



Phuket Gazette

Re-thinking fire safety

Deadly blaze forces officials to tackle support for firefighters

INSIDE TODAY

August 16 - 22, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with The Nation

20 Baht

■ 'NOTHING WE CAN DO TO SAVE YOU' Driver beware

■ No measures taken after six road deaths in 24-hour period

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THERE will be no concerted effort by police to ramp up road safety despite six people – including three teenagers – being killed in road accidents in less than 24 hours last weekend.

Phuket's road nightmare began last Friday, when Red Mountain Golf Course caddy Sakon Banchongkaeo, 34, died after the motorbike on which she was riding pillion collided with a pickup truck on the Koh Kaew-Nakok road, often used as a shortcut from Thepkrasattri Road in Koh Kaew to Patong.

At about 9pm that night across town, Winai Laksanawilart, 45, died instantly when the motorbike he was riding collided head-on with a passenger van on Rassada-Nusorn Road.

Witnesses said Mr Winai was heading east at high speed and crossed into the oncoming lane of the van heading toward him, said Lt Col Chaliao Thaihoo of the Phuket City Police.

"He died instantly," said Col Chaliao. "His head hit the road and he was not wearing a helmet."

Less than three hours later, three teenagers suffered fatal injuries after the car they were travelling in spun out of control and slammed into a power pole on Phra Phuket Road in Kathu.

The driver, Hassanee Wangtan, 18, from Cherng Talay, died at the scene, pinned behind the wheel, and passengers Supissara Boonmee, 16, and Sutthinee Thabtaewee, 17, were...



Continued on page 2

Six people were killed on Phuket's roads within a 24-hour period. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Patong Police deny Bangla shutdown for Mother's Day

PATONG Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan has denied reports that his officers on Mother's Day ordered bar owners in Patong to shut down – or face a fine of 75,000 baht.

Though it was legal to sell alcohol on Mother's Day, the island's top party destination Soi Bangla was empty after bars' shutters were pulled down at about 6pm.

Full story on Page 3

Airline leaves 100s of tourists stranded at Phuket Airport

MORE than 300 tourists bound for Hong Kong were whisked away on Wednesday after being stranded on the island for days by carrier City Airways.

The airline was denied permission to use the airport by the Department of Civil Aviation, after a report revealed a failure to follow proper procedures during maintenance of its fleet.

Full story on Page 2

Tsunami survivors express gratitude post island reunion

NEARLY a decade after losing their mother in the devastating tsunami, two British siblings expressed their deep gratitude after being reunited with their Phuket saviors.

The siblings' return to the island was emotional, but left them praising the people of Phuket for their generosity and kindness.

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This Week



Business

The barbecue business is getting all fired up in Phuket. **Page 29**



Property

Sansiri gives back to the community with new CSR initiative. **Page 31**



Food

La Boucherie serves up steak that's simply scrumptious. **Page 33**



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PSU Phuket to offer progressive sustainability diploma. **Page 37**



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Phuket Cycling Week 2014 to kick-off in September. **Page 39**

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Five to face charges for illegally claiming land

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DEPUTY Director-General of the Land Department Thammasak Chana has publicly vowed to pursue legal action over five cases of attempting to use *SorKor 1* land documents to claim 445 rai of land in Phuket's Sirinath National Park.

In all five cases, the claimants applied for their *SorKor 1* documents to be upgraded to full *Chanote* land titles, Mr Thammasak told the national press on August 8.

"The *SorKor 1* documents presented are for five plots that are actually located at the eastern end of the park, but they were being used to claim land at the western end," he said, referring to the well-known "Flying *SorKor 1*" method of fraudulently claiming land.

"We have denied the applications. The applicants have the right to appeal, but the next step for us is to have officers from Sirinath National Park file police complaints against the people involved."

Mr Thammasak did not identify the people who had filed the claims. He also did not specify which charges were to be pursued.

The "Flying *SorKor 1*" remains popular as a means of falsely claiming land, as the markings on a *SorKor 1* document do not clearly depict the exact location of the plot the document was issued for.

Of note, the method was a key part of the investigation into the assassination of Phuket journalist Wisut "Ae Inside" Tangwittayaporn, who was shot dead in his car in morning rush-hour traffic on Thepkrasattri Road on January 12. In his final edition of his *Inside Phuket* magazine, Mr



Mr Thammasak has vowed to pursue legal action over park land grabs.

Wisut claimed that "Flying *SorKor 1*" were used to claim land at Freedom Beach, south of Patong.

However, some of the *SorKor 1* documents investigated for plots, allegedly in or along the border of Sirinath National Park, were deemed to be legal, Mr Thammasak said on August 8.

On July 21, Mr Thammasak explained to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut that people could claim land within the park, but only if the holders were issued the *SorKor 1* documents before the National Park Act was proclaimed in 1964, and if the holders were not compensated for their plots when the government expropriated the land to

form the park.

This did not apply in the five cases being pursued, he explained.

Meanwhile, Land Department officials will continue their investigation of 372 plots covering 2,000 rai in Sirinath National Park, Mr Thammasak said.

"We began our investigation on July 21 and we have 60 days to finish it," he said.

"So far we have confirmed that six landowners have presented legitimate *Chanote* titles covering 87 rai, but another six claimants who presented *Chanote* titles for 556 rai are still under investigation.

"If any of these *Chanote* titles are found to have been illegally issued, we will revoke them."

Road safety takes a back seat on island

From page 1

...pronounced dead on arrival at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town about 30 minutes later.

Then, before dawn that same night, Italian tourist Dario Bartotati, 32, died after the Ducati motorbike he was riding slammed into a roadside ditch in the hills to the north of Karon.

Mr Bartotati died of severe head trauma. He was not wearing a helmet, said police.

"Our job is law enforcement, to make sure motorists do not break traffic laws. This is all we can do to protect people from accidents," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Sakchai Limcharoen said on Wednesday.

"We are always setting up checkpoints and charging people for not wearing helmets. At least 1,000 people are fined each month

for not wearing helmets, but anyone can see that motorists here do not follow the law. They know the laws, but they choose to ignore them."

Other than static checkpoints, Col Sakchai offered no other strategy by the Phuket Police to reduce the carnage on the island's roads, not even the concept of fining motorists for moving violations.

According to Col Sakchai, the four main factors that cause road accidents are: the driver, the vehicle, the road and the environment.

Col Sakchai said that there are 1,500 police officers stationed on the island to protect the people, which he said was far too few to be effective in improving road safety.

"The police are not shirking their responsibility, but if you want to be safe on the road, then it is up to you," he said.

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All quiet, bar none

Patong Police deny Mother's Day shakedown on Soi Bangla

By Woranut Pechdee

PATONG Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan has denied reports that his officers yesterday ordered bar owners in Patong to shut down or face a fine of 75,000 baht.

"None of my officers ordered bars to close yesterday, and they did not threaten bar owners they would be fined up to 75,000 baht if they did not close," Col Chiraphat said on Wednesday.

"The sale and purchase of alcohol was not banned by law yesterday, and the only officers on the streets yesterday were regular patrols."

Allegations filed directly with the *Gazette* that police ordered the shutdown followed Phuket Provincial Police Commander Peerayuth Karajedee clarifying on Monday there was to be no ban on the sale of alcohol in Phuket, as island residents joined the na-



Col Chiraphat admits that he asked bars to close. Photo: Saran Mitratat

tion in celebrating HM Queen Sirikit's birthday and Mother's Day yesterday.

"Alcohol sales will not be banned," he said.

Col Chiraphat also confirmed

that his officers would have had no legal support to enforce a bar closure on Tuesday.

By law, the sale and purchase of alcohol is prohibited only on election days and on four

Buddhist holidays.

The ban may be introduced on other days, according to the Alcohol Control Act BE 2551, but only by the order of the Alcohol Beverage Control Committee, chaired by the Public Health Minister.

"Perhaps it was a misunderstanding. We asked bar owners to close in respect for Her Majesty's Birthday, and we heard that many did so venue owners and their staff could spend time with their families," he said.

Although the request was printed on official government letterhead and signed by Col Chiraphat, he strongly denied that the request was an order to close.

"We only asked them to close. We didn't order them," he said.

"But I have no idea where the figure 75,000 baht would come from. Who would earn that much money in one night?" Col Chiraphat said.



Natthachanok Inamnuaysri explains how Bangkok lawyer Teechalat 'disappeared' in the surf.

Bangkok-based lawyer drowns at Nai Thon

A BANGKOK lawyer on holiday in Phuket died on Monday after being struck by a large wave and dragged out to sea at Nai Thon.

Teechalat Kapaeng, 46, from Chon Buri, and Natthachanok Inamnuaysri, 42, from Bangkok, waded into the sea at about 6:30pm to rinse sand off their bodies after lying on the beach.

"We didn't realize how deep the water was until we were already out there, then a large wave came and dragged us out to sea," Ms Natthachanok told police.

"The lifeguards were able to save me, but Teechalat just disappeared. By the time we spotted him, he was already unconscious."

Beach lifeguards pulled Mr Teechalat from the water and an ambulance arrived to rush him to Thalang Hospital, said Thalang Police Inspector Kittiphum Tinthalang.

Hospital staff worked for an hour to revive Mr Teechalat, but were unable to revive him, Maj Kittiphum said.

"He was pronounced dead by doctors at the hospital," he said.

The drowning prompted police to urge tourists to take care when entering the ocean.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Hunt for ladyboy launched after tourist found dead

POLICE have not ruled out suicide or murder after the bloody body of a Russian tourist was found stabbed and slashed on his hotel bed on Nanai Road, Patong, on Wednesday morning.

