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Phuket Gazette



British sisters abducted by mum

Police issue arrest warrant for Thai mother after she absconds

INSIDE TODAY

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Kata 'Big 4' caught

■ Officials arrested for abuse of power in taxi crackdown

By Chutharat Plerin

FOUR high-ranking officials from Kata-Karon Municipality, including two deputy mayors, surrendered to police on Wednesday as officers turned up the heat in the taxi mafia crackdown and began the hunt for the money.

Deputy Mayors Ithiporn Sangkeaw and Sompong Dabpetch, along with Engineering Division Director Wanchai Sae-Tan and Chief Administrative Officer Weerasak Anekwongsawat, voluntarily arrived at the Phuket Provincial Police Station in Phuket Town while the officers were assembling a team to head out to arrest them.

The four officials face charges of conspiracy to aid illegal activities carried out by a criminal association.

"They were wanted for acting as co-conspirators in heading illegal taxi cartels since 2005," said Maj Gen...

Continued on Page 6



The Mayor of Karon was arrested earlier this month. Image: Gazette Graphics

SPECIAL REPORT

Booze or bust, taxes drive Thailand to drinking hard stuff

A WORLD Health Organization report reveals that Thais consume more than twice the amount of alcohol than the average Southeast Asian country.

The Phuket Provincial Health Office chief admits that the island has a drinking problem, a problem that affects more than just those hitting the bottle.

David Swartzentruber, writing for *The Nation*, points his finger at the low excise rates for spirits.

Full story Pages 4-5

Crowd-source data bolster claim of MH370 sighting

RESEARCH plotting the projected flight path of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 by using data from Inmarsat satellites may confirm British sailor Katherine Tee's sighting of the ill-fated aircraft.

The Australian agencies tasked with coordinating the search have received the report and are taking it under serious consideration.

Full story Page 8

Soldiers rush in to quell locals' violent mangrove land grab

MORE than 200 officers escorted by armed personnel arrested five men while conducting a raid in Phuket's Soi Palai area after receiving reports about a gang of 20 men violently attacking villagers and destroying property over a land dispute.

Full story Page 7

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This Week



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Veteran hotelier says goodbye to Phuket after 22 years. **Page 15**



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Looking for nirvana? You'll find it in Patong's new project. **Page 33**



Food

Centara Grand Karon Sunday lunch is more than just food. **Page 35**



Tech

You can now print the internet. But do you want to? **Page 37**



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American-Thai gay couple caught in a love Catch-22. **Page 40**



Sport

A good day for golfers – Laguna's course is about to re-open. **Page 42**

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Brit pummels power pole in predawn car accident

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A BRITISH expat managed to avoid life-threatening injury on June 21 after a high-speed collision with a power pole in Koh Kaew left his Toyota Fortuner destroyed and the pole in a pile of rubble.

Maj Kittiphum Tinthalang of the Thalang Police was notified of the accident on Thepkrasattri Road northbound, about 100 meters south of the Tah Rua Shrine, at about 4:50am.

"At the scene, we saw the obliterated pole in pieces on the ground and the totalled Fortuner near the median," said Maj Kittiphum.

Police named the driver as British national Arran Pritchard, 43, a resident of Srisoonthorn in central Phuket, and said he had been taken to hospital by Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers before officers arrived.

"It was a miracle he made it out alive, considering the damage done to the car and the pole. I believe his seat belt saved his life," said Maj Kittiphum.

A staffer at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where Mr Pritchard is taken after the accident confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Pritchard recovered quickly and was discharged the next day.

The staffer told the *Gazette* that



Mr Pritchard made it out with only minor cuts and bruises.

Mr Pritchard was admitted with a few cuts and bruises, but no broken bones.

Police have not yet determined the cause of the accident.

"We are now investigating possible causes. We are also waiting on the results of blood-alcohol tests from the hospital," Maj

Kittiphum said on the day of the accident.

Mr Pritchard was charged with reckless driving causing property damage, confirmed Maj Kittiphum on Tuesday. Police have yet to consider whether or not they will press drunk driving charges, he added.

Korean bail-jumper nabbed in recent island crime sweep

A KOREAN woman who was wanted for jumping bail in a 10-million-baht fraud case three years ago was swept up on June 20 in a National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) campaign to rid Phuket of crime.

Lee Mikyong, 48, was arrested at a Korean restaurant on Chao Fa West Road in Wichit at about 11am, Phuket Immigration Inspector Tianchai Chompoo told the *Gazette*.

Police did not reveal the name of the restaurant.

"Ms Lee allegedly cheated a business partner out of 10mn baht," Maj Tianchai said. "She skipped bail in 2011, and we have



Police arrested Ms Lee last week. been searching for her since then."

Ms Lee was charged for skipping bail and was taken to the Phuket City Police Station for more questioning.

The island-wide police sweep, which started on June 18, will run until June 24.

— **Kritsada Muanhawong**

Hotel staffer dies after stabbing to the head in late-night gang attack

A STAFFER at a hotel in Karon has died from his injuries after being stabbed in the head during a gang attack north of Phuket Town on June 21.

Surasri Jupmatta, 19, from Prachuap Khiri Khan, and a male friend were pushing their motorbike along Thepkrasattri Road looking for petrol when they were set upon by a gang on about five motorcycles.

"We are withholding the name of the man who survived the attack as he is our key witness," said Maj Rattaket Munmuang of the Phuket City Police.

"The attack occurred near Khosit Wiharn Temple at about 11:20pm. We were told that the gang started



Rescue workers found the knife protruding from Mr Surasri's head. Photo: Gazette file

shouting at the victims, asking why the two men were looking at them."

In the ensuing melee, Mr Surasri was stabbed in the arm-pit and then in the head, before the gang fled.

The knife was still protruding from his head when rescue workers arrived.

Staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital confirmed that Mr Surasri died on June 22.

"His friend suffered extensive bruising," Maj Rattaket said, and was admitted to the hospital.

"We checked CCTV cameras in the area but we have yet to identify the suspects. Ee hope to arrest them soon."

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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Search for kidnapping mum, missing girls reaches Phuket

By Phuket Gazette

THE mother wanted for abducting her two British-Thai daughters from their father in Pattaya is believed to be heading to Phuket.

On June 17, Pattaya Police were issued an arrest warrant for 36-year-old Onwarat Gamlem, who is the non-custodial mother of the children. The warrant orders police officers around the country to arrest Ms Onwarat on charges of child abduction.

Maj Gen Paween Pongsirin, Deputy Commander of Royal Thai Police Region 8 division, confirmed to the *Gazette* on Wednesday that the arrest warrant had been distributed to police stations throughout Phuket.

Ms Onwarat, also known by her nicknames "Nok Lek" and "On", is to be handed over to the Pattaya City Police once arrested.

The children's father, Robert Day, believes Ms Onwarat may have brought the children to Phuket, Mr Day's sister, Charlotte Dillow, told the *Gazette*.

Ms Onwarat and Mr Day are divorced. A Thai court four years



Onwarat Gamlem, also known as Nok Lek and On, is to be handed over to Pattaya City Police once arrested. Photos: Pattaya103.com/Supplied

ago awarded full custody of the girls, Annie and Aleena, to Mr Day, with no access to Ms Onwarat, reported Pattaya103.com, which broke the story.

Ms Onwarat deserted the children for 18 months when they



were very young, said the report.

Mr Day took the children to the UK and has been raising them alone, but allowing them to communicate with their mother online.

At the end of May, he brought the girls, aged six and 10, to Thai-

land to see their mother. He allowed Ms Onwarat to take them for several days.

When Ms Onwarat did not return them on June 1 as agreed, Mr Day contacted the police, who searched her home and found it empty.

Ms Onwarat is now married to a Norwegian man who left Thailand for work on April 27. They have a three-year-old son, Marvin.

Also known by her previous married name Wiganda Day and her maiden name Onwarat Suphikunphong, Ms Onwarat is believed to be in hiding with her three children.

She was seen driving a white Toyota Vios, red plate registration 2995, issued in Chon Buri.

The *Gazette* notes that the registered address on the arrest warrant marks a residence in Pathum Thani.

Alternatively, Ms Onwarat may be hiding in her home province of Ayutthaya, Ms Dillow noted.

Anyone with information about the group's whereabouts are urged to notify nearest police station or call the police hotline 191.



Shynkarenko in 2009. Photo: Gazette file

Former expat faces 30 years for child porn

UKRAINIAN Maksym Shynkarenko, arrested in Phuket in 2009, has been sentenced to 30 years in prison on child pornography charges.

Shynkarenko, 35, pleaded guilty to starting and operating a hardcore child pornography website for three years, for which a federal judge in New Jersey on June 17 sentenced him to three decades in prison, reported Reuters.

In January, Shynkarenko admitted conducting a child exploitation enterprise by running the site between 2005 and 2008.

Shynkarenko was held in Thailand for more than three years before making his initial court appearance in Newark, New Jersey, in June 2012.

"Shynkarenko worked the supply side of a market that sells images of the most depraved, predatory abuse of children," US Attorney Paul Fishman said in a statement.

Shynkarenko, working with other conspirators including one from Siberia, operated the site from the Ukraine, advertising the images under the name "Illegal.CP" and "Pedo Heaven".

Officials discovered the site in 2005, based in part on emails recovered from a person in Long Branch, New Jersey.

— *Phuket Gazette*

South African arrested for running ATM scam

POLICE arrested a South African in possession of 72 bank cards on June 20 for allegedly skimming ATMs along Phuket's west coast.

"Manquba Parker Ngcobo, from the Republic of South Africa, was identified as a suspected ATM skimmer after a police investigation revealed that he had been withdrawing money using multiple bank cards in Patong, Kata and Karon between June 17 and 19," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Krajang Suwannarat on June 20.

Mr Ngcobo had been arrested at about 1am that morning at a resort in Patong.

"Police found 72 bank cards in a bag in Mr Ngcobo's room, along with 28,000 baht in cash," said Gen Krajang.

Police are not yet sure exactly how much cash Mr Ngcobo had withdrawn from June 17-19.

"We will reveal the amount once it becomes available," said Gen Krajang.

Mr Ngcobo was charged with running an ATM card scam. He remained silent during the press conference and has yet to accept or deny the charges against him, said Gen Krajang.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



Mr Ngcobo was arrested in possession of 72 bank cards and 28,000 baht. Photo: PR Dept

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Officials propose vans to taxi tourists from airport

THE chief official in charge of drafting key policy changes affecting Phuket's public transport has revealed that he will present a request for an airport bus operator to hire van drivers to deliver tourists from Phuket International Airport directly to the taxi-mafia hotbed of Kata-Karon.

Jaturong Kaewkasi, the chief policy adviser at the Phuket Land Transport Office, confirmed to the *Gazette* that he will propose the idea to Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who heads the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Committee, as soon as possible.

"I have been in talks with Prakob Panyawai, the owner of the company that operates the Airport Express Bus service, about extending the bus service to Kata-Karon," said Mr Jaturong.

"We would like to extend the service as soon as we can."

The option to extend the route became available after the Army-bolstered campaign removed illegal "mafia-style" taxi groups from Patong earlier this month, which



Mr Jaturong would like to extend the service as soon as possible. Photo: Saran Mitrat

encouraged Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsab to unveil a new vision for public transport in the beach town.

The only problem Mr Jaturong and Mr Prakob foresee in the immediate future, now that many of the threatening figures have been removed and Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut has pledged his full support for the buses to serve Kata-Karon, is tourism low-season demand.

"It might not be cost-effective

to use the big bus on the final legs of the bus route, so I will propose to Vice Governor Chamroen to allow vans to take passengers from the airport to Kata-Karon," explained Mr Jaturong.

The drivers will be full-time employees of the bus company, and the vans used will be owned by Mr Prakob, Mr Jaturong added.

"Under the terms proposed, the van service cannot be subcontracted to a third party, and of course all drivers must have no criminal record," he explained.

"There will be no extra fee for tourists to pay. Any passengers who board the vans will be required to pay only the regular bus fare to be ferried between the airport and any other stops on the hop-on hop-off route to Kata-Karon."

Mr Prakob is keen to get the vans rolling.

"This way, we can launch a public transport service to Kata-Karon. It will save people a lot of money, and we will be able to continue our service," he told the *Gazette*. — Chutharat Plerin

Thai society

THAILAND consumes more than twice as much booze as the average Southeast Asian country, and faces the multitude of problems that come along with it, according to the World Health Organization and Phuket experts.

Here, the *Phuket Gazette's* Chutharat Plerin investigates.

A BARRAGE of statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its "2014 Global report on alcohol and health" detailed a growing trend in hard liquor consumption in Thailand, a trend which health experts have linked to a range of domestic, society and health problems in the country.

Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday that the island has a drinking problem.

"Phuket is a province with one of the highest levels of alcohol consumption.

Many people, Thais and foreigners alike, holiday here to have fun and take part in the island's nightlife," Dr Kajohnsak said.

Alcoholism is an issue for society as a whole, he explained, as it can lead to further problems, including crime, unchecked aggression, mental sickness and joblessness.

"This affects families' and individuals' health. It is also very expensive to pay for treatment," he said.

The WHO report gave Thailand the highest rating possible for the number of "Years of Life Lost" as a result of alcohol consumption based on 2012 data. Deaths from cirrhosis of the liver totalled 28.2 per 100,000 citizens for men and 8.7 per 100,000 for women. The death rate for road accidents using the same ratio was 70.3 for men and 18.5 for women.

The effects, however, are not limited to those partaking in spirits, beer and wine. It also affects their peers and loved ones.

"Alcohol is the number one reason for domestic violence, including violence against women and children," Jiranun Cheamcharoen, Director of Phuket Shelter for Children and Families on Koh Sireh, told the *Gazette*. The center functions as one of the One Stop Crisis Centers in the province.

Alcohol consumption leading to violence is not just a Phuket-specific problem though, Ms Jiranun pointed out, it reaches far beyond

the island's coasts.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

The latest global average of pure alcohol consumption is 6.21 liters per capita, but the figure for Southeast Asia is 3.4 liters per capita – less than half of Thailand's consumption rate, reported *The Nation*.

Thailand's average consumption rate of pure alcohol per adult (15 years and older) increased from 6.8 liters between 2003 and

2005 to 7.1 liters between 2008 and 2010.

"This is even more startling when you consider that 70.3 per cent of Thais are recorded as abstainers. The remaining 30 per cent more than make up for those who don't drink," David Swartzentruber, who was a clinical psychologist in the United States and has dealt extensively

with the medical and social issues that result from alcoholism, wrote in *The Nation*.

"The total alcohol consumption for Thai men in 2010 was 30.3 liters of pure alcohol and for women, 5.2 liters."

Given the statistics, it becomes clear why Ms Jiranun from the OSCC pointed her finger at men as the main cause of drinking-related domestic violence in Phuket.

"Men should have more common sense. They should be gentlemen to the people around them and understand their roles as a husband and a father," Ms Jiranun said.

"This problem will continue forever unless people are conscious of the issue, and learn what they must do to control themselves when they are drinking."

THE LAND OF SPIRITS

Of all the kinds of alcohol available in Thailand, the trends for types consumed are a near inverse of those seen in western countries.

In Thailand, 73 per cent of the



'Alcohol is the number one reason of domestic violence, including violence against women and children'

— Jiranun Cheamcharoen, Director of the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families

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struggling to survive a bender

alcohol consumed is in the form of spirits, 27 per cent is beer and less than 1 per cent is wine. In the US, consumption is broken down to 12 per cent spirits, 40 per cent wine and 48 per cent beer. Myanmar, Thailand's neighbor, has statistics more similar to the US: 12 per cent spirits, 6 per cent wine and 82 per cent beer.

Price per serving of alcohol in Thailand is much cheaper for spirits than it is for wine and beer, Mr Swartzentruber pointed out.

A 750ml bottle of wine in Phuket can be tracked down for 400 baht and deliver five servings. However, a 700ml bottle of one of the more popular Thai whiskeys provides about 17 servings for a much cheaper 271 baht.

Ruang Khao white spirits (more commonly known as *lao khao*), the world's second largest spirits brand according to trade publication the *Shanken Daily Report*, can be found for 99 baht per 700ml bottle.

In 2013, Thailand saw a change to excise tax on alcohol, one that significantly increased taxes for beer and wine, but only marginally increased taxes on spirits, Mr Swartzentruber explained.

TAXING SOLUTIONS

Phuket Excise Office (PEO) Chief Pairuch Kulima noted that raising



The nightlife in Phuket catches some of the blame for alcohol consumption rates on the island. Photo: Gazette file

the taxes on spirits even more could help prevent the quantity of consumption, which might lead to the lessening of alcohol-related problems within Thai society.

"I believe that raising taxes could prevent people from buying it and might stop new drinkers from picking up the habit. It could also encourage long-time drinkers

to stop," Mr Pairuch said.

"However, people feel very differently about this. Some people want the entire alcohol industry shut down and while others refuse

to let that happen.

"It's a delicate issue. Everyone must work together to determine what is best for our nation."

Dr Kajohnsak from the PPHO argued that education and strict control on advertisements were the solutions, rather than raising taxes on spirits, as suggested by Mr Pairuch and Mr Swartzentruber.

The PPHO receives about 50,000 baht per year for anti-alcohol campaigns in Phuket.

"People need to learn about the dangers of alcohol. There should be seminars to educate people, especially students," Dr Kajohnsak said.

"Strict control on advertisements, as well as no longer using alcohol during celebrations, would also help."

The experts have spoken and are in agreement that alcohol consumption, especially that of hard liquor, is staggeringly high in Thailand and can lead to devastating effects – socially, mentally, economically and physically.

From preventing excessive consumption through education to controlling promotion through advertisements to even halting possible purchases through raised taxes, the doctors, psychologists and health officials alike share at least one common goal: to raise awareness of the issue and its consequences.



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Suspects walk in, surrender to cops

Continued from page 1

...Paween Pongisirin, the Deputy Commander of Royal Thai Police Region 8 division who is spearheading the Phuket taxi mafia takedown.

The arrest warrant for Mr Wanchai specifically alleged that he had been working in collusion with Prathum Yodkaew, who was arrested on the first day of the army-backed blitz along Phuket's west coast on June 4.

Together they headed a taxi cartel whose drivers used violent intimidation to threaten local hotels into ensuring guests used only the cartel's drivers, said the warrant.

All four suspects denied the charges.

"All four will be denied police bail," said Gen Paween.

Within hours of the "Kata Big Four" being taken into custody, officers searched the house of Engineering Director Wanchai's mother, where he usually stays.

"We're looking for evidence of money gained through illegal activities," said Gen Paween.

"We have been informed that one of the four has more than 100 million baht hidden away in multiple bank accounts."

However, the search turned up nothing suspicious.

"We will question the family members of all four suspects and search the homes of all their relatives," Gen Paween said.

Bank accounts and business records related to the four suspects will also come under scrutiny.

Also, the charges described in the warrants allege that the four became involved in mafia-style operations in 2005, the year after Tawee Thongcham was elected to his first term as Karon Mayor.

Mr Tawee handpicked Mr Ithiporn and Mr Sompong to serve as Deputy Mayors in each of his successive terms as Karon's leading elected official.

Hold up at Thai border

Visa runners asked to present cash before they could enter Thailand

By Chutharat Plerin

A VAN full of foreigners returning from a visa run to Penang were delayed at the Malaysian border for more than two and a half hours on Tuesday as Thai immigration officers demanded that they all present large amounts of cash to confirm they had enough money to fund their stay in the Kingdom.

Any foreigners who could not produce the cash were told they would not be allowed to enter Thailand, and would have to remain on the Malaysian side of the border, the *Gazette* was told over the phone by one of the visa runners.

The call was made while the foreigners were standing in the Sadao Immigration Office on the Malaysian border in Songkhla.

Foreigners entering Thailand on a visa-on-arrival stamp issued by officials at the border were required to show 10,000 baht cash, while those entering on a tourist visa issued at the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate were required to show 20,000 baht cash.

"I showed the officers an ATM slip that proved I had the money in a Thai bank account, but they would not accept it as proof [of funds]," Phuket expat Steven (last name withheld) told the *Gazette*.

The birth certificate he produced for his three-month-old

Thai daughter was also rejected. "They did not accept that," he said.

Steven also showed them his name entered on his landlord's official Thai house registration document (*tabien baan*) confirming him as a long-term tenant.

"That was no good either," he added.

