successful welcome dinner and match drawing at Thanyapura Phuket. Teams from Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Thailand gathered for the match to select the winner to participate in the final match in the UK.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

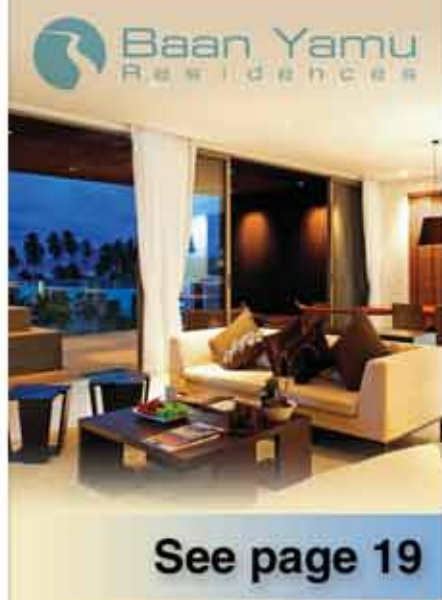
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*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

PROPERTY of the week



See page 19

JOB of the week

**OPC
MANAGER**

See page 22

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 25

BOAT of the week



See page 27

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

**APARTMENT FOR SALE
IN BOAT LAGOON**

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

**TOWNHOUSE
PHUKET TOWN
FOR SALE / RENT**

In Supalai City Hill estate. Very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. For more information, please call 089-874 00 61. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**OCEANFRONT
FOR SALE**

6.5 rai, waterfront. Chanote title. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

PALM BREEZE CONDO

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No agents! For more information, please call 081-956 1077.

**PRIME
BEACHFRONT
LAND**

Beachfront land on Rawai / Chalong beach. Also connects directly to Vised Road. Adjacent to Serenity Terraces, so really prime! Over 4 rai at 180 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

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

**ZCAPE
1-BEDROOM CONDO
LAGUNA**

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7sqm & 29.41sqm), adjacent units on 6th floor in Zcape development, ready now. Near Laguna, Boat Avenue and beaches. Thai or foreign ownership ok. Both priced at under 2 million baht. Tel: 085-235 1532 (English & Thai). Email: thanasak.nk@gmail.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. 1.9 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE LBI

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

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

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

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

MAI KHAO LAND

5.1 rai, very quiet, 1km to sea, for now building or investment, full Chanote. Price: 2.75 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-635 2414 (English), 082-812 3486 (Thai).

**LARGE SEAVIEW
HOUSE AT LAYAN**

3 rai, Chanote. Price: 54 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4383. Email: ruggdan@gmail.com

**FREEHOLD
POOL VILLA**

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

**ENTERTAINMENT
PALACE**

Magnificent Penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

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

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 (English & Thai). Email: roscomclean@yahoo.com.au

**URGENT LAND
FOR SALE**

Build your dream home in Boat Lagoon. Hot price: 7 million baht. 161 sq wah. Tel: 076-238948, 081-978 2787, 082-271 3420. Fax: 076-273 466. Email: sale@phuketpropertytrip.com

**NEW SEAVIEW
FREEHOLD CONDO**

Brand-new freehold condos from 2.3 million baht, includes furniture, plus seaview condos, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

UNDER MARKET PRICE

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, Land & Houses Park, Chalong. For photo please email: attivaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

BANG TAO HOUSE

For sale. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. Tel: 093-713 2278.

URGENT SALE!

DCondo Kathu, 7th floor, good view. Only 1.2 million baht. Email: dcondosale@gmail.com

**CHARMING HOME
NEAR BEACH**

Big lot, 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, office, 4 baths, fully furnished, secure, like new, freehold. Tel: 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmo campbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

**BEAUTIFULLY
FURNISHED
CONDO**

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom23781@msn.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE
NAI HARN**

3-bedrooms, fully furnished, 5 minutes to the beach. Reduced to 3.9 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 088-168 5032.

**LUXURY
POOL VILLA**

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

**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.

Properties For Rent

**3-BEDROOM VILLA
LONG TERM**

Nice villa, Central Phuket, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, GT, 200m², fair rent. Gated, quiet, unfurnished. Available from August 2014. Take over A/C. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-281 1264. Email: info@contexphuket.com

**APARTMENT FOR
RENT PATONG**

Condo pool, security, 46 Sqm. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005 (English & Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**POOL VILLA FOR
RENT**

Bang Tao area. 1,2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. For more information, please call 093-713 2278.

**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). PLS contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

**CONDO FOR RENT
IN TOWN**

Furnished condo with A/C, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

**PATONG
NICE APARTMENT**

Mid-Patong, very nice large furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, light and airy apartment. Tel: 086-276 7608.

KATA HILL BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, aircon, free WiFi, cable TV. 9,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

**FULLY FURNISHED
HOUSE**

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

RENT OR SALE

Permsap villa. Two floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Close to Heroines' Monument. Email: Pkt thai1@gmail.com

**LUXURY APARTMENT
@ PATONG**

Fully furnished, daily and monthly. For more information, please call 081-892 5983 (English & Thai), 081-894 4730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com, www.nanaivilla.com

CONDO FOR RENT

Rawai, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, full amenities, pool, WiFi, great location. Short and long-term available: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8957908. Email: rungtiwap@asianwind.biz

**DELUXE BEACHFRONT
CONDOS**

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

**7,000 BAHT
PER MONTH**

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311, http://panwagreen.weebly.com

**FULLY FURNISHED
HOUSE**

3-bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

**ART@PATONG
1-BEDROOM**

Fully furnished, full kitchen, aircon, 24/7 security, overlooks pool, quiet, 5-minute walk to Jungceylon, long term 25,000 baht per month. Email: marklouisw@hotmail.com

**CONDO
FOR RENT**

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

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE
KATHU**

Panason Park View. Air con, partly furnished, 20,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-724 0706 (English & Thai). Email: alastairpeskett@yahoo.co.uk

**HOUSE FOR RENT
NEAR BIS**

Architect-designed house. 3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, big land and garden. Furnished, aircon, kitchen. Long term at 22,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-803 1560 (English & Thai). Email: noipatnoi@gmail.com

**NAI HARN HOUSE
2KM BEACH**

2-bedroom house for rent with aircon. Quiet Soi, walk to the beach. American owned. For more information, please call 048-0286 3866 (English), 062-3217 8117 (English & Thai). Email: kkareth@gmail.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. For more information, please call 091-523 2776 (English). Email: farang742@gmail.com

**KATA HILL
SINGLE HOUSE**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 3BB, cable TV. For rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

**1-BEDROOM
CONDOMINIUM**

Fully furnished, close to Rawai Beach. Yearly rate: 29,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-979 0090. Email: reallife property@gmail.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.

**ORCHID KATHU
HEIGHTS**

Serviced apartment, studio. 1/2 bedroom(s), 1/2 bathroom(s), rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

**1, 2, 3 BEDROOM
VILLAS WITH POOL**

Furnished, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, swimming pool. 1-bedroom house, long term: 14,000 baht per month. Special offer! 2-bedroom house, 2 months for short term only 17,000 baht per month. Please call 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

WALK TO KATA BEACH

Custom 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom house, just 500m to the beach, furnished. 25,000 baht per month; 20,000 baht for long term. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

**1-BEDROOM
BUNGALOW RAWAI**

Fully furnished, WiFi, TV, kitchen, 9,000 baht per month. Email: briccothailand@hotmail.com

**CHALONG HOUSE
FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. Tel: 087-266 71 91.

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

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

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT / MONTH

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

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

SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish speaking 20-30 year old staff wanted. Send your CV & Photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

NEED A MAID

Family is looking for maid in Bang Tao. Salary: 20,000 baht. Tel: 089-729 9009.

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

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

One TO with experience in Timeshare and 3 Sales Reps. Thai-Indian or Indian National speaking. 088-450 1833. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833 (English). Email: george@davidvacationclub.com

OPC MANAGER

David Vacation Club is looking for an OPC Manager with experience in timeshare. Work permit, free accommodation, social security. Call and ask for George. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833 (English). Email: george@davidvacationclub.com

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@ancasnet.com

COOK / CHEF

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Well established property agency is looking for an Office Assistant. Very good computer knowledge and Microsoft Office is a must. Very good knowledge of English in writing and speaking is essential! Basic accounting knowledge and good communication skills are required. Must be able to work independently and start work almost immediately. Thai national only. Please reply with CV and recent photo. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

HTML, CSS WEB DEVELOPER

Thai national with good English. HTML, CSS skills required for long-term position. Send English resume to job@242ventures.com

N.E.S TEACHERS WANTED

F/ T Teacher: Female <40yrs. Degree + TEFL / CELTA. Essential P / T Teacher: M / F <40yrs. TEFL Req'd. Both pos's: exp pref. Must be great with children. Please apply to: The Head Teacher, ECC, Phuket. Tel: 076-307 5079, 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai and Patong.

1. Secretary / Receptionist: Thai female.
 2. Sales / Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female.
- Both positions require: Good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills, own car is an advantage for Sales / Rental Manager position, good salary and commission! Tel: 076-388801. Please send resume and recent photo to contact@harvest-property.com

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

FEMALE STAFF FOR TAO MASSAGE

Tao massage therapy center, previous experience in massage preferred or training for happy caring people. Tel: 094-652 2029. Contact Dave. Email: kay.dave47@gmail.com

MARKETING FOR PROPERTY

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our Property team. You should be a Thai national and speak good English. We are now recruiting for our property booths in Kamala and Patong. Excellent salaries and commissions are given. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com For future details, please see our website at www.phuket-condos-homes.com

THAI RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Small Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani) is looking for 2 receptionists (Thai only) with proper English skills. Salary from 10,000 to 15,000 baht depending on experience, accommodation, 3 meals a day and social security are 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.khaosok-hotels.com

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

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@iinet.net.au

GUEST SERVICES

At Escape Hunt Phuket, Kathu, 5 days per week. Tel: 082-789 9620. Apply and inquire to phuket@escapehunt.com

IT PROFESSIONAL WANTED

Must be familiar with N / W, Windows, Mac OS, Google Glass, Oculus Rift VR, and passionate about new inventions. Tel: 083-779 1139. Email: dylanishappy@gmail.com

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalongs 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. Savoei 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?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Andy: (076-341644)

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

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

Gazette Online **Classifieds** – 10,000 readers every day!