Fedor Vasilev, 33, arrived in Phuket on July 19 with a tour group and was scheduled to return to Russia this morning. Hotel and tour agency staffers called police after they were unable to contact him.

"For about an hour staffers called him and knocked on his door, but there was no response," said Maj Peerasak Boonsang of the Patong Police.

"When we entered the room, we found him dead on the bed with a long, deep cut running from his wrist up his forearm, as well as seven stab wounds to his chest."

At the scene, police also found a bloody knife, as well as three pages of handwritten notes in Russian, which were discarded in a bin in the bathroom.

Staff explained to police that the Russian man, last seen at breakfast on Monday, had been seen with a ladyboy at the hotel on several occasions.

"His room had a 'Do not disturb' sign hanging from his door knob since yesterday [Tuesday]," Maj Peerasak told the *Gazette*.

"We are now searching for the ladyboy, checking CCTV, translating the letters and continuing to question hotel staff."

Police have not ruled out murder or suicide, Maj Peerasak confirmed.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Police at the Patong hotel room where the 33-year-old Russian was found dead.



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Illegal taxis rail against metered-taxi registration

ABOUT 30 illegal taxi drivers from Kata-Karon appealed to the military on August 6 to call off the launch of a fleet of metered taxis to serve tourists and residents in the area.

The drivers gathered at the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command at Cape Panwa to "seek assistance" in becoming legal.

Since their illegal stands were torn down earlier this year, the drivers now have no way of making a living, one taxi driver said.

When Col Somchai Ponatong, the top-ranking soldier on the island, arrived, the drivers requested that the PLTO re-open registration for green-plate taxis and that the military help drivers to obtain finance and find suitable locations to open legal taxi stands.

They also asked that the authorities be "flexible" about arresting them if they continued to work illegally and called on the Army to cancel the metered-taxi project. — *Phuket Gazette*

Hundreds of tourists stranded

More than 300 flew home Wednesday after days in airport

By Saran Mittrarat

TWO flights on Wednesday whisked away the 300 passengers destined for Hong Kong who were stranded at Phuket International Airport for days due to a decision made by the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to revoke landing rights to City Airways.

The DCA revoked the rights on August 9, after a report found that maintenance was not being properly carried out on the airline's carriers, said Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office.

"We were concerned about passenger safety following a report which revealed that City Airways has not been following proper procedures during maintenance on their carriers," Mr Santi said on Wednesday.

"The carrier has therefore not been allowed to land at Phuket International Airport."

Mr Santi noted that City Airlines was providing food and accommodation to the stranded passengers.



Tourists bound for Hong Kong stranded at Phuket Airport. Photo: Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office

Additionally, the airline received confirmation today that Bangkok-based carrier R Airlines would ferry the passengers to Bangkok

where they could make a Hong Kong connection.

"As of this morning, I received notification from City Airways

that R Airlines has agreed to carry all remaining passengers using two of its airplanes today," Mr Santi said on Wednesday.

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A fishing boat in the sea between Thailand and Myanmar. Photo: Chris Husted

Fishing boat slaves freed

EIGHTEEN Myanmar victims of a human-trafficking group, including four children, have returned home, after being rescued by Thai authorities.

Several of the now-freed victims were sold to fishing boats off Kawthaung, the township across the water from Ranong, which for more than a decade has been a popular "visa run" destination for foreigners in Phuket.

Saw Win Tin, 55, of Taunggu District, in Myanmar's Bago Region, said that he was sold to a fishing boat where he worked for more than three years without pay.

"While selling crabs in Kawthaung, a person approached me and offered me a job with good salary. I agreed and I was transferred to a fishing boat," Saw Win Tin said. "I was sold and I didn't get any pay for over three years."

He managed to escape when the boat docked. With assistance from a Thai student, he fled to a camp on the Thai side of the border and stayed there for a year.

Another returnee, who asked

not to be named, said that many men were sold to fishing boats in Thailand while on their way to work at an oil palm plantation in Kawthaung.

"I went there to work for a company," said the man from Paungde. "When I got there, I realized that it was not what I thought it would be. The working and living conditions were poor, so I left."

"Then an agent offered me a job, but instead he sold me to a fishing boat. There are many people like me."

The man said that he planned to sue the agent to bring an end to the criminal activity.

All 18 returnees — 12 from The Bago region, one from Ayeyawady, one from Taninthayi, two from Kayin State, and two from Mon State — were taken to Mawlamyaing Youth Training Center, under the care of Wah Wah Myint, a staff officer of the Social Welfare Department.

The trafficking survivors will soon be returned to their hometowns. — *Myanmar Eleven*

Fatal fire aftermath

Deadly Phuket Town inferno inspires re-evaluation of firefighting abilities, safety

By Athip Karndee

THE deadly fire in Phuket Town earlier this month that claimed four lives, including a family of three, has prompted the Phuket City mayor to re-evaluate the city's firefighting capabilities and find a way to win back residents' confidence.

Flames quickly engulfed the three-storey Chokchai Furniture shop in Phuket Town at about 2am on August 2, trapping and killing the Rueanchai family of three and one woman.

"There are more than 30 firefighters in the Phuket City Fire Department, but they constantly come and go. We often have to train new staff, which, in my opinion, is a big weakness for the department," Mayor Somjai Suwansupana said.

"Admittedly, not many people

want to work as a firefighter. It is a dangerous job; one that is undertaken for very little pay."

Nonetheless, Mayor Somjai described how she planned to improve upon the department's firefighting abilities.

"We normally hold drills every Friday to make sure that our firefighters and equipment are ready to go in case of an emergency," she said.

"We will take these opportunities to look into how we can improve what we do to raise the skill levels of our firefighters, so we can gain back people's confidence in the department."

Mayor Somjai specifically addressed the issue

of security bars on windows preventing firefighters from entering the furniture store to fight the blaze.

"We will look into buying more equipment for firefighters, so they



'Admittedly, not many people want to work as a firefighter. It is a dangerous job; one that is undertaken for very little pay'

– Somjai Suwansupana,
Phuket City Mayor



Four people became trapped inside the building when the fire erupted on August 2. Photos: Saran Mitratat



Maj Sakchai Chunyong of the Phuket City Police (left).



Barred windows prevented firefighters from entering.

can remove security bars from windows if they need to," she said.

Mayor Somjai also denied reports that the first fire truck to arrive at the scene was carrying only a half-tank of water.

"Half the water in the tank in the first truck was pumped to another truck at the scene so that second truck could continue to fight the fire," she explained.

Mayor Somjai also mentioned what Phuket City Municipality had been able to contribute to the families of the victims.

"We are devastated about those lost in the fire. We have given 139,000 baht to the relatives of Mongkol, Nucharee and Theerawat Rueanchai to help cover funeral expenses," she said.

"We have also donated 25,000 baht to Thanya Karnnapat's relatives for her funeral. The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office is considering matching that donation."

Mayor Somjai said the municipality also donated money to help cover medical expenses for the

owner of the building, Janhorm Jakkaew, who was able to jump to safety from the second storey after the fire broke out.

"Our main focus now is to ensure that all equipment is in proper working order, and that our firefighters are ready at all times. We believe that what we have been doing has worked for us so far," Mayor Somjai said.

"However, we must always be looking for ways to improve our organization, especially if it can help prevent tragic deaths like those on Saturday [August 2]."

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It took firefighters about 30 minutes to control the fire, which started in a storeroom.

Short circuit in Chinese shrine causes fire

FOUR fire trucks were called to the Mae Ya Nang Shrine on Krabi Road in Phuket Town on Monday morning after fire broke out in a storeroom stocked with firecrackers and prayer papers.

Phuket City Police reported no injuries from the blaze.

"Firefighters took about 30 minutes to control the fire, which broke out at about 8:20am," said Capt Weerachart Seera of the Phuket City Police.

The fire teams needed to take extra precautions in fighting the blaze as firecrackers exploded and the prayer papers, which are designed to be burnt as offerings, erupted into flames.

"We believe the fire started from an electrical short circuit in the storeroom. So far we estimate the cost of the damage to be about 100,000 baht," Capt Weerachart said.

Shrine caretaker Saijana Chuaysong, 59, was alone at the temple when the fire broke out.

"I was preparing tea to be offered to the gods when I heard the sound of an electrical surge," she told police.

"I ran to see what happened, and I saw a lot of smoke and flames coming from that room. I tried, but I couldn't put the fire out by myself, so I called for help from a neighbor."

Phuket City Police and a fire-investigation team from the Phuket Forensics Office then began an inspection of the scene.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Prison keeps 'white' status despite knives, drug use

DESPITE an early morning search of Phuket Provincial Prison on August 8 turning up a slew of contraband items and one inmate testing positive for drugs, the facility's "White Prison" certification remains intact.

"We have come out of many searches like this empty-handed. This is just one during which we found contraband items and only one inmate who tested positive for drugs," said Phuket Prison Chief Rapin Nihanon.

"One search like doesn't take away our 'White Prison' status."

Chief Rapin led more than 75 officers from the prison and the Phuket Provincial Health Office on the 5:30am search.

"We tested 200 of the 2,890 inmates we have for drug use," said Chief Rapin.

"The inmate who tested positive was incarcerated on August 4. He confessed to officers that he had used *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine] before he was brought to prison. We will not press additional charges against him."

Officers also found several banned items during the raid.