Officers started manually recording the serial numbers of all banknotes presented so that they could not be passed to other visa runners to use as evidence of funds, another Phuket expat told the *Gazette*.

"The officers explained that it was an old rule now being enforced at all checkpoints," said Steven.

That explanation concurred with the crackdown ordered by former Immigration Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarpphon in May, which targeted foreigners using visa-on-arrival border runs as a way of remaining in Thailand to work illegally.

But, the request for "cash only" did not.

That afternoon, however, Sadao Immigration Deputy Superintendent

Banphot Kittivira told the *Gazette* that cash was not the only way for foreigners to provide evidence of funds.

Balance slips printed by any of the ATMs at the checkpoint are accepted, but bankbooks are not,

'The officers explained that it was an old rule now being enforced at all checkpoints'

— Steven, Phuket expat



Visa runners spent hours waiting at the border. Photos: Supplied

he said.

Foreigners on the visa run confirmed to the *Gazette* that after 1pm, all of them were suddenly cleared by immigration – many by presenting only access to funds, not by showing cash – and were on the road back to Phuket.

Lt Col Banphot reiterated that his officers were only enforcing the crackdown on foreigners using tourist visas to stay in Thailand and work.

Col Banphot explained that, in accordance with the long-standing law, foreigners entering Thailand must be able to prove to officials they have access to the required funds as follows:

• People entering on a tourist

visa exemption or visa-on-arrival must show they have access to at least 10,000 baht per person or 20,000 baht per family.

• People entering on a tourist visa or non-immigrant visa issued at a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate must show they have access to at least 20,000 baht per person or 40,000 baht per family.

Col Banphot noted that all foreigners were required to show officers a return flight or confirmed bus ticket exiting the country when asked.

If cash is presented, officers will manually record the serial numbers so that they cannot be passed to and used by other visa runners, Col Banphot confirmed.

Krabi officials scramble to save 75mn-year-old fossils

RECENT storm damage to fossil formations in Krabi's famous Shell Cemetery has prompted local officials to declare the area off-limits and to request a budget to build a seawall at the site.

"The fossils are 75 million years old," said Pinij Engchuan, chief of Hat Noppharat Thara National Park.

"They have been slowly cracking since the tsunami in 2004 and have also suffered from erosion.

"During an inspection [on June 18], we found that heavy waves had caused further damage and that part of the structure had collapsed into the sea."

Chief Pinij said he had consulted with the Mineral Resources Department and come up with a two-pronged solution: starting immediately, tourists will no longer be permitted to walk on the fossils, to prevent further damage and to enhance safety for tourists.



Officials survey the damage.

"Tourists are still welcome, but they will have to take photos from nearby," he said.

Second, a budget would be sought to build a seawall.

"We'll ask for about 100 million baht for a seawall that would stop big waves from striking the fossils and also help to prevent coastal erosion," Chief Pinij said.

"As soon as we get the budget, we'll start the project."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Donations can be made to the **British International School, Phuket** marketing office on the first floor of the main building

CHILDREN'S WORLD ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Police say leads exhausted in case of 7-year-old Nong Dear

THE investigation into the death of a seven-year-old girl whose body was found dismembered in a Chalong forest late last year has reached a standstill.

Nong Dear disappeared on her way home from a relative's house on December 6 and her remains were found in a nearby wood on December 19.

"This is a very tough case," said Capt Thada Sodarak of Chalong Police.

"We have no suspects, there is no CCTV evidence and interviews with 30 people have not yielded any good leads," he said. "It's very disappointing."

The spotlight initially fell on a family friend

who was last seen with the girl. The man, known only as Khun Boy, failed to respond to two summonses from the police and could not be reached by Nong Dear's family.

He subsequently reappeared and was questioned by police, and is not considered a suspect.

"We were not able to get any leads from the autopsy either," said Capt Thada.

The case will remain open for a year; if no progress is made during that time, it will be closed but can be re-opened if a new lead presents itself, Capt Thada explained.

No leads are being pursued at this time, he added.

— *Saran Mitrarat*



Nong Dear's parents (above) consulted a spirit medium to help locate their daughter.

Krabi school invaded by burning bugs



Teachers are worried that children will touch the bugs and be hurt.

AN ATTACK of mysterious bugs at a Krabi nursery school has frightened teachers and students and may cause the students to be moved out.

The black bugs, about one centimeter long, have a putrid smell and cause a burning sensation when touched, Piyawan Chamnongrak, a teacher at the school, told the *Gazette*.

"They appeared on Monday afternoon from where we had dumped wood and broken tiles," Ms Piyawan said.

"They entered the building where we teach kids. At first we didn't think they were dangerous, but when we accidentally sat on or touched one, it hurt."

Teachers poured bathroom cleaning chemicals on the bugs, and they stopped moving. When rain washed the solution off, however, the bugs were on the march again.

Officers from the local Phru Din Na Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), in Khlong Tom District, came to inspect but have yet proposed a solution.

Meanwhile, the bugs seem to be increasing in number, Ms Piyawan said.

"Our students are three to six years old. It's hard to keep an eye on all of them and make sure they don't touch them."

"We'll see what happens today. The *OrBorTor* should be able to figure something out, but if they don't, we will have to move the kids somewhere else," she said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Raid by armed officers nabs village attackers

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MORE than 200 officers under armed escort by Royal Thai Navy personnel arrested five suspects for violent intimidation of villagers in Phuket's Soi Palai area early on June 20.

The three-hour raid, which began before dawn, targeted a gang of about 20 men who had attacked 14 local villagers' homes the day before and destroyed property in broad daylight.

Police and Navy officers conducted a house-to-house search for the suspects.

"We immediately dispatched officers to stop the attack after receiving a complaint from the villagers," Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan of Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command explained to the *Gazette*.

Armed Navy personnel arrived to find the attack underway.

"We arrested some of the men on the day of the attack, literally caught in the act of destroying homes. Some of them were armed with guns and knives," Vice Admiral Taratorn said.

"This morning was a mop-up

operation, hoping to catch the rest of the gang."

Vice Admiral Taratorn did not disclose how many men were arrested on the first go-round, but confirmed that five suspects were taken into custody on the second.

"Three of the men arrested today were already wanted on arrest warrants for suspected land encroachment," he said.

"One of the other two suspects apprehended was found in illegal possession of a 9mm handgun and 13 rounds of ammunition. The other was found in possession of kratom leaves," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee, who coordinated the raid.

All five suspects were taken to Chalong Police Station for questioning, Col Arun confirmed.

"Naval officers will join police in questioning the suspects further," Vice Admiral Taratorn added.

The land where the Soi Palai villagers were attacked is under dispute, the naval commander explained.

"Claims to the land are currently being heard in court, with villagers and business owners both



The team of 200 officers caught some suspects destroying property.

saying they own plots in the area," he said.

Violent intimidation over land grabs is not new to the Soi Palai area, which is on the edge of one of the largest mangrove forests on Phuket's southeast coast.

For years, local villagers have complained about mangroves be-

ing cleared in order to make way for new houses.

In March last year, Governor Maitri Inthasut ordered an immediate investigation into an arson attack after local villagers' shanty homes were set alight in the middle of the night while the families were asleep inside.

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The disputed cement fence.

Kata residents stand against seaside fence

MORE than 100 residents gathered for three hours on June 18 to halt the construction of a fence along Kata Beach, on land adjacent to Club Med Phuket, arguing that it was encroaching on public land.

"We don't understand how someone can build on this land; it is along the beachfront," said Karon resident Wichit Yaowarot.

"We want the officials to investigate for possible land encroachment. If the land is legally owned, we will not protest, but we believe this is public land."

Karon Subdistrict Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew was called in to mediate between residents and landowners, but after two hours of unresolved negotiations he called in reinforcements.

Muang District Chief Parkpoom Intarasuwan halted any construction on the fence until ownership of the land could be proven and relevant documents and land titles could be verified.

"We will investigate for possible land encroachment and check the Chanote title. Until then, construction must stop," he said.

"If the land is legally owned, they have the right to continue building. If illegal, the structures must be dismantled."

The fence was being erected by GMR, the company that owns part of the land that Club Med rents, said Pracha Jaidee, one of GMR's lawyers.

"We wanted to build the fence here so the boundaries of our land are clear," he said.

Protesters finally dispersed after Mr Parkpoom promised that land titles would be investigated and a public meeting held so that the situation could be discussed further.

— Woranut Pechdee

Chalong's one-stop yacht shop to open, for real, July 1

PHUKET'S long-awaited 70-million-baht one-stop yacht shop, dubbed the Phuket Yacht Control Center (PYCC), is set to officially open on July 1 after two years of delays.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut confirmed the opening date on June 19.

"PYCC will be Phuket's official check-in point for incoming and outgoing foreign yachts. Additionally, it will ensure effective vessel-traffic management and monitoring; prevent smuggling and illegal activities; and

enhance maritime safety and national security," Governor Maitri said.

The center opened in April for a two-week trial period, but hit snags with new software.

"All of the software is now in proper working order," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut said on June 20.

All foreign yachts entering Phuket waters must report and register on the Automatic Identification System (AIS) locator system, said Mr Phuriphat.

— Chutharat Plerin



The one-stop shop. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Data show local yacht sighting, MH370 flight path correlation

By Chris Husted

CROWD-SOURCED research plotting the projected flight path of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 by using data from Inmarsat satellites may have confirmed that a woman sailing from India to Phuket spotted the ill-fated flight over the Andaman Sea.

British sailor Katherine Tee, 41, was sailing from Cochin, India to Phuket with her husband when on March 7 she saw what looked like a plane on fire crossing the night sky, with a plume of black smoke trailing behind it.

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC), the Australian organization tasked with co-ordinating the search for MH370 in the Indian Ocean, confirmed to the *Gazette* on Tuesday that the crowd-sourced data is now under review by the Australian Transport Safety Board (ATSB).

"That information has been reviewed by the ATSB's MH370 Search Strategy Working Group for review, along with a range of other material from members of the public," the *Gazette* was told by email.

"The Search Strategy Working Group is concluding its assessment of the likely flight path of MH370 and expects to publish the results by the end of this month."

At this stage the theory posted on sailing portal Cruisers Forum is commensurate with, but not conclusive of, current theories suggested by search analysts.

Members of the public, one of them a flight test engineer who used flight-simulator software,



Children write messages for missing MH370 passengers at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Photo: Reuters

compared the course of Ms Tee's yacht *SY Aaza Dana* as it passed south of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and cross-correlated it with data from the International Maritime Organization navigation and communications satellite network, Inmarsat.

Inmarsat has already confirmed that according to its data, MH370 flew west over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands before making possibly two course corrections as it headed south.

The Inmarsat data indicated a final "ping" – or electronic "handshake" – between MH370 and the satellite network near a "commu-

nications arc" at 00:11 UTC that led the massive international search effort to hunt the missing aircraft to deep waters in the southern Indian Ocean far off the west coast of Australia.

In publishing the Inmarsat data, however, the Malaysian government emphasized that the last handshake should not be interpreted as the final position of the aircraft due to evidence of a partial handshake between the aircraft and a ground station at 00:19 UTC.

"If the [projected] flight plan is correct, and I genuinely believe it is... That meant the plane headed toward military exercises where we

had seen what we now believe to be a military convoy, and an isolated marine buoy that was either a submarine buoy or an acoustic target buoy [used for missile practice].

"Now, I know that big military convoys have excellent radar tracking systems and *et cetera*, and yet they didn't see this and report it? I don't believe that, and don't understand why not."

Following the posting of the new data, Ms Tee said she now felt some sense of relief.

"Thanks to the science and logic, at least I now believe what I saw. That has been painful to deal with in itself," she said.

Teenage hotrods nabbed in midnight race

A LATE-NIGHT teenage motorcycle race was nipped in the bud on June 21 after local residents tipped off Phuket City Police after reading about the event in a Facebook post.

"Local residents called [that] afternoon and told officers about a race that was planned – as advertised on Facebook – for 10pm [that] night," said Maj Rattaket Munmuang of the Phuket City Police.

Sixty officers were set up at various points along the bypass road, said Maj Rattaket.

"Finally, at about midnight, officers stationed at the Outlet Mall saw a group of young motorcyclists



The motorbikes were seized in the arrest.

speeding down the bypass road heading southbound, so they alerted officers at the Tesco Lotus checkpoint," he said.

Police were waiting when the group arrived. "We arrested 22 teenagers between the ages of 15-18 years old," said Maj Rattaket.

"All of the teens were taken to the Phuket City Police Station. The parents were notified of the incident and the children were charged with racing on a public road."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Additional reporting by Woranut Pechdee

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'Dr Rip' pays Phuket a visit

Aussie professor teaches class about how to identify rip currents

By Phuket Gazette

ASSOCIATE professor and international specialist on rip currents and beach safety Robert Brander staged a dramatic demonstration of the power of rip currents at Phuket's deadliest stretch of sand, Karon Beach, on Thursday.

Dr Brander is a coastal geomorphologist and senior lecturer at the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Dr Brander has become known by the popular nickname "Dr Rip", from his habit of releasing purple dye into the sea to identify dangerous rip currents.

Dr Brander joined forces with the Phuket Lifeguard Club during his visit to impart his extensive knowledge of rip currents and coastal safety in order to assist the club in its task of preventing drownings and informing tourists of the dangers of Phuket's beaches. The class was open for



Dr Brander (inset) uses purple dye to illustrate the movement of rip currents. Photos: Dr Robert Brander

anyone who wished to attend.

Patron and co-founder of the Phuket Lifeguard Club Jayne MacDougall, herself a tireless advocate of improved water safety in Phuket, helped organize Dr Brander's visit, citing continued education as a key plank in the

battle for water safety.

"We are fortunate to have a visit to Phuket of a leading specialist in rip currents. Associate Professor Robert Brander is well known in Australia – working closely with Surf Lifesaving Australia [SLSA] and the community to teach

people about rip currents and how to recognize them and survive them," she told the *Gazette*.

The visit came at a crucial time for the island, as dangerous rip currents earlier in the week at Kata and Karon forced lifeguards to rope off sections of the beaches

in an effort to keep swimmers from entering the most hazardous areas of surf.

"Nobody should swim in the sea right now, the water is extremely dangerous," Uten Singsom, Kata-Karon chief lifeguard, told the *Gazette* on Tuesday morning.

Other areas of the beaches were marked with "No Swimming" flags.

Mr Uten also appealed to local hotels to help keep guests safe.

"Hotels should inform their guests not to swim where red flags are installed," Mr Uten said.

Despite the ropes and flags, some beachgoers are still sneaking into the sea, he added.

"Even though we blow whistles and call them back to shore, they ignore us," Mr Uten said.

"That makes our job harder. There are just 24 of us working on three dangerous beaches: Kata, Karon and Kata Noi. Please do not ignore the red flags, as you may risk your life in the dangerous waves."

Illegal coral vendor catches break, police deliver lesson about marine conservation



The vendor had a variety of marine products for sale. Photo: Emily Ridout

A VENDOR selling several pieces of illegal black coral jewellery in a Sea Gypsy village in Phuket was given a stern warning and a lesson on conservation on June 21.

"We got a tip-off about the vendor near Rawai Pier, and asked Chalong Police officers to check it out," Tanet Munnoy, chief of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 office, told the *Gazette* on Monday.

The vendor had a variety of marine animal products for sale, including black coral jewellery, dried seahorses and angel shark bracelets.

"There were more than 20 [black coral] items on sale. However, only seven of them were actually made of black coral. The rest were plastic," Mr Tanet said.

"Officers confiscated the black coral items, and sent them to our office."

Officers detected the fake items by holding them above a flame.

"You can tell if it's plastic or part of an animal based on the smell," Mr Tanet said.

The illegal items were valued at about 2,000 baht.

Mr Tanet explained that education is the key to preventing locals from selling illegal animal products, not fines and jail time.

"Instead of arresting the vendor, officers talked about the importance of conservation and why locals need to help preserve these animals instead of selling their remains," Mr Tanet said.

"Even if we keep arresting small vendors, they will be back sooner or later.

"Nonetheless, if police catch a person dealing in large numbers of these products, we will need to make an arrest."

– Chutharat Plerin

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A child sells flowers on Soi Bangla in Phuket. Photo: Gazette file

Child flower vendors saved from servitude

A MYANMAR national has been arrested over his alleged involvement in human trafficking and forced child labor after he bought three Myanmar children from their mothers for 1,800 baht each, police said on June 21.

Maung Myang-U, 22, used the children, all under the age of 15, to sell roses to tourists on the streets of Bangkok.

Mr Maung, who was arrested at a rented room in Phra Nakhon district, also reportedly had to pay the Myanmar-based mothers 50,000 kyat (1,800 baht) a month for each child, said Anti-Human Trafficking division commander Maj Gen Kittisak Durongkhawibul.

The arrest stemmed from public complaints over the children being forced to sell flowers to foreign tourists in the Khao San Road area, reported *The Nation*.

Police on June 20 questioned an eight-year-old boy who told them that he and his six-year-old sister their mother sold them to Mr Maung nine months ago.

Mr Maung then forced them to sell at least 25 roses at 20 baht apiece from 7pm to 2am each day, the boy told police.

The kids didn't get paid if they couldn't meet the sales target and they would get scolded and beaten, the boy said.

Police then went to Mr Maung's room to arrest him and seized a notebook recording flower sales and rescued a 13-year-old girl there.

US ranks Thailand with the worst for human trafficking

By David Brunnstrom

THE United States downgraded Thailand, Malaysia and Venezuela to its list of the world's worst centers for human trafficking on June 20, opening up the countries to possible sanctions and dumping them in the same category as North Korea and Syria.

The three countries were all downgraded to the lowest "Tier 3" status in the US State Department's 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report as they did not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Thailand, one of Washington's oldest Asian treaty allies, expressed disappointment. Thai officials had expressed confidence that their country would be upgraded, submitting a 78-page report to the US government in April to make their case.

Acting Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow asked the US to reconsider its evaluation, saying category three was intended for countries "that have done nothing".

"It is up to them to see whether we have made progress, up to them if they want to continue engaging constructively with Thailand, working together to ensure further progress," Mr Sihasak told a news conference in Bangkok last Saturday.

"And it's up to them to consider whether Thailand is an important ally in this part of the world."

The downgrades could cause some multinational companies to reconsider investments in industries accused of using trafficked labor such as fisheries, a lucrative business in Thailand.

The countries could also lose US non-humanitarian and non-trade-related aid and face US opposition to help from bodies like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The report said that most of trafficking victims in Thailand – "tens of thousands... by conservative estimates" – were migrants from neighboring countries "forced,



Boats cross the invisible border between Myanmar and Thailand. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE nation

coerced or defrauded into labor or exploited in the sex trade." A significant number were trafficked into the fishing industry, garment production and domestic work.

The State Department cited media reports of "trafficking-related complicity by civilian and navy personnel in crimes involving the exploitation" of the Rohingya.

Those reports included a Reuters story in December that documented a clandestine Thai policy to remove Rohingya from immigration detention centers and deliver them to traffickers and smugglers waiting at sea. Many Rohingya were then ferried back

to brutal trafficking camps in Thailand, where some died.

The State Department said that not only had the government systematically failed to prosecute trafficking into the fishing industry, but the Thai navy had also filed defamation charges against two individuals at *Phuket Wan* who reprinted sections of the Reuters reports.

The Thai navy has also filed a criminal complaint against two Reuters journalists, alleging violations of the Computer Crimes Act. Reuters has not been charged and stands by its reporting, a Reuters spokesman said.

"We have seen interlocutors who we think are actually trying hard, but of course that gets dragged down by the widespread official complicity," said US Ambassador at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

"It's kind of like an anchor that

is holding the folks who seem to be wanting to make a difference back," he told Reuters.

General Prayuth Chan-ocha vowed to crack down on trafficking. Thailand, he said in his weekly television address last Friday, must not "repeat the past flaws which created opportunities for influential groups and entrepreneurs to exploit, coerce and violate human rights."

The State Department report said the Thai government had "demonstrated few efforts to address these trafficking crimes."

"Impunity for pervasive trafficking-related corruption continued to impede progress in combating trafficking," it said.

Mr CdeBaca said the White House would decide on possible sanctions against Thailand within about 90 days. Last month, Washington cancelled some security cooperation projects to protest against Thailand's military coup on May 22.

— Reuters

Man arrested for anti-coup flash mobs

A PROMINENT activist who organized protests against last month's coup could face up to 14 years in jail after being charged last week with inciting unrest, violating cyber laws and defying National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) orders.