ADSALES 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

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@avcphuket.com

PROPERTY MARKETING MANAGER

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in Marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to info@phuket-condos-homes.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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai office assistant with English and computer skills, based in Rawai. Must be organised and have good communication skills. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to dew@siamrealestate.com

BANDS NEEDED

Slippery Club needs bands that can play danceable songs. Details negotiable. Tel: 089-873 1867 (English & Thai). Email: minami007.jn@gmail.com

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

We are now looking for an experienced Sales Manager to operate our office in our condominium development. You will handle all agencies on the island and make sure our project reaches its goals and targets in selling our available units. Multilingual is a plus and experience in the Phuket property market is a must. Terms and conditions will be negotiated. Please contact us via info@phuket-condos-homes.com

THAI STAFFS WANTED

To work in a hotel: 1) Front Reception, full time. 2) Cook, part time only. 3) Groundkeeper, daily cleaning of pool, garden and walkways. Tel: 076-345251, 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

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

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

FINANCE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require a qualified accountant to manage finances of four Southern Thai branches. Preferred applicants are Thai, have a minimum of 3 years experience in accounting/financial reporting, and have a very good understanding of Excel and accounting software principles. Occasional domestic travel will be required for training and auditing. Tel: 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

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

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: hr.bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

SALES PERSON

Sales person wanted for smart home systems integration company. Please email CV. Tel: 084-443 9863 (English). Email: daragh@techworx.asia

SALES / OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

Starting in August for 6 months at the Yacht Haven Phuket. Good computer/English skills. Yacht charter company, open to foreigners. Tel: 081-270 2449 (English), 081-978 6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: mel@phuket-yachts.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITORS

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

SALES MANAGER

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

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

HANDYMEN

Needed for house and boat work. Location is Boat Lagoon, Phuket. Please contact me with a brief description of your skills and your phone number. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

SALES ASSISTANT WANTED

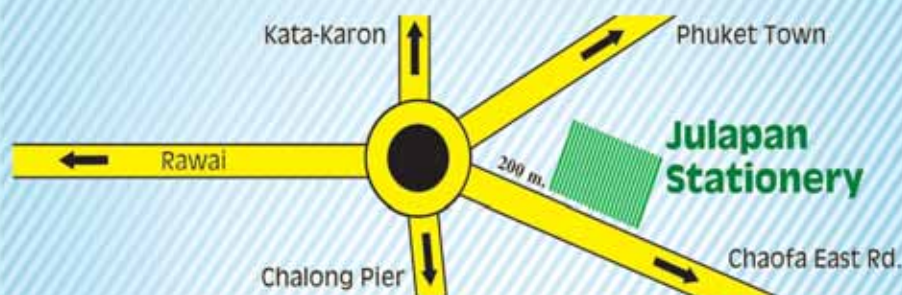
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www.lambertbrothers.co.th

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Family membership. Maintenance paid through 2014. Price: 750,000 baht, including transfer fee. Contact Mike, as above. Tel: 091-224 1773 (English). Email: smolar@hotmail.com

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Personal Services Wanted

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- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

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

Personals

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

Computers

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- 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

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► X-372 \$79,000 USD

► Jeanneau 52.2 \$279,000 USD

► S&S 48 \$69,000 USD

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CATAMARAN FOR SALE

Built 2013, marine plywood, fiberglass, 41 feet, ideal for charter, 5.2 million baht only. Tel: 080-692 8468 (English & Thai). Email: joe_anusara@yahoo.com

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

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

SALE NEW 2013 KAW ULTRA300X

Only 519,000 baht (from 580,000 baht). Last unit! Better hurry! Tel: 081-754 7599 (English & Thai), 081-110 9223 (English & Thai) Fax: 034-426403. Email: csutivas@gmail.com www.mfjet-ski.com

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Due to low usage – 2007 Gulf Craft 33/F W/A, 2x225 Suzuki (300 hours), aircon, generator, jack plates, RIB dinghy, many extras. 6.1 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.com

FIBERGLASS ONE ENGINE BOAT

Speedboat for sale. Made in 2012, engine 115hp overhauled in 2013, excellent condition. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-897 0076 (English). Email: kp@ppc.cz

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

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

1989 Bertram 505 Convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.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: hanspaessler@me.com

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

FAST FOLDING TRIMARAN

American designed 29ft fast, folding Trimaran for sale with trailer. Suitable for racing or cruising. Thai registered, ex-pat owned. Tel: 085-781 9756 (English). Email: awildgoose@awildgoose.co.uk For full details and price, please go to www.awildgoose.co.uk

VOLVO PENTA 380HP

Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAM71B, 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

PAGE 40FT SPORTFISHER

Twin CAT 3208 TA, needs repair, new fiber glass and paint to hull October 2013. Urgent sale. Price: 800,000 baht ono. Tel: 082-839 7701. Email: ger ryhodes@live.com.au

CATAMARAN 7 METER

For sale at Chalong, seats 4 people, 3 sails, outboard engine 9 hp 4 years old, homebuilt fiberglass steel. inquiry for picture 160,000 baht. Tel: 086-773 4538. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER

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

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**Cryptic crossword**

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. VICTUALER: *vitalcure* 10. ADOPTION: A.D.-option 12. REEL: leer(rev) 13. INTEND: *indent* 14. MAITHON: *aminhot* 15. INTERVENE: *inrevent* 17. NERVELESS: *neverminus* 18. EASIEST: *E-asseti* 20. BALTIC: A.B.(rev)-Lt.-1-C 21. IDLE: *lied* 24. ABBESSES: *basesbe-S* 26. SELLABLE: *S-el-label* 28. OMIT: *imto* 29. SCRIPT: *strip(C)* 31. COLLEGE: *Col.-L-e.g.-E* 34. SUCCULENT: *lucenclues* 36. PENETRATE: *pattern(E)-E* 38. ROOKIES: *rook-i.e.-s* 39. REALLY: *Re.-ally* 40. MESH: *engage* 41. SHOTGUNS: *ghostsun* 42. DEDUCTION: *inference*

Down: 1. OVERTIME: *during-a period* 2. ACCEPT: *a-c.c.-pet* 3. PLANGENT: *plan-gent* 4. GRIEVE: *give-E* 5. CARDINAL: *fundamental* 6. COMMERCIAL: *C-moreclaim* 7. STRIKER: *sirtrek* 8. BOTHIE: *the two-i.e.* 11. UNASKED: *sunka-Ed.* 16. REELED: *elder(E)* 19. SABAI: *B.A.'s(up)-A.1.* 20. BUS: *sub(up)* 22. DELVE: *modelvelvet* 23. BALLET: *ball-et* 25. SUCCESSFUL: *cusschues(F)* 26. SAT: *sat* 27. CONSORT: *con-sort* 30. INTEREST: *inter-set* 31. CONCLUDE: *uncledec* 32. ELEPHANT: *thenleap* 33. PURISTS: *spur(1st.)* 35. CLOTHE: *C-L-O-the* 36. PLAIDS: *P-laid-S* 37. ANEMIC: *cinema*

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Copa Coca-Cola Camp 2014 Brazil



Three lucky students recently won a trip to train with professional footballers at the Copa Coca-Cola Camp 2014 in Brazil. Overseeing the training will be Camp Ambassador and former professional player José Roberto Gama de Oliveira, also known as "Bebeto".

Newcastle UFC trainer weds at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

As the world welcomes the start of a new World Cup season, Newcastle United Football Club's Head of Performance Analysis Ben Stevens starts a new chapter of his life.



Ben and his fiancée Elizabeth Alice Mayes wed on June 12, 2014, surrounded by close family and friends in an intimate ceremony. The nuptials were followed by a reception at Casuarina Beach Restaurant & Pub at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

Moët Ice Imperial launch party



Somjai Tungkoo, (second from right), executive manager of Twinpalms Phuket, recently invited guests to the launch party for Moët Ice Imperial Champagne at Catch Beach Club.



Benedikt De Bellis (right), manager of Catch Beach Club, talks with guests during the launch party.

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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitiya 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.

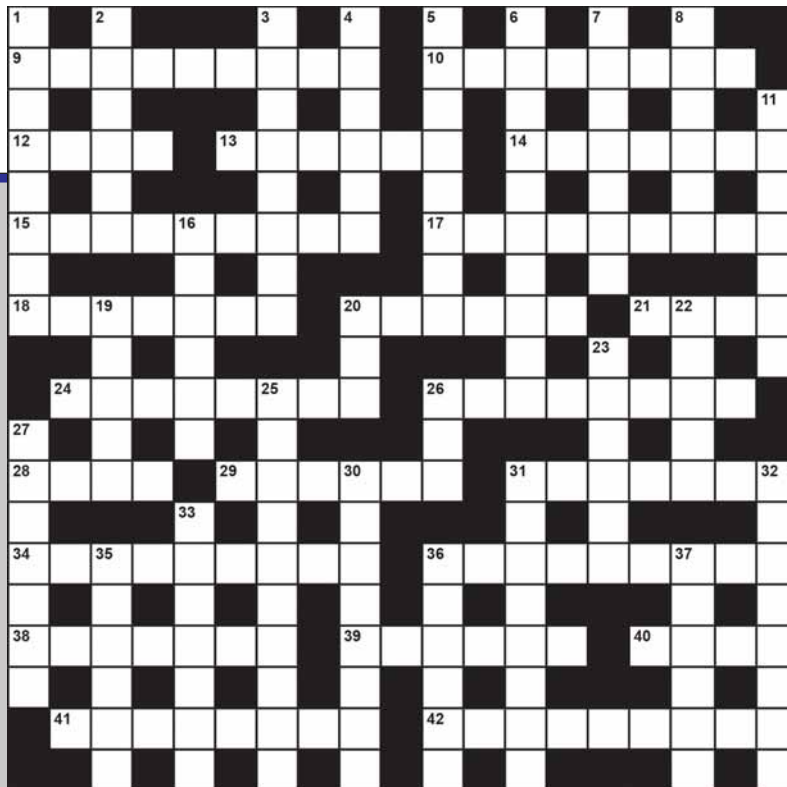


COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Vital cure dispensed by pub keeper (9)
10. Nowadays, possibility of taking on a child (8)
12. Stagger, return leer (4)
13. Mean indent to be arranged (6)
14. Upset, am in hot island off Phuket (7)
15. Intrude maybe in re. event (9)
17. Cool, possibly never minus (9)
18. Note asset I reorganized, the simplest (7)
20. Sailor turned lieutenant, one cold North European Sea (6)
21. Lazy, lied badly (4)
24. Bases be arranged second for senior nuns (8)
26. Son, the Spanish label may be possible to be sold (8)
28. I'm to possibly miss out (4)
29. Maybe strip out chapter from text of play (6)
31. Colonel left, for example, note for educational establishment (7)
34. Lucious desert plants (9)
36. Get into different pattern out East, note (9)
38. Beginners, that is birds, outside (7)
39. Genuinely on the subject of a cooperating state (6)
40. Engage a network (4)
41. Ghost sun disturbed the fowling pieces (8)
42. Inference of debit (9)



Down

1. Work out of regular hours during a period (8)
2. Take a small volume maybe, pet (6)
3. Intend, man, to be deep, low and sad (8)
4. Mourn giver moving out East (6)
5. Fundamental Catholic prince (8)
6. One hundred more claim falsely in advertisement (10)
7. Sir, trek out to one who refuses to work (7)
8. The two, that is, in a Scottish hut (6)
11. Sunk a difference, editor, without being requested (7)
16. Elder moved out East, was shaken (6)
19. Happy in Thailand, Bachelors of Art going up, first class! (5)
20. In short, substitute turns up for coach (3)
22. Dig model vegetable buried inside (5)
23. Masquerade and French terpsichorean performance (6)
25. Having achieved an aim, maybe cuss clues hiding French (10)
26. Rested on the bottom (3)
27. Against type of partner (7)
30. Bury, set out legal concern (8)
31. Finish crazy uncle, Doc. (8)
32. Then leap about, big animal! (8)
33. Perfectionists spur movement around first (7)
35. Caught large round article in dress (6)
36. Page laid small tartan cloths (6)
37. Cinema can be bloodless (6)