"In our search we found two box cutters, one pair of scissors and one small knife. We also found 10 belts," said Chief Rapin.

No charges have been added for the prisoners found in possession of banned items.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



The inmate who tested positive for drugs was recently incarcerated. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

British tsunami survivors thank Thais for kindness

By Gazette Reporters

BEN AND Emily Willgrass expressed gratitude to all Thai people for their kindness and generosity after an emotionally overwhelming reunion with their tsunami saviors last month.

Nearly 10 years later and thanks to a successful call for help via Facebook, the Willgrass siblings were able to track down Yupin Sengmuang and her former partner Pitchat.

"Yupin is an amazing lady and made us feel so welcome in her shop; we visited her every day and she showed us lots of love and cooked us delicious food," said the siblings in an email to the *Gazette*.

"We shared tears, laughter and many hugs with her," the email said, adding that Emily and Ben also had a lovely time meeting Pitchat, who travelled to Phuket especially to see them.

"It was so nice to catch up with him after so long and to chat about our experiences and our lives."

The brother and sister said that the trip had brought mixed emotions, as they were reminded of the tragic loss of their mother, who died during the devastating 2004 tsunami.

"Our trip to Phuket was difficult at times and often brought back sad memories of our experiences during the tsunami and the



Ben and Emily visited Ms Yupin at her restaurant, while Mr Pitchat (inset) drove down to meet them. Photo: Supplied

loss of our lovely mother," the email said.

However, they wrote that they were both very happy to have met Ms Yupin and Mr Pitchat again and felt very lucky to have been given the opportunity to thank

them personally for their help and support, as well as for the kindness and help they received after the disaster.

In the email, the siblings also thanked all of the Thai people they met while on the island.

"We were made to feel so welcome and were shown so much kindness and compassion during our stay. We had an amazing time and now know that Phuket will always hold a special place in our hearts."

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Among the high and mighty

Landslide fears prompt stop-work order high in the Patong hills

By Woranut Pechdee

WORK was ordered to stop at a construction site high on the hills overlooking Patong last week after it was found to be above the legal limit for building – and amid fears of a landslide smothering the residents below.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak led an inspection of the site – eight rai of land with unobstructed views of Patong Bay – armed with a cease and desist order issued by Patong Municipality on August 7.

The order was issued after residents in Baan Mon, at the base of the hill, filed a complaint with the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) last week.

"The residents are concerned that the construction may cause a landslide," Vice Governor Somkiet said.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the owner of the land had a *NorSor 3 Gor* land deed for the site, but had been denied a building permit by the Patong Municipality, he explained.

"Patong officials issued a cease work order on July 22. The site is more than 120 meters above sea level, far above the 80-meter limit, and no construction is permitted on land with a gradient of 35 degrees," V/Gov Somkiet said.

No workers were at the site when V/Gov Somkiet and his team of officials, including Kathu Dis-



The residents concerned about landslide risks filed their petition and complaint with police on July 2.

trict Chief Sayan Chanachaiwong, arrived.

"We will call the land owner, Pakanan Daowattakij, to ask why the construction was going ahead despite being ordered to stop on July 22," the vice governor said.

"We will also order him to shore up the banks of earth to make sure

there will not be a landslide. If there is a disaster, we will hold him responsible."

Regarding a seemingly completed resort sitting abandoned on the plot next to the one inspected on August 7, V/Gov Somkiet ordered the Patong Municipality to report to him in writing within 15

days explaining precisely why it had been allowed to be built.

Residents who live at the base of the hills in Patong have good cause to fear landslides, which have become a near-annual phenomenon.

Witsanu Yidsua was lucky to survive a landslide that came



V/Gov Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak



The abandoned resort next door.

crashing through his family home in 2011, and three workers died in a landslide on the hills in 2010, after three others were crushed to death on the hills in 2008.

On June 4 this year, three women were killed and one was injured in a landslide near Khao Khat Viewpoint in Wichit.





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Chalong underpass slated for 2016

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PLANS for a 300-meter underpass to be built at Chalong Circle will be presented to Department of Highways officials in Bangkok by the end of the year in the hope that the 800-million-baht project can begin in 2016.

"The plans will be presented when the budget is requested from the Department of Highways," Paisarn Suwannarak, specialist engineer from the Department of Highways, announced at the final public hearing for the project, held at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on August 6.

"It is too late to request money from the 2015 fiscal year budget, so it will have to come out of the 2016 fiscal year budget."

If approved, the construction will take 30 months to complete, Mr Paisarn added.

Three companies – Epsilon, NuMAP and Asia Lab and Consultant – will collaborate and design

the underpass plans, which will include a sculpture for the new Chalong Circle area.

"The sculpture will showcase the beauty of Wat Chalong and other historical sites in the area," said Mr Paisarn.

The same three companies have just completed the year-long 9mn baht pre-construction study, which analyzed traffic flow around Chalong Circle and the potential effects of an underpass on the surrounding environment.

In April, local residents voted to approve a route for the underpass: a two-way underpass stretching one kilometer long that joins Chao Fa West Road and Wiset Road.

"We plan for the underpass to have two four-meter lanes divided by a 0.5-meter median, which will have road studs and flexible poles. It will be a total of 10.5 meters wide and no less than five meters tall," Mr Paisarn explained.

"Footpaths will be provided on

'We plan for the underpass to have two four-meter lanes divided by a 0.5-meter median, which will have road studs and flexible poles. Footpaths will be provided on each side of the underpass. We will also install ventilation, drain systems, lights, fire-safety equipment and traffic signs,'

– Paisarn Suwannarak,
Department of Highways



If approved, the construction of the new underpass will take 30 months to complete. Photo: Gazette file

each side of the underpass. We will also install ventilation, drain systems, lights, fire-safety equipment and traffic signs."

The tunnel itself will be 300 meters long, but the one-kilometer route will start in front of Muang Phuket School on Wiset

Road and end near Home Pro Village on Chao Fa West Road, said Mr Paisarn.

"At this stage, we do not think we will have to expropriate any land from private landowners in order to complete the project," he added.

Mr Paisarn also addressed the issue of traffic the construction may cause.

"The companies responsible for planning the construction must be sure to plan in a way that affects traffic the least amount possible," he said.

Airport taxi fares: Have your say

THE Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) is pushing for a new fleet of standard metered taxis on the island to serve both tourists and residents. The PLTO requested that the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) approve the move, which includes increased fares for metered taxis.

In addressing the issue, PLTO Chief Terayout Prasertphol has pointed out that the government has not revised Phuket metered taxi fares since 2003.

Jaturong Kaewkasi, the PLTO's senior policy adviser, called for people to voice their support by posting comments online.

"At this stage, all we need is approval from the NCPO and support from the public," he said. "If you want to support us, please post comments online, on news stories and on Facebook."

"If there is a lot of support, we will record it and send it to the



What taxi fare is fair? Photo: Gazette file

NCPO to support our request."

In response to Mr Jaturong's request, the Phuket Gazette asked readers in our latest online poll: "How much do you think is a fair fare to pay for a taxi ride from Phuket Airport to Patong?"

Responses available in the poll are: 1) More than 2,000 baht; 2) 1,000-2,000 baht; 3) 700-1,000 baht; 4) 500-700 baht; 5) 300-500 baht; or 6) Less than 300 baht.

To have your say in this poll, visit the Phuket Gazette website cast your vote – and post your comments. – Phuket Gazette

Beach vendors to appeal to NCPO

MORE than 500 beach vendors put out of work by the beach cleanup campaign spoke up last Saturday about the importance of restarting their seaside businesses.

The complaints and proposals were heard at a public forum led by a team of professors and researchers at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket campus in Kathu.

The meeting came one day before the deadline for all displaced vendors to appeal to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), detailing the financial hardships they face as a result of the beach cleanups and any suggestions they have for the future.

"We understand that the beach clearance was part of an order from the NCPO to return public land to the people, but ordering vendors off the beach has put so many [beach vendors] in trouble," said Plat Jantarasopin, a Phuket local who spoke on behalf of the vendors.

"The vendors need to make a living. Their jobs have been taken and now they are left without anything to do."

Mr Plat found his voice as a "local representative" four weeks ago when he joined two other "local representatives" in filing a complaint against Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut. Ironically, the complaint alleged that the Governor had failed to perform his duties by not clearing all structures from Surin Beach.

Meanwhile, at the forum last Saturday, Jakkarin Charoenjit, a



Beach vendors claim tourists need their services. Photo: Gazette file

representative of a group of Patong beach umbrella and chair operators, claimed that at least 1,000 people have lost their jobs due to the cleanup.

"Patong Beach looks like it has been abandoned. Tourists are going to lose their confidence in Patong as they can no longer get the services they expect," he said.

Mr Jakkarin explained that a group of former beach lounge operators had surveyed tourists on the beach – and found that a large majority of them wanted the chairs and umbrellas back.

"We questioned 200 random tourists and 95 per cent of them want the umbrellas and chairs. They enjoy the experience and the services the beach staffers provide," he said.

Operators are willing to compromise with authorities about free

space on the beach if allowed back on the sand, noted Mr Jakkarin.

"The operators will put out only two rows of 10 chairs at any one time, with six meters between operators. We can even leave more space if officials want us to,"

"We support the beach management efforts and will keep our chair sections well organized in accordance with the NCPO's orders."

Mr Plat told the Gazette that the team compiling the written and spoken complaints will forward the information to the NCPO as soon as possible.

"Hopefully, they will be finished within the month," he said.

Last week, jet-ski operators were allowed back on Patong Beach after they promised to double as beach cleaners and volunteer lifeguards.