Sombat Boonngamanong spearheaded an online campaign promoting flash mob rallies against the military takeover, via a Facebook page bearing the message "Catch Me if You Can".

He has denied all charges.

Mr Sombat was among more than 300 activists, politicians and journalists detained since the military seized power on May 22.

"He is charged with instigating unrest through Facebook, which is a violation of the Computer Crimes Act," said Prasopchoke Prommul, deputy commander



Sombat Boonngamanong was placed under arrest last week. Photo: Reuters

of the police's crime suppression division. "Another charge is not reporting himself to the military."

Under martial law, gatherings of more than five people calling for action by any administration are illegal.

— Reuters

Anti-Money Laundering Office chases fraudulent call centers

THE Anti-money Laundering Office (Amlo) has released the names and photos of persons suspected of opening bank accounts for fraudulent call centers.

These gangs have already duped more than 200 victims causing financial losses of well over 100 million baht, reported *The Nation*.

Amlo released both the list of names and photos of suspicious bank-account holders at a press conference on Tuesday.

"Close your suspicious bank accounts now or face legal action," Amlo secretary-general Seehanart Prayoonrat warned.

Mr Seehanart said many lawbreakers

had hired other people to open bank accounts for them at the rate of 2,000 baht and 3,000 baht per account. The bank-account holders only opened the accounts and then left the transactions and accounts for their payers to use for illegal activities.

Mr Seehanart said some of the people on the just-released names list had opened up to 30 accounts. "So some have earned up to 30,000 baht without the need to do any real work."

The list named 133 people in the North, 49 in the Central region and 21 in the Northeast.

"None lived in the South," he said.

Myanmar accused of torture, war crimes

By Jared Ferrie

MYANMAR security forces “systematically” torture civilians in conflict-racked Kachin state, a rights group said on Monday, three years after fighting sprung back up between government forces and ethnic minority insurgents in the northern state.

The Bangkok-based Fortify Rights group said it interviewed 78 survivors and witnesses of torture perpetrated by Myanmar’s army, police and military intelligence agency.

Victims reported abuses that included stabbings, beatings and having wire tied around their necks.

“The torture and the abuses taking place right now in Kachin state constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity and very little is being done to stop it,” said Matthew Smith, the group’s executive director.

Myanmar’s government has been battling autonomy-seeking ethnic-minority guerrillas since shortly after the country, previously known as Burma, gained independence in 1948.

For decades under military rule, the rebels and civilians in ethnic minority areas accused the army of carrying out abuses.

The government and the army dismissed such accusations.

Such charges since Myanmar embarked on sweeping reforms in 2011 have raised fears that the army is less committed to change than the semi-civilian government that took power, after five decades of military rule.

Fortify Rights said in its report torture was most often carried out by government soldiers attempting to extract information from Kachin civilians about the strength and movement of Kachin Independence Army (KIA) fighters.

The United Nations says more than 100,000 people have been displaced since fighting between the KIA and the government erupted on June 8, 2011, ending



A Myanmar government soldier on a bridge overlooking the Irrawaddy River in Kachin State. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

a 17-year ceasefire.

The accusations of torture come as the government attempts to forge a national ceasefire with 16 ethnic-minority guerrilla forces. Only the KIA and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army have not signed separate pacts.

Successful negotiations would

bolster the reformist credentials of the semi-civilian government.

However, the negotiations have shown little progress, partly due to mistrust of the government, according to Khon Ja, a coordinator with the Kachin Peace Network civil society group. She said that the military ignored a cease fire ordered by President Thein Sein in its offensive against the KIA on December 10, 2011.

Khon Ja pointed to another major sticking point: the ethnic minority groups want a federal system with autonomy for the ethnic-based states.

At the latest round of talks in Yangon in May, military representatives agreed to put to the government a proposal from the minority groups for the term “federal system” to be included in the national ceasefire pact.

But one analyst said he doubted it would mean much in practice.

Mr Smith of Fortify Rights said the abuses documented in the 71-page report were undermining the peace effort. He said his researchers had found no evidence of torture by the KIA, although there are allegations the group recruits child soldiers. — Reuters

In brief...

Committee dashes Suu Kyi’s hope of becoming president

NOBEL laureate Aung San Suu Kyi’s hopes of becoming Myanmar’s president next year have been dealt a blow by a parliamentary committee voting not to change a constitutional clause that bars her from the post, two of the panel members said on Friday.



Aung San Suu

The committee tasked with recommending amendments opted to retain the section that prevents anyone married to a foreigner or with children of foreign citizenship from becoming head of state. — Reuters

14 dead, 27 missing as two boats sink off Malaysian coast

AT LEAST 14 of 97 passengers died when an overloaded boat sank off Malaysia on June 18; 20 remain missing. Among the rescued was a five-year-old girl.

No deaths were reported from the second boat, carrying 27, but seven are still missing.

The passengers were believed to be Indonesians going home for Ramadan. Malaysian police have detained two Indonesians over the first accident. — The Star

Archaeological sites in West Papua have UNESCO potential

THREE archaeological sites in West Papua, on the western peninsula of New Guinea, could be included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, said head of the Jayapura Archeological Center, Muhammad Irfan.

“Research conducted by the Jayapura Archeological Center of places or areas in Papua and West Papua show there are 310 archeological sites. Three have the potential to be included in the World Heritage List,” he said. — Jakarta Post

Vietnam takes dig at China over oil rig

VIETNAM said on June 20 that a Chinese oil rig at the center of an increasingly bitter territorial dispute appeared to be on the move again, as China denied Vietnamese accusations that it had sent warships to the scene.

The rig’s deployment triggered anti-Chinese riots in Vietnam last month that killed at least four.

Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships, including coastguard vessels, have squared off around the rig despite a series of collisions after the platform was towed to the area in early May.

In a statement, Vietnam’s Directorate of Fisheries said that the rig had shown signs of moving towards the east and southeast.

China had 119 vessels in the rig’s operating area, it added, including six naval ships and four circling military aircraft.

However, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying dismissed as “completely incorrect” the accusations that China had sent six warships.

The Haiyang Shiyou 981 rig is drilling between the Paracel islands, which China occupies, and the



A Chinese Coast Guard vessel passes near oil rig Haiyang Shi You 981. Photo: Reuters

Vietnamese coast. Vietnam has said the rig is in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and on its continental shelf. — Reuters



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Jet-skis next

AS THE rains of the southwest monsoon fall and low-season tourism arrival figures plummet, there could not be a better time for the National Council for Peace and Order to be carrying out the long-overdue crackdown on the many illegal businesses that have tarnished the island's reputation for too many years.

The removal of illegal taxi stands along the west coast was a great place to start, setting the proper tone by attacking the corruption problem at its taproot. The subsequent removal of encroaching businesses from some beaches in the north has provided the best visual evidence yet of what can be accomplished in a short time through enforcement of existing law.

We hope that all of the island's beaches can eventually be rid of such blight and returned to something resembling their natural state. This is badly needed, not only as a means of making the island's tourism industry more sustainable and preserving the island's natural heritage for future generations, but also to reduce crime by inspiring greater respect for the rule of law.

We wish the authorities the best of luck in serving arrest warrants against the "untouchables" of Patong who have used that once-beautiful seaside town to establish their personal fiefdoms, and through impunity amassed vast personal fortunes at the expense of the natural environment and Phuket's reputation abroad.

At the time of writing the exact nature and scale of the impending operation remains unknown, but in order for it to be effective, it will have to target those at the very top of the illegal rackets that have been operating in the party town for decades.

We certainly hope that those under investigation include the shadowy figures that have allowed jet-ski rental operators to continue to intimidate and extort money from tourists despite the partly-successful imposition of a compulsory insurance scheme on the industry several years ago.

After the transport syndicates, the jet-ski rental outfits have consistently been one of the leading sources of complaint among foreign tourists. The fact is well known to every provincial governor who has served here in the past two decades. Additionally, it was raised at almost every meeting of the honorary consuls, who repeatedly heard tales from their nationals not only of extortion, but of even more violent crimes – including kidnapping.

In our popular online polls over the years, banning jet-skis altogether has been the favored choice of our readers. In addition to frightening swimmers, they have been the cause of numerous injuries and deaths over the years, are a source of noise and air pollution, and add to traffic misery at rush hour when they are transported back home at dusk.

Enforcement of a single law that has been disregarded by operators for years could put them out of business overnight: jet-ski operators are required to have a Thai captain's license.

Ensuring that this requirement is met could help bring another beautiful new dawn for Phuket.



After the big cleanup, keep it up

Re: Gazette online, Phuket benefits from NCPO's no-nonsense measures, June 22

This has been a great month in Phuket. The key to the future is to continue the momentum. If it isn't continued, the vacuum will be filled to an even worse level as those 'in control' of the island will see that they only have to bide their time and the nasty men picking on them will go away.

I really hope we will have a bright future.

*Mister Ree
Gazette forum*

Needed: crackdown on drunk drivers

Re: Gazette online, Brit expat takes out power pole in high-speed crash, escapes with life, June 21

I see all kinds of people that are obviously drunk getting on their rented motorbikes with absolutely no concern for their own safety, let alone the safety of others.

I have never been in a country that treats drunk driving so flipantly. Maybe that's why Thailand has one of the worst road accident records in the entire world. It really is time to do something serious about it.

*Don MacLean
Gazette forum*

Teach them not to go in and how to get out

Re: Gazette online, Aussie surf safety expert to teach how to survive Phuket's deadly rip currents, June 23

Education should be at schools, community centers, shopping malls and so on.

And teach about the dangers of even entering the ocean on a red flag day before you educate the public on how to survive the sea.

*Vivian Ng
Facebook*

Letters to the Editor

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

Worried about water in the underpasses

Re: Gazette online, Flooding delays Phuket underpass trial run, June 23

If you think flooding at Central will be a problem, what about the Tesco Lotus intersection underpass? That area was renowned for flooding during the rainy season.

*Pessimist
Gazette forum*

Don't underestimate airport bus numbers

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport Bus plan to use van drivers reveals the road ahead, June 23

"It might not be cost-effective to use the big bus on the final legs of the bus route," said Mr Jaturong.

What a poor excuse. The big bus would be full from Patong to Kata-Karon. The bus operator only wants to avoid a conflict with the taxi mafia. If the final leg would really not be cost-effective, why not use the mini busses only for the final leg from Patong to Kata-Karon?

A mini bus service from the Airport to Kata-Karon already exists.

*Frank Heise
Gazette forum*

Halt the hot rodders

Re: Gazette online, Police nab 22 young racers on motorbikes, June 21

Well done police! Another race-track is at Thanon Kwang between Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West. Especially after midnight. Maybe have a look there too.

*Lung Manu
Gazette forum*

Stop the base attack

Bars in residential areas should not be allowed to use sub-woofers as they spread an annoying sound over a great distance that you cannot escape by simply closing your doors and windows.

Most bars where I live, in Rawai, only have a few customers, most of whom are way over the age to appreciate a sub-woofer to begin with. Compared to the number of people bothered by the sound of the sub-woofers, only a few, if any, enjoy them. The sound of normal music, laughter or even the occasional screaming of the ladies is not nearly as annoying as the endless banging base sound.

I can't hear the music from the bar nearest my house unless they have a special party, but for some time now I've heard the endless base beat from a bar much further away. I doubt that I am the only one who's bothered, and I am sure the value of my house has gone down because of it.

This should be regulated so it's clear where it's allowed and where it's not.

*Joe
Rawai*

Stop illegal sea-sales

Re: Gazette online, Phuket told to send seashells back to sea-shore, June 21

There are several shell shops down the soi next to Rawai Pier that sell black coral bracelets and necklaces (black coral is protected), dried seahorses, cowries, murex shells and shark jaws. All of these items are collected illegally from Phuket waters.

Just past the shops are whole sharks for sale. I was offered a shark at 200 baht per kilogram just yesterday. It's the most depressing soi in Phuket.

The authorities need to act.

*Joe Blasy
Gazette forum*

Phuket Gazette

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Upgrade service to get quality tourists

FIRST PERSON

I'M NOT one of those people who think we should aim for higher and higher tourist numbers. In fact, I think tourism in Phuket is growing too fast to control right now.

Hotels are being built without proper support facilities, like wastewater and garbage management systems, and our public transportation system is inadequate. We want people to enjoy all that Phuket has to offer, but if they can't get around easily, how can they?

It's often said that we should seek quality tourists in order to generate higher revenue from fewer people. The way I see it, this starts with us. To attract quality, we have to offer quality. Our focus should be on providing quality service.

Take transportation as one example. Because we don't have adequate public transportation, we have illegal taxis. The high rates they charge attract people to the job, which multiplies the number of illegal taxis. Some of those drivers try to make more money by taking tourists to shops that offer the drivers a commission on sales. Tourists feel rightly upset by this.

A good public transportation system would really help us promote Phuket, and is one way to offer quality service.

I don't mean to suggest that low-budget tourists aren't welcome in Thailand. Everyone is



Anoma Wongyai, 44, a Phuket native, has been the Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket and Phang Nga Office since March. She has a Master's of Tourism from James Cook University in Queensland, Australia and has been working for TAT since she was 21 years old.

Here, she talks about how quality service must come before quality tourists, and says that Thailand's main selling point is still its people.

welcome, anytime.

To my mind, Thailand's selling point is still what it's always been: the kindness of our people and Thai smiles. This fits with our slogan for this year: "Amazing Thailand: It begins with the people."

We should promote the kind of activities that bring tourists closer to Thais, and allow them to have good emotional experiences. Such activities include cooking classes, learning Thai boxing and even living with local people.

If visitors like our people, they will like our place; if they like our place, they will come back.

We aren't just marketing to foreigners, we're also selling Phuket to Thais, but in a different way, of course. We even have a different slogan for our Thai audience: *Long Rak Muang Thai* (Fall in love with Thailand).

We want Thais to think of domestic travel as a way to help each other. With international tourism income down, Thais who travel within the country could make a contribution to our economy.

Other than that, we have trips aimed at what interests Thais; for example, religious tours, because Thais like to make merit. We are also offering bike tours, called "Two legs travel" and sports events such as marathons. And we have road shows in a number of provinces that advertise Phuket.

Not only do we promote Phuket, but we also promote Phang Nga. It's easy for me to maintain tourist numbers in Phuket because it's such a well-known place. If it seems like the island is getting overcrowded, I suggest Phang Nga to people who like nature or are looking for a quieter, more private place.

Our aim is to give people a wonderful holiday in Phuket or Phang Nga, and make them fall in love with us – not too much, but forever.



Development found even remote Christmas Island. Photo: DIBP Images

No island is immune

I ONCE lived for a short time on another island, a tiny speck of volcanic rock, surrounded by seemingly endless ocean, more than 500 kilometers south of Java and almost 2,600km northwest of Perth.

Christmas Island, as it is known, is the epitome of the remote, exotic, island paradise, difficult and expensive to get to and only rarely visited by tourists.

The flight there served to reinforce my romantic views. As I sat in a nearly empty airliner, I felt like a modern day Marco Polo, off to explore a mysterious land.

When I left the island months later, my notion that there still remained unspoiled places on this crowded earth was shattered.

To be sure, it was a place of great beauty and played host to a unique and wonderful array of wildlife not found anywhere else on earth. However, its remoteness provided no immunity to the ravages of the modern world; rather, it provided a cloak of distance under which abuses of the law and of the environment could be hidden.

Phosphate mining by indentured Chinese laborers, begun in the late 1800s, slowly encroached on virgin jungle. Then mining was surpassed as the centerpiece of the tiny economy by another form of migration – refugees fleeing their war-torn countries for the imagined safety of Australia.

Travelling by boat to reach the Australian mainland, they were

Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

intercepted, taken to Christmas Island, denied their rights under international law and left to languish in the purpose-built prison constructed to house them.

Along with the new prison came a swarm of bureaucrats, guards and others whose job it was to run it. This invasion of nearly 2000 people (I confess, I was one of them – a volunteer running social programs inside the prison), there to cater for the 400 or so prisoners, put further strain on the environment.

Now, when I look at the many development problems facing Phuket, I try not to despair. Like many, I cheer on the small but significant achievements of the last month, which have seen beaches cleared of illegal structures and progress made on national park encroachment.

But my optimism is tempered by the understanding that development is here to stay. Whether you are connected to a mainland by a bridge or surrounded by millions of square miles of open ocean, the only thing that matters is that the development be directed in a sensible and sustainable way, so we don't lose all of the things that once inspired our romantic ideas of island life.

Issues & Answers...

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

Who can I call to get a camp fence put up?

Who is responsible for worker camps in Rawai? There has been a worker camp and construction dump on Soi Samakki 2 for seven years, and there is no fence for about 20 meters.

Everyone can see into it and it's not a pretty sight. They need to put up a permanent fence, like all other worker camps.

Paddy Rawai

Surachad Jimied, Director of the Division of Public Health of Rawai Municipality, replies:

Two divisions are responsible for worker camps in Rawai. Anything connected to health is the concern of the Public Health Division; anything connected to construction is the responsibility of the Engineering Division. We usually inspect camps together to make sure that they are complying with the law.

It is not against the law to set up worker camps or dump garbage on private land. Furthermore, the law does not require camps to have fences around them.

As for garbage, the Rawai Municipality only recommends storing garbage in proper containers to make it easier for garbage trucks to pick it up.

I am not familiar with the site you mentioned. I will contact the Engineering Division and arrange an inspection of the site.

Is swimming allowed at Bang Wad?

Every time I go to Bang Wad Dam I see people bathing in the reservoir, doing their laundry and recently two were even swimming with the aid of inner tubes.

I've also seen a minibus and motorcycle being washed by the side of the road and the dirty water running off into the reservoir.

The water in the reservoir is clearly intended as drinking water, so this can't be very hygienic.

Are these activities permitted?

There also seem to be a lot more people living there. Is it permitted to erect dwellings and clear patches of forest along the shores of reservoirs?

Ian Phuket

Kroeksak Leenanon, Head of the Engineering Department of Royal Irrigation Phuket Office, replies:

We are in charge of looking after the dam. Thank you for letting us know about your concern.



No swimming, laundering or car washing that pollutes the water is allowed. Photo: Gazette file

People are not supposed to bathe, wash clothes or cars or do anything else that could make the reservoir water dirty.

I will have my staff go out and inspect the area. If people are polluting the water, we will order them to stop. If they don't stop, we will pass the case to the police.

As for the construction and land clearing: some of the property around the dam is privately owned. The owners have the right to clear their land or build on it if they wish.

Anyone who has information regarding the misuse of the dam may report it (in Thai only) to our office at 076-321 461, Monday to Friday, between 8:30 and 4:30.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Get out of debt

MANY people in the world carry around a large and heavy burden on their minds, and one that carries with a negative return on their overall net worth. Debt has its uses, such as financing a home that you could never afford to pay 100% cash up front on, but too often people carry around useless debt at high interest rates because they have never taken the time to create a plan to get debt free and then have the discipline to stick to it.

I always recommend anyone in the earning stage of their life to consistently save no

Finance

By David Mayes

less than 10% of their income towards future needs such as retirement and kid's schooling fees. If you are saddled down with debt, you need to take a similar approach and come up with a number that you can realistically set aside each pay check towards getting debt free. After all, investments returns are never guaranteed and can actually be negative. Paying down debt however, is a guaranteed positive return to the precise figure of the interest rate that the debt is accruing at.

If you use the same number



Breaking and staying free of debt is the best thing you could do for your finances. Photo: Andres Rueda

as a minimum, for instance 10%, this when combined with your savings leaves you with 80% of your income to pay your bills and have a bit of entertainment, etc. You may look at your finances when drafting such a plan and think it is impossible. If this is the case, look through your normal discretionary spending habits and see if there aren't in fact places where you can make sacrifices which won't really have that much of a bearing on your overall happiness in life.