Words from the wise:

"Good writin' ain't necessarily good readin'."
— Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

"Let the world burn through you. Throw the prism light,
white hot, on paper."
— Ray Bradbury

Medium

	5		9		4		1	
1		9		6		4		2
	4						3	
3				1				8
	1		6		8		2	
9				7				1
	9						8	
4		1		5		2		9
	7		1		9		5	

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

Hard

5		3				9		1
	1		4		9		8	
	7	1		4		2	9	
	3		2		5		6	
	2	5		7		8	3	
	5		1		8		4	
4		2				3		8

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



A hidden agenda can be transparent to those who know you well. Cancerians who are trying to achieve something quietly are advised to maintain a low profile until their aim has been realized. Work matters are better starred in July when a creative twist at the start of the month revives a stale idea. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming week are forecast to find more peace of mind in the year ahead.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



In the world of work, a gray area becomes black and white as the end of June approaches. Clarity will be appreciated by Leos who are keen to make progress. A water sign has the right motivation to share skills, but another fire sign won't be able to keep promises made in the heat of the moment. You should be in your element this weekend as the social scene is buzzing with activity.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



All work and no play may be causing those born under the sign of Virgo to miss out on support from friends. The stars recommend putting tasks aside this weekend

— some quality relaxation will set you up for a busy last week of the month. Another earth sign has useful advice for those caught up in a romance related drama. If you are single, a water sign's interest is welcome this weekend.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



As the end of June approaches, the stars remind Librans that all that glitters is not gold. You could be convinced by someone's smooth talk this week and this may result in financial loss. In the personal zone, it may be necessary to advise a friend that fighting a lost cause is doing them more harm than good. Finances go your way and worthwhile savings can be made when shopping this weekend.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Getting down to business is recommended during the last week of June as next month will bring unexpected demands on your time. Romantic relationships are affected by a stormy astral atmosphere this week. Scorpions who have been struggling to understand an air sign partner may decide to take some time out. Those hoping to become closer to another water sign can learn that they are not the only one keen.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



The spiritual side of life attracts Sagittarians towards the end of June, with hints that your stress levels will benefit from this. Detachment from work and personal issues can prompt calmer perspective. Extra caution with finances is recommended this week, particularly where a romantic dilemma is concerned. It may be tempting to splash some cash in order to impress, but the stars would like to remind you that money can't buy true love.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



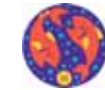
This is not the right week to bury your head in the sand. Capricorns who continue to ignore the need to take action could find themselves in a difficult position at the end of June. A fragile friendship with an air sign is forecast to come to a crossroads, but you will soon learn that other people are firmly on your side. Lucky days for money matters are Wednesday and Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



This is a week when anything can happen. Aquarians who are bored by the same old routine at work should respond well to some interesting developments. In the personal zone, even if you are sure that an earth sign friend has not been telling the truth, it would be best to have tangible proof before making accusations. Romance with a fire sign is well starred, but a water sign's interest may wane.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



The world of work falls under the cosmic spotlight this week. Office politics can be disturbing for Pisceans who prefer to remain on the sidelines, with a fire sign forecast to push you to take sides. On the domestic front, those who are tiring of a fire sign partner's inability to share chores should start a discussion soon. A dream may give motivation to start a new hobby.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The stars indicate that your memory may let you down this week, with a forgotten responsibility highlighted to come back and haunt you at the end of June.

Where a troubled friendship is concerned, silence is golden. There are hints that you may be asked to say what you really think and this will be a loaded question for Arians who want to maintain good relations. Best days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



It will not be a bad thing for Taureans to be nudged out of their comfort zone. The stars suggest that fresh discoveries can lead you in more interesting directions, with hints of learning new creative skills. A meeting that you have been putting off should be scheduled for later in the week when the astral atmosphere will support your efforts to be taken seriously. Money matters are luckiest on Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Forcing the pace of life will not get Geminis far this week. Your impatience to consolidate work projects should be contained as the cosmic climate supports slow progress until the end of June. Your only aim this weekend should be to unwind with friends who know how to relax. In the realm of romance, a chance meeting

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 21-23, 6-10:30. Italian three-course set dinner at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Italian three-course set dinner at the award-winning Italian restaurant La Trattoria, where Chef Lorenzo and his skilled team have created a 3-course set menu to tickle your taste buds. 890++ baht per person. For more information call 076-362999, email dtlpfb@dusit.com or go to dusit.com/dusithani/lagunaphuket

June 21-23, Baba Wedding Festival in Phuket Town.

The Thai Peranakan Association with the support of the City of Phuket, the Tourism Authority of Thailand – Phuket Chapter, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Old Phuket Foundation and Phuket's Culture Preservation Network present the 2014 Phuket Baba Wedding, a chance for couples to tie the knot in an extravagant, memorable way, celebrating the traditions of the Phuket Baba community.

The wedding package costs 39,900 baht per couple and includes the wedding ceremony, one night at the Sukko Spa & Resort and two nights at a nearby beach hotel, transportation during the wedding ceremony, traditional wedding attire and suit with accessories, souvenirs, photos of the couple and their family and special activities arranged by the associations. Applications for the package have to be submitted before May 31 at the Thai Peranakan Association office. For more information call 081-691 1955.

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

June 21, 2014, 5-11pm, Grand Opening at Fat Boy Grill

On Saturday, June 21 join the grand opening of the new Fat Boy Grill restaurant. Only 50 meters from Cherng Talay Police Station. A large three course meal will be served, so come hungry, leave happy and full. Only 280 baht per person. European Continental Meat and potato dishes. Reserve your tables now. Limited Seats available. For more information call 085-089 7942 Email eat@fatboygrill.net.

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 south-westerly monsoon is in full force.

July 16-20, 10am-11:30pm, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, combined with four nights of beachside parties at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel. If it's time you got out on the water, then come sailing and join one of the crews, or sign up as crew on one of the Classics. Experience sailing on the east coast of Phuket.

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

August 12. Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's Birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

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



Italian set dinner Dusit Thani Laguna

June 21-23

The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information contact Carole Dux on 066-763 1671, emailinfo@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 Festival

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

Dec 10. Constitution Day

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

Dec 25. Christmas Day

This is not a public holiday in Thailand

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE																								
<p>Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p>Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p>KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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Residential market faces oversupply

By Somluck Srimalee

THE residential market in Phuket, along with other provinces such as Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin) and Chon Buri, is in a state of oversupply, with the number of new projects launched since the start of 2012 exceeding demand, according to property experts.

A joint market survey by the Government Housing Bank's Real Estate Information Centre (REIC) and the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA), along with another by Pruksa Real Estate's research department, shows the number of residential projects launched in the major

provinces outside greater Bangkok had grown by more than 200 per cent since the beginning of 2012.

This rate of growth exceeds the ability of demand to absorb them from the market.

For example, the supply of detached housing, townhouse and condominium projects launched in Chiang Mai in 2011 was worth 2.1 billion baht, but the value of new launches had risen to 14bn baht last year – nearly 600 per cent higher in the space of just two years.

In Chon Buri province, the supply of residential projects was worth 22bn baht in 2011, but this had risen to 50bn baht by the end of last year after Bangkok-based property firms

such as Sansiri, LPN Development, NC Housing, Supalai and CP Land expanded their investment in the area, which includes Pattaya.

Phuket, meanwhile, recorded project launches worth 3.3bn baht in 2011, while new supply increased to 12bn baht over the next two years.

Khon Kaen recorded zero units launched by property firms in 2011, but then followed this with 6.1bn baht worth of new projects in 2012 and 3.18bn baht the following year.

Pruksa Real Estate managing director Prasert Taedullayasatit said that according to the company's own research, combined with the joint REIC-AREA



The residential market in five provinces is oversupplied. Photo: Gazette File

survey, the supply of residential projects in the main provinces now exceeded demand.

As a result, the company has had to delay the launch of additional projects in the provinces.

"We are focusing on Bangkok and its suburbs rather than expanding our provincial investment, as we believe supply in the provinces exceeds demand," he said.

Sansiri president Srettha

Thavisin, whose company has expanded its investment in the provinces since 2011, said the developer had delayed the launch of new provincial projects this year after witnessing only slight demand growth.

We will focus on selling our existing projects in the provinces, rather than launching new provincial projects at this time, he said.

– The Nation

Sansiri gives back with CSR initiatives

REAL estate giant Sansiri has collaborated with the Office of Social Development and Human Security as well as the Youth Council to initiate the GIVE campaign. The objective of this project was to give Phuket's youth a voice and allow them to contribute towards solving real problems on the island. Delivering their messages to the government, private sector, local media and tourists as a way to jointly develop solutions and help rebuild Phuket as a "giving society".

The campaign also provided

theoretical and practical training by a team of professionals and TV producers from the variety program, "Kon Kon Kon". A series of workshops were organized to develop the youths' thinking, presentation, and documentary-making skills, allowing them to create real projects to help improve the Phuket community.

At the end of the campaign, a "Youth Civil Forum" enabled the



Participants in Sansiri's GIVE program. Photo: Supplied

youths to voice their opinions, and allow related public and private sectors, including the media, to offer solutions to the identified problems.

A selection of participants from the training program have been appointed to "The Governor's Youth Team", and are now able to work collaboratively with the provincial sector at a policy and operational level.

Currently, Sansiri is building a network of partners to drive "The Governor's Youth Team" to plan and implement new social projects geared towards improving the environment in Phuket.

Sansiri is also actively involved in other CSR initiatives such as Sansiri Social Change which works with UNICEF to raise awareness of children's rights and the Sansiri Academy which provides football coaches and equipment to help kids develop their talents and pursue advanced athletic careers.

– Phuket Gazette

These are just a few examples of Social Change projects in Phuket. For more information, please visit sansiri.com/socialchange/en/

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New Patong development lures mostly Thai investors

THE Phuket resort/residential market is dominated almost 100 per cent by foreign buyers, but Dinso Residence Patong, one of the hottest selling projects in Phuket, is attracting strong interest from Thai buyers, according to CBRE, the leading international real estate consultant. Since its soft launch in late March this year to CBRE clients, around 30 per cent of the Thai quota has been taken up, and 85 per cent of all buyers so far are Thai.

One of the factors driving its success is the efficient and attractive layout. All units are designed to maximize usable space, following the vision of the project's director, Nidhi Akkaravivat, and his father, who are passionate about delivering relevant, modern properties. The family owns Dinso Group, a hotel operator with eight years experience in managing and operating boutique hotels such as Baan Dinso, Baan Dinso 2 at the Democracy Monument in Bangkok and Rai Saeng Arun in Chiang Rai.

Unlike other projects, Dinso Residence Patong is selling on its merit, without resorting to offering any guaranteed returns. Instead, under Dinso Group's boutique hotel management, there is a genuine high potential for long-term consistent returns. Dinso Residence Patong is also reasonably priced, starting from 2.88 million baht.

"We are witnessing more Thais becoming interested in residential units as investments. The project's concept matches their requirements," said Prakaipeth Meechoosarn, Director of CBRE Phuket office.

"Buyers can also join the rental program managed by Dinso Group. It is my belief that Dinso Residence Patong offers the right product in the heart of Patong with a strong rental potential."