– Athip Karndee

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Club Med to stay

One of Phuket's first beachfront resorts gets a new lease on life

By Athip Karndee

NEGOTIATIONS between Club Med management and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO), which owns the land the resort sits on, concluded on August 8 with the news that the resort will stay.

"Club Med has agreed to make three rai available as public land to be used as the local residents see fit, and with that we will renew the lease for the resort to stay," PPAO President Paiboon Upatising told the *Gazette*.

"Club Med will talk with the local authorities and residents in Kata-Karon to determine exactly what the land will be used for, such as a football field, and Club Med will have to make that happen.

"The resort will be responsible for maintaining the public land, such as keeping it clean, and Club Med management will submit the residents' request as a proposal to the PPAO to be approved."

The process of having the PPAO approve the residents' request will alleviate any fears of outlandish requests being made, but if approved the project will become a binding condition of the resort's lease, he added.

"Also, the rent charged under the lease [including 'donations' to the PPAO and Karon Municipality] will increase from 3 million to 27mn baht a year," Mr Paiboon said.

The current lease requires the resort to pay rent and donations to the PPAO and Karon Municipality.

The lease requirement for



PPAO President Paiboon Upatising announced that Club Med would make three rai available as public land for locals to determine its use, and with that its lease will be renewed. Photo: Gazette file

Club Med to pay "rent" of 5,982 baht has not changed over the years, but the amount of donations has increased.

Threats of a protest earlier this year led to the PPAO agreeing to a public hearing before re-negotiating Club Med's 30-year lease, which

began in 1985.

The lease is set to expire on September 24 next year, and resort operators applied to renew the contract earlier this year.

It was that application that spurred an April protest by Karon officials.

"For 30 years we have been waiting for the contract to expire," Karon Subdistrict Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew said in April, arguing that the 39 rai of public land rented by the resort would be put to better use by locals.



The Por Tor Festival is a long-standing Phuket tradition.

Hungry Ghost Festival kicks off in Phuket

PHUKET Town launched into the annual Por Tor Festival Tuesday with a parade through the city streets followed by merit-making ceremonies and other activities in the heart of the island.

Phuket is honoring its Chinese cultural roots by celebrating the festival, more widely known as the Hungry Ghost festival, during which a variety of cultural displays and activities will be available for residents and tourists alike to enjoy.

"The Por Tor Festival is a Phuket tradition that has been passed down for many generations. Chinese people believe that worshipping their ancestors will bring them luck, as well as longer and healthier lives," she said.

"The Por Tor Festival is a Phuket tradition that has been passed down for many generations. Chinese people believe that worshipping their ancestors will bring them luck, as well as longer and healthier lives," she said.

There were many red turtles on display, Chinese sweets called *ang ku*, said Mayor Somjai. The color red is for good luck and the turtles are a symbol of longevity.

Festivities will be held throughout Phuket for the entirety of the festival, which will run until August 24.

—Athip Karndee

Katathani rocks vetted for beach encroachment

A TEAM of officials descended on Kata Noi Bay on August 8 to inspect a battery of rocks in front of the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort that were alleged to be encroaching on public beach land.

The inspection, led by Suthee Sirianan, the Chief Administrative Officer of Muang District Office, was launched after local villagers filed a complaint.

Local villager Sunisa Tubkaew told the *Gazette* that she saw a backhoe install the rocks, which line the beach for about a kilometer, many years ago.

Any expectations of immediate action were waylaid, as Mr Suthee explained, "From this inspection we cannot tell if the rocks were placed there or if they were a part of the beach in the first place.

"As long as the rocks do not pose a public danger, it is not an urgent issue."

Mr Suthee said his team will meet



Sunisa Tubkaew said a backhoe installed the rocks years ago.

at a later date to discuss whether any further action would be taken to investigate the complaint.

Kata-Karon Subdistrict Chief (KamNan) Winai Chidchiew was also present on August 8, but remained quiet throughout the investigation.

Mr Winai told the *Gazette* that he would file a report of his own understanding of the central issues involved in the complaint.

—Saran Mitrarat

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Gen Prayuth eyed to take over as new Thai premier



Gen Prayuth. Photo: Reuters

DEPUTY Army Chief Udomdej Sitabutr is emerging as the front-runner to succeed Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha as head of the Army, reported *The Nation* this week.

The news follows National Legislative Assembly (NLA) Deputy Chairman Surachai Liengboonlertchai announcing last Sunday that the NLA will call a vote on August 21 or 22 in order to name the next prime minister.

Mr Surachai said he supports Gen Prayuth for the position.

The Army chief is the most suitable candidate because he has demonstrated complete dedication to the country, Mr Surachai said. "But the decision rests with the NLA," he added.

Jade Siratharanont, another assemblyman, said he backs Gen Prayuth and that most of the chamber also agrees that Gen Prayuth is the best candidate for the country at this political juncture.

"It depends on whether Gen Prayuth will accept," he said.

Gen Prayuth, head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), is due to retire at the end of September – but it is not yet certain which general Gen Prayuth would appoint if he decides against extending his time at the helm.

Four top military leaders are qualified to succeed Gen Prayuth. Along with Gen Udomdej and assistant Army Chief Paiboon Koomchaya, the others appear to be assistant Army Chief Chatchai Sarikalaya and Army Chief of Staff Aksara Kerdpol.

Treasury Dept denies only 100 B10 coins minted in 1990

THE Treasury Department has denied a claim that only 100 10-baht coins were minted in 1990.

The department's director general, Naris Chaayasoot, spoke publicly about the minting of coins last Sunday shortly after rare coin and banknote trader Punnapat Srirueangwanich publicly offered 100,000 baht for any 10-baht coin minted in 1990 – a move that attracted much media attention.

"I've known that just 100 coins of 10 baht

were minted in 1990 for an exhibition at a Canadian mint. Most of the coins were handed out as gifts and just 30 returned to Thailand," the 27-year-old said.

However, Mr Naris of the Treasury Department insisted that Thailand bought 50 million 10-baht coins from a United States-based firm in 1990.

The department would investigate to determine if the coins were used in an exhibition that year, he added.



A coin trader offered 100,000 baht for any 10-baht coins minted in 1990. Photo: The Nation

Condo collapse kills eight



A BURI RAM woman who made a desperate dash from the northeast to Pathum Thani in search of her husband – who was trapped in a building that collapsed late on Monday – was able to say just a few words to him before he died early on Tuesday.

After learning on Monday from a television report that a six-storey condominium being built in Klong Luang had collapsed, Sutha Arunsri travelled from her home in Isarn to the site in hoping to learn the fate of her husband, Chettha Kamphuchat, who was trapped in the debris.

It was a journey of 400 kilometers tinged with hope, but one that ended, ultimately, in tragedy.

Standing anxiously outside the sealed area since 5am on Tuesday, she said her husband was a farmer who had only started working at the construction site two days before.

"I'm worried about my husband and I can't get hold of his four or five worker friends to learn about him. I'm not sure if they were all trapped in the debris," Ms Sutha said.

While not all of the workers injured by the crumbling building were inside, Mr Chettha was one of seven workers stuck within the



The six-storey condominium collapsed on Monday, trapping seven people under the debris. Photo: The Nation

wreckage Tuesday morning. He was able to talk to rescue workers throughout the night and was given a large amount of saline and oxygen. By 6am, he could still talk, but his pulse weakened until he lost consciousness.

Rescue workers took Ms Sutha to talk to him briefly. But that was all they could do. At 9:30am he passed away while his wife waited in vain outside.

All but one of the seven workers who were trapped ended up

dying, bringing the death toll to at least eight, while about 30 others were injured, five seriously.

The one trapped worker who survived was Chon Buri native Klanarong Prappai, 24, who communicated with rescuers that his legs were stuck under the debris.

Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT) president Suchatvee Suwansawat said that after the rescue mission was over, an EIT team would inspect the building,

which was reportedly 50 per cent constructed, to see if the work had been carried out properly and according to the plan. It would take some time for engineers and forensic police to determine what caused the collapse.

Police will charge contractors of the building for negligence causing deaths and injuries, *The Nation* reported on Tuesday.

Their licences would be inspected to confirm whether they were valid or not.

Yingluck may face travel restrictions

FORMER premier Yingluck Shinawatra has returned to Thailand, but may face tighter travel restrictions from the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) in the future, a source at the NCPO said on Monday.

Ms Yingluck arrived discreetly at Don Mueang Airport in Bangkok last Sunday on a private chartered flight from Singapore, a destination that was not included on her travel itinerary submitted to the NCPO as a requirement before she was allowed to leave Thailand.

It was not necessary for Ms Yingluck to report to the NCPO once she arrived in Thailand, and the NCPO will not take any action over the fact her travel did not match her itinerary, reported *The Nation*.



Yingluck and her son. Photo: Reuters

However, the NCPO source said that the committee responsible for deciding whether or not she can travel overseas will take into consideration the unannounced trip next time she applies.

Ms Yingluck was permitted to holiday in Europe and the United States from July 23 to August 10. In her travel itinerary submitted to

the NCPO, she said she would visit France, the UK and the US.

During her trip to Paris, she attended a birthday party for her brother Thaksin Shinawatra.

Ms Yingluck was required to seek permission to travel from the NCPO as the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) has filed for charges of dereliction of duty be brought against her over her government's controversial rice-pledging scheme.

In her first remarks to the media since her return, Ms Yingluck said she would not flee abroad, because she is bound to Thailand.