Eating breakfast in the local restaurant every day is nice, but once you get in the habit of making

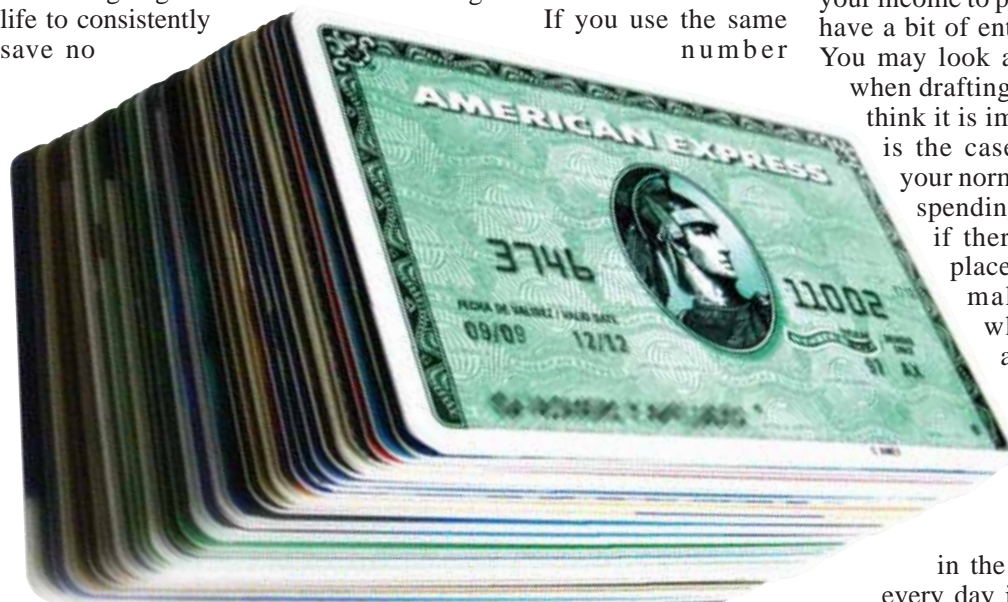
your own eggs and coffee you might find that you actually like your own cooking better. Instead of drinks at the trendy bar as your socializing you might find that inviting a few friends around your place is just as satisfying yet costs a whole lot less.

It all boils down to the principle that you can usually end up with more total net purchasing power over the course of your lifetime by making sacrifices in consumption now in favour of consumption in the future. You obviously need to strike a balance, as I do not recommend waiting until you are ninety years old to finally brave going out to the night club and letting loose. However, taking the time now to get out of debt will allow you to either invest or spend the money that you would be using in future years to make interest or

principal payments on that debt.

Credit card debt is by far the worst, as it typically carries the highest interest rates. Plan your path to being debt free by making minimum payments across all of your debts. With the excess start paying down the extra principal on your debts with the highest interest rates. This will most likely always be credit cards. Once you are debt free, you will be very glad you took the time to plan for it and had the discipline to stick to that plan.

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.



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Insights of a veteran hotelier

By Jeremie Schatz

AT 59 years young, Gerard Tan has some years behind him, but he doesn't let that slow him down.

"We should go out and drink one night," says Tan as he settled down to a strong coffee in the courtyard of the Millennium Resort Patong.

However, he can't be blamed for his festive mood. After a seven-year stint as the general manager (GM) of the serene Racha resort on Koh Racha, he traded in the tranquility for the more raucous surroundings of the Millennium Resort Patong eight months ago. The fact that he just secured a powerful position at a huge resort in Sabah, Malaysia, adds even more motivation to celebrate.

Although Gerard is celebrating his lucrative new position, his history in Phuket reaches back 25 years, which adds a pang of sadness as he says goodbye to a quarter century's worth of friends.

Starting out waiting tables as a 16-year-old in Singapore, Gerard's is a classic tale of an ambitious, young, hard-working man fighting his way up the hospitality ladder.

"I started in the hotel industry at the age of 16 and became a food and beverage manager at age 28 or 29," recalls Gerard.

While on holiday in Phuket, Gerard got the idea to invite chefs, culinary artists and Thai boxers to the Boulevard Hotel to host a Thai food fair and cultural attraction.

Next thing he knew, Gerard was invited by the Phuket Island Resort to revamp their food and beverage department, this post was followed by

a string of GM positions at The Crown in Nai Yang, Baan Thai in Patong, The Racha and finally the Millennium Resort Patong.

"Someone gave me an offer I couldn't refuse as deputy CEO of an integrated resort complex in

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. It is a big property, about 380 acres with two hotels – five-star – 500 rooms each, 27-hole golf course with a golf club, a marina that can accommodate 105 boats, a condo and a clubhouse. It's a very big challenge for me," exclaims Gerard with confident enthusiasm.

On July 15, after 22 years as a GM, Gerard will step into a new set of shoes at the Sutera Harbour Resort located in the northern part of Malaysia owned Borneo. There are currently four GMs operating at the sprawling five-star resort which is owned by renowned Singaporean businessman Sam Goi Seng Hui.

The hospitality industry isn't quite the same as it was when Gerard first found himself here.

"Twenty-five years ago, as a hotelier, you held the ace because there was no competition... you didn't have any of the international branding that exists here. Now, the client holds all the aces."

Gerard is quick to confirm what many others are predicting for the future of the hospitality industry in Phuket – an over-saturated market.

"The best of the best will be the only ones that survive, and it will also depend on the market segment of the clientele. If a hotel is running below 100 rooms, it's not [going to be] easy for them, they can focus only on couples, backpackers – especially those who don't cater to a niche market. For those who have 200

In every job, it is very important to base it on your inner personality, your strength – and your strength is always your values – your integrity, your honesty, your sincerity, your willingness to listen and motivate. Through this strength, you will gain respect and through respect is how you will get things done.

rooms and above – it's the location, the name of the property, the branding, the service, the facilities and amenities that can draw more groups."

Gerard is not one to second-guess himself. When asked about



After 22 years of being the GM of several Phuket resorts, Gerard Tan is saying goodbye. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

difficulties he has dealt with in his tenure in the business, he is quick to answer, "In the hospitality industry, the biggest challenge I face is customer satisfaction.

Sometimes you get real rotten apples and everyone wants to see the GM."

But he knows every problem can be solved, "We just have to balance it correctly and to be fair and to see where the fault lies. You see, it's not the discount or the money value or complimentary dinner, it's how you show to the clientele that as the general manager, that you are focused and that you take great interest in listening to their prob-

lems or their issues and you try your best to solve them."

Sometimes in life, it's possible for people to ride the wake created by their attitude and reputation. Gerard is a case in point – he has never applied for a job. All of his employers have searched him out and he credits that fact to his approach to life and work.

"In every job, it is very important to base it on your inner personality, your strength – and your strength is always your values – your integrity, your honesty, your sincerity, your willingness to listen and motivate. Through this strength, you will gain respect and through respect is how you will get things done.

"If your staff doesn't respect you, you can be the most intelligent general manager and never

get anything done. I think that is the nature of the beast. That is what I was taught by my parents at a very young age."

In addition to his philosophy, resorts search out Gerard because he has a proven track record. In 1996, he was the first foreigner to receive the Best Management and Employee Relationship Award from the Thai Ministry of Labour, and also helped The Racha resort earn multiple international awards, including "Top 10 Best Beach Resorts in South East Asia" by Asia Tatler Magazine in 2012.

Although Gerard is celebrating his next opportunity with a tinge of sadness, he maintains his positive outlook, "I think life is short so make the best out of it. What is most important is do what makes you happy."

Fishing industry denies labor claims

THE Thai fishery industry yesterday invited non-governmental organizations and private firms, as well as international government agencies, to inspect their plants and supply chains, insisting that the industry has strongly opposed forced labor.

"We dare to challenge NGOs and are willing to invite our customers to audit our factories and reveal information about employment," said Poj Aramwattananont, chairman of the Thai Fishery Producers Coalition, representing eight seafood and fisheries

associations.

He said that while it was true some wrongdoing had occurred in the past, "we can insist that we are strongly working on good labor practices and comply with international regulations".

In response to the US State Department's decision downgrade Thailand to Tier 3 for the worst human trafficking in its 2014 "Trafficking in Persons" (TIP) report, the Thai producers coalition has stressed its position that child and forced labor will not be tolerated.

The industry pledged full cooperation with Thai authorities to fight human trafficking.

The coalition emphasized that the US decision to downgrade Thailand was unfair. The Thai industry wants the truth to be told – that there is no slavery involved in the shrimp supply chain.

It said it had no interest in taking legal action against the industry's accusers or quarrelling, but would continue to prove that it has stringently screened out forced or child labor.

– The Nation

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Baba Wedding

The annual Phuket Baba Wedding ceremony took place last Sunday. Hundreds of men, women and children dressed in elegant traditional clothing took part in the procession along Thalang Road in Old Phuket Town. The procession stopped to pose for photographs in front of the Thai Hua Museum before moving on to the Blue Elephant restaurant for a lavish reception dinner.



One of the newly-wed couples paused for photos as they took part in the procession.



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut presents a photograph to one of the happily newly-wed couples at the reception dinner.



The newly-wed couples posed for pictures with friends and family in front of the Thai Hua Museum.



Young women looking radiant in their traditional costumes.

Fat Boy Grill grand opening

Cherng Talay's newest dining option, Fat Boy Grill, recently celebrated its grand opening with a party where guests were treated to a range of tasty treat different international cuisines.



Guests enjoyed a selection of sumptuous international dishes during the party.



From left: Fat Boy Grill owner Susan Borvornpotsakul, her mother Oey, and her father Tero.

Villa De Ceylon opens

The Villa De Ceylon condominium project celebrated its grand opening at O2 Beach Club last week. The modern Sino-Portuguese style condo is located near tranquil Chalong Bay.



From left: Thanet Kritphonchai, Villa de Ceylon project director; Pisarn Trangkasombat, owner of O2 Beach Club; Taisika Phraisangob; Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak; Puri Hiranprueck, Villa de Ceylon executive director; and Ann Laisuthruklai.

Gazette visits new TAT director



From left: Jantana Jaikwang, Phuket Gazette assistant sales manager; Anoma Vongyai, director of Tourism Authority of Thailand; and Krisana Matzenberger, PGTV sales manager.

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PROPERTY of the week

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAS PHUKET



See page 20

JOB of the week



East Marine

See page 23

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 25

BOAT of the week



See page 27

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Questions?
Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

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

Properties For Sale

OCEANFRONT FOR SALE

6.5 rai, waterfront. Chanote title. Email: Pktthai1@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.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Please call 081-691 25 26.

HABITOWN KOH KAEW FOR SALE

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012.

3-BEDROOMS 2-BATHROOMS IN COMPOUND

Villa in good compound with sport club. Furnished, opposite Laem Hin Seafood & Maeju, near PIADS. For more information, please call 081-719 0014. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

BUILDING BANGLA - PATONG

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

VILLA WITH POOL

4-bedrooms, pool villa for sale, fully furnished, 12.5 million baht or rent long term: 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-729 2989. Email: tabppg@gmail.com

LAND & HOUSES 88 NEW

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

LAND AND HOUSE PARK

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 2-storey house for sale. 200 sqm land, for photos. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attinitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

URGENT SALE

Anuphas Kathu, refurbished, 2-storey, 3-bedroom villa 4 sale. 081-968 4314 (English). Email: johnhideaway@hotmail.com

CHEAP LAND SALE

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

500,000 BAHT KAMALA LEASEHOLD

Hotel room, 30sqm, complex has 2 pools and jacuzzi. Tel: 084-716 0502.

PATONG FREEHOLD

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

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

PRIVATE POOL VILLA BANG TAO

Private 1-bedroom pool villa for sale in top condition with a large roof top sala. Only 800m to the Beach. Price: 9.5 million baht. Please call 081-606 5604 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketserenityvillas.com, www.phuketserenityvillas.com/saledetails.php?nom=RB001

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: Christophe.soula@hotmail.fr

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

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

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.

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

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

LAND SALES

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

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

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

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).

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

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

UNDER MARKET PRICE

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, Land & Houses Park, Cha-long. For photo please email: attivita phuket@yahoo.co.uk

BANG TAO HOUSE

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

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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

Properties For Rent

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 aircons. Tel: 087-266 7191.

2-BED HOUSE FOR RENT KATHU

2 beds / baths in gated community. Small garden, covered carport. Kitchen, cable TV, Internet, washing machine. Furnished. Next to golf course, 5 mins to Lotus, Central. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-893 9127 (English). Email: duncan@eclipsemarine.net

LOFT - STYLE FLATS KATHU

Furnished, quiet, secure, central location, gym in complex, 8,000-13,000 baht per month long-term. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

200SQM WAREHOUSE

Near Chalongs circle, modern lockup. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-082 5707.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Near BIS single house. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, airconditioners, furniture, kitchen. 28,000baht per month. For more information please call 081-892 1732. Email: ann@siammileage.com

INTERNATIONAL VILLAS PHUKET

New House 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Living room, Kitchen, Full furnished, Cable, Pool, Garden, Long-term year 35,000 baht / month.

Tel: 089-729 6244. (Nina)
Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

10/26 M. 10 Soi Big Buddha T. Chalongs A. Muang Phuket Thailand 83130

BANGTAO LUXURY POOL VILLA

For rent 100,000 baht per month. 500m to Bangtao beach. 3 bed / 3 bath plus maid's room. Available 1 July 2014. Tel: 076-325986, 089-867 7154.

LUXURY 1 BED PATONG

100 sqm, pool, fully furnished, WiFi. Price: 18,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

2-SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

One minute walk to beach. Ideal for restaurant, bar, massage. 2nd fl furnished as 2-bedroom apartment w/2 baths and kitchen. Tel: 084-189 7696 (English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

KATHU GOLF AND VALLEY VIEW VILLA

1, 2 and 3 bed Kathu golf and valley view villa. For rent, big pool, 4 km to BIS. Quiet, on top of a private hill. Fully furnished. Maid, WiFi, security. Long-term 35,000, 40,000 and 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492.

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

KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

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

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG

Fully furnished, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 094-595 2451, 094-595 1444. Email: rightherephuket@gmail.com

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW RAWAI

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

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

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. For more information please call 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

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

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

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: marklouise@hotmail.com

RENT OR SALE

Permsap villa. Two floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Close to Heroines' Monument. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG

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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS

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

**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 088-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

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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!**

SWEDISH STAFF

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

FOREMAN / ENGINEER KRABI

We are looking for a Foreman / Engineer for a development company in Krabi. If you speak some English, it's okay. Need to do your own calculations (boq) and check the work team so they do good and quick work. Location Krabi. Tel: 083-647 1095 (English & Thai), 081-968 3140 (English). Email: krister@krabisunset.com

MARKETING STAFF

Fast-growing real estate company is looking for marketing executives to join our property booth in Patong. Female / Thai national - Friendly personality and outgoing communication skills, fluent in English, multilingual is a plus. Good salary and attractive commission. Send your CV with recent photo to helena@phuketabc.com. Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Email: helena@phuketabc.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

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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

MULTIHULL SOLUTIONS

Growing fast and looking to hire someone with yacht sales experience. You would be based in Phuket, Thailand although some travel is expected. A very attractive commission structure offered for the right person along with a monthly retainer. You must be able to work unsupervised, enjoy being part of an Asia-Pacific team with big aspirations and have a proven track record in sales. Please send resume to andrew@multihullsolutions.asia

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

SALES ASSISTANT WANTED

Native English speaker to work as telephone sales assistant. Basic salary + apartment + commissions! Contact us now for more details. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.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

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

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

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

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

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

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

SW
socialwithwoulfe

Social Media Account Executive**Description:**

Social With Woulfe, is a social media agency that offers a range of services from social media strategy and management to reporting and campaign development. We require a Social Media Account Executive who is a social media native and has a passion for engaging audiences and sharing content. You will be at the forefront of creating content for numerous social media platforms. You'll be part of an exciting team that strives to be the best and offers the ideal office environment for your career progression.

The Role:

- Managing clients' social media platforms on their behalf.
- Researching Content for posting both images and news.
- Uploading messaging and key content (e.g. videos to YouTube, photos to Facebook).
- Assessment and reporting on social media campaign performance.
- Keeping abreast of cutting edge social media thinking and sharing key insights with social media analyst.
- Conducting regular market analysis and competitor reviews.
- Passionate about social media, read social media related magazines, and fascinated by the continual evolution of the internet and digital marketing.

Who we are looking for:

- Interest in social media for business use.
- Great verbal and written communication.
- Natural customer service focus.
- Quality focus / Attention to detail.
- Resourcefulness and creativity.
- Excellent planning and time-management.
- Demonstrate your capability to multi task.
- Good communication skills in English.
- Ability to write basic English.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a CV to HR Unit at: hr@socialwithwoulfe.com

for more information call 076 620 071.

Only the successful candidate will be notified of the outcome of the selection process.

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.aquamas ter.net/job.html

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: jtissier@aquamaster.net

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!**

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

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

PATONG

- NEW** **Andy's Real Estate Agency** (Opp. Savoy 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

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



East Marine Co., Ltd.
Well-established yacht equipment distributor located in Boat Lagoon Marina seeks to fill the following positions.

SALES AND MARKETING POSITION

- Fluent in English, spoken and written
- Excellent communication skills dealing with customers via email, telephone etc.
- Co-ordinate with teams and department involved, and ensure job is completed
- Set up marketing plans, promotions, on-line marketing, marketing kits, newsletters and emailing to increase sales volume
- Regularly report on sales, products that sell well and those that don't and come up with ideas and recommendations
- Track competitors and market to improve and develop performance of the company
- Minimum 5 years work experience

ACCOUNTANT POSITION

- Good spoken/written English
- Inventory and stock reports
- Staff time sheet calculation
- Good knowledge of accounting software
- Able to manage and assist with financial reports
- Thai national, aged 25 years up
- Minimum 5 years work experience

Qualified candidates please send CV and expected salary to

scott@eastmarineasia.com

SW
socialwithwoulfe



Junior Graphic Designer

Description:

Social With Woulfe, is a social media agency that offers a range of services from social media strategy and management to reporting and campaign development. We require a Junior Graphic Designer who is a social media native and has a passion for engaging audiences and sharing content. You will be at the forefront of creating content for numerous social media platforms. You'll be part of an exciting team that strives to be the best and offers the ideal office environment for your career progression.

The Role:

- Branding imagery to be posted on social media platforms.
- Assisting Art Director in the creation of mock up proposals.
- Assisting in the creation of website templates.
- Keeping abreast of cutting edge social media thinking and design sharing key insights with the team.

Who we are looking for:

- Interest in social media and design.
- Attention to detail.
- Initiative.
- Ability to listen and take constructive criticism.
- Excellent planning and time-management.
- Good communication skills in English.
- Desire to become a great designer.
- Passionate about and design, read and design related magazines, and fascinated by the continual evolution of the internet and digital marketing.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a CV to HR Unit at: hr@socialwithwoulfe.com

for more information call 076 620 071.

Only the successful candidate will be notified of the outcome of the selection process.

GM TOP ECO-RESORT KHAO SOK

Ideal candidate should speak Thai, be keen on environment, strong in web marketing, hospitality management experience. Farang with Thai partner welcome. Compensation 1.2 to 3 million baht per year depending on experience. Work permit, housing and meals provided. Tel: 02-8633180, 081-8503632 (English). Email: dicksandl@gmail.com <http://khaosokaccommodation.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: 081-9586879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-9685963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-2709772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

SALES MANAGER

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

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+ tips. Tel: 087-3842743(Thai). Email: info@yacht-charter-thailand.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

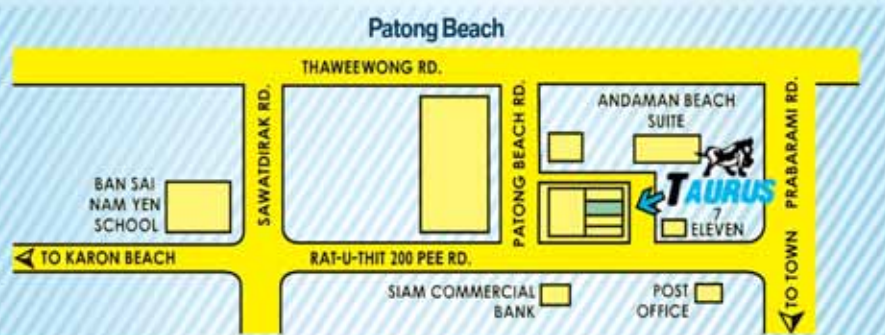
New 4-star hotel in Malaysia looking for young and energetic expat to run the food and beverage department. Previous experience in similar position not required but this position requires a strong kitchen background. Email: Nazri@ancasanet.com

NEED A MAID

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

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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Looking for a better candidate?