Dinso Residence Patong is a seven-storey, low-rise condominium, comprising fully furnished studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. The unit sizes range from 31 to 88 square meters. Located on Nanai Road,

Patong, Dinso Residence is close to the key amenities in the city including Jungceylon and Makro, and has easy access to Patong beach.

All units are fully furnished by Greenacts, a subsidiary of Dinso Group, a leading interior contractor in Thailand. Over the past 22 years, Greenacts has been involved with the interiors of a number of luxury 5-star hotels in Thailand, including Rayavadee Resort and Spa in Krabi, Anantara Sikao Resort and Spa in Trang, and Four Seasons Hotel in Samui.

Additionally, Phuket presents itself as a great investment option. Despite the political unrest in Bangkok, the number of international passenger arrivals in Phuket grew by 32.4 per cent year on year in 2013, according to CBRE Phuket Property Report. The continuous growth in the island's tourism industry is one of the reasons why Airports Of Thailand is expanding the Phuket International Airport. Phuket's tourism is the key driver of its property market.

– CBRE

Lakeside luxury in Nai Harn

Getting your slice of paradise is easier than ever with this unique ownership structure

PROPERTY Gazette

By Mark Knowles

The recently completed By The Lake luxury development, located just minutes from tranquil Nai Harn Beach, offers a hassle-free way to own your own slice of paradise here in Phuket. Tucked away on a quiet and private hillside with picture-perfect views, these two and three bedroom luxury pool villas are only a 800-meter stroll from the beach.

Each villa comes fully furnished and is decorated with a touch of Zen to capture the true essence of Asia. The villas come with all the comforts of home, including private pool, full kitchen with state of the art Western appliances, home theater system and rooftop terrace.

Under a unique ownership scheme, buyers can purchase one or more shares in By The Lake with each share entitling the owner to one month per year at their villa. Those wanting to dip their toes into the island's property market

can buy just one share and use it as their holiday home, or rent out their month for a return of between six to eight per cent. But you don't have to stop there, you can buy as many shares as you like and take complete ownership of the villa of your choice.

Developer Torben Jensen, who pioneered this unique ownership scheme, said that once investors purchase their shares, they own them like owning a share in a company that can be traded, unlike most timeshare schemes.

Developer Torben Jensen, who pioneered this unique ownership scheme, said that once investors purchase their shares, they own them like owning a share in a company that can be traded, unlike most timeshare schemes

"Timeshare is a membership, like in a tennis club. This is an ownership, like having a share in a company, a bearable share," he said.

Another unique aspect of the ownership system is designed to minimize maintenance fees for owners. Of the total of 72 equal shares available in the project, 12 have been equally redivided into the remaining 60, meaning that the rental returns from those 12 shares will be put back towards the cost of maintenance.

This idea grew out of Mr Jensen's own frustrations of part-owning a villa in Spain many years ago.

"We would go down and the place would be falling apart, first

the pool would break, then the fridge, and I ended up spending my whole holiday fixing things!"

"So, this way at By The Lake, the whole year's rental of one unit goes towards the maintenance fees, so they are kept to a minimum."

"I want to be able to come to my customers in five years and hear that they are satisfied."

Mr Jensen is also able to offer complete rental and maintenance support through his company, Phuket Deluxe Rentals, for those share owners wishing to generate rental returns on their investment.

"You can buy it as an investment, and not stay, and you can get anywhere from six to eight per cent rental returns."

"But if what you want is a hassle-free holiday, you can just come down, enjoy your holiday, and you don't need to think about anything else," he said.

These deluxe villas certainly have all the attributes to create a memorable holiday experience as well, with a private pool, full gourmet kitchen, car park, cen-



Each villa at By The Lake has a spacious rooftop terrace.

tral air-con, internet-ready flat-screen television, high speed Wi-Fi internet access, large rooftop terrace with alfresco dining area, outdoor showers, and the villa staff is always available for guests special requests to ensure

they have an enjoyable stay.

For more information, floor plans and photographs, please visit: bythelakevillas.com, telephone 082-286 6953, or send an email to sales@bythelakevillas.com



Each villa has a private swimming pool.



Villas come fully furnished with high quality furniture. Photos: Supplied



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Where is the next Phuket?

Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THESE days, I seemingly spend far too much time flying around Asia, and one of my hash tag's at industry events seems to be #The Phuket Guy. There are far worse things to be called in life, and I'm without a doubt getting off easy. Send in the flip-flops, things might be turning nasty after the sundowners.

Aside from all the campy small talk about living on an island in Thailand which remains an object of desire for many, often the talk turns to where will be the next Phuket, or in boom-time talk, the next big Asian resort destination? My mind tends to wander whenever this subject comes around, with glassed-over eyes and silence bringing up the rear.

Where next? Some of the best-known names have to be taken off the table – Bali, Koh Samui, and Boracay, all are famous already. What I need is the almost famous, which may be able to jump the queue like an overanxious speed freak with attention deficit disorder.

Shuffling though the deck of cards, names such as Lombok, Palawan, the southern coast of Sri Lanka and Langkawi flip up. Digging deeper, the name Phu Quoc in Vietnam emerges. About an hour's flight south of Ho Chi Minh City, this idyllic island has flirted with broader success for the past few years but still remains relatively quiet.

Unlike Danang in the middle of the country, with its famed China Beach facing the volatile South

China Sea, Phu Quoc shares more in common with the islands off Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand. I never quite understood how Danang and Lang Co were able to garner such a large resort development footprint given the overall lack of tropical sunny days and mismatched winter weather where gray skies and cold greet the European snowbirds.

Phuket has enjoyed decades of core seasonal tourism from the likes of Scandinavians, Europeans, and most recently the Russians, who have been fleeing their iceberg winter wonderlands. Fun in the sun packs charter planes, even if retail therapy has replaced tanning as a core activity.

Airlift in my opinion remains the great leveller for tourism and the fairly new Phu Quoc airport is a game changer. This past winter saw charter flights from Eastern Europe come into play. Vietnam, like Thailand, and unlike Indonesia, allows Russian's visa-free travel, which is a key demand driver as the numbers bear out.

While Danang, Nha Tran and Phan Thiet had previously been seeing the emerging markets rise, the new airlift to Phu Quoc has changed the scene. Surprisingly, there are only two internationally affiliated resorts, with La Veranda coming under ACCOR's MGallery umbrella and a pool villa resort managed by the Centara boutique collection.

There are bigger things in store for an island with less than 200 keys at the upscale level. The Vinpearl group, who have two other mega-resorts in Danang and Nha Trang, will open a luxury



Vietnam's Phu Quoc is a viable candidate for the next premier island destination. Photo: P4ntt

500-plus room property before year-end. With Miss Vietnam set to be held in Phu Quoc in November, the rush is on to complete the project. Later plans call for more hotel units, residential and retail facilities.

Also in the pipeline is a Crowne Plaza by the InterContinental Hotels Group and another ACCOR resort by Mercure. Speculation is strong about a new mixed-use project by the Sun Group on the lovely southeastern side of the island, which is one of the most dynamic beach fronts.

From 200 rooms to over 1,000 in a fairly short span will mean the island must look to China and Russia to fill rooms, just as Phuket has so ably done over the past few years. When quick fixes are required, look to the skies for charter planes to be a familiar sight.

As is the case across Asia,

developers of hotel assets are also tuning into real estate offerings and Phu Quoc will likely see a flurry of new offerings in the next 12-24 months with brands and independents alike. There is talk on the ground about the island becoming a Special Economic Zone and the possibility of foreigners being allowed to own freehold property. We hear this a lot throughout the region, in every nook and cranny, so best to wait and see on this one.

On a whole, Vietnam has yet to live up to its tourism promise over the past two decades and the visa issue for most nationalities remains a deterrent. Yet, if you were a betting person, Phu Quoc has strong destination DNA – favorable weather for the European traveller, a good capacity airport, lovely beaches and the start of some impressive hotel offerings.

At the end of the day, there is



no place exactly like Phuket, but on the other hand, there is life outside the island as well, with untapped potential in many cases to evolve into their own unique paradise success stories.

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

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Moving on up

LOCAL real estate management agency Plus Property Company, a subsidiary of Sansiri Public Company Limited, has moved into its new and expanded offices in Kathu. The company says the move to the new offices is the result of its continuous business growth in Phuket and part of its objective to be more accessible to clients by expanding its business and services to cover all areas.

Plus Property Company Limited was founded in September 1996 and currently has registered paid-up capital of 600 million baht, the highest of all property service providers in Thailand. Plus Property provides real estate services and consultation to over 145 property

projects owned by both public and private entities, with a total capacity of approximately 6 million square metres. The company focuses on two primary business areas: agency business, which handles buying, selling and renting; and facility management for residential and office buildings. The company also recently achieved the international facility management standard ISO 9001:2008. – **Phuket Gazette**

The company's new offices are located at 69/17 Moo. 2, Vichitsongkram Road, Kathu, Phuket, 83120. For more information contact: 076-681188 or email phuket@plus.co.th

Food lovers' meeting place

By Baz Daniel

IT'S a simple equation – if you love wine, you love food. And sometimes it works the other way round too, not always though. But even if for some mysterious reason you do not like wine, you'll love the food at Wine Lovers in Chalong.

Wine Lovers Shop & Restaurant is well known for the quality of its cuisine, broad selection of wines, reasonable pricing and the conviviality of both its indoor areas and its outdoor terrace overlooking the lawns and burbling fountain of the Business Gardens. Wine Lovers was launched three years ago by Khun Gumrai Intarasuk, a veteran of the wine and food business who decided she could show the big chains a thing or two by opening her stand-alone wine retail outlet. With its great location and value pricing, the wine shop was immediately successful and became a meeting place for wine lovers to

hang out and share a glass. They suggested that Khun Gumrai add a restaurant to her wine shop, which she did by taking additional space next door in 2012 and the rest, as they say, is history.

Wine Lovers has become a favorite meeting and dining place in Phuket's south, particularly because of the huge tail-backs that the notorious Chalong 'Turning Circle' can generate during the high season. Savvy southerners know that Wine Lovers is a terrific place for lunches or dinners featuring both Thai and Western cuisine served in a friendly atmosphere, where they can choose and consume wines to accompany their meal without incurring any mark-up, or indeed service charge, on their purchases.

Recently, around fifty happy party-goers congregated at Wine Lovers to partake of their second anniversary reception and wine dinner and to welcome newly-ap-

pointed Chef Jo-Jo on board. Chef Jo-Jo is well known in Phuket having formerly worked at Le Meridien and owned his own Euro Delight Restaurant. Additionally, Wine Lovers has just added a new sushi/sashimi bar into the restaurant headed up by Chef Samrit where extremely fresh and tasty *nigiri*, *sashimi* and *maki* of salmon, tuna, eel, crab and squid vie for your attention and digestive juices.

Following an extended and very convivial "Bubbles-Fest" of a welcoming reception the gathering sat down to a six course gastronomic event with complementary wines supplied by Phuket Food and Beverage Group.