"I would like to thank Thai people who feel worried for me. No matter how I live or what I do, I am bound to Thailand. I won't go anywhere," she said.

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Time to do as the tank does

RECENT developments on our roads seem to indicate that the law enforcement campaign ordered by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) may be pushing against a serious limit: Thai society's deeply ingrained "culture of carelessness".

The past week in Phuket has seen an unprecedented spate of high-speed vehicle collisions resulting in deaths, serious injuries and property damage, not to mention the collateral psychological toll on the families and friends of the victims (see page 1).

There is likely little or no statistical correlation between this upsurge and the NCPO's efforts to somehow "impose" a safer, more civil society in Thailand.

Misperceptions that the two might somehow be related are akin to thinking that travel by commercial airlines has suddenly become less safe because there has been a spike in commercial airline crashes – and one unprecedented disappearance – around the world in recent months.

As anyone who has a basic understanding of statistics should know, it is only when a new causal factor linking multiple events is identified that alarm bells should go off – otherwise any statistical reckoning should look at the long-term "big picture".

That said, and at the risk of being anecdotal, the upsurge in road accidents in Phuket reminds this editorial writer of an experience in Bangkok during the 1992 Black May protests.

As the writer was walking south down a nearly deserted Paholyothin Road, a column of tanks presumably dispatched from the nearby Sanam Pao Military Camp was approaching the Victory Monument when the traffic light before them turned red.

Suddenly, the thunderous roar of the caterpillar track on the city streets came to an abrupt halt as the entire column stopped in unison to obey the signal. A surreal silence ensued. It lasted until the light turned green and the formation was back in uniform motion, destination unknown.

What made this occurrence so memorable was the irony that the witness had never seen drivers obey that light, unless there happened to be a police officer standing there to ensure they did.

Twenty-two years and two military coups later, it appears that little has changed, at least where road safety is concerned. Drivers continue to take any number of ill-advised risks, from running red lights and speeding to driving while impaired – or, to put it bluntly: "driving while stupid".

With all that in mind, drivers of any and all conveyances must remember that taking a vehicle onto Phuket roads is a bit like going into battle: there is always risk and you can never be too defensive.

Perhaps we all need to think a little more like that tank driver.

Foreigners, times are changing

Re: Gazette online, *The future of the resident farang lingers in limbo*, August 6

Yes indeed, it seems a change is in the wind. Count me in the camp that calls it positive.

It's true that part of the attraction for many expats (let's be clear here – western expats; the largest foreign resident groups in the Kingdom by nationality are other Asians) was the relative flexibility of the rule of law. Now, Thailand will be more like other developed countries: Come as a tourist or come with a visa.

Matt
Gazette forum

Bring back the chairs

As a regular visitor to Patong, I have noticed that there is now nowhere to sit on the beach. I would spend every day on the beach before, but now my days are spent by the pool at my resort. You are losing money.

We used to spend lots of money on the beach, but now we do not.

As an Australian tourist, I think other Australians would agree when I say: bring back the sun chairs and umbrellas.

Terri Royle
Australia

... but take the trash

My wife and I have been holidaying in Phuket and reading about the crackdown on beach umbrella and chair vendors. As tourists coming for a beach holiday, we expect to be able to enjoy the beach in comfort and make use of those facilities.

A much larger turnoff is the amount of rubbish on the beach and on the streets. Local traders sometimes cleanup their small patch, but turn a blind eye to the mess only a few meters away.

If the authorities could somehow use the tax revenue from the

Letters to the Editor

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

beach traders to fund an ongoing cleanup program, that would definitely be a good move. It's time to change attitudes regarding litter – tourists don't want to holiday in a rubbish dump!

Steve
Australia

Real Phuket is ruined

Re: Gazette online, *Beach cleanup D-day set for Phuket, Andaman-coast provinces*, August 9

The law must apply to everyone. When I see the development over the past 15 years, it is truly astounding. The "real" Phuket has been ruined beyond recognition. The legacy that is left is symbolic of corruption and greed. Knock them down, I say; return the land to its former beauty. Arrest those who profited and show the people how paradise can be restored.

Reader
Gazette forum

Is anyone watching?

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket's road nightmare gets worse: Italian man dies in crash*, August 9

Where are the police? Manning traffic lights in twos or threes. Manning checkpoints in groups of ten or a dozen, waiting for offenders to obligingly stop sans helmet or driving licence.

Lax enforcement and lack of education, as well as roads engineered for far fewer vehicles than there are on the island now, have unleashed a beast that will be hard to tame.

Michael
Gazette forum

A big-time passion for saving the big cats

Re: Gazette online, *Thailand eyes genetics regional database for wild cats*, August 4

I enjoyed your article [from *The Nation*] "Thailand eyes genetic regional database for wild cats", as I have been following Dr Alan Rabinowitz' great work in saving the big cats of the world.

His recent work to preserve tigers in Asia through the regional database in Thailand is extremely necessary at this time.

The article did not mention, however, that Dr Rabinowitz stuttered badly as a child. As a result, his passion for saving the big cats of the world stems from his childhood stuttering.

I saw him interviewed on *60 Minutes* saying that he once told big cats at the zoo that if he ever were to gain a voice and be able to speak, he would speak for them and fight for their rights. He certainly has fulfilled that promise.

Enrique Horta
New York

Clean up the taxis, or it's goodbye to tourists

Re: Gazette online, *Illegal Phuket taxi drivers beg military to call off metered-taxi project*, August 7

Amazing. These guys are illegal, yet think they have rights to ask favors.

They should have been arrested a long time ago. If they have no income now, maybe it is time to get a real job instead of hanging around all day harassing tourists.

If the authorities do not get the taxi mess sorted once and for all, nobody in Phuket will have an income soon as there will hardly be any tourists left.

Jo Dela Hetie
Gazette forum

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Fishy business

FIRST PERSON

THERE are many fishermen who have built careers in this industry, and their lives around it. In Phuket, we are surrounded by marine life. It is very easy for us to make a living catching and selling fish and other aquatic animals as many people enjoy eating seafood in Phuket, whether they live here or are just on holiday.

However, it is important that we employ sustainable fishing practices so that the industry can flourish for many years to come. We must prevent overfishing by making sure that people fish only during permitted times, in permitted areas and with equipment that follows fisheries' law.

One way we aim for sustainability is by announcing a three-month fishing black-out period every year. This allows aquatic animals time to spawn and care for their young properly, which increases the population from which we can fish in the future.

Also, we support the aquatic population by promoting initiatives such as the Crab Bank Project. Any farmer that has a pregnant crab can bring the crab to us and we will take care of it until the crab spawns. After that, the mother crab is sold and we take care of the baby crabs.

We also make a point of educating fishermen about the importance of marine conservation and the dangers of overfishing.

We are pushing for more and more fishermen to open their own fish farms so that they can have a chance for a fixed income. Their success can be greatly affected by



Kiettikun Charoensawan, 57, is chief of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office. He has a bachelor's degree in Aquaculture from the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University and has served as director of several offices of the Inland Fisheries Research and Development Bureau. He most recently worked for

two years as director of the bureau in Suphan Buri.

Here, he talks about why the fishing industry is important and how it can be sustained for future generations.

the monsoon season, as big waves and heavy storms often prevent them from going out. If they were to open a fish farm, they could catch fish whenever they are ready, rather than waiting for good weather to get on the boat.

Most fishermen are already well aware of which aquatic animals they should catch, as well as when and where they should be fishing.

They know that they must be able to keep this job for as long as they are able, and preserve it for generations to come. Most importantly, they know what is at stake if there is nothing for them to catch, so they do their best to protect sea life.

I have found that the real problem lies with foreign workers that come to Thailand just to make money, for example Myanmar or Laos nationals. A lot of them just want to get the product quickly and get the job done. They don't consider the impact they might have on their own future or of

generations down the road.

The best way to change this mindset is to talk to fishing boat operators and have them look out for any harmful fishing practices. Another helpful tactic is to set up a team of volunteers to monitor fishing boats to make sure that they are using approved fishing equipment, such as regulation nets with appropriately sized meshing so that young, small sea life can escape and continue to develop.

I would like to integrate an experience of the fishing industry into tourists' holidays. I want to set up a home-stay program, so interested visitors can be paired up with a fisherman and learn about the trade. They would be educated about the industry; go out on the boat with the fisherman; learn how to safely and properly catch aquatic animals; and go back to the fisherman's home and be shown how to cook the catch.

As the human population increases, so does the demand for seafood. I just want to strike a natural balance between what we take from the sea and what we give back to it.



Corruption is not contained to just Thailand. Photo: Heather Thorkelson

It's good – for now

Island View

By Jeremie Schatz

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

was acceptable as long as they benefited from it in some way.

How can they say that? To a "fair and balanced" Westerner's mind, the idea sounds preposterous and foolish. Just imagine seeing your representatives act with their own or their corporate supporters' best interest in mind before the public's. Well, where I come from... oh, wait, that pretty much happens everywhere.

Government corruption runs rampant everywhere, that's no secret. So maybe the least people can hope for is that they might benefit from it personally – rather than imagine it being stamped out.

Even to the Thais who not only recognize the corruption but accept it, there is a balance. We all saw what happened as the balance tipped too far when Yingluck Shinawatra tried to pass the amnesty bill. The public made it clear that they felt like they were no longer getting their share.

Let's hope that Thailand stays on the current positive path and can maintain momentum to raise the quality of life for everyone. But if the "if you can't beat them, join them" attitude prevails, is there any hope the current changes will stick?