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Business Products & Services

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Car, Motorbike, Health, Travel, Property Service at home, call to make appointment. Tel: 087-267 4342 (English). Email: agentsmithr@gmail.com

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Tel: 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

VISA SERVICES

UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru



Accepting children 3 months old - 5 years old. 7am-7pm.

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

CALL NOW:
081-868 7676 (English).
080-525 3135 (Thai)

DINODAYCARECENTER

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE

Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Open daily 9am-10pm. For more information please call 092-464 8471.

40FT SEA CONTAINER

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

Golf Stuff

BLUE CANYON GOLF CLUB

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

Personal Services

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

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

Pets

ADOPT A DOG from Doggie Heaven

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

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



Personal Services Wanted

NANNY WANTED



I am looking for a full time Thai nanny for Angela - 3 years old. Must love kids. Flexibility important as it can be 15 hours one week and 40 hours another week. Full monthly salary, regardless of the hours spent. Must have a driver's license and speak English. Angela is in school from 8am-3pm. Working hours: after 3pm on week days and weekend work can appear. Please respond by email: torben@buskjensen.dk

Education



Oak Meadow International School

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

076 521 550

www.oakmeadowphuket.com



Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



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

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

Computers

IMAC

21.5" / 13,000 baht. 4GB RAM / 500GB HD. Wireless keyboard & mouse. For more information please call 076-510143.

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

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

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week

Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.

Channel 1, with 28 shows a week

Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.

Channel 4, with 21 shows a week

Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

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

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

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

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

Saloon Cars

2011 HONDA CIVIC

ABS and airbag, automatic, very good condition. 33,000 km. Price: 528,000 baht. Tel: 087-284 9501 (English), 084-864 3303 (English & Thai). Email: soidog@live.com

CHEVROLET AVEO 1.6 LSX

3.5 years old. One owner from new. Black leather seats. 12,600 km only. Price: 360,000 Baht. Call Michael. For more information please call 081-272 2392 (English). Email: michael@phuket-town.com

FORD RANGER, 4-DOOR, DIESEL

4 doors, diesel, with canopy. 135,000 km. Very good condition, year: 2005. Price: 275,000 baht. Tel: 076-273555, 081-979 4547 (English). Email: jean wass@yahoo.com.au

METALLIC SILVER TOYOTA FORTUNER



For sale: 750,000 baht, 3.0L diesel, 102,500km, 2007, excellent condition, no accidents. Tel: 093-580 6778.

IMMACULATE HONDA JAZZ

2012 Honda Hybrid Jazz. Full warranty & extended battery warranty. Pre-insurance until October. Only 27,000km. 525,000 baht. Tel: 088-491 3857, 088-753 6897 (Thai). Email: mdrannan@freshgardenfarms.com

CAMRY 2.0G

82,000km. Black. New paint. First-class insurance. Price: 675,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 4480.

FORTUNER 3.0L 4WD

2008 black, only 47,000 km, 1 farang owner, to-yota serviced, never crashed. 750,000 baht. Tel: 087-469 3151 (English), 081-895 2165 (English&Thai). Email: williamsanig@yahoo.co.uk

Motorbikes

2011 CBR 250R FOR SALE

Green book and well maintained. 25,xxx km. 69,000 baht. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

HONDA ST 1300 CC PERFECT

The ultimate sport tourer, fast and luxurious, as new, great price. For more information, please call 086-950 7788 (English). Email: simon@kingsi.mon.com Web: http://tinyurl.com/HONDA-ST-1300-FOR-SALE

2007 BMW F800S

798cc with Green book, tax and insurance paid until March 2015. 61,xxxkm. Price: 250,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-187 1417 (English). Email: jasmedia@gmail.com

YAMAHA 400 XJ

Year 1981, needs refit, exhaust defect, rust. 40,000 baht o.b.o. Green book. Tel: 086-281 1264. Email: wolframphuket@gmail.com

HONDA FORZA



As new, 11,000km. For sale: 125,000 baht. Personal use, never rented. Please call 084-054 81 22.

Pick-ups

FORD RANGER 2010



4 door, diesel, 3LT Turbo 5 speed automatic, excellent condition. price: 440,000 baht. Tel: 086-691 8626.

CHEVROLET TRUCK

Black, diesel, vec 250,000 baht. Kamala. For more information, please call 083-982 9105 (English & Thai).

ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



4WD, 2008, automatic, 105,000km, 4 new tyres. Price: 460,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-894 6968.

ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z



Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapestate@mail.ru

Rentals

FORD SUV FOR RENT



SUV, cars, minivan for rent. Good price, delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567 (English&Thai). Email: suksavat@hotmail.com www.phuket-car rent.net

A1 CAR RENT



Accommodation service included, fully insured. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.com

HONDA CITY 11,000 / MONTH



Cars, minibus, SUV for short or long-term rent and delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com www.phuket-car rent.net

HONDA CLICK 2,000 BAHT / MONTH

Honda Air Blade: 2,000 baht monthly. Call today. Tel: 087-279 5110.

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice. Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact Khun Lerd
Tel: 087-263 6706
(Proton Showroom)

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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Khun Anand: 076-396911
081-536 5550

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SINCE 1997

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Feature Boat

► Pershing 92 4,500,000 Euro **OWNER WANTS OFFERS**

► Wally Tender \$390,000 USD **NEW LISTING**

► AIDhaen 360SF \$78,000 USD **REDUCED AND MUST SELL**

► Pershing 64 Price on Application **GREAT DEAL**

► Riviera 37 \$225,000 USD **REDUCED**

► Morgan 60 \$399,000 USD **NEW LISTING**

► North Wind 60 250,000 Euro **PRICE REDUCTION**

► Jeanneau 45 SO Performance \$199,000 USD **PRICE REDUCTION**

► Island Packet 40 120,000 Euro **RECOMMENDED**

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

leemarine.com

SUZUKI MARINE

SHOWROOM IS NOW OPEN!

Suzuki authorized dealer

- New Suzuki Outboard Engines from 2.5 to 300 hp
- Suzuki spare parts
- Hypalon built Forward Inflatable boats
- Trailers
- Yacht and Boat Equipment
- Accessories and wide range of other goods

We provide warranty service, maintenance and diagnostics in our specialized Service Department for every Suzuki engine bought in our shop.

In our shop we also sell comfortable cruising boats from Japan, 24-28ft in length, ideally suitable for family recreation or fishing.

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

SUZUKI MARINE TEL. 092-265 7221. 076-390585.

DECK HAND

For 31m motor yacht. Yacht Haven Marina. To handle lines and anchor, clean inside and out. Live aboard. Thai National. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-417 8715 (English).

HOBIE CAT 16'

New main, beach wheels, mast float, cover, life jackets. 155,000 baht. Chalong. Tel: 087-976 0066 (English). Email: peterfb999@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'

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

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

42FT BERTRAM SPORT FISHER

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

HOBIE CAT 17

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@food comthailand.com

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER

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

13-METER CRUISER

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

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

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

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-6264969 (English) Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wana doo.fr

BOAT INSURANCE LBI

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

- Boat insurance quotations from different insurers
- Competitive rates
- Comprehensive coverage
- All other types of insurance provided

Contact Khun Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane at our office Phuket Boat Lagoon
 paew@lambertbrothers.co.th Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

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

HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT

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

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: 8. INFIELD: in-field 9. PESSIMIST: *imissstep* 13. BLEEP: b-L-eeP 14. FRONT: Fr.-*not* 15. CHASING: Chas.-gin 16. STRETCH: St.-retch 17. ENNUI: *nine(U)* 18. UNION: U-N-I-on 20. STEED: *pasteedge* 22. NOTING: nothing 23. TAMING: *mating* 25. BUTCHER: but-cher 27. POLEMIC: *police(M)* 30. PALING: p-aling 31. PILEUP: pile up 32. MELON: me-L-on 35. PAYER: *repay* 36. OFFER: of-Fe-R 37. ROADMAP: *oradamp* 39. CREATOR: *reactor* 41. RELIT: (L)*tire* 42. NAIVE: *avine* 43. KANOMPANG: *pangmanok* 44. EVASION: *isaveon*

Down: 1. INGEAR: in gear 2. DISPUTED: *sidedput* 3. CLIFFHANGER: bluff-*hernag* 4. PERTINENT: per-tin-ten 5. PSYCHIC: si'-kick 6. IMMACULATE: *amuteclaim* 7. ASTI: as-it[up] 10. ABASES: A.B.-*seas* 11. HONESTY: (E)*notshy* 12. EGGNOG: egg-no-G 19. INITIAL: in-it-i-a-L 21. EQUALLY: *ayquell* 24. COOPERATIVE: *acovetopie* 26. CONTRIBUTION: *icontortin* 28. DIFFERENT: *findfree-T* 29. FEBRILE: *feelrib* 30. PAPACY: *cappay* 32. MEANNESS: intend-head 33. NIPPER: nip-*rep* 34. CORRUPT: Co.-R-R-*put* 38. MAITON: *aminto* 40. ELAN: el-a-N

COFFEE break

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

**DO YOU WANT TO FLY,
AND BECOME A
GYRO PILOT?**

Book a trial: 0935 92 7558
A member of Phuket Deluxe Group

Gazette hosts Asian News Network

The Phuket Gazette recently hosted members of the Asian News Network, the delegation included members of the region's top media organizations. The representatives discussed media coverage to mark ten years since a devastating Tsunami struck the region.



From left: Marn Thu Shein, Daily Eleven; Simon Hand, PGTV; June HL Wong, Star Group; Tan Hui Yee, Straits Times; Leanne Goh Lee Yen, Star Group; Chin Mui Yoon, Star Group; Pana Janviroj, Asia News Network; John Magee, Phuket Gazette; Robin Powell, DPA International; Pipope Panitpakdi, Nation Group; Isaac Simonelli, Phuket Gazette; and Chris Husted, Phuket Gazette.

Thanyapura hosts Nike

Thanyapura recently welcomed the Nike Sports Marketing team, organizers of the Nike Manchester United Premier Cup South East Asia Finals 2014. The match was a great success, with Thailand's team emerging as the winner and going on to join the finals in Manchester, UK.



From left: Virapol Cholvibul, Thanyapura's director of sports events; Ernest Rodriguez, sports marketing executive for Nike Malaysia; Lili Yuniarti, sports marketing executive for Nike Indonesia; Andrew Kwong, head of Nike Sports Marketing for Southeast Asia; Shashidhara Murthy, sports marketing executive for Nike India; Sasis Singtothong, sports marketing manager for Nike Thailand; Debbie Dionysius, Thanyapura's director of marketing; and Kittirat Na Ranong.

QSI graduation

Parents, teachers, and of course students, of QSI International School gathered at the Angsana Laguna Phuket ballroom last Friday to hold the school's 2014 graduation ceremony. Inspiring speeches, tears of joy, plenty of nostalgia and bright plans for the future were shared in a warm and friendly atmosphere.



The QSI International School class of 2014.



QSI School Director Patrick Buckley posed for pictures with this year's crop of graduates.

Two Chefs Midsummer's Eve

Two Chefs in Kata Center recently celebrated a traditional Midsummer's Eve. Guests enjoyed a huge buffet with lots of Scandinavian specialties such as smoked salmon, pickled herrings and liver pate. The famous Two Chefs house band was also there to entertain everyone until the late hours.



From Left: Two Chefs Co-owners Krister Westberg and Henrik Ojelind.

TOT Smart Hotel Seminar

The Tourism Authority of Thailand held a Smart Hotel Seminar where hotel managers and staff could learn more about effectively managing their IT infrastructure and software.



From left: Nitipong Sounsuwan, King Intelligent Technology; Prasit Chukeaw, TOT; Winai Sang Khawijit TOT; Sorrawit Aemptak, TOT; Kreangsak Phodee, Advice Holding Group.

Words from the wise:

"Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change."
— Stephen Hawking

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."
— Michael Jordan

Medium

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

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

Hard

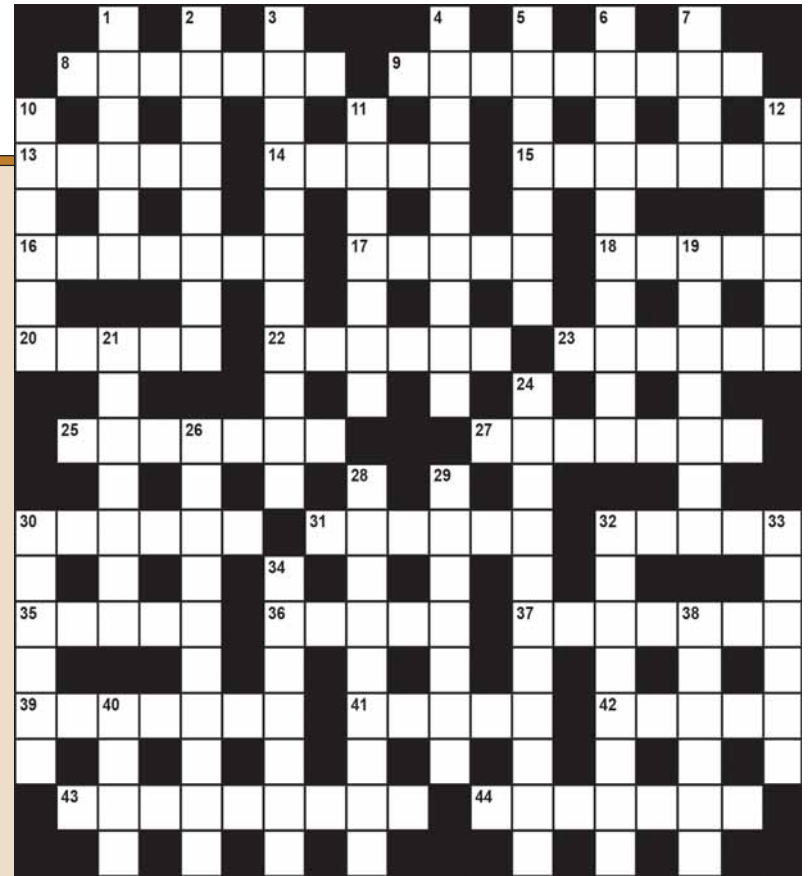
1			9					8
	3	8		1	6			
		9			2		6	
5	9			2	4			
3								2
			6	9			4	5
	2		8			5		
			2	4		6	3	
9					1			4

COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

8. One new area in the center of the sportsground (7)
9. Defeatist, I miss step out (9)
13. Beep out of line making a short high noise (5)
14. Father not out of face (5)
15. Following, little Charles mixes gin (7)
16. Reach good man, heave (7)
17. Nine. Possibly turn in from boredom (5)
18. Turn Nationalist Island on merger (5)
20. Paste edge, remove page showing warhorse (5)
22. Recording nothing, losing an hour (6)
23. Domesticating, maybe mating (6)
25. But dear in France for meat trader (7)
27. Police maybe hold male for tirade (7)
30. Piece of the fence is losing color (6)
31. Heap one on top of the other, have serious accident (4,2)
32. Myself left on getting fruit (5)
35. Repay, possibly, one who gives what is due (5)
36. Of iron railway put on the market (5)
37. Or a damp mess of the strategy (4,3)
39. Re. actor becoming inventor (7)
41. Left damaged tire out and set fire to again (5)
42. A vine turned green (5)
43. Pang, man? O.K., arrange bread in Thailand (9)
44. I save no distorted excuse (7)



Down

1. Ready to start in fashionable clothing (2,4)
2. Disagreed, sided, put out (8)
3. Bluff her, nag about suspenseful story (11)
4. For each can move ten to the point (9)
5. Medium indistinctly sounds like side-kick! (7)
6. A mute claim about being spotless (10)
7. Wine, as it turns up (4)
10. Humbles sailor on strange seas (6)
11. Out East, not shy about integrity (7)
12. Encourage no grand sort of punch (6)
19. In it I, a Liberal, opening (7)
21. Ay, quell disturbance uniformly (7)
24. A covert op., i.e., could be collaborative (11)
26. I contort in unusual remorse (10)
28. Find free arranged time not the same (9)
29. Feverish, feel rib broken (7)
30. Cap pay, perhaps, for Vatican office (6)
32. Intend Head to show lack of kindness (8)
33. Lad to pinch rep. back (6)
34. Unprincipled Company right. Right put out! (7)
38. Am into new island off Phuket! (6)
40. For the Spanish, a new vivacity (4)

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



As the Sun glides into Leo and joins with Jupiter, a positive and happy-go-lucky mood can take hold. With your confidence stronger, exploring creative and romantic options can open doors. Furthermore, as Mars enters Scorpio, your resolve can deepen. Indeed, all-around it seems you now have some traction which might push you to resolve a critical situation.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Go easy as a conversation could be rather intense early on this week, which might encourage sulky silences. Yet, such a temporary spat could quickly melt away as positive vibes on the home front bring a smile to your face. Indeed, this week can be excellent for entertaining or creative DIY. Plus, romance-wise, a new-felt passion can enliven a key relationship.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



As Uranus rewinds, your friends can find new ways to inspire or ironically meddle in your

plans on occasion. Yet, this long-term influence could initiate a reunion with people you haven't seen in a while. Later, a new moon in Leo might help to kick start negotiations or bring a more positive response to an advert or piece of news.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Though a tense conversation may cause concern, an upturn in finances will very likely improve your mood. As the sun links with Jupiter, you might get a small windfall or find that a job you're qualified for comes with a bigger salary. Plus, as Mars drives into Scorpio, renewed enthusiasm for a creative project could spur you onwards and upwards.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



You'll be in your element as the sun enters your sign, and find yourself feeling more in control and ready to tackle those projects that have been awaiting your attention. A sun-Jupiter link might encourage a decision to expand your options, as can the new moon on Saturday, especially if you're ready to implement a positive and life-enhancing new direction.

YOUR
horoscope
By Isla Star

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Your social life continues to buzz with opportunities for fun and entertainment. In addition, an intense chat on Tuesday could be the catalyst for a major decision. However, as the sun eases into Leo, you'll enter that time of the year when it helps to ease back on the throttle and recharge your batteries, as doing so can bring many benefits.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



As Uranus reverts, a key relationship may change perhaps becoming unpredictable, yet in the process, more exciting. Meetings or planned projects might also be subject to disruption, so you'll need to remain flexible. However, delightful social options can brighten your mood while renewed optimism around finances may well ease any anxious thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You might be inclined to speak your mind, leading to a positive improvement concerning an important matter. In addition, your place in the spotlight may be assured as a lovely line-up suggests you'll stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons. Later this week, as your co-ruler Mars enters your sign, your determination to succeed can kick in big time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Though you'll still need to keep an eye on money matters, the desire to go places and take on challenges may fuel a decision to explore fresh options. Inspired by this week's blend of energies, you might want to start a course of study or make some novel travel plans. Yet, analyzing your dreams and deeper motivations could be revealing too.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



A desire to look into a special opportunity may conflict with family and personal matters that require a different kind of re-

sponse. Perhaps you'll need to employ intuitive awareness to get to the heart of issues which might not be easy to resolve. Yet, where finances are concerned, your confidence can reach a new high this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



This very sociable week can bring fun connections and invites that look promising. This kind of interaction could pave the way for new opportunities and see new options open up delightfully – with the new moon on Saturday also helpful around any partnerships. In addition, career matters can get a boost with Mars enhancing motivation.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Though romance and creative ventures could be problematic, the same cannot be said about health and lifestyle issues, which have been significantly boosted by the presence of Jupiter. This week's alignments suggest that a sassy approach to seeking out employment, and to developing a routine that enables you to feel fit and fabulous, can both work wonders.

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 4, 2014, 6-11:30pm. 4th of July @ Two Chefs Kata Center
Let's celebrate the 4th of July with a large buffet with American classics: BBQ pork ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, cajun chicken drum sticks, wagyu beef burgers, beef chili, tacos, chicken fajitas, fire cracker grilled Salmon, bacon and cheddar potato skins, hot dogs, ceasar salad, coleslaw, cherry pie, cup cakes, chocolate brownies and much more. All this for only 695 baht. Children under 12 years: 350 baht (under 3: free). Two chefs' house band will entertain you this evening with an all-night American classics set list. It will surely last long into the night. Come for the food and stay for the fun. For more information call 076-330 065 Email katacenter@twochefs.com or go to twochefs.com

July 4, 2014, 6-11:30pm. 10th annual Independence day
Come to Friendship Beach Resort on the 4th of July for the 10th annual Independence Day Celebration! Featuring Dj Bobby D, a huge buffet, fireworks and a welcome drink! 790 baht ++ per adult and 395 baht for children under 12 years old. For reservations, call Charlie on 089-728 5304 or Montri on 090-883 9237.