Highlights of the menu included: marinated yellow fin tuna with cured buffalo milk, *Shimeji* mushrooms and *arugula* sprouts and a main event of slow-stewed beef cheek and lamb shank in an aromatic herb crust accompanied by



A restaurant was added to the shop in 2012. Photo: Supplied

sweet potato, organic garden veggies in a truffle and balsmic reduction. Perfect wine pairing kept the assembled diners lingering long over this dish while the happy conversation swirled and time slipped away unnoticed.

Bitter chocolate cake and summer (sic) mixed berries with passion fruit juice accompanied by Chicco D'oro coffee was a further inducement to make a late evening of it, which the assembled

multitude gratefully accepted, waiting footmen and carriages being left to twiddle their thumbs and collect cobwebs in the gathering night.

While Wine Lovers long ago established its *bona fides* for excellent cuisine and wines, it's probably the uncanny ability to generate good times and happy smiles that keeps its many regulars coming back....and we'll drink to that!



Guests of Wine Lovers' second anniversary reception. Photo: Supplied



Food was impressive and with perfect wine pairings – unforgettable. Photo: Supplied



50 guests sat down to a six course gastronomic event. Photo: Supplied

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Why Facebook is getting less friendly



By Alexander Maycock

A FEW weeks back, a friend of mine told me he'd seen a great band at Gig's Jam Club in Nai Harn. It sounded like an amazing night and I was kicking myself that I missed it. Then I checked my calendar and it turned out I hadn't been busy that night and was literally just up the road from Gig's place twiddling my thumbs.

If only I'd known!

But I should have: when Gig set up the Facebook Page for her new music bar, I was one of the first few dozen to click the "Like" button. Why hadn't I known about the gig at Gig's?

After a bit of furkling around on the internet, I discovered the horrible truth: an awful lot of people spend an awful lot of time writing about Facebook on the 'net. But – after wading through some seriously warped conspiracy theories about Mark Zuckerberg and his plans to conquer Uranus – I finally discovered that Facebook has added a whole new level of "Like-ing" to the game.

A Get Notifications tab on the "Like" button dropdown menu has to be clicked on and, if you don't click that tab, you may never hear from your favorite pub, band, eatery, spa, or whatever, ever again.

When you think about it, that's kind of stupid. I can understand people not wanting to read hundreds of vacuous spam notices

from corporate giants and over-zealous PR companies, but surely if you "Liked" the Page in the first place you probably want to know what they get up to every now and again. And, if you don't, shouldn't that be your choice, not Facebook's?

It looks like Facebook trying to kill off Pages through this notification policy, which is ironic considering the noise they made a few years back about getting organizations to use Pages rather than personal profiles to promote their stuff. /

But the extent of the problem didn't really hit until I began digging into my "Likes" of the past year. Local band Black & Blue, "Liked" yonks back, Get Notifications turned off; Tommy Tank's Tuk Tuk Diner, "Liked" since I first tasted his burgers, notifications off; Island6 Marina art gallery, notifications off; Les Diabes, off; Krix Luther, off.

It's not just business entities either; charities, community projects, I haven't even been getting notifications from one of the Facebook Pages I manage!

A little more digging revealed a far more insidious plan afoot in FB-land. According to insidefacebook.com, last year Facebook started turning off notifications from recently "Liked" Pages that the Fan hasn't visited in a while. So, even if you do click the Get Notifications tab, FB will happily turn them off again after an indeterminate period. The article failed to find out the time frame for disconnection, but it does report that Facebook will send us a notification (I know, ironic, eh?) when they do it.

I can't ever remember FB telling me it was going to switch off any of my notifi-

cations, but it was probably one of those days when – shock-horror – I wasn't paying attention to the little blue F.

Facebook, fairly or unfairly, lays the blame on poor overworked "developers", because if we get too many notifications, we will stop reading them all, including those from the "developers" and then their life's work will be ruined... or something like that. So – according to Facebook – notification fatigue is killing Social Media. And the cure? Switch off all the notifications.

As previously stated, that's kind of stupid.

And I'm not buying it either. What about the unsolicited drivel that we constantly receive from FB games sent via our empire-building FB buddies. To stop getting annoying updates about someone's conquests in Throne Rush or Farmville, you have to physically go to the game Page and block it. Those are the kind of notifications that are causing notification fatigue, not announcements from little local restaurants that we might very well have been interested to know about.

What can be seen among little mom and pop operations, community organizations, local bands, bars and restaurants is that they are all beginning to abandon posting news and events to their FB Pages. The obvious reason for this is that it's not worth the effort – they are not receiving enough feedback from their fans to make proper Page management worthwhile. And if fans don't supply feedback, the fans' friends won't know about it, and won't be directed to "Like" Page, and so the Pages cease to grow.

So, basically, it looks like Facebook trying to kill off Pages through this notification

policy, which is ironic considering the noise they made a few years back about getting organizations to use Pages rather than personal profiles to promote their stuff.

The overall consensus of the online analysts and commentators is that Facebook is on a money grab, that shutting off the Page notifications will force people to buy "post boosts". I can see how that would work for the Cokes and Pepsis, burger chains and pharmaceutical giants – they can afford to buy boosts and are stupid enough to think it might help them sell some more stuff.

But, in the search for profits from the global big boys, Facebook is endangering the very basis of its appeal – local community interaction. And the outcome of this forced failure to communicate, this disconnection between the people and the places they like to hang out, is that posts on personal profiles about events and happenings are increasing.

So what is Facebook doing to stop this move back to marketing through personal profiles? It's turning off notifications from your friends as well.

And that's the kind of stupid that doesn't even have a financial angle, because you cannot pay for a personal post to be "promoted" to your friends. So, regardless of how close you are to your neighbour, your first love, your old school friends, your drinking buddies, doctor, dentist, even your wife and children, Facebook policy says that you will hear nothing from them at all, unless you click on Get Notifications.

It's almost as if Facebook wants us to give up and move to Google+.

Ideas aired to replace school tablet scheme

THE Education Ministry has come up with four options that could be introduced to replace the One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) project, which aimed to issue a computer tablet device to all students in Thailand.

While the ministry is expected to consult authorities and information-technology experts before choosing one of these options next Monday, its work panel disclosed this week that the "smart classroom" was the most likely choice.

The other options are smart schools, e-learning, and smart libraries, panel chairman Kamol Rodklai said.

Kamol did not go into details about the choices except for the smart classroom.

"Each smart classroom will be equipped with quality tablets, available at between 8,000 baht and 9,000 baht apiece," he said.

He said that if the 5.8-billion baht budget for the OTPC program was diverted to the smart classroom project, as many as 15,000 schools would get a smart classroom in the first year of the new project's implementation.

"All schools in the country can get a

smart classroom within two years," he said.

Kamol, who is also a deputy secretary-general of the Office of the Basic Education Commission, said there were more than 30,000 schools in Thailand.

According to Education Ministry permanent secretary Suthasri Wong-samarn, more than half of the 700,000 teachers in the country are over 50, and older teachers generally are not very familiar with modern technology.

"It is agreed that perhaps we should find some other ways to use IT for teaching," she said, referring to her meetings with Admiral Narong Pipattanasai, deputy chief of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), who oversees her ministry.

OTPC was the brainchild of the previous administration, led by the Pheu Thai Party.

During the first year of implementation, all Prathom 1 students got their tablets. In the second year, both Prathom 1 and Mathayom 1 students were to be issued the devices. After the junta seized power last month, Narong suggested OTPC should be reviewed.

Kamon suggested that it be scrapped be-

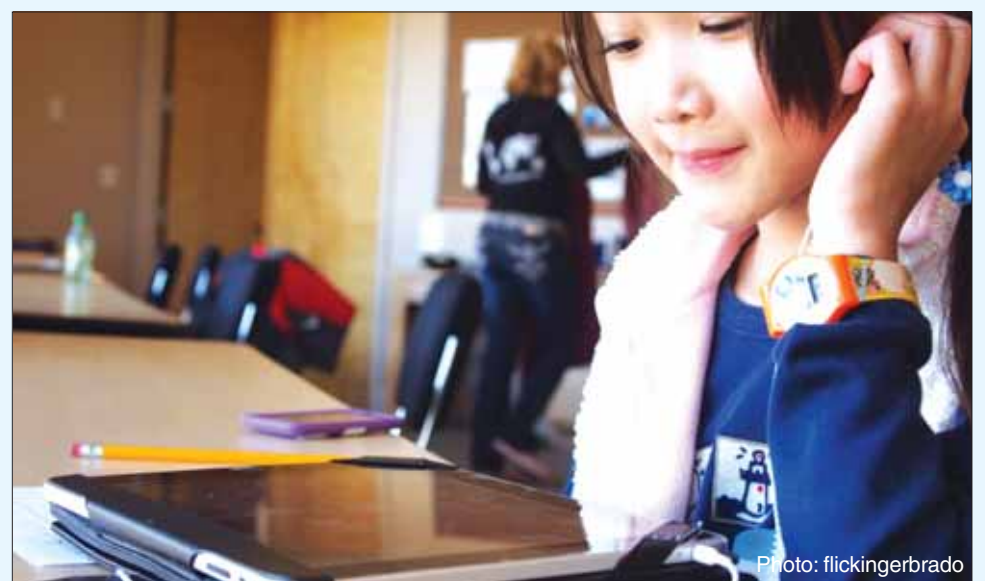


Photo: flickingerbrado

The One Tablet Per Child project aimed to issue computer tablets to all students.

cause it was not cost-effective.

"Handing out tablets to every student meant the device was used just one or two hours a day," he said. "Tablets for OTPC were cheap but they also came with low quality."

So far, Kamol said, the NCPO has not decided yet on scrapping OTPC.

"The review was initiated by the 'social psychology' group of the NCPO. The final decision will depend on the NCPO," he said. – *The Nation*

More on siamized expats



IN RESPONSE to my recent column on Siamized Expats, alert reader Brian Davis sent me a few criteria that anthropologist Dr Antoinette Anthropolopoulos overlooked.

Brian maintains that a Completely Siamized Expat will be able to tell the difference between a ladyboy and a woman who was born one.

I concede the point. When trying to identify ladyboys, a Completely Siamized Expat ought to guess the gender-at-birth correctly 100 per cent of the time. A Semi-Siamized Expat will get it right at least 50 per cent of the time. But an Utterly Unsiamized Expat will get it wrong every time. He'll babble, "Huh? But she's so beautiful! She can't be a man!"

There are several things to look for when trying to identify a ladyboy. She is likely to be taller and more large-boned than the average woman. She will always be gorgeously dressed and will wear lots of makeup and jewelry. Look for slightly mas-

culine facial features, big hands, a slim butt, an Adam's apple, and a deep voice. But the ultimate criterion is simple: If you suspect that she might be a ladyboy, she probably is.

Utterly Unsiamized Expats sometimes react with horror and disgust to ladyboys. Even Semi-Siamized Expats may feel uneasy around them, but Thai society accepts them, and so will Completely Siamized Expats. After all, they are human, and they have a tough life. It can't be much fun for a man who feels that he is really a woman to be trapped in a man's body. So let's treat these ladies with compassion, and let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

On another topic, Brian believes that a Completely Siamized Expat won't believe a bargirl when she tells him she loves him. This is true, but there's an exception. She may tell him, "I love you same-same monkey love banana."