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

Why do vendors have stalls at Wat Chalong?

How is it possible to have so many stalls selling t-shirts and other things on temple grounds at Wat Chalong? I thought that Wat Chalong would be a place that would be quiet, with no pressure to buy anything.

*Bjorn Ronningen,
Chalong*

Sompop Changlek, a temple administrator at Wat Chalong, replies:

Previously, there were many vendors operating stalls in front of the main entrance, just outside the temple grounds. They sold everything from food and jewelry to cold drinks – and they were dirty and disorganized. This was not good for the temple's image.

We know a temple should be a quiet place so we asked them to

move, but they would not.

The abbot of Wat Chalong did not want any conflicts with the vendors, so he permitted some of them to relocate to the temple grounds, near the restrooms.

The stall operators have been asked to make donations to the temple to ensure that the area is kept clean, but I do not know how much the donations are. However, I do know that a condition of them remaining on temple grounds is that they must be quiet – that part we can control.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Singing for your supper may be illegal

I have played guitar and sung songs at friends' parties for years. It's not my chosen vocation, but if a bar or a restaurant asks me to play and sing for a party, and I am not paid for it, am I still considered "working"?

I am the only one most people know who can sing Danish songs in our native language, but I do not want to break the law. I am retired and have been here for years.

*Angry Bird,
Rawai*

Yaowapa Pibulpol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), replies:

First, understand that the definition of "work" in Thailand does not consider whether or not you are paid for, or receive any benefit from, performing a specific action.

However, our officers will consider any action as "work" if either party benefits from it.

Also, if you agreed to play or sing on a specific date at a scheduled time, our office might consider that work as well. Such a performance would require planning and perhaps even some rehearsing.

In your case, if the performance is impromptu – for example, if a bar or restaurant owner asks you to play or sing while you are dining or drinking as a customer – that should be fine.

If you would like a clearer definition of whether or not what you do is considered work, please come to see us or contact our office. However, please make sure you explain all the facts to us.

Our office is located on

Rattanakosin 200 Pee Road, near the Phuket Regional Blood Center, in Saphan Hin. Tel: 076 219660-1. We are open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.



Be sure you know the rules before you belt out a tune. Photo: Taylor415

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Until August 28, 2-4:30pm. Kidz Activities by Quest

During July and August, kids and parents are invited to visit Canal Village every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to take part in the kids' activities program of the day, which include treasure hunt, wacky games, bbq chefs, and kids vs. wild, all taking turn for an afternoon of kids' entertainment.

"Kidz Activities by Quest" is the highlight activity during Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Promotion, a trove of extra benefits and added value for all Laguna hotel guests which include free dining for kids, free kids' golf, free Laguna Tours Excursions and extra beds (terms and conditions apply).

For more information call 076-362300 or visit: lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival

August 20, 2pm onward. The Phuket International Women's Club Annual Scholarship Ceremony

The PIWC annual scholarship ceremony will be held on Wednesday August 20. The event will be held at Satee Phuket School (Mahogany Auditorium) at 2:00pm. All are warmly invited to attend. RSVP: info@piwc-phuket.com

August 20, 7-10:30pm, Royal Thai Buffet at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Experience the taste of authentic Thai cuisine. Presenting a delicious range of Thai starters, soups, salads, live cooking stations, main dishes and mouth-watering desserts. 890 baht per person (food only) and 50 per cent off for children aged 6-12 years (food + free flow soft drinks).

August 21, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club August Lunch

The August lunch will be at Hyatt Regency Kamala. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at: info@piwc-phuket.com

August 22, 6-11:30pm. Scandinavian Crayfish Party at Two Chefs Kata

Two Chefs are serving a large crayfish and seafood buffet, including imported crayfish boiled the traditional Scandinavian way, smoked salmon from our smoke house, and freshly baked breads and pastries from our bakery. All you can eat for only 795 baht, children 395 baht.

The Two Chefs' house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. For more info, log onto our website twochefs.com, or follow us at: [facebook.com/TwoChefsThailand](https://www.facebook.com/TwoChefsThailand). Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more information call 076-330065 or email: katacenter@twochefs.com

September 18, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club September Lunch

The September lunch will be at Bollywood, Phuket Town. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at: info@piwc-phuket.com or call 086-594 1758

October 16, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club October Lunch

The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at info@piwc-phuket.com or call 086-594 1758.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Kidz Activities by Quest

Until August 28 2-4:30pm

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who abolished 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, email info@piwc-phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

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

November 6. Loy Krathong 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. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday

November 7-8. 2014 BISP International Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host for the thirteenth consecutive year, the seven-a-side Football Tournament. Well over 1,000 young players from all over Asia are expected at this exciting competition.

For more information email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th

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.

November 20-22. The Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST)

Registration on November 19 from 6pm onwards at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weigh station as well as the final evening and prize giving party will be held at the Tamarind. For more info, visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com/

This annual event, now in its 10th year, is proudly sponsored by 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).





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

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

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

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Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut.

New Honorary Consul of Nepal welcomed

Honored guests were recently invited to celebrate the appointment of a new Honorary Consul of Nepal at a ceremony held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel. Esteemed local politicians were on hand to welcome.



From left: Dr. Piyanat Sakulpipatana; a VIP guest; Assistant Professor Pranee Sakulpipatana; Honorary Consul of Nepal in Phuket Mr. Dornath Aryal; Supachai Sakulpipatana, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Nepal Thailand; and Mr. Phanuphong Limbupraserkul, Deputy Honorary Consul of Nepal in Phuket.

Aussie Night at Two Chefs

The Team at Two Chefs Kata threw another shrimp on the barbie recently during their Aussie Night buffet, which featured a huge range of fair dinkum Aussie dishes such as meat pies and lamingtons.



Phuket locals got a chance to sample some of the delights of the land down under during the feast.



A bevy of bronzed Aussie beach babes also took part in the festivities and enjoyed a taste of treats from back home.

Swiss National Day at Movenpick

Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket was selected for the sixth time to be the host of the Swiss National Day for Phuket's Swiss Society on August 1. GM Hansruedi Frutiger welcomed more than 80 guests to celebrate this special day for the Swiss.



From left: Pascal Frei, resident manager at Andara Resort & Villas; Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager of Movenpick Spa & Resort Karon Beach; and Urs Aebi, general manager at Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket.

Thanyapura

Thanyapura welcomed popular Thai Rock star Toon Bodyslam for his training session before he competed at the Hua Hin Triathlon.



From left: Executive Chairman of Thanyapura Phuket Chris McCormack and Toon Bodyslam.

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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 17

JOB of the week



See page 20

PETS of the week

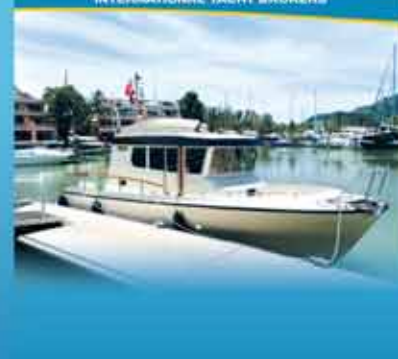
ADOPT A DOG
from Doggie Heaven



See page 23

BOAT of the week

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 25

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LAND FOR SALE IN UDON THANI

59 rai: 150,000 baht per rai. Beautiful land, perfect for resort living. Many big trees and a creek, very peaceful mountain views. Next to a national park. Power, water, easy access. 15 minutes from airport. Beautiful part of Thailand. Contact Nisa 086-211 1599. (English & Thai). Email: moon_nisa@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

PHUKET NEW CONDO FOR SALE

2-bed, 2-bath. Sugar Palm Condo. Right at Suan Luang Park with direct access to superb park, lake and ocean views. 10th floor, corner unit, 90 sqm. 10 min to Central shopping center, 20-30 minutes to beaches. 65,000 baht per sqm. Call Noi 087- 269 8492.

LAND FOR SALE

Back of Loch Palm, 510sqm, part of a small gated community of 2 villas, next to small lake. Chanote title and, if interested, complete house plans provided for free. 6 million baht, negotiable. For more information, please call 087-266 4583 (English), 082-440 6884 (Thai).

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN

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

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

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.

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

Studio of 36 sqm. Phuket Town at Green Places. Quiet. Details on request. Tel: 095-437 9062 (English). Email: lilly@mail.ru

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.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom 23781@msn.com

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.

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. Freehold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

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.

REAL SEAVIEW LAND

Seaview land, Yamu hills, 0.967 rai 5.5 million baht, freehold, Chanote. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email : yamu.hills.sunrise@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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.

SEAFRONT LAND KAMALA FOR SALE

6 rai, Chanote, seafont 66m. Tel: 089-897 2141.

LAND AND HOUSE PARK

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

TITLE CONDO 2BR REDUCED

Rawai: 66 sqm, 6.5 million baht if closed within 30 days. Tel: 089-772 7136 (English). Email: tedleefisher@hotmail.com

2-STOREY HOUSE

Close to the Heroines' Monument. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE KAMALA

2.75 rai 4,500sqm. Nor Sor 3 Kor title, ready to be built, building permit, electricity, road access, only 10 mn baht/rai. Tel: 088-768 0942. Email: pascal.elephantboutiquehotel@gmail.com

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

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www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

Close to the beach in Mai Khao. 4,136 sqm. Chanote title 16.9 million baht. Negotiable price. Contact Khun Tik. Tel: 085-784 7218 (English & Thai). Email: khrutphuketproperty@gmail.com

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

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

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

PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO

Located in Andaman Beach Suite, this 120 sqm, 12th floor apartment consisting of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 3 balconies, a spacious living room and spectacular sea views has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 076-341879 (English). Email: jayneymac@yahoo.com.au

LAND - PATONG BEACH

Opposite White Box restaurant. Sea View & beach front. 48 million baht/rai. Plots of 22 rai, 10 rai, and 4 rai Tel: 084-847 9977 (English & Thai), 084-058 8892 (English & Thai). Email: info@pacificlighthousehotel.com

LUXURY VILLA

Just 3 minutes from BIS, 900sqm land, 350sqm building, 3 bedrooms + maid room, 4 bathrooms, studio, 14x4m swimming pool, fish ponds. 15 million baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai, 800sqm land, Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Nisa. Tel: 089-674 4898.