July 5. Tour de France

The Tour de France is an annual multiple stage bicycle race primarily held in France while also occasionally making passes through nearby countries.

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 13. 2014 FIFA World Cup final.

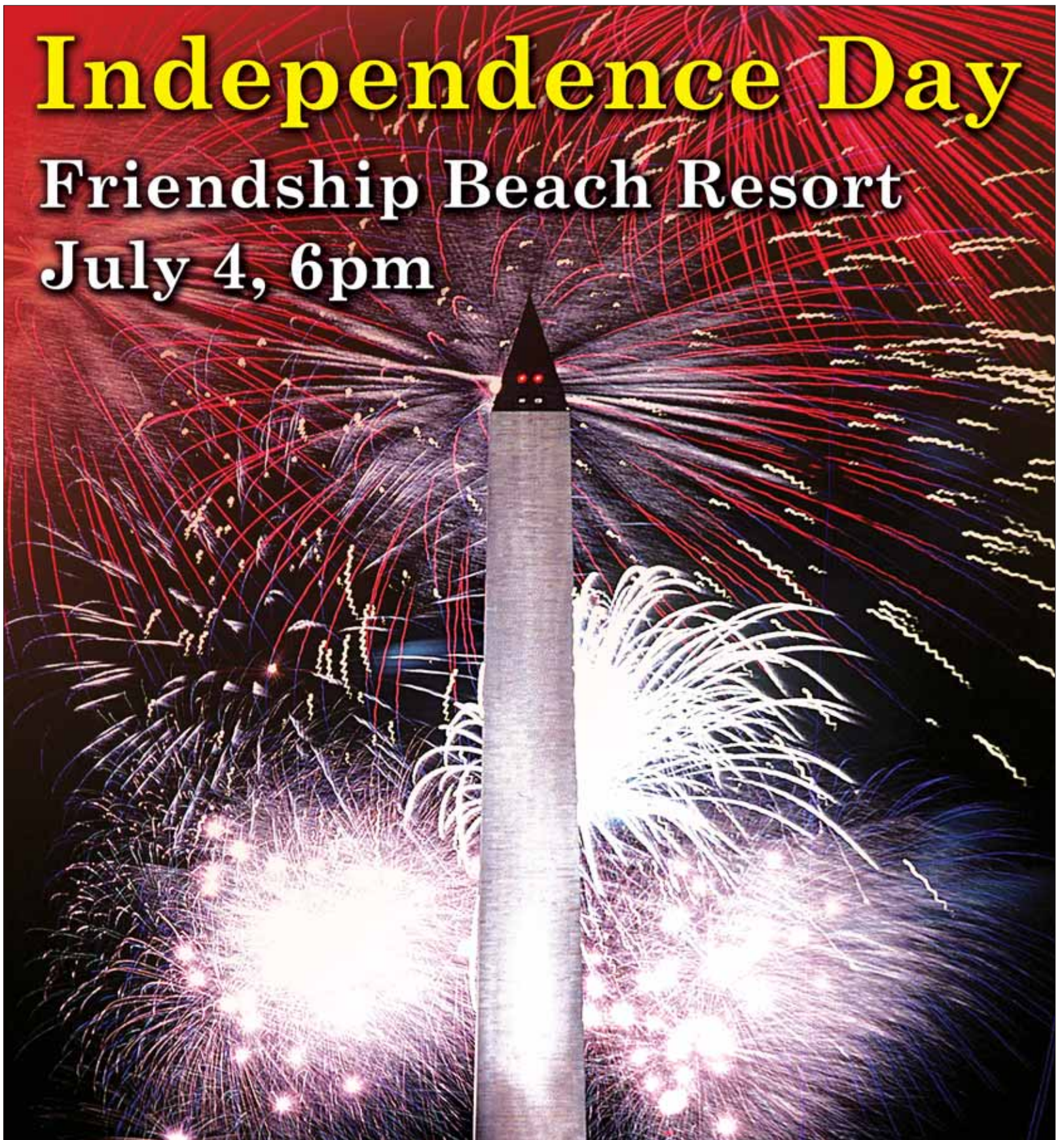
Final game of 2014 FIFA World Cup will take place in Rio de Janeiro

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, also Mother's Day.



Aug 25. US Open

The United States Open Tennis Championships is a hardcourt tennis tournament, one of the oldest tennis championships in the world.

Sep 19 Asian Games

The Asian Games, also known as Asiad, is a Pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. This year's edition takes place in Incheon, South Korea.

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

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

November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament

Registration is on the evening of November 19 from 6pm onwards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weigh station will be at the Tamarind on all three fishing days, November 20-22. The final evening and prize giving party will also

be held at the Tamarind. In an effort to showcase individual team skills, the rules of the tournament (PIST) this year have been designed to allow teams to fish the event as they would while fun fishing.

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

Dec 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday

His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87th Birthday.

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.



Chasing the Indian monsoon

Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

DAWN breaks over India as we head east backed by a strong tail wind. My mind recoils back to the days of punk rock and the strange tribal ritual of pogo dancing. This is exactly how I feel – like I'm pogo dancing – as the plane gyrates through bad weather. The monsoon has come, and apparently didn't get enough sleep last night, causing angry jolts in midair which have most of the passengers sporting white knuckles.

I have a love-hate relationship with the subcontinent, which is the result of having travelled from north to south and east to west across it in every possible mode of transport during the 90s. A year passed slowly, though Kingfisher beer, *daal* and a new found appreciation for cricket helped while away the time.

These days, coming and going from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi is actually a pleasure, which is made even more advantageous when I spot a Starbucks. The only downside – it's 4:30am in the morning, what an insanely early flight.

As many of you know, many Indians are not shy. Take the man

sitting next to me as I type away, he's read every word and even started asking questions.

All week, I lived on the edge of the coming monsoon, the temperature rose to 48 degrees and pedestrians gasped for air. Even those large black pigs that wander about the city sidewalks seemed to be sweating a storm.

Of course, the new India does become a problem once you actually leave the airport – sagging shock absorbers on an ageing taxi leave your bottom battered and bruised. And then the beggars come to life at each and ever intersection, as the street side serenade comes alive.

The up-and coming business city of Gurgaon remains a paradoxical example of the human puzzle, where shiny new cyber malls rub elbows with bottomless muddy roads and cars parked everywhere. For hotels, this is a golden age, as I drive through the Aero City, where the spanking new JW Marriott, Holiday Inn, Lemon Tree have opened their doors and coming soon will be a Hyatt, Pullman, ibis, Aloft, Novotel and more – all tidily sitting on their sites like they were on an invisible Monopoly board.

My transport today, as the weather starts to clear and there is a pause in the group prayers, is provided by IndiGo Airlines. What



The Sahara Mall, along with scores of international hotels makes a stark, contrast to the backstreets and alleyways of the bustling business city of Gurgaon. Photo: Siddhartha Shukla

a commercial marvel, 31 per cent market share, 82 per cent load factor and something even more interesting in the Indian aviation context – it is an airline that actually makes money. No Air India's or even the late great Kingfisher can compare here. With fashionable retro uniforms and a push for on-time departures, this airline really works. I rub my eyes, is this the new India? Yes, no and maybe is the correct answer.

Culture in Asia is rapidly amalgamating and is now further sped up by technology, growing wealth and a youthful population, yet as much of Southeast Asia has gone vanilla, the Indian way remains profoundly compelling. There is nothing simple here.

A few years ago, India rolled



Love it or not, India does stick out in a crowd of bland same-same countries Photo: Bill Barnett

out one of the greatest tourism campaigns of our time – “Incredible India”. It was vivid, bold and moving. Yes, for broad leisure tourism the expected monsoon of new visitors did not come. As of late the issue of violence against woman has created a global onslaught of bad public relations that

continues to hover over the nation. Still, with the elections and a new head of state, there is optimism and a feeling of great hope coming from most of the people I spoke to during my trip.

Life plays out certain patterns for all of us, which seem at times divinely inspired. Or at least absolutely random in an orderly way. After an entire week in India, I remain unable to explain my thoughts without

a rainbow of vocabulary, which is exactly what makes this country special and unique. It continues to defy description, just as it has for so many years.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through c9hotelworks.com

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A state of bliss

Each of Emerald Nirvana Residences' 149 units has spectacular sea-views out over Patong Bay and the development is located just 100 meters from Kalim Beach. Photos: Supplied

PROPERTY Gazette

By Mark Knowles

IN BUDDHISM, nirvana refers to a place where one can reach a state of absolute peace and perfect happiness and suffering is non-existent. The Emerald Nirvana seeks to create their own haven where guests may discover their own path to this blissful state.

The luxury condominium is the latest offering from the Phuket Future Group Co Ltd, a developer with a strong track record of building quality condominium projects on the island, such as Kathu Golf Condominium, the Emerald Terrace Condominium Patong and the Emerald Central Condominium.

Located just a 100-meter stroll from Kalim Beach on the Patong-Kalim Road, the Emerald Nirvana combines quiet beachside living with the convenience of having all of Patong's shops, restaurants and entertainment venues right on your doorstep.

With 149 units distributed throughout eight low-rise three- and four-storey buildings and situ-

ated on four rai of land, the Emerald Nirvana feels spacious and open, leaving you to enjoy the spectacular views of the Andaman Sea sprawling out into Patong Bay afforded by every unit.

With four distinctly different one-bedroom layout designs, ranging from 38 square meters to 56sqm, you are sure to find a unit that suits your needs perfectly. Those wanting more room and

even more breathtaking views can choose from one of the 11 two-bedroom penthouse units, each with a generous 86sqm of floorspace.

The development comes with all of the amenities you would expect, including a fitness center, swimming pool, 24-hour security with smart card access and CCTV, as well as high-speed internet and cable TV access.

With a dedicated rental management team with extensive five-star hotel chain experience, Phuket

Future Group Co Ltd is able to ensure that your investment in Emerald Nirvana Residences will be a successful one.

Future Group says each unit "will be managed and operated with the highest standards expected from a five-star hotel operator by a dedicated team of professionals that will market, promote and manage the various processes from check in to check out, cleaning and

maintenance as well as delivery of your rental income.

"With the ever-growing demand for high quality rentals and a professional and committed team, Phuket Future Group can help you make the most of your investment."

For more information, including floor plans and price list, visit: emerald-nirvana-phuket.com



An aerial view of the Emerald Nirvana project site.



The Emerald Nirvana has a clean, simple and modern interior design.



ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

PROPERTY RESALES

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED PROPERTIES

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Protected lease investments

A WIDELY used option by foreigners for property purchase in Thailand is a land or apartment lease. Under the current laws of Thailand a lease of residential property may have a maximum term of 30 years and legally be registered with the relevant authorities.

Therefore, renewal options offering additional 30-year-plus eventual further extension(s) of term, are offered and widely used in Thailand. This provides a 30 year lease term and two 30 year rights of renewal to the property on the condition that the lessor and lessee prepare a new lease agreement for the extension periods and register it in compliance with the laws and regulations applicable with the relevant land department at that time.

It is important to recognize that the renewal options are based on a contractual agreement between lessor and lessee and therefore are not binding towards third parties. This means that the renewal options may not be recognized by the lessor's beneficiaries or new property owner if the lessor has transferred or lost the title to the property. In such cases, a lessee may face serious difficulties in enforcing their right to renew their initial lease upon its expiration date.

Property Legal By International Law Office

In order to provide additional protection, sophisticated developers have implemented legal structures which allow lessees to acquire a contractual lease right to a specific property as well as an (indirect) interest in the Thai company which owns the project land and structure being leased.

This protected leasehold structure offers the advantage that the holder of a lease to a specific property, together with the other lessees in the project, can participate and will be given a say in the management of the project. This includes a say in the control of common properties and the renewal of the lease terms for additional 30 year periods upon expiration of the initial terms.

It is important when leasing under this legal structure that all participants have the same interest. For example, the wish to renew their leases or the ability to make provisions for professional project management. It follows therefore, that no one should acquire (indirect) interest in the Thai company which owns and manages the project's land and structure who is not also leasing a property in the same project and vice versa. This is to ensure that everybody is in the same boat and has the same interests from which each individual



The protected leasehold structure offers several advantages to lessees. Photo: Pixabay.com

leasehold investor shall ultimately benefit.

Setting up such a protected leasehold structure requires the incorporation of a well-thought-out corporate structure and a carefully drafted set of agreements in order to provide a legal structure which is in compliance with the applicable laws. This also serves to provide the required peace of mind for prospective leasehold buyers.

Buyers should diligently review with their

advisors the entire legal set up of the project, as well as all pertinent legal documentation, in order to ensure that the proposed structure fully complies with the law.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd, a Phuket based law firm. In case of enquiries, please contact Consultant Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, by email: sam@ilo-phuket.com or phone 076-2221915.

Developers await NCPO infrastructure approval

PROPERTY developers are awaiting the final revision of public infrastructure projects worth 2.4 trillion baht before deciding whether to expand their investment in the provinces next year.

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has declared a policy of maintaining investment in many of the country's infrastructure projects, including a double-track rail system, major roads, sea ports and airports.

This will drive the property

market in the provinces again, after developers delayed their provincial investment when infrastructure projects worth 2tn baht were suspended early this year.

"We will consider expanding our investment in the provinces again when the NCPO finally revises the 2.4-trillion baht investment plan for infrastructure projects," said Property Perfect president and CEO Chainid Adhyanasakul.

The company will revise its

provincial investment plan for next year when the final draft of the infrastructure projects approved by the NCPO is published, he said.

Sansiri president Srettha Thavisin said his company had also suspended its new investment in the provinces this year. However, if the draft investment in the infrastructure system gets the final go-ahead, the company will consider expanding its investment again.

Pruksa Real Estate's managing director for condominiums, Prasert Taedullayasatit, said the company was continuing to focus on Bangkok and its suburbs rather than expanding its provincial investment this year.

But, if the NCPO gives its final approval to the infrastructure program, the company will reconsider its provincial investment strategy. Any moves would need to wait until next year, however, as that was when the state infrastructure projects would commence, he said.

An overall public investment program worth 2.4tn baht – which was cut from the 3 tn baht worth of projects originally submitted to the NCPO – would entail investment in developing the country's logistics system by integrating the land, air and water transportation systems.

Land transportation would see investment in the Skytrain and underground train system in Bangkok, a nationwide double-track rail system, main roads and motorways.

Air transportation would see the nation's international airports developed, while the water



Developers await the NCPOs approval of 2.4 billion baht in infrastructure projects before deciding on provincial investments. Photo: Ilya Plekhanov

transportation plans would involve the Kingdom's ports being linked to the new double-track rail system.

Such a comprehensive development of the country's logistics system would open up new areas for the development of property projects across all segments – residential, retail, hotel and office.

Improved transportation links

with neighboring countries would also serve the Asean Economic Community, which comes into effect next year.

The NCPO intends to announce the final infrastructure investment plan this year, with work on the projects commencing next year.

It is currently considering the revised investment program.

– The Nation

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Such a perfect day

By Maciek Klimowicz

PACK your swimming trunks, bikinis and beach balls, and head for Centara on Sunday for their Family Sunday Lunch.

Yes, you've read it right – when attending Centara's Sunday lunch you have to brace for more than an endless supply of delicious food. With Centara's brunch comes a day of resort-style fun for the whole family.

"The idea is to bring families and friends together – not just for the food but to enjoy the resort's facilities: the swimming pools, the water park, the beach club. A perfect family Sunday," explains Paul Orny, the resort's executive assistant manager.

"During the lunch we have clowns that keep the kids entertained and there is live music too. Our kids club is also available for the children to enjoy and to grant parents a bit of a break at the table – some time to relax," he adds.

Before we move on to the entertainment and family-fun part, let's talk food. It would take way too long to name all that's on the menu – oysters and Alaskan crab, *foie gras*, beef tenderloin and lamb, a selection of cheeses, cold cuts, a regional Asian cuisine station including Indian and Japanese, and on top of that a whole separate room dedicated just to

desserts. All this prepared by a team of 15-people-strong kitchen team led by an Italian chef and all of the highest quality and delicious.

In fact, Centara's Sunday Lunch would be worth the money just for the food, but on top of that you get a whole day at the resort's open air swimming pools, just off of Karon Beach – a perfect spot to chill out for a couple of hours after a hefty meal. And if you can manage a water slide after a beefsteak, *ratatouille*, cheese platter and a bowl of *creme au chocolat*, there's also a water park.

All this food, fun and sun in a seaside resort must come at a price right? Well, yes, but it's not as much as you'd think – 1900 baht per person. Phuket residents, however, get a 20 per cent discount and kids under 12 eat for free. Which means that a family of four – parents plus two young kids – can enjoy a great meal and a lazy day at a resort for just over 3000 baht. If this isn't a great deal, there's no telling what is.

Sunday Family Lunch at Centara Grand Beach Resort in Karon runs every two weeks from 12am to 3pm at 1900 baht per person with 20% discount for Phuket residents. The price include international buffet and access to the resort's facilities.



Food at Centara's lunch is delicious, fresh and in endless supply. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Live music, clowns for the kids, all to make the meal even more enjoyable.



After the lunch you're welcome at Centara's pool, water park and more.



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Another turn by an old hooper

Books

By James Eckardt

DAVE Barry is the King of Comedy, in the literary division. Since 1983, when he launched his humor column in the *Miami Herald*, he has published 25 story collections. Under the influence of his fellow newspaper columnist Carl Hiaasen, he has also written three hilarious novels about the wacky inhabitants of Southern Florida. He quit his column in 2005 but still produces a book a year.

The latest is *You Can Date Boys When You're Forty* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2014, 224pp), a sentiment addressed to his 13-year-old daughter who is cravenly addicted to social media and Justin Bieber.

"For years my daughter was this sweet, innocent little girl who played with dolls, slept with stuffed animals and viewed me as a wise authority figure because of all the amazing things I knew how to do, such as tell time. Then one day at about 4:30 in the afternoon, Sophie went into her bathroom (which is pink) and, W H O O M, some kind of massive hormone bomb went off in there. She emerged maybe forty-five minutes later, having aged, biologically, at least seven years. Suddenly she was this woman, with legs and everything, walking around."

There are nine stories in this current volume. Some fall flat; some give the impression of

being phoned in. But when Dave Barry is on target, there is none better.

Barry recalls a time in the 1950s when TV ads were directed towards his baby boomer generation: toys, games, candy, breakfast cereal. They still are, but now feature ambulance-chasing lawyers and prescription drugs, especially for "noodle dick". He cites a Viagra commercial in which an aging cowboy driving a pickup truck hauling a horse trailer gets stuck in the mud. "In the very next scene, there are two horses hitched to the front of the pickup, and the cowboy – thanks to the miracle of Viagra – is having sex with both of them."

Such medical commercials devote most of their time to explaining unpleasant side effects: "Discontinue taking Faramir if both of your eyeballs explode."

Another fat target is the wildly popular erotic novel *Fifty Shades of Grey*, written by British author EL James, which has driven millions of woman gaga. Beautiful Anastasia Steele is the 21-year-old American heroine and "such a clueless, self-absorbed ninny that you, the reader, find yourself wishing that you still smoked so you would have a cigarette lighter handy and thus could set fire to certain pages, especially the ones where Anastasia is telling you about her 'inner goddess'."

Barry closes out the book with a chapter called: How to Become a Professional Author. He advises aspiring writers that they cannot expect literary success "to be dropped on you out of the sky by some magical success-pooing seagull". No, the first step is to write a letter to a successful writer asking for advice.

Anastasia is not only a virgin but also so ignorant about computers and the Internet that at one point she says, "Holy cow! I'm on Google!"

"That's right. Anastasia uses the expression 'Holy cow!'," Barry reports and goes on to observe, "In short, Anastasia is a totally believable and realistic depiction of a twenty-one-year-old American college student as she might be imagined by a middle-aged female British author who has lived her entire life in a cave on another planet."

The highlight of this collection is Dave Barry's trip to Israel on a group tour with his Jewish wife and daughter. Things start off odd at the airport.