Such lyricism will be touching proof of her sincerity. The analogy is accurate, too, because she will devour his life's savings with the same gusto that the monkey will eat the banana.

Brian claims that a Semi-Siamized Expat won't believe that a Buddhist amulet can protect him from a ten-wheel truck speeding



Completely Siamized Expat places complete faith in his amulet's protective powers. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

past another vehicle on a blind bend. That's just because he's only Semi-siamized. A Completely Siamized Expat will place complete faith in his amulet, especially if it's of the powerful Jatukam Ramatthep variety, which was very popular a few years ago.

Brian adds that a Semi-Siamized Expat won't take his mat

to a *mor lam* performance and sit at the front or sides, where he'll have drunks falling all over him or find himself in the middle of an inter-school fight and risk hearing damage from the speakers or the screams of teenage girls.

Well, a Semi-Siamized Expat won't. But a Completely Siamized Expat will rejoice in all this and

regard it as an indispensable part of the Thai Experience. In fact, the Completely Siamized Expat has attended so many *mor lam* performances that he's stone deaf.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's testing his hearing by attending *mor lam* performances.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Bizarre fruit-bearers

ONE might not expect to come across trees with such bizarre labels as the pong-pong, sausage or cannonball tree, but all these species – which are alive and well here in Phuket – are so named on account of their strange fruit.

Of these the one you are most likely to encounter is the pong-pong or *cerbera odollam*. A hardy native of Malaysia, this member of the *apocynaceae* genus grows to a height of about 10 meters and is frequently cultivated in tropical gardens on account of its glossy leaves and continuous display of fragrant clusters of white flowers with yellow centers which open at branch tips. I know several resorts on the island where the pong-pong has been planted at the edges of car parks or other open spaces. There are several, probably self-sown, decorating the road that passes through Chalong as it snakes upwards toward Kata.

But its real appeal for many gardeners lies in its large globose fruit – glossy, green spheres that look most attractive on the tree. If you are contemplating a shady presence, this is definitely one to consider, since the dense crown has layered, evergreen foliage. Moreover, it can be propagated from seeds or cuttings and begins flowering after a couple of years. Just remember that like most members of its family, the pong-pong tree's fruits and milky sap are both poisonous. Another species, *C. manghas*, grows in the wild and may be easier to cultivate. A smaller tree, it crops up in coastal swaps and thickets behind beaches, though, like the mangrove, it is a much diminished presence.

There, it may keep company with the sea grape or *coccoloba*. Though not a native of Asia, the seagrape may now be found growing wild along Phuket's shores, or em-



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

ployed in gardens as a salt-resistant, ornamental tree. Tough and drought proof, it has stiff, prominently veined leaves which are sap green in color. Almost round, the leaves look very attractive. The flowers are fragrant and appear in racemes up to eight inches long, but it is the long bunches of small, berry-like fruit – reminiscent of peppers – that steal the show. Used locally for making jellies, these green to red clusters give the tree its common name of sea grape. A most desirable tree for windy, saline conditions, it is being used more and more by knowledgeable landscapers throughout the island. Give it full sun and well-drained conditions.

Even more bizarre than the sea grape and pong-pong trees is the sausage tree (*kigelia pinnata*). Grown less for its visual appeal than for its novelty value, it is a medium sized tree from the jungles of west Africa which bears dark red flowers. Unfortunately they are malodorous and possess a pungent smell. But again, it is the inedible fruit that is the main attraction: in this case, sausage shaped monsters that can grow up to 50 centimeters long and weigh several kilograms. It is a sure rival to other monsters such as durian and jack fruit. I have not seen it growing here, but would be delighted to hear of any sightings.

The cannonball tree is another odd-ball – if you will pardon the pun. As with *kigelia pinnata*, you are much more likely to encounter *couroupita guianensis* in a private park or botanic garden than in your neighbor's patch. Essentially a majestic jungle tree with large elliptical leaves which are shed twice a year, it arrived here from South America. But what makes it so odd are two peculiarities:

You wouldn't expect to find trees with bizarre labels such as the pong-pong, sausage or cannonball tree, but all these species... are so named on account of their strange fruit



Sea grapes are not native to Asia. Photo: Wilfredor



A curious cannonball tree. Photo: Scott Zona



The pong-pong tree is featured in car parks throughout the island. Photo: Haplochromis

one, the pink, waxy, scented flowers do not grow on the tree's branches, but directly from the trunk; and two, they are followed by large globose fruit that look like huge reddish-brown cannonballs as they dangle on long stems from leafless branches, spectacular objects that can remain on the tree for many months. They are not meant for the table or the small gar-

den, but what a sensational addition they would be to your tropical estate.

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



The sausage tree's flower is malodorous and its strangely-shaped fruits inedible. Photo: Dfg13

Tip of the week

Top spice: galangal

EVERYONE has heard of ginger, but *galangal* is not so well known outside Asia. To Thais it is just as important, as *tom yam* would be unthinkable without it. What's more, it comes from the same family as ginger: *zingiber*. The rhizomes are less knobbly and a paler pink than those of ginger, but there is no mistaking their extreme spiciness. In fact it is too pungent and too tough to be eaten raw.

It is very easy to grow, and the quickest way is to put a couple of roots directly into the soil with the reddish stems protruding above ground. These are always available in your local fresh market. In common with all gingers, it needs plenty of water.



Tom yam: brought to you by our beloved spice, galangal. Photo: Takeaway

Galangal grows fast and looks attractive: my plant has stems six feet high. You can separate the rhizomes in order either to use a portion for cooking, or to propagate a new plant.

Send those seashells back to the seashore

JUST because World Oceans Day has whizzed by with the speed of the Agulhas current, there is no reason to stop taking action to protect what is arguably the world's most important resource – our oceans.

To celebrate this year's World Oceans Day on June 8, the owners of The SEA Co-Working Space and Marine Cafe asked participants to return shells to the sea.

Yes, the day has come and gone, but it's still necessary for beachgoers and others to be aware of the importance of leaving shells in the ocean and along the seashore,

said Krongkaew Soo-ampon, co-founder of the working space.

Shells can play an important role in the marine ecosystem even after their original resident dies, Ms Krongkaew said.

"These discarded shells can be shelters for hermit crabs or function as attachment surfaces for algae, sponges and barnacles. Some fish even hide from predators by staying inside shells."

Additionally, as the shells break down, the calcium carbonate they are composed of will be returned to the ocean cycle. This

allows for the marine calcification process to continue to support shell building, as well as corals, Ms Krongkaew explained.

Taking many shells away from a beach may also destabilize the beach and increase the risk of beach erosion, she added.

Education is the key.

"To educate and raise awareness of how important it is to leave seashells on seashores, in particular among people who travel to coastal areas like Phuket, is the very first thing that has to be done," Ms Krongkaew said.

"Some people just buy shells as souve-



Shells for the future. Photo: Scott Zona

nirs without recognizing the negative impact it has on other lives."

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

Scream until you're green

THE bold challenge for the 2014 World Environment Day was to "raise your voice; not the sea level". Social justice demands that we protect our environment for the next generation.

Our children are entitled to live in a world which remains beautiful and sustainable.

Loud must be our voices and loud must be our actions.

This demands every member of the community be ready to play his part day by day.

We must not only do the right thing ourselves, but we must demand that others do so as well. Let us not be afraid to ask our family, our community, our businesses and our governments to act.

Phuket is a beautiful island which has some 520,000 residents including 115,000 foreigners, 64,000 foreign workers in addition to up to 13 million tourists. It is an island community that is

Green Scene

By Dr Peter Harris

worthy of protecting. This year the United Nations is supporting island communities with the 2014 World Environment Day.

Garbage is one of the most visible indicators of unsustainable development and a deteriorating environment. It appears that there is a total of 800 tonnes produced and discarded in Phuket daily [Source: Society of Environmental Economic Knowledge (SEEK) Indicators document 2013]. Garbage compromises the beauty of our island.

Whether it is washed up on our beaches, dumped by the roadside or cluttering up the canals and watercourses, it is an eyesore. More importantly, however, it has a direct impact on land and marine

ecosystems, and contributes through stagnant water collection to the growth of dengue fever. The waste management systems are under pressure.

There are positive signs of change: SEEK has set a target for Phuket to become a clean Zero Waste Island by 2025; community cleanup groups are being created (Green Clubs); and awards and recognitions have been established to reward communities that reduce and recycle.

One tangible example of change is the establishment of the Phuket Environment Foundation at the incinerator in Saphan Hin. The foundation is designed to focus on reducing organic waste and encouraging local initiatives. Another example is The Prince of Songkla University Department of Engineering and the Environment establishing a new international college that will is-



'Raise your voice, not the sea levels' was the theme for this year's World Environment Day. Photo: Daniel Spiess

sue diplomas to students who undertake practical, high quality-training programs concerning the environment.

A person's heart can do nothing but be overwhelmed with joy when one dives around Kathu and sees street sweepers employed by the council caring for the streets

and local communities, while earning income through their own local recycling projects.

Now that we do have something to shout about, we mustn't stop.

Dr Harris is the Founder/President of The Asia Pacific Environment Network and Director of SEEK.

Get creative with Coke

COCA-COLA has begun to roll out its "2nd Lives" campaign in Asian markets with the launch of a range of innovative and practical bottle tops that would make Inspector Gadget and the Swiss Guards jealous.

"We have created fun tools with Coke bottle tops, bringing small moments of happiness into people's lives. We hope to make a positive impact and empower people to lead happier lives," said Leonardo O'Grady, ASEAN Director Integrated Marketing Communications, Coca-Cola.

The campaign, born from a partnership between Coca-Cola and advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather China, is part of a global sustainability program designed to encourage consumers to re-use and recycle plastics.

The project has 16 caps that can be screwed onto bottles once they are empty. The caps transform the bottles into fun and useful objects, such as a paint-



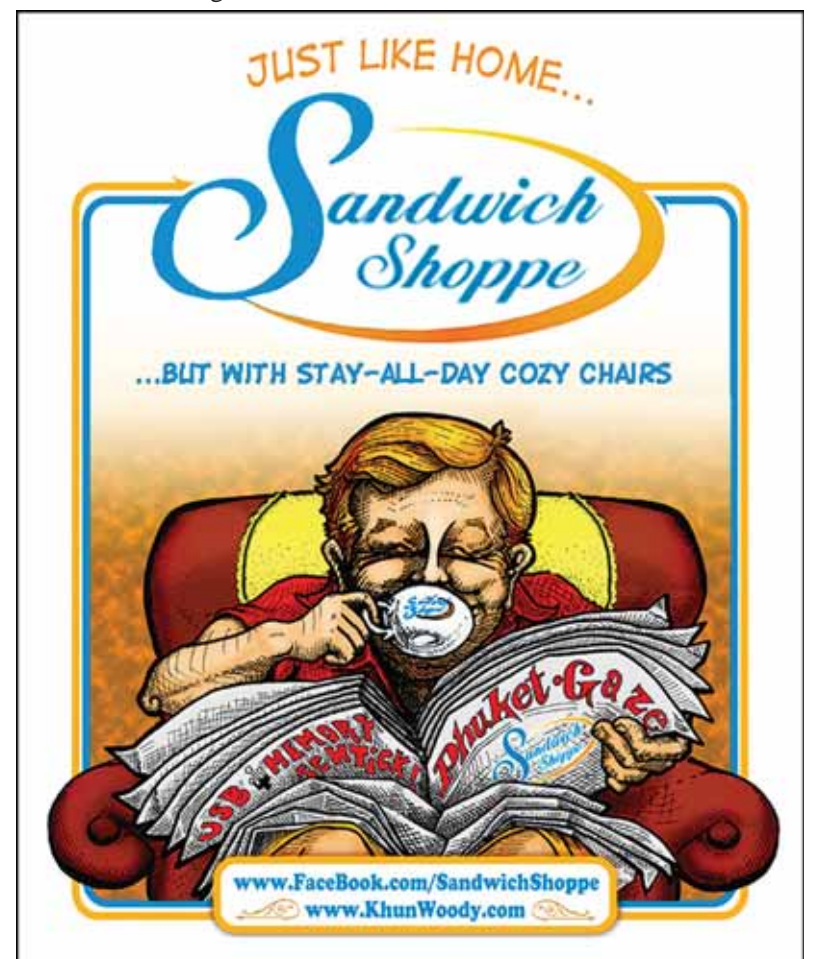
The bottle caps are first being released in Vietnam and then will be distributed in Thailand and Indonesia. Photo: Ogilvy & Mather China

brush, a water squirter and a pen-sharpener.