FOR SALE / RENT SEA VIEW

1-bedroom apartment at Eden Resort Karon. Only 15 apartments in complex. Fully furnished, gym and 20x5m swimming pool. Please call 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.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

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

BEACHFRONT VILLARAWAI

800sqm, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private beach, from 35 million baht. Sale: 29.9 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

Properties For Rent

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com, www.pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT

5-star, 1 bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 24,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English&Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com, www.karonhill.altervista.org/

KATA BEACH APARTMENT

Nice 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-595 8512 081-970 4638 Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM UNITS

Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. For more information, please call 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

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

2-BED APT PATONG

100 sqm, pool, fully furnished, WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW RAWAI

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

HOUSE FOR RENT



3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircon. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

ZCAPE CHERNGTALAY

Studio apartment. Fully furnished. Large Flat screen TV. Fridge. Microwave. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM VILLA LONG TERM

Nice villa, Central Phuket, 3 beds, 2 baths, GT, 200sqm, fair rent. Gated, quiet, unfurnished. Available from August 2014. Take over aircon. Price for sale 60,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 086-281 1264. Email: info@contextphuket.com



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: annano1@hotmail.com

4-BED, 3-BATH NEAR LAGUNA

4-bed, 3-bath with private pool, landscaped garden, and only a few minutes drive to Villa Market and Laguna. Short and long term. Available now. Please call 089-655 7480. Email: suppmas@live.com

KATA BUNGALOW SOI 4

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

VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG

3-bed, Fully furnished. Long time rental. 21,000 baht per month. Please call 084-847 4377 (English), 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. For more information, please call 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

MODERN SEAVIEW APARTMENT

Kata, quiet location, 2-bdrm, from 1,900 per night (1-year contract). Please call 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.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, 38,000 and 75,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 087-269 8492.

BRAND NEW MODERN POOL VILLA



Brand New Modern Pool Villas (2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, Satellite TV, Pool & Garden Maintenance. Between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072. Email: srupouy@gmail.com, www.tropical-house.net

CONDO IN LAGUNA

ZCape condo, one bed. Next to Boat Avenue, 6th floor. Nice view, changed from original design. Great kitchen, 30 sqm, gym, pool. 18,000 baht/month, long term. Tel: 083-185 9487, 081-273 4212. Email: phuketcondo@gmail.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. Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

200SQM WAREHOUSE

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

BANG TAO LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

HOLIDAY HOUSE AND VILLA RENTAL

Private pool villa Rawai, 2 beds, 2 baths, short term only. Tel: 085-787 3046 (English). Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

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

FOR RENT, RAWAI/NAI HARN



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

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG

Condo pool, security, 46 square meters, fully furnished. For more information, please call 089-728 4005 (English&Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

HOST FOR TOUR GROUP

Looking for part time host / guest attendant in Phuket. English speaking. High pay. Email us. Tel: 098-487 4168 (English). Email: aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

English speaking TO and Sales Reps needed. Experience in timeshare only. Start immediately. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF NEEDED

The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with hotel experience of a minimum of 7 years. Tel: (60) 03-5569 2211, +60 016-227 7610. Email: caleen@cha.kri.com.my www.chakri.com.my

GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. (41) 079-369 6535. Email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

CHINESE PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your resume to info@phuket-condos-homes.com For future details, please see our website at www.phuket-condos-homes.com



Development Management Group Co., Ltd.
Is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket.
We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success.
The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai Nationals are desired.

The positions require good command of spoken and written English

1. Sustainability Manager
2. Safety Manager
3. Safety Officer
4. Landscape Assistant
5. M & E Engineer
6. Civil Inspector
7. Administrative Assistant
8. Document Control Officer

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

COPY WRITER

Siam Real Estate require an English speaking freelance copy writer with experience in real estate copy. Flexible working times; own hours. Good rate per copy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com. NO calls.

P.A. / COMPANY SECRETARY

Managing Director of multiple companies is looking for a Phuket-based, native English-speaking foreigner or a Thai national with native English speaking capabilities. • Company Secretary experience is a must. • Experience as an Executive Assistant with strong organizational/detail-oriented administrative skills. Must possess excellent business e-mail correspondence skills. Must also possess excellent note-taking skills and be very computer savvy and proficient with Microsoft Office. Tel: 090-916 3460 (English). Email: securecomm@yahoo.com

ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

ELT Phuket is looking for teachers. Competitive salary and bonuses. Apply within. Tel: 084-847 3033. Email: maxb eardsley@gmail.com

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Live-in housekeeper wanted for small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, some childcare and cooking. Excellent salary. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: ritaloui sedobson@hotmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER 30K+

LivePhuket is the fastest growing holiday rental & real estate platform based in Kamala, Phuket. Must have 5+ years finance experience and speak and write excellent English. Tel: 092-474 6157. Send CVs to Paul@livephuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.livephuket.com



Marketing Staff Wanted

Staff needed to join a promotions team to work in Real Estate. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish-speaking 20-30 year old staff wanted. Tel: 089-874 8929 (English). Send your CV & photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

FILIPINO STAFF WANTED

Need lady for office work only. Please reply with CV only. Tel: 081-893 7720. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.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: hrbang tao@oceanresortgroup.net

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

We require an organized, dynamic and experienced professional to assist our top executive management team. Our business is focused on Hotel Management & Hospitality, Property Management and Financial Services. This role will be biased toward supporting the CEO in financial services, and experience or background in this industry would be ideal. Tel: 087-895 7026 (English). Email: paceo@richmondth.com

DETOX CONSULTANT WANTED

English speaking Thai National with previous detox or nurse experience. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

BOAT CREW

Two positions available on the Chalong-based premier power catamaran Blue World – a Chinese Speaking Tour Guide and a qualified Boat Engineer. Both vacancies are for Thai Nationals. Excellent conditions and rates of pay. Please send photo and CV to Mike. Tel: 085-475 0447 (English). Email: blueworldsafaris@gmail.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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

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

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong?

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



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

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

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

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- 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

RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

LivePhuket.com is the Number 1 holiday rentals platform in Phuket. We require a talented and smart Rentals Consultant. You have the opportunity to easily earn over 100,000 baht every month! Must be a Thai national and have excellent English, written and spoken. Tel: 092-474 6157. (English) Email: paul@livephuket.com

SALESPERSON

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

LICENSED BOAT CAPTAIN SAMUI

For wooden boat under 20 tons at Koh Samui for snorkeling day tours. Tel: 077-961911, 081-737 1984 (English & Thai), 081-396 8383 (English & Thai). Email: tks@tourskohsamui.com

PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

Native speaker for English, Chinese and Japanese. Bachelor's degree or higher. Must be able to teach various ages of students. Tel: 076-219337, 095-429 5251 (English & Thai). Email: nyc.phuket@gmail.com

DIGITAL CONTENT / MEDIA ASST.

Knowledge in Graphic Design/ VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred) - Fluent in written and spoken English (Native-Level Preferred Thai national) - Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Please send your CV to aey@princessyachtssea.com or call 076-238060.

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

SALES / OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

LOOKING FOR LIVE-IN NANNY

Full-time, to take care of 8-year-old daughter. Play & do activities with children after school. Require English speaking. Tel: 090-070 9633 (English). Send CV to dae@skgf.asia

OPC'S WANTED. KOH SAMUI.

OPCs wanted for Koh Samui. Good sales people. Must speak English. Good salary. Tel: 077-413598, 093-680 2498. Email: opcbigsy@yahoo.com

PHUKET VIDEO MAKERS

Looking for cameraman and video editor, easy terms. Please call Alex 085-212 8447 (English).

RESTAURANT MANAGER REQUIRED

Experienced Thai restaurant manager needed to run modern contemporary restaurant. Good organization skills and fluent in English. Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht per month, depending upon experience. Tel: 076-223677, 086-509 7510 (English), 095-419 7670. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

EVENT / PR MANAGER

Well established event taking place in Phuket every December requires a Thai or Foreign national who has exceptional English language skills, reading, writing and speaking. Must be able to meet deadlines, work on own initiative and be a team player. Tel: 076-346927, 081-979 6320 (English). Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

myclip studios

VS ASIA

Career Opportunity : Sales & Marketing Executive (Asia)

We're looking for a new generation responsible for the Asian Market, especially for Hong Kong and China. Our available position is Sales & Marketing Executive. Any interested candidate must be experienced and skilled at sales and marketing for the international market, including online + offline businesses.