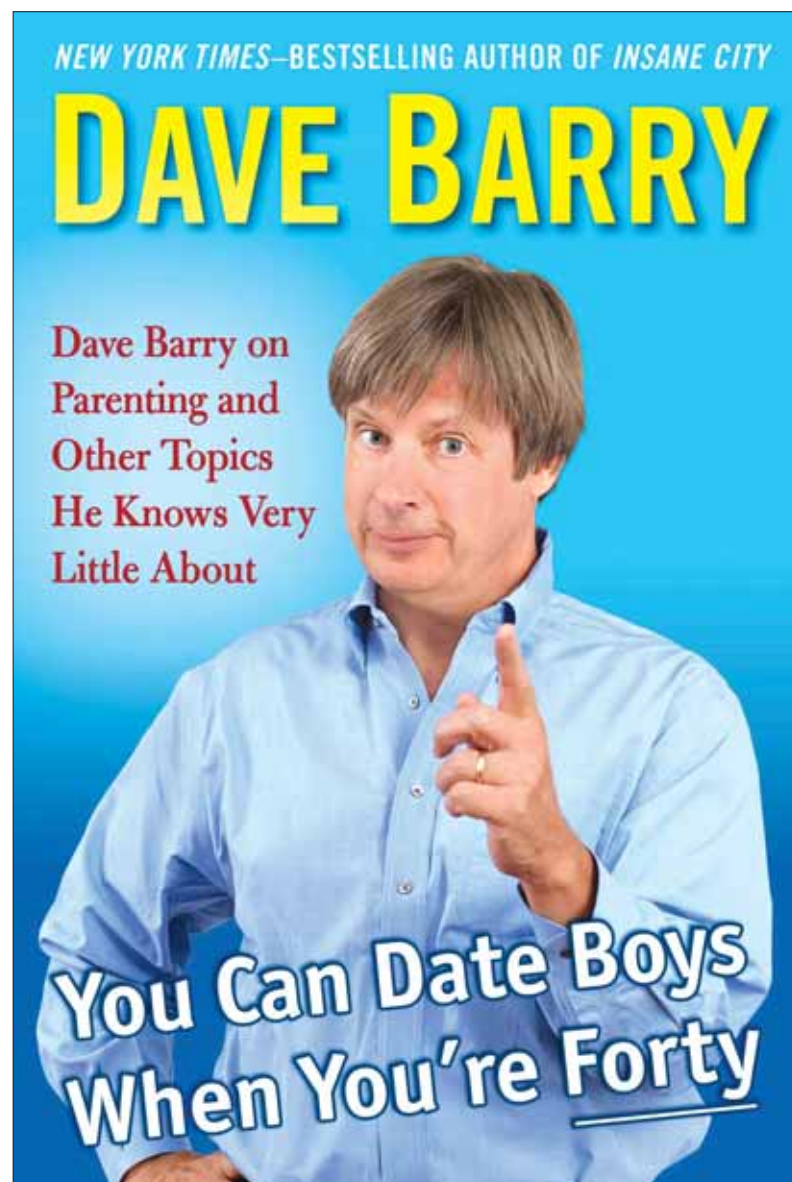
"Before we checked in, a serious security man asked us a bunch of serious questions about our trip which we – desperate to convince him that we were not terrorists – responded to like the von Trapp family on cocaine, speaking in unnaturally perky voices while smiling enthusiastically for no discernable reason."

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"We professional authors receive many letters like this," Barry notes. "Whenever one arrives, we immediately drop whatever we are doing so we can analyze the letter writer's specific situation and develop a detailed plan of action of his or her writing career. Bear in mind that this takes time." So be patient.



Barry's young daughter is a firm Belieber. Photo: J Bielawa



Baby boomers were once the target market for toys and candy, but now it's prescription drugs and lawyers. Photo: Tim Reckmann

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A bite of Burma

MYANMAR'S gourmet traditions from past to present are encapsulated in a new book *The Burma Cookbook: Recipes from the Land of a Million Pagodas* by Robert Carmack and Morrison Polkinghorne (available at bookshops and from River Books for 1,195 baht).

Myanmar's largely untapped culinary wealth is something that foreigners, even fellow Asians, tend to either love or loathe. Blame it on the oiliness.

The authors spent more than a decade travelling across Myanmar to find the best cooks, taste dishes and come up with rare recipes worthy of a 390-page cookbook.

Along the way, they discovered colonial era classics, restored their glory and inspired a new generation

of hotel chefs. The book explores Myanmar's food over the past 100 years through lavish illustrations and well-researched text and looks set to herald a renaissance of colonial-era favorites.

Contemporary ethnic Burmese food embraces aspects of its neighbors while retaining a style distinctive to Burma alone. Dishes invariably boast an oily puddle seasoned with garlic, onion and ginger.

Carmack cites Myanmar cuisine's relations with India to the west and China's Yunnan province in the northeast as the reason why Indians and Chinese enjoy a Burmese meal in Yangon while most Thais instead come armed with their instant noodles.

– The Nation

Read now or PaperLater

By Jeremie Schatz

IT'S a common mantra, even among media pros, that newspapers are a dying breed of communication. Many feel that once another generation or two have left this world, the daily printed page that some still pine for will cease to be.

In many ways it is a blessing. A major reason being the immense amounts of resources embodied in the production and delivery of newspapers. The US Environmental Protection Agency claims that more than 24 billion newspapers are printed every year in the US and another source asserts that half a million trees are sacrificed for US Sunday edition papers alone. Factor in all of the petroleum resources needed to harvest and process the trees, as well as deliver all of the newspapers, and the substantial investments to put a newspaper on a stand or in a consumers hands is revealed.

Not to worry, digital media is now dominating and more people are looking to their laptop, tablet and smartphone for their news fix. However, their still remains a significant contingent of nostalgic stragglers that haven't caught on yet. And a recent start-up has

noticed and plans to capitalize on their sentimental ways.

Behold PaperLater, a service that allows users to aggregate online articles and have them printed into a custom newspaper of their very own. Users are able to add content to a queue and when ready, hit the print button, and in three to five days will have that tangible hard copy in their mailbox.

Why would someone want to bother? Most websites have to generate some income which usually comes in the form of annoying pop-up ads or flashing obnoxious sidebars and headers trying to sell everything under the sun. For some, being able to read that 3,000-word riveting science article in peace and quiet is a tempting proposition. For others, the simple opportunity to read from something other than the computer screen they stare at all day long at work sounds like a nice change.

PaperLater has a minimum print run of eight pages up to 24 for a flat rate of £4.99 (about 275 baht) including delivery. Having launched on June 9, PaperLater is still in its infancy, and as such, is only available in the UK. They are asking for input from interested



PaperLater allows users to save a queue of online articles to be printed into a newspaper. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

parties outside of the UK in order to gauge interest and figure out where to expand shipping to.

It's likely that many people over the age of 25 or 30 can relate to the appeal of having the printed

word in hand. The smell, the texture, the tactile appeal and even the hassle of flipping and folding pages and frustration of reading in the wind have a special place in the hearts of paper-lovers ev-

erywhere. Now, they have a way to transform their favorite digital content into their beloved hard copy.

For more information about the service, visit: paperlater.com

Amazon unleashes the fury of the Fire

FOR those who have not yet drank the iPhone Kool-Aid, your time has come to rejoice in the glory of the new Amazon Fire Phone. Announced by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos on June 22 and ultimately being shipped from July 27, the Fire Phone has promised to stir things up in the smartphone sphere.

At this point, it has been garnering serious attention as Amazon's first foray into the phone biz. The tech world has been quick to point out the direct challenges made to other big names – notably the camera which is claimed to take better pictures

under any conditions than any other smartphone.

On the outside, the Fire Phone is slightly larger than an iPhone 5 and comes encased in a rubber housing – hopefully negating the necessity of a case. On the side of the phone, Fire users will find a dedicated camera button which will activate the camera within a second even if the screen is off and doubles as a shutter button.

As they say, it's what's in-



side that counts, like a 2.2 GHz quad-core processor, 2GB of RAM, ridiculous battery life with 22 hours of talk time, a fancy graphics processor, 13MP camera with optical image stabilization, 1080p video and on and on. All of those gorgeous photos taken with the Fire can be stored at full resolution on free, unlimited cloud storage.

The Fire has a long list of very nifty features, but one that stands out in particular is what

they have branded Dynamic Perspective. The phone features four front-facing cameras which sense the phone's and user's movements to do things like scroll down, adjust on-screen perspective and even open certain apps or activate other features. Pretty slick indeed.

For now, cynics will roll their eyes and the bandwagon will start filling up, but we will have to wait until reviewers get some hands-on time with the Fire Phone and start dissecting it before we learn what kind of punch it really packs.

– Jeremie Schatz



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Down to the root of things



The flame tree's sparse foliage is better for dappled shade in the garden. Photo: gailhampshire

I AM always banging on about “horses for courses”, about choosing suitably-sized shrubs and trees for your tropical Eden. That's because we “farangs” – who probably spent our working lives in cooler climes – misjudge the rate at which most tropical trees skyrocket. Both in my stony, terraced, mountain garden in Andalucia and in my suburban London plot, plants grew at *adagio* tempos. A pair of hundred-foot plane trees in Highgate had been there for maybe 70 years and shrubs such as camellias, fuchsias or roses developed at a stately pace. In Spain, the only trees in the fast lane, apart from the roadside eucalypts, were the edible figs bordering my patio.

Switch gears to Thailand. The Malaysian grass in my garden is patchy because seven years ago, in my ignorance, I planted trees that rapidly became too big for their boots. Quick shade is of the essence, but the density of the umbrage created by many tropical trees – mostly evergreen, anyway – does not leave much room for sunlight at ground level. This applies to decorative ornamentals such as cordias, fageas, champacas



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

and most acacias, as well as to mangoes, alstonias or Siamese neems (*sadao*) and other useful cultivated varieties. Trees with open crowns or sparse foliage such as citherexylums, millingtonias, cassias, most varieties of palm and even flame trees are a better choice if you want dappled shade and healthier understorey growth.

The density and spread of foliage is not the only matter to be considered. Take tree roots, for example. Planted too close to buildings, walls or pipes, they can and do create problems. The conventional wisdom is that root systems spread underground about the same distance as the tree's top, feeding on the rainwater that drips from the edges of the foliar umbrella. But



Champacas are beautiful, but don't leave much room for sun. Photo: Josch13

while most roots are situated beneath this leafy canopy, they are likely to extend far beyond this limit, and may cover 60 per cent more area. One American arborist has calculated that root spread is about 24 times the diameter of the trunk.

While some species of tree have tap roots which burrow directly downwards in search of extra water, the most radical



Cassia trees are a good option if you want your understorey growth to see light. Photo: Peter1968

growth is in the top foot of soil. Sometimes, as with casuarinas for instance, these roots are visible, snaking across the soil. Roots serve two main purposes. The primary one is to help anchor the tree, a key function since trees are top-heavy things, with the visible part about six times the weight of the root system. Some trees, such as the *kapok*, even possess massive buttresses at ground level to improve stability in high winds.

The main function of roots is an osmotic one, whereby they absorb moisture and nutrients for the sustenance of the tree. This process begins in the fine, fibrous roots which naturally lead directly to their larger brethren. The process is aided by fungi – up to 2,500 different kinds – which attach themselves to their hosts and draw nutrients from them. The relationship is usually symbiotic: in return, the fungi help the root systems to operate more efficiently.

If these measurements of root size are accurate – and I have no reason to disbelieve them – imagine how far these subterranean fingers can extend, and plant accordingly. Here again, I made initial mistakes when planning my garden. I planted

an alstonia and a mango about two and half feet from the back wall, an avocado 18 inches from another dividing structure and a neem in the concrete trough bordering the outside wall. Another mango and a champaca were more sensibly placed well away from any brickwork structures, and my remaining fiddlewood is so slender it hardly presents any kind of problem. Same thing goes for the traveller palms.

However, the alstonia now has a sturdy trunk a foot across and the avocado, up to the third floor of my house, has a seven-inch bole. So, already their roots have spread far beyond the foundations of my walls.

Is there a solution? Well, they are going to be chopped down. I have had to prune them drastically, both to reduce top growth, limit shade cover and to try to inhibit the proliferation of wandering root systems. Meanwhile, I am looking out for cracks!

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

Tip of the week

Balled roots

MOST large shrubs and trees spread their roots laterally and close to the surface – both to anchor the plant and to derive maximum benefit from the moisture and nutrients in the soil. Plants in pots cannot do this. Instead their roots, constrained by the container, must follow its contours, curving their root systems to its shape.

In time, these roots will form a dense ball, leaving little soil in the container. Because they are restricted, these plants will need



Don't put canna in a pot. Photo: Steve

extra care in the form of additional moisture and nutrients. In time, they may even need to be transferred to a larger pot, or into open ground. Plants which do better with permanently moistened roots, such as gingers, gardenias, cannas and heliconias, are not ideal subjects for pots, nor those with massive root systems or deep

tap roots which are not able to escape the confines of the container.



Massive buttress root formations provide stability. Photo: Patti Neumann

Preparation for invasion

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

HMS Squirrel was an Algerine class minesweeper vessel. She served in the British Royal Navy during WWII and was one of several warships that were sunk off the coast of Phuket during the conflict.

HMS Squirrel was commissioned on April 30, 1942 from shipbuilder Harland and Wolff, based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She was launched on April 20, 1944.

Minesweepers are a class of warship developed to counter the threat of sea mines that were becoming an increasingly menacing threat to ships during wartime. The ships are equipped with mechanical sweeps to detonate naval mines before other ships do unknowingly.

During August of 1944, HMS Squirrel sailed to the coast of Belgium to join other minesweepers, clearing away naval mines that had prevented the use of ports in Belgium and Holland. This continued for a few months until November, when she was nominated for transfer to the 7th Minesweeping Flotilla based in South East Asia. Before her transfer, HMS Squirrel was taken back to England for major refitting to prepare her for service in foreign seas.

In January of 1945, she was patrolling the open ocean once again and after a brief period of service in the English Channel, she set sail along with another minesweeper, HMS Fancy, with the task of towing a floating dock on the way to India. However, when sailing through the Bay of Biscay, west of France, the

floating dock was sunk in a severe storm. The minesweeper HMS Squirrel sustained some damage and had to return to London for repair.

In May of 1945, after a brief period in the dockyard, HMS Squirrel was ready for service once again. This time she sailed through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea and headed for Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka). The minesweeper arrived in Ceylon in July 1945. It joined a flotilla of other minesweepers before being sent to take part in Operation Livery.

Operation Livery was a prelude

As part of their plan to liberate the peninsula from Rangoon to Singapore, the allies had to conduct a planned invasion of Phuket Island. //

to Allied plans to land forces and liberate the Malay Peninsula from Japanese control. According to the book *Codebreaker in the Far East* by Alan Stripp, the Allied command in the Far East had been planning an invasion of the Malay Peninsula since 1944. As part of their plan to liberate the peninsula from Rangoon to Singapore, the Allies had to conduct a planned invasion of Phuket Island.

During WWII, the Thai government had entered into an alliance with the Japanese, so even though Thailand was not a conquered territory of Japan, the Japanese were allowed to use the country's resources, including airfields and railways to help in their war effort.

It was for this reason that the

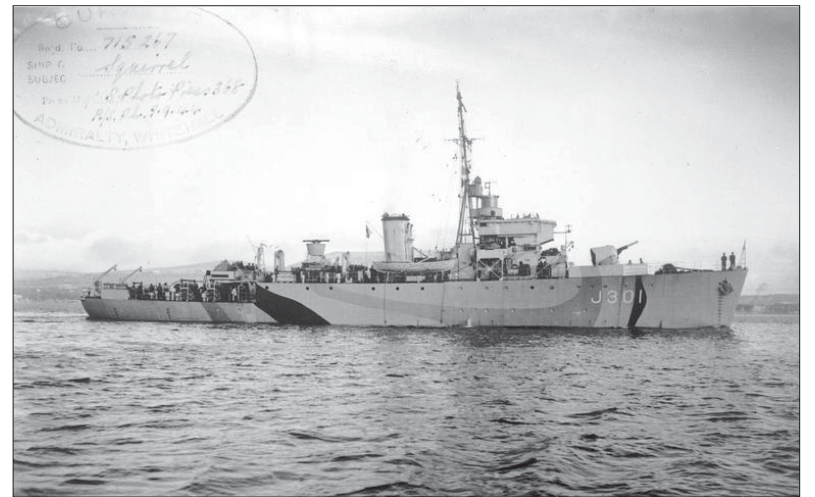
Allied commander in the Far East, Lord Mountbatten thought it necessary to launch an invasion into Thai territory in order to push the Japanese out of Malaya. His overall plan included an operation codenamed "Roger", which was meant to be an invasion of Phuket Island. Phuket was strategically important to the Allies and the Japanese alike. It was halfway between Rangoon and Singapore, making it an ideal stepping-stone for the liberation of Malaya. It also had an airfield and excellent harbors.

According to Stripp, there had even been a British plan to seize the island before the Japanese invasions began. The British believed that if the Japanese did invade Malaya, Phuket would be a strategic asset to them. However, top British commanders withheld approval of the plan until it was too late, understandably, since it was Thai territory.

On July 24, 1945, Operation Livery was carried out in preparation for the Allied invasion of Phuket Island. The minesweeper HMS Squirrel was at the heart of this operation to clear mines from coastal waters of Phuket Island, especially the possible landing sites that the Allies may use in their invasion. Covering the minesweepers against possible Japanese attacks were other battleships in the Royal Navy, including HMS Nelson, HMS Sussex and four other destroyers.

Working with HMS Squirrel were other minesweepers such as HMS Plucky, HMS Pincher, HMS Vestal and HMS Rifleman. Two Indian minesweepers, HM Indian Minesweepers Punjab and Deccan also joined the operation as "danlayers".

Danlayers were smaller boats



HMS Squirrel was sunk by a mine off Phuket's shores. Photo: Supplied

tasked with laying "dans", or marker buoys, which were moored to the seabed and fitted to float vertically, usually with a coded flag visible on the surface of the sea. They defined areas in the sea that have already been swept and made it obvious where the clear channels were.

During her fourth lap of the operation however, HMS Squirrel was unable to turn into a safe area when HMS Plucky detonated a mine in her sweep. The ship then struck another mine and sustained major damage to her forward structure. The explosion killed seven of her crewmembers.

After two and a half hours, it was clear that HMS Squirrel had taken on too much water and was beyond salvaging. The rest of her crew were rescued by HMS Vestal and transferred to HMS Nelson. Finally, HMS Squirrel was purposely sunk by gunfire from one of the Royal Navy destroyers. She sank off the coast of Phuket on June 24, 1945.

On July 26, 1945, the third day of Operation Livery, an alarm was sounded at around 6:25pm. Three unidentified airplanes had been spot-

ted flying over Phuket. Soon more planes followed. They were Japanese Kamikaze airplanes and were heading straight for the minesweepers. One of them dived straight into HMS Vestal and exploded. The impact severely damaged HMS Vestal. When the attack was repelled and calm returned. The crew was rescued and HMS Vestal was also sunk by gunfire from another Royal Navy destroyer. She was the last Royal Navy vessel to be sunk in World War Two.

The wrecks of HMS Squirrel and HMS Vestal can still be found on the seabed, near Laem Phromthep in the southern tip of Phuket. Both wrecks lie on the seabed at a depth of around 72 meters and are sometimes visited by deep-sea divers with special dive gear and Nitrox gas.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand may be contacted at: as.pkt@hotmail.com



Japanese Kamikaze pilots fought against Allied forces near the shores of Phuket. Photo: Public Domain

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Caught in a love Catch-22

Former Phuket expat Brent William Otto, 45, and Sayam "Kob" Senamuen, 34, weathered a break-up, long separations and the trauma of cancer before reaching the altar last weekend.

But the toughest obstacle of all was a US law that didn't recognize gay marriage. The *Gazette's* Leslie Porterfield reports.

THE couple met at a pub in Silom while Brent was working in Bangkok. Kob was his waiter.

"A lot of guys working in gay bars are looking for boyfriends," Brent said. "The thing that attracted me to Kob was that he was intent on serving his customers. He was a very good waiter."

Brent was too shy to introduce himself, so a friend wrote his phone number on a piece of paper and passed it to Kob.

"Kob came over and handed the paper back," Brent recalled. "He said, 'I won't call you, but if you want, you can call me.'"

They went out on their first date the next day, September 13, 2003, and quickly became a couple, living together in Bangkok until they moved to Phuket in 2005.

in 2004. But they had to get Kob into the country to do that.

A fiancé visa, the logical option, was out of the question, because though states could interpret marriage as they wished, at the national level, it had been defined by the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) since 1996 as the union between one man and one woman. The act denied federal-level benefits to gay couples, which meant no visas for gay fiancés.