"2nd Lives" was piloted in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in March, with an expected 40,000 bottle caps to be distributed throughout

the country this year. The campaign is set to launch in Thailand and Indonesia at a later date, according to a press release from Ogilvy & Mather China.

– Phuket Gazette



A green machine



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

YOU can tell the marketing boys have been at their satanic endeavors when Phuket's season of rain and fewer tourists is dubbed the "Green Season". The marketing Johnnies seem to think that not actually mentioning the dreaded words "low" and "wet" will make one iota of difference to tourist arrival figures.

But whatever we call it, the reality of this season is a boon for Phuket's cyclists as we can rejoice in cooler climes, less traffic and fumes, and dramatic moody dawns and dusks in which to ride. Add to this the fact that the bicycle is the ultimate "green machine" offering a healthy, pollution-free means of transport and enjoyment, and suddenly it seems to sit rather well with the marketing Johnnies' moniker for this season.

With these thoughts in mind, I decided to cycle a "green loop"—north up Phuket from Chalong to Bangrong Pier to catch the ferry over to Koh Yao Yai; then a stay and some mountain biking at the very green Yao Yai Village on the island's east coast; then catching the car ferry from Loh Jark Pier in the island's deep south back to Phuket Town.

This was definitely going to be a mountain bike trip requiring fat tires for their grip, and all I carried was a backpack with the bare essentials and some extra clothes... wrapped tightly in plastic to stave off the incessant rain.

The best route for the trip north up Phuket from Chalong is turning

left off Chao Fa West at the Honda Showroom then past Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Country Club, the Tin Mine Museum and the British International School, emerging near the Heroine's Monument and thus missing the nightmare road works and traffic at Central Festival and the Bypass Road.

The weather stayed overcast but dry for this section, but as I loaded my bike into the prow of the 2:30pm speed-boat ferry from Bangrong Pier, the season's color changed from green to decidedly grey as a huge

tropical depression settled over Phang Nga Bay. Right on cue the heavens opened as we roared off from the pier, but despite the lashing rain the atmosphere on board was decidedly jolly with lots of friendly banter. I couldn't help thinking that escaping from the tumult of Phuket and stepping back in time and tradition to the "real" Thailand that Koh Yao Yai represents, was the reason for the happy sentiments on board.

Arriving at Klong Hia pier 40 minutes and 200 baht later, I was the only madman bundled off the boat into the torrential downpour. In the little waiting area, I stripped down and decided to cycle the 12 kilometers down the island to the resort wearing as a little as possible.

With lashing rain partially blinding me, the low lying areas of road were transformed to quagmires of run-off sand and orange water which grabbed at my tires as I churned my way south.

After 40 minutes I saw the left



Koh Yao Yai Village resort blends seamlessly into the surrounding environment. Photo: Supplied.

turn sign for Koh Yao Yai Village resort and plunged down the little lane that leads to their lovely rustic collection of wooden villas overlooking Phang Nga Bay.

All the resort's elements of design pay great respect to the natural landscape, from the layout, to the materials used – making it so the resort blends seamlessly into the surrounding environment. The resort owns about 80 rai of hilly, coast-hugging land which you can bike around on little pathways between the lovely villas. Being a favorite Aussie wedding destination, this tends to be as much as many of the "loved-up" couples can manage between bouts of champers and wedding cake!

My spacious bungalow was absolutely beach-front and featured a wonderful terrace upon which I lounged after a hot shower, drink-

ing a cold beer listening to the croaking froggie serenade that followed the rain storm.

Next morning, bright and early, I joined the Activities Manager "Jing" Thanate for the adventure mountain biking experience. This took us south down the island's only road, then left into some pretty challenging and technical off-road tracks down to a deserted beach for cold drinks and a chat.

The return leg followed the coastal track northwards back to the resort and featured the distractions of a fallen tree; a tribe of rambunctious Macaque monkeys; and some very steep, rocky gullies, where I must admit, I got off and pushed.

Back at the resort after two hours and a dip in their huge infinity pool overlooking the limestone

karsts of Phang Nga Bay, we wolfed down a huge breakfast.

I set off south down the island at about noon and cycled to Loh Jark Pier on the island's southwest coast. After sitting in the shade with a coconut juice, it was onto the huge, clunky 2pm car ferry for the hour's crossing back to Phuket Town's Chianwanich Pier. This is a real culture shock, as the contrast between the bucolic tranquility of Koh Yao Yai and the heart of bustling mid-afternoon Phuket Town couldn't be more dramatic.

By 4pm I was back home in Chalong. I had only been away for about 30 hours on my "Green Machine Loop", but felt totally recharged and reassured to know that such an authentic and green side of the Andaman is so close at hand.



Coming back from serene Koh Yao Yai to Phuket will give you culture shock. Photo: Supplied.



Some trails on Koh Yao Yai require fat tires for their grip. Photo: Supplied.

From slouch to sexy

TO START with, I'd like to debunk the myth known as "spot reduction". It doesn't exist. You can't lose belly fat by doing sit-ups; you can't reduce the fat around your legs by doing squats; and you can't reduce fat around your chest by hitting the bench press.

If you want to reveal that six pack, you'll need to lower your overall body fat percentage. You can do this with a good exercise routine and a fairly clean diet.

There is one shortcut that you might not be aware of – posture. Poor posture can make you look fat and out of shape. Which means that correcting that bad posture will make you look less fat and more in shape.

The inset picture is meant to represent two identical men. They are the same age, height, weight, and have the same percentage of body fat, but the figure on the left looks fatter and generally out of shape.

This is a perfect example (though perhaps slightly exaggerated) of how important your posture is, not just from a functional point of view but from an aesthetic one too. This posture is known as



Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther



Improving your posture is the first step to sexy. Photo: US National Archive and Records

kyphosis-lordosis. Kyphosis is an outward curvature of the back (hunchback) and lordosis is an inward curvature in the lumbar region of the spine (lower back).

You can thank sitting at a desk and using a computer for them. Sitting for prolonged periods shortens and tightens the hip flexors, causing the pelvis to tilt forward and the lower back to curve.

Looking at the computer with your head extended forward causes muscles in the upper back to shorten, giving a hunchback appearance. We will get to the upper body another day, but you should see by now how posture can give you the appearance of a more pronounced belly.

What's the solution? Strengthen some muscles and stretch others.

Let's start with the basics – the main muscles to strengthen are the abdominals and the glutes.

For me the "get up" exercise is probably the most complete core workout I know for stabilizing and strengthening these two muscle groups. The "dynamic plank" is great for stabilizing core muscles.

The lower muscles you will want to



Lower your overall body fat to reveal the perfect six pack. Photo: DrSJS

stretch are the hip flexors and lower back muscles, called the erector spinae.

The best all-in-one exercise for correcting these muscle imbalances is the popular yoga stretch called "sun salutation".

Look out for Part 2 of Excuse Buster's sexy stomach series with Nutritionist Craig

Burton the June 28 edition of the *Gazette*.

Krix Luther is a fully qualified personal trainer with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength and conditioning. For more information about Krix and his services, visit thevitruvianmethod.com



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette



The Phuket Today team would like to thank all our partner hotels and businesses for continuing to broadcast our show every day in over 4,000 rooms around the island. Your support is very much appreciated and we hope to be able to support you also during the "interesting" months ahead.



If you would like to join the PGTV Partner Program or have a story you would like to tell the world, please call Kristi on 080 690 2564

Raceweek entries strong

DUE to a flurry of late booking, the organizers of the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Race Week 2014 have extended the early-bird discount deadline to encourage more entries and allow more crews to take advantage of the reduced price.

Raceweek organisers are predicting a large and competitive field this year, with many local, regional and some chartered entries from afar having already registered, booked their accommodation, and saying they are raring to get racing.

In the IRC fleet, a number of top boats will be making their Raceweek debut this year, including the recently crowned 2013/14 AsianYachting Grand Prix (AYGP) Yacht and Skipper of the Year, *Foxy Lady VI* led by Bill Bremner. In addition to their season-winning performance at Samui Regatta last month, *Foxy Lady VI* is unbeaten in seven Asian regattas and the crew is looking to test themselves in

Phuket's Summer Season and get their 2014/15 AYGP campaign off to a flying start.

Also new to Raceweek is the Australian boat *Jessandra II*. Their first Asian regatta was Samui and after a slow start and a start line mishap, they put in a great final few days and stormed to third place overall – a solid start to their Asian campaign. They will be up against another newcomer and well known sailor on the Asian circuit, Hong Kong-based Paul Winkelmann, who is bringing his HH42 *Island Fling* to line-up against the growing fleet of 40-footers this year.

Others in the IRC fleet include the well-campaigned *Fujin*, *Venture*, *Skandia Endeavour of Whitby* and *Phoenix*, to name just a few.

Multihulls out in force

The growth of multihull sailing is evident worldwide, and here in Asia that trend is well established. In Phuket specifically there is a

resurgence in multihull sailing and with the region's only multihull-only regatta – Multihull Solutions Regatta – taking place in Phuket the week before Raceweek, the local multihull scene is thriving.

Twin Sharks, *Moto Inzi* and *Voodoo* are joined by long-time Raceweek competitor Neil Ayres on the chartered *Mamba* in the Firefly 850 division. With three past-winners taking part, it looks set to be tough for the Firefly bragging rights.

In Multihull Racing, *Nina*, *Java* and *Sweet Chariot* are up against Raceweek first-timer *Galeforce* skippered by Kirill Stashevsky. Mixing it up will be the racing trimaran *Adrenalin*, skippered by Mark Horwood. A boat of racing pedigree from her days in Europe, a syndicate have brought her out to Thailand and are now looking to cause ripples on the Asian circuit.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact 089 000 4664, info@phuketraceweek.com or go to phuketraceweek.com



Raceweek 2014 has attracted a high number of yachts. Photo: Supplied

Tennis tip: doubles patterns

By Roger Cochrane

THERE are certain patterns in doubles that you use over and over. If you have taken any lessons or clinics at Thanyapura, chances are you have practiced and drilled some of these doubles patterns. There are baseline patterns and net patterns but the important thing is to understand them, know when to use them and practice them, so that you can execute the pattern when the scenario presents itself.