Position: Sales & Marketing Executive (Asia)

Job Description :

- Search potential customer lists and develop to make sales
- Introduce and present our services to potential customers
- Maintain and develop responsive business strategies for Asia; especially Hong Kong and China
- Implement a knowledge of online marketing, online channels, fashion trends and shopping online

Job Qualifications:

- F/M, Thai or Chinese Nationality
- Good communication in Chinese and English skills, good presentation skills,
- Min 2 years experience as Sales Executive (any sales skills will be an advantage).
- Able to work full time at local or overseas country (Hong Kong-China)
- Interested in fashion / photography / creative design / online shopping

Salary & Welfare:

Salary, work permit & visa, social security insurance, tax, food, etc. Commission and yearly bonus (upon reaching a sales target)

Any interested candidate please apply in person or send your current resume or CV listing complete employment experience, a recent photograph, references and salary expectations to info@myclip.asia / info@vsdma.com / or call 076-380600

Our Contact Info:

MyClip Asia by VS Asia Co., Ltd.

40 and 42 Moo3 Palai Soi 2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130 Thailand

Tel. 076-380-600 Fax. 076-380605

email: info@myclip.asia email: info@vsdma.com

CHINESE REAL ESTATE SALES

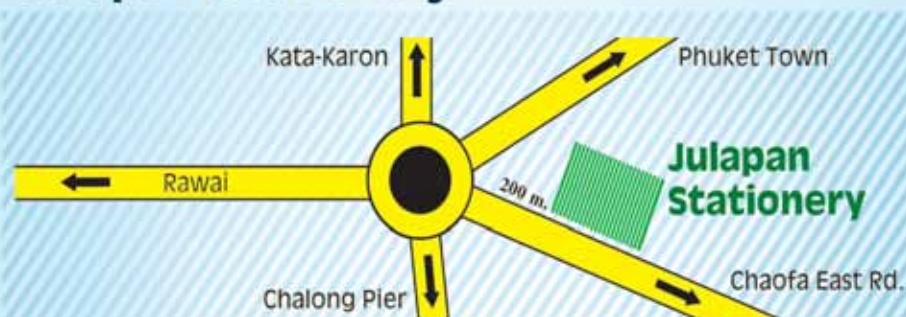
Siam Real Estate require experienced Chinese speaking sales person with good English and computer literacy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com or see www.siamrealestate.com

RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED

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

Live in Chalong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Julapan Stationery**



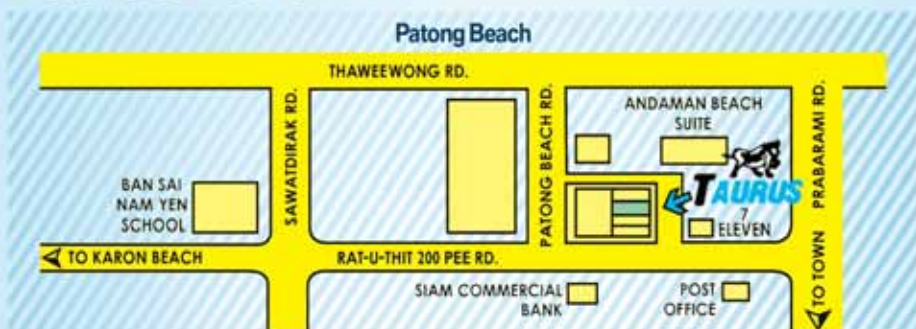
Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Patong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **WWW.PhuketGazette.Net**!

Bulletins

Business Opportunities

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

New 7-roomed modern hotel for rent. Fully staffed and operational in prime Karon location. 200 meters from beach, luxury rooms. Fully furnished, return customers. Call for further details 081-396 5059

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Kata Beach, nice area, 6 months deposit + 20,000 key money. Tel: 095-473 5769.

RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermuk. 2 rai. Chanote. 8 bungalows, 22 rooms, restaurant, pool, well, company, reduced to 26mn. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th, www.bigasailing.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. For more information please call 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

CHINESE PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Please send your resume to the email address below. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: info@phuket-condos-homes.com

SUPER LOW COST FRANCHISE

Best business for your Thai partner. Rapidly expanding franchise operating in 40 countries. Proven system. Fast return. Email: david.m@faramond.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Looking for a business? Since 2005, Business Brokers in Phuket have been finding the best opportunities and prices. Tel: 081-278 71 17(English). Email: uniccoli@gmail.com, www.phuket-islandproperty.com

LIST OF BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Buy a Business in Phuket! Email: thaiblazo@gmail.com, www.phuketadvertising.com/business

5 LUXURY APTS PATONG



Twice the size, yet half the price. 100sqm each plus terrace. Fully furnished, pool, great location. Would consider villa swap to Nai Harn area. 11.9 million baht. Tel: 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

GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT SALE

Small guesthouse + restaurant for takeover. Contact for details. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English & Thai), 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

BAR FOR RENT

On Bangla Road. Great location, fully equipped, near road. Contract until January 2015. Price: 590,000 baht only. Contact Khun Robert Tel: 082-829 4106 (English).

UNIQUE STRETCH LIMO BUSINESS

Only stretch limousine in Thailand. Turnkey business with website and many customers. Just start and make money! 2.8 million baht. For more information please call 089-932 5175(English&Thai). Email: wjkdowbengt@hotmail.com

B10MN MORTGAGE WANTED

Will pay 6% interest annually, interest only quarterly in advance, 50% of property value. Email: gordon_asia@hotmail.com

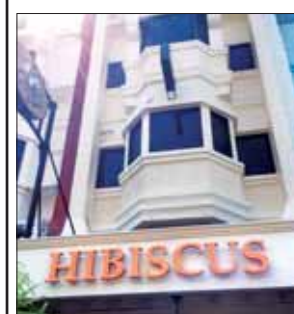
GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. For more information please contact 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop@hotmail.com

PATONG MASSAGE SHOP NANAI

8-beds, 5 chairs, staff accommodation. Wide shop front, rear access. Quick sale needed. 350,000 baht or best offer. Email: roy_baldman@yahoo.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE



2 mins walk to beach, located on the tourist road, 5 storeys, 7 furnished bedrooms. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-171 9705.

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified baht

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

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

For more information, Please call 076-273555.

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

PROMOTION PRICE
Your Ad on PGTV

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

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

Phone Mr Reece
(02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

Business Products & Services



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

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

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

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

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

Building Products & Services

WOOD WORK AND MORE

Built in Furniture for homes, kitchens, flooring, deck-ings, wardrobes, etc. Teak deckings for boats and interior work, anti-fouling and osmosis repairs, and fiberglass and gel coat works. We're also an authorized applicator of Xypex, crystallization waterproof systems. Yes, All for Wood and More! Tel: 076-243089, 081-968 3118, 081-271 3228. Fax: 076-238947. Email: info@procarpentering.com

40FT SEA CONTAINER
For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

Club Memberships Available

WAREE SPA BOAT LAGOON



1-year membership at 40% discount. Thai, herbal, steam. Tel: 091-823 6918 (English & Thai). Email: anongnard-1971.co.th

Personal Services Wanted

GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. For more information, please call (41) 079-3696 535 or contact by email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

Personal Services

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Licensed US Counselor. Individual, children, couples. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@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



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)

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280 074. Email: janne@raya-divers.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

Golf Stuff

CALLAWAY GOLF CLUBS

Big Bertha, 3 woods, 9 irons, putter and bag, 5 years old. Please call 084-818 6045.



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 Gift@phuketgazette.net

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

Live in Karon?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
Euro style tailors

Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa

Luangphochuain Rd

Karon Beach

Patok West Rd

Patok East Rd

Euro Style Tailors

Phuket Island View

Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Anand: 076-396911
081-536 5550

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work
because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads
in print every week, all published simultaneously
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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**Cryptic crossword**

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).

Normal spelling: lower case.

Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).


Letters left out: underlined>.

Across: 9. SEVENTEEN: s-event-een 10. AIRFORCE: icarefor 12. ERNE: rene 13. ATTACH: chat(Ta) 14. JANITOR: Jan.-1-tor 15. INSURANCE: curesinan 17. TECHNICAL: thancecil 18. KESTREL: lestrek 20. ANCHOR: ranch(O) 21. TOME: to-me 24. SPOTLESS: place-below 26. PAYMENTS: manypets 28. ARMY: mary 29. BUCKET: tuckbe 31. PRECEDE: rep-cede 34. PARTIALLY: iparty(all) 36. CARPETBAG: getbarcap 38. RETITLE: letrite 39. TAMBON: bantom 40. PLAN: p-L-an 41. AMERICAN: acinema(R) 42. ORANGEADE: doagreen Down: 1. ASTERISK: ratekiss 2. EVENTS: seven(T) 3. SENTINEL: sent-line 4. INSANE: asnine 5. PATHETIC: thepacti 6. TRAJECTORY: tocarryjet 7. MORNING: M-nogrin 8. ACETIC: ace-tic 11. TROLLEY: tellroy 16. RARITY: tryair 19. SAPAM: mapas[up] 20. ANS: Ans. 22. OUTRE: route 23. SEVERE: sever-E 25. EBULLIENCE: E-bull-niece 26. PIT: pit 27. HAMPERS: hampers 30. KEYSTONE: tonyseek 32. ENGINEER: E-ingreen 33. DISTURB: D-sirbut 35. RETIME: remit(E) 36. COMMON: shared 37. BALLAD: ball-A.D.

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Crystal Wild Resort soft opening

Staff and management of the Crystal Wild Resort in Cape Panwa marked the soft opening of the resort in a ceremony last weekend attended by VIP guests and media.



Crystal Wild Resort General Manager Mongkolthep Khoo-aroon (left), and Managing Director Sathien Khoo-aroon.

Mother's Day at Laguna Phuket Kindergarten