"So many people said, 'But you're in Massachusetts, you can get married,'" Brent recalled. "But that didn't mean anything federally."

Two other options remained: a tourist visa or a student visa. The tuition requirements of the student visa were prohibitively expensive, so Kob applied for a tourist visa.

He was denied. Brent believes that the reasons were financial.

"In the letter of denial, it said we had not proven sufficient social, familial or economic ties to Thailand," Brent said. "Of course Kob had plenty of social and family ties, but no money in the bank.

If he had a ton of money in the bank, it would not have been an issue."

At that point, Brent was receiving chemotherapy every two weeks and thought Kob might qualify to be admitted under a visa exemption called humanitarian parole.



It wasn't possible for Kob to get a fiancé visa while DOMA was in effect. Photo: Brent W Otto

They worked together at a five-star resort, but kept their relationship secret because Brent was Kob's manager. The stress of the secrecy ultimately led to a break-up, and Kob moved back to Bangkok.

They had no contact until Brent fell ill a few months later. When doctors in Phuket couldn't diagnose the problem, Brent went to Bangkok for more tests. Kob was there to help him.

Diagnosed with cancer, Brent returned to the US for treatment.

The pair kept in touch, and by the end of 2008, with Brent's cancer under control, he returned to Thailand.

"Kob was at the airport to meet me, and we've been together ever since," Brent said.

The pair found work in Rayong, but when Brent's cancer returned in 2010, it was clear he would have to live in the US from then on. The question became: How could Kob live there with him?

They could legally marry in Brent's own state of Massachusetts, which had been the first of 19 states to legalize gay marriage,

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) says that "Humanitarian parole is used sparingly to bring someone who is otherwise inadmissible into the United States for a temporary period of time due to a compelling emergency."

They applied, Brent's doctor



Brent and Kob with their wedding cakes after their marriage in Massachusetts last Saturday. Photo: Jay R Otto

included a letter of support, and an official with the nonprofit organization Immigration Equality later told Brent that it was a "phenomenal application" and couldn't be improved on.

By then, Brent had already taken one of the couple's six dogs back to the US. "It's a lot easier to bring a dog here than a person," he said. "I joked with Kob that if we were denied, I would get him a dog suit and a big kennel, and he'd fly here as a dog."

Kob was denied the humanitarian parole.

They had exhausted all legal avenues. There was nothing to do but wait and hope that DOMA would be overturned.

A year and a half later, in December 2012, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear a case against DOMA, and on June 26 the next year, in a land-

mark ruling, the justices handed down their decision: Denying federal benefits to same-sex couples was unconstitutional.

The next day, Brent sent Kob's application for a fiancé visa by overnight express.

It would be six months before they learned whether Kob had

been approved, and both Kob and Brent said the long wait was the most difficult part of the process.

"I called and couldn't get any information... it was down to the deadline," Brent said.

have a relationship."

Their experience at the embassy was nerve-wracking. "I was not allowed to go in to the interview with Kob. Lawyers can go in, but not partners," Brent said. "Kob's

English is very good, but there are a lot of things he doesn't understand."

When Kob emerged from the interview, he was distraught.

"He said we were denied," Brent recalled. "I said, 'Wait a minute, stop, talk to me, what's going on?'"

It turned out one document was missing – a letter from the Thai government saying Kob had never been married. The pair went immediately to the government office in Kob's hometown to get the letter.

"We didn't know we'd gotten the visa for sure until we picked up his passport on March 20. It was a long three weeks," Brent said.

Five days later, the pair flew to the US together with two more dogs. They had 90 days to get married.

"It's been a crazy long journey, and expensive too," Brent said.

"I flew to Thailand three times over three years in order to see him. I guess this was a choice I made, but life without your love next to you is hard enough even if you are healthy."

Their immigration journey is not over, but whatever challenges lie ahead, they will face them as a married couple.

Last Saturday, nearly 11 years after they first met, Brent and Kob were married in a simple ceremony in the backyard of their home, with family and close friends in attendance.



The couple at the 2014 AIDS Walk Boston. Photo: Supplied

Gay partner visas issued by US Embassy Bangkok since DOMA ruling, June 26 2013

- The first was a CR1 visa for a gay spouse, on August 26, 2013
- Total number of visas for gay partners:
38 K1 visas - for fiancés
8 CR1 visas - for spouses married less than two years
2 IR1 visas - for spouses married more than two years

- The embassy does not keep official records but...
There have been at least five visas issued for transgendered partners
Only about two visas have been issued to female fiancées

mark ruling, the justices handed down their decision: Denying federal benefits to same-sex couples was unconstitutional.

The next day, Brent sent Kob's application for a fiancé visa by overnight express.

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The USCIS approved Kob's application. He made an appointment for a visa interview at the embassy in Bangkok on February 25 and Brent flew over to join him.

"I had heard that one question they would ask was, 'What color underwear was he wearing the first time you slept together?'" Brent said, laughing. "As though we could remember that!"

The romantic requirements for a fiancé visa are relatively simple: the couple must have a relationship at least two years long, and they must have met once.

But after all they'd been through, Brent wasn't taking any chances.

"I included everything in the application – a packet of 10 years of photos, 200 pages of Skype records showing we'd talked two to three times a day for three years... I didn't want any question whatsoever about whether we

Lose that pouch belly



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

TO lose weight, you need to eat less and move more – right? What happens if you do that and find that the scale looks better, but the reflection in the mirror stays the same?

Many people have been down this puzzling path more than one time. Luckily, there is more than one way to skin a cat.

Yes, you need to move. But it's more important to focus and move well, not just pound the pavement and be broken by weights. And yes, you need to adjust your diet, but that doesn't always mean eating less. (Well, maybe it does when it comes to processed and high-sugar foods).

Here is one piece of the puzzle you may not have heard of when trying to banish the belly: reduce systemic inflammation.

Internal organs borrow their pain-sensitive nerve fibers from the muscular system. This means that when an organ is in pain, the brain doesn't know if it is the organ itself or actually the muscle that hurts. The brain only recognizes the segment of the spine that is receiving the message. So, to cope with the pain, the brain will

shut down the nerve that the feeling is connected to, which in turn shuts down the muscle.

For example, take the colon. The colon is connected to the deep abdominal wall, so pain in the colon prompts the brain to shut down the abdominal muscles. When out of commission, abdominal muscles lose tone, which leads to a distended belly. This process is called "viscero somatic inhibition".

There are four common situations in which an inflamed gut can occur, and there are strategies of course, for putting out the fire.

Food intolerances

Some people have a difficult time processing some gluten grains such as wheat, rye and spelt, as well as dairy products, especially cow's milk. The best way to avoid inflammation from these intolerances is to eat "safer" starches such as rice, which we have easy access to in Phuket. Cow's milk can be easily replaced with rice or nut milks and coffee drinkers can switch from cappuccinos to espressos.

Sugar

Sugar is one of the most inflammatory substances. If you want to lose body fat, try to keep



This is the 'after' photo. We decided not to publish the 'before'. Photo: Aavindraa

sugar consumption to less than 30 grams per day (including healthier sugars from fruit). To find out how many calories you consume per day, use free food tracking sites such as myfitnesspal.com, which has extensive nutritional breakdowns for Thai foods.

Trans fat is bad fat

Trans fat levels are highest in deep fried foods. Also, cutting

down on Omega 6 and 9, which come from vegetable oils and will inflame the belly, is imperative.

Additionally, increasing your consumption of Omega 3 fatty acids, which you can get from flaxseeds and high-quality fish or krill oil, can help increase anti-inflammatory Omega 3 levels.

Try to cook with coconut oil, ghee or even lard if you are frying. Leave the olive oil for the dressing.

Overeating

Overeating puts a strain on the digestive system. Grazing, or all-day snacking, can also cause problems.

As long as your blood-sugar levels are normal, try to stick to three meals that leave you lightly satisfied rather than feeling like you need to be lifted from the table.

Often, people consume far too many carbohydrates, which can make them feel hungrier throughout the day. Feel more satisfied and full throughout the day by increase your healthy fat and protein intake.

Diets that contain about 40 per cent carbohydrate, 30 per cent protein and about 30 per cent fat are a good starting point for many people. However, those ratios need to be adjusted based on results – which is another reason to track your eating habits.

Craig Burton is a nutritional expert with more than 15 years of experience at the forefront of the health and well-being field. He offers a high-level of expertise in functional training and nutrition, focusing on detoxification, food intolerance and nutrient deficiency. For more information about Craig and his services, visit thevitruvianmethod.com.



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As good as golf gets

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT'S a common story – what begins as a simple renovation over time grows bigger and bigger until it turns into something completely different, and in the case of the Laguna Phuket Golf Course, something better.

The refurbishment of the scenic, 18-hole course began on July 1, 2013. Now, one year later, the first half of the completely redesigned course is about to reopen.

"The project was split into two halves because we wanted to keep nine holes open at all times," explains Paul Wilson, PGA, Director of golf at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

And he is confident that all 18 holes will be ready for the great launch party at the new club house overlooking the course on January 1, 2015.

A lot of work has already been done. Whole infrastructure is being replaced including new irrigation and drainage systems. What many Laguna guests will certainly find appealing is that golf carts are now available.

"In Thailand, it is very dry in the hot season and very wet in the monsoon season and the golf cart can damage the grass. The only way to have golf carts is by installing paths around the entire course, which we did," ex-

plains Paul.

The changes don't end there. A renowned golf course designer was hired to inspire major changes in the project. "The course is being completely redesigned by Paul Jansen, the lead golf course architect at Faldo Design," explains Paul.

"He has remodeled bunkers and greens, made the grounds more angulated, there are more slopes and more movement in the grass, which improves drainage, but more importantly, it creates a more interesting game for the golfers to play."

The new golf course design is aiming for a more natural look, exposing stun-



Paul Wilson, Laguna Phuket golf director.

ning, mountainous Phuket landscapes, attracting more wildlife, enlarging the bodies of water and introducing a number of new plants. After all, it is the clean air and green surroundings that visitors find attractive on the island, and care for the environment played a vital role in the new course's design.

"All water we use at the course is recycled from the resort, but we still try to reduce our water consumption. For example, in some places we swapped grass for wood-chips, which is esthetically appealing and good for the environment," says Paul.

All this is done with resort's guests in mind.

"We tried to stay as flexible as possible because we are in a resort and we try to appeal to a cross section of everybody. This is, for example, why we included extra tee boxes on every hole and also will have special junior tees for children to learn golf before they are ready to play at the main course. We want to keep it suitable for families staying at the resort but also fit for a tournament depending on how we set it," explains Paul.

"We first looked at where we are – a very family-friendly resort in Phuket – then we looked at our club members and we tried to adjust the course to their needs. We're aiming for high-quality playing surfaces, for well-maintained facilities, for sustainability. Our whole motivation with the project was raising the quality and meeting international standards and our guests' expectations," he concluded.

To celebrate the opening of the first nine holes of the new golf course, Laguna Phuket is offering discount rates for Thai golfers as well as expats. Starting from July 1 up until October 31 the fee for an 18 hole game (2x9) is 1,800 baht and 1,500 baht on Wednesdays. The price doesn't include the caddie fee or rental equipment. For more information, visit lagunaphuketgolf.com



All of the new course will be accessible by golf carts all year round.



More hilly, green and fun – the new Laguna Phuket Gold Course. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Champions train smarter

By Randy Simon

HOW'S your training going? Are you making the improvements that you thought you would this season? A smart athlete will constantly evaluate what is going well for them and what can be improved upon. With a little analysis, and some clear direction on what your desired outcome is for the next race, training becomes a time for turning weakness into strength.

A great example of this is a swimmer I was working with recently. She approached me to coach her training for an Open Water, Bay2Bay 2K swim in Hong Kong. She wanted to improve her performance, but we were only six weeks away from the race. We agreed that

pacing her swim evenly would result in a better overall effort, and trained her to be able to recognize how fast she was swimming, and to find the fastest pace that she would be able to maintain. It was difficult for her to hold her paces at first, but as she adjusted, she got to where she was able to hold her times consistently. A timed 2K swim the week of the race showed she was ready and able to hold her paces even as she fatigued.

As an added bonus, the race organizers held a "predict your time" contest to make things more interesting. Although it is difficult to account for water and air temperatures, tides, and other conditions that would affect her time, we knew what a good ballpark time for her

would be, and she guessed a 38:10 – two minutes slower than what our training times in the pool were. 38 minutes and 11 seconds later, Charlotte finished her race, and tied one other individual for being able to predict her time to within one second! The \$1000 HKD prize that went with it was just icing on the cake!

When you have a clear goal in mind, and a solid plan for how you are going to get there, the "luck" that is needed becomes more about proper preparation meeting opportunity.

Tip by Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon. To contact coach Randy send an email to aquatics@thanyapura.com



Analyzing weaknesses and clear goals lead to victory. Photo: Sport the library

Road to recovery

By Larry Fine

TIGER Woods' recovery from back surgery has been quicker than expected but he said he probably would not have returned at this week's Quicken Loans National event unless it benefited his charity foundation.

"If this wasn't the foundation and the impact that we can have on kids, I probably would not," the 14-times major winner told reporters at Congressional Country Club on Tuesday about ending his three-month absence from competitive golf.

"Our goal was the British Open (next month). I healed extremely fast thanks to my physios and my nutrition. All the different things that we did...have allowed me to get to this point."

Woods said he did not think he was coming back too soon.

"I'm going to get stronger as time goes on," added the 38-year-old American, "the risk is minimal."

Woods, who will return to Hoylake next month to the scene of his last British Open triumph in 2006, said he had not felt so fit in ages.

"It's been a very, very long time. Probably a good two years since I've felt this way," explained the former world number one who is now down at fifth in the rankings.

"I had the Achilles and then started getting this back thing. Initially it was week to week."

"I'd have good weeks where I felt fantastic, I won five times last



Tiger Woods participates in charity event despite his recovering from back surgery. Photo: Evan Habeeb/USA TODAY Sports

year, and then there were weeks when I just couldn't move. It started progressively deteriorating."

No Joke

Woods said the back problem taught him to listen to his body more carefully.

"That is one thing I have learned stubbornly over the years, particularly with this injury," he added. "This is very different than pushing through my knee injuries in the past – nerve impingement is no joke."

"In the past I probably would have pushed harder and harder and harder until stuff breaks."

Woods said he agreed with the old adage 'with age comes wisdom'.

"I have certainly become much

more patient. I think especially with having two little ones that has definitely taught me a lot of patience," explained the father of two.

"It has carried over into my golf on the course as well as off."

Woods recalled how he used to push himself in the early days of his career.

"I used to run 30 miles every week and just push it. No matter how hurt I was I'd still go out and log all the miles and still play tournament golf. I was winning but didn't realize how much damage I was doing to my body at the time."

"I have to now pick my spots when I can and can't push," said Woods. "Now I've got to listen to my body." – Reuters

Adidas holds strong

GERMAN sportswear firm Adidas expects to keep its position as the world's biggest seller of soccer gear as strong World Cup performances by the star players it sponsors fires demand for its shirts, boots and balls.

Chief Executive Herbert Hainer said Adidas would reach its target of 2 billion euros (88.4bn baht) of soccer sales in 2014, keeping it ahead of rival Nike's estimated US\$2bn (65bn baht) in soccer turnover.

"We as a brand have by far scored the most goals," Hainer told a news conference, highlighting the World Cup performance of players wearing Adidas boots like Robin van Persie and Arjen Robben of the Netherlands and Thomas Mueller of Germany.

Adidas, the world's second-biggest sportswear company, has been losing market share in western Europe, its home territory, to Nike, which is also challenging its dominance in soccer.

While Adidas has supplied the match ball for the World Cup since 1970 and has extended its sponsorship of the competition to



Adidas stays ahead of rival Nike to keep the top spot. Photo: Michaela Rehle/Reuters

2030, Nike is for the first time kitting out more teams – 10 out of 32 finalists – including hosts and favorites Brazil.

Nike, the world's biggest sportswear company, has only been a serious player in soccer since the World Cup was held in the United States in 1994. But it believes it has already overtaken Adidas in boots, including in its home market Germany.

All-Adidas Final?

Hainer said he was disappointed that reigning champions Spain were already out but he was happy with the performance of the other teams Adidas sponsors, in particular

Germany, Colombia, Mexico and Argentina. He predicted a final between Argentina and Germany.

"Germany was fantastic ... Argentina will get better and better. Messi is Messi. He is a genius," he said, referring to Argentina's Lionel Messi, the player leading the Adidas marketing campaign who has already scored twice for his country.

Brazil's Nike-sponsored player Neymar is the tournament's top goal scorer so far, but the US company's biggest star, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has yet to score.

Three of the Nike teams have already gone out of the World Cup – England, Australia and Croatia – to two of the Adidas-sponsored sides – Spain and Bosnia.

Hainer said about 80-90 per cent of the Adidas World Cup jerseys had already been sold when the competition started.

"Whatever happens through the tournament, this is the icing on the cake," he said. "If Germany wins, we still can sell a few more but this will not materially change our results." – Reuters

Phuket United
 Next Fixture

Uthai Thani

Jun 28 | 6pm
 @ Saphan Hin Gymnasium

Highways Department

Jul 2 | 4pm
 @ Plaibang Gymnasium, Nonthaburi
 *dates subject to change

FTPL TABLE

PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Chonburi Blue Wave	21	60
2	Royal Navy	20	45
3	Phuket United	20	41
4	Thai Port FC	21	40
5	CAT FC	21	37
6	Ayutthaya City	20	35
7	Samut Sakhon	21	35
8	Nonthaburi	21	34
9	Bangkok FC	21	33
10	Sri Pathum Si Saket	21	31
11	Pattaya Arena FC	20	26
12	Khon Kaen	21	24
13	Highways Department	21	16
14	Uthai Thani	21	10
15	Chiangmai	21	9
16	Suphanburi	21	3

****Last Update: 25/06/2014**

PATTAYA UNITED
JUN 29
 @ Nongprue Stadium, Chonburi | 6 pm

PHUKET NEXT FIXTURE

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE 1ST HALF SEASON

PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	17	38
2	Bangkok FC	17	33
3	Royal Navy	17	31
4	Angthong FC	17	28
5	Saraburi FC	17	28
6	TTM Customs	17	28
7	BBCU	17	26
8	Phuket	17	25
9	Chiangmai FC	17	23
10	Phitsanulok FC	17	22
11	Pattaya Utd	17	22
12	NakhonPathom	17	21
13	Krabi FC	17	21
14	Ayutthaya FC	17	20
15	Roi Et Utd	17	19
16	Trat FC	17	18
17	Khon Kaen FC	17	10
18	Sri Racha FC	17	2

***Last Update: 25/06/2014**

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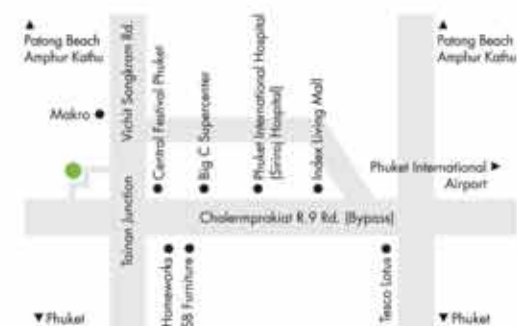
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Project Owner : Sansiri Public Company Limited Company's registered no. 0107538000665. Head office : 475 Sri Ayudhaya Road, Thanon Phayathai, Rajbhumi, Bangkok, 10400. Registered capital(THB) : 11,641,569,085.56. Paid up capital(THB) : 10,267,638,931.45 (as of date 6 May 2014). The President : Mr. Sretha Thavisin. The Project : The Base Downtown - Phuket, Condominium's registered no. 21/2556, Land title deed no. 102883, approximately area 3-3-0 Rai, located at Wichit Sub-district, Muang Phuket District, Phuket Province, as a Condominium of 7 storey(ies), 2 building(s), total of 311 unit(s), (for residential: 311 units, and for commercial: - units). The Land and building have been mortgaged with Siam Commercial Bank PSC., Condominium unit is promptly to be transferred within 30 days upon the purchaser has paid the unit price in full together with the sinking fund, common fee, tax and other fees as prescribed by Project Owner or the Condominium Juristic Person subjected to the Condominium law.

Sansiri encourages iodized salt consumption to help boost IQ of children