Return of Serve pattern A: Return cross-court to avoid the net person in front of you and buy some time. Hitting cross-court protects your partner from getting hammered and allows you the time to come in to the net. Hitting the return cross-court is the most used strategy in doubles. Practice it and be good at it.

Return of Serve pattern B: When the server's partner is a feisty poacher then you need to hit it down the line or lob over the net person. This is a 10 per cent pattern and shouldn't be over used but certainly is a valid pattern and also needs to be practiced. You want to go cross-court but you need the down-the-line return or straight lob if the net person is very active.

Moving forward pattern: After you have served or returned it is a great idea to move forward to the net. You are moving through 'no-mans-land' wherein the ball often ends up at your feet, as you are running/jogging/moving forwards making it a tough shot. Don't wind up for the big "slammeroo", instead use a defensive chip (if the ball bounces) or a defensive, soft hands volley cross-court. As you are moving forwards you need the

time that the low and slow cross court chip or volley allows you. Don't deem it an offensive shot until you are close to the net and the ball is "hittable." Remember this pattern is a defensive pattern allowing you the time to get closer to the net where you can control it to a particular location, or slam it if you are very, very close to the net – patience Grasshopper!

High volley/poach pattern: If you are the net player, or you have used your chip or volley to move in and become the net player, you have to have a solid play or pattern to win the point once you are there. When you have a ball that is above the white band it is your job to finish the point. Your partner will be unhappy with you if you elongate the points when you have chances to put the ball away. Your pattern at the net is to aim right at the feet

of the closest player to you. Don't kill the ball but hit it right at their feet. Chances are they will not have the time to return your volley and you will win the point. If there is a hole down the middle, by all means, hit it down the middle. If you have an opportunity to hit a soft, short volley in front of the baseline player, by all means do it. But your basic, time after time, tried and true, iron clad, bulletproof pattern is to "boink" the closest player right in his or her feet!

I know some of you are resistant to hit at your friends and neighbors, but remember you're not headhunting; you are sneaker hunting.

Defensive lob pattern: Your rotten opponents lobbed your partner or they somehow got it over your head and you are scrambling like a monkey to try and get it

back. Anytime you are running away from the net, anytime you're in huge trouble, anytime you need to buy time for your partner – all of these are defensive lob scenarios. You need to be good at a: getting to the ball/lob, b: sending it up high to buy time, and c: getting ready to continue the point.

These are doubles' most common scenarios. We want to view them as patterns, because it takes away our human need to make things more complicated than they need to be. Instead of getting fancy and complex with our shot selection in doubles play, we will be better off if we can simply get incredibly good at repeating these patterns with precision.

Tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane, Email tennis@thanyapura.com

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Keep things simple and automatic by learning the most common patterns . Photo: Carine06

International Sport

Schumacher awakened

By Brian Love, Stephanie Nebahay

SEVEN-times Formula One racing champion Michael Schumacher, who suffered severe head injuries in a ski accident last year, has come out of an artificially induced coma and was transferred to a Swiss medical center on Monday, officials said, but gave no details of his condition.

Schumacher slammed his head against a rock while skiing off-piste over the Christmas holidays near their chalet at Meribel in the French Alps, about two hours from their home along Lake Geneva.

Schumacher, the most successful Formula One racer of all time, has had several brain operations since his accident in late December. He was moved for further treatment early on Monday to Lausanne's CHUV hospital, a sprawling modern glass-fronted complex above Lake Geneva.

The center treated former Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko for cancer in the mid-1990s and last year its forensic scientists analyzed the remains of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for traces of poison.

Michael Schumacher, hugely popular in his native Germany and across the world in a sport that had become immensely lucrative in the course of his career, has been regularly visited at his bedside by his wife Corinna.

Doctors reported in April that he was showing signs of waking from a coma artificially induced to limit any brain damage.

Long recovery

"Michael has left the CHU Grenoble (hospital, in France) to

continue his long phase of rehabilitation. He is not in a coma anymore," spokeswoman Sabine Kehm said in a statement.

Lausanne hospital spokesman Darcy Christen confirmed Schumacher had been admitted but declined to say what unit he was being treated in, citing medical secrecy and family privacy.

Professor Simone Di Giovanni, an expert in restorative neuroscience at Imperial College London, said it was very difficult to predict recovery in people emerging from a coma.

"That can range from someone who merely opens their eyes and may be able to respond to verbal input, to someone who opens their eyes and moves their hands in response to painful input, to someone who interacts with their environment fully and uses language and maybe can have a simple conversation," he said.

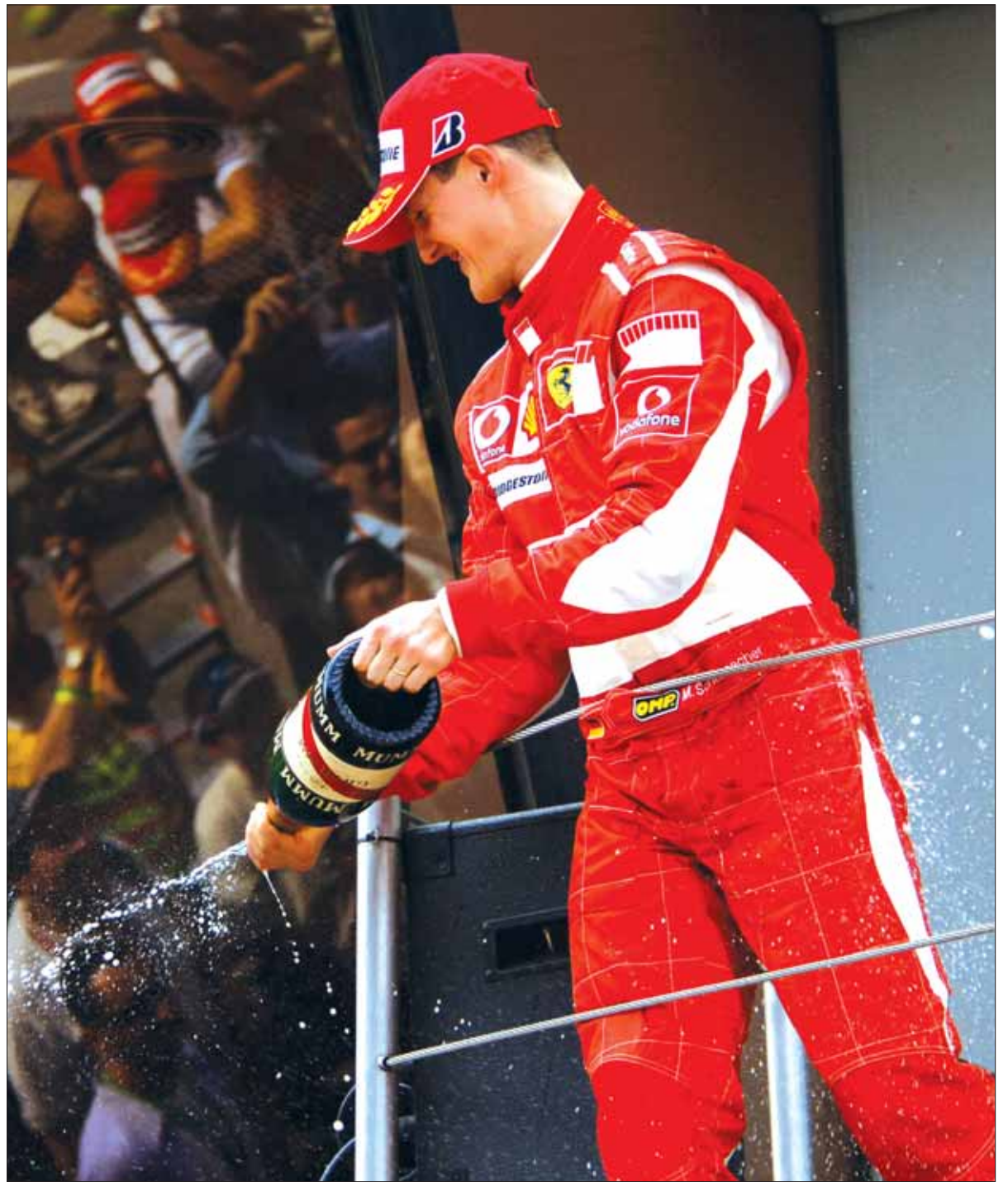
"In this case, nobody – with the exclusion of the doctors who are treating Michael Schumacher – knows exactly what the condition of the patient is."

He added however, that rehabilitation would be almost certain to improve Schumacher's clinical condition, whatever that might be, over the coming weeks and months.

Schumacher, 45, won a record 91 Grand Prix victories before retiring in 2006. He made a brief comeback with Mercedes but finally stopped racing last year.

On Monday, June 16 the German national football team dedicated their 4:0 victory over Portugal in the World Cup 2014 to the recovering F1 Champion.

– Reuters



Schumacher woke up from coma and was moved to Lausanne's CHUV hospital. Photo: EmilGH

Phuket United Next Fixture			
Samut Sakhon			
Jun 18 7pm			
@ Saphan Hin Gymnasium			
FTPL TABLE			
TEAM	P	PTS	
1 Chonburi Blue Wave	19	54	
2 Royal Navy	18	42	
3 Phuket United	18	38	
4 Samut Sakhon	19	35	
5 Thai Port FC	19	34	
6 Ayutthaya City	18	32	
7 CAT FC	19	31	
8 Sri Pathum Si Saket	19	30	
9 Nonthaburi	19	28	
10 Bangkok FC	19	27	
11 Pattaya Arena FC	18	25	
12 Khon Kaen	19	24	
13 Highways Department	19	13	
14 Uthai Thani	19	10	
15 Chiangmai	19	6	
16 Suphanburi	19	3	

*dates subject to change **Last Update: 17/06/2014

PHUKET NEXT FIXTURE			
SARABURI FC			
JUN 22			
@ Surakul Stadium 6.30 pm			
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	16	37
2	Bangkok FC	16	32
3	Royal Navy	16	30
4	Angthong FC	16	27
5	Saraburi FC	16	25
6	Phuket	16	25
7	TTM Customs	16	25
8	BBCU	16	23
9	Chiangmai FC	16	23
10	Phitsanulok FC	16	22
11	Ayutthaya FC	16	20
12	Krabi FC	16	20
13	Pattaya Utd	16	19
14	Trat FC	16	18
15	Roi Et Utd	16	18
16	NakhonPathom	16	18
17	Khon Kaen FC	16	7
18	Sri Racha FC	16	2

*dates subject to change **Last Update: 17/06/2014

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The Naithon Condominium by Phanason

THE NAITHON BY PHANASON

CONDOMINIUM



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The Naithon condominium by Phanason located nearby the Phuket international airport and the Naithon beach. The style of Naithon condominium is modern resort life style. Also close to beautiful nature with spectacular 360 degree mountain and ocean view. 4-5 floors condo with 6 building feature a 345 units.

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Phanason The Park Condominium - Patong

The Park

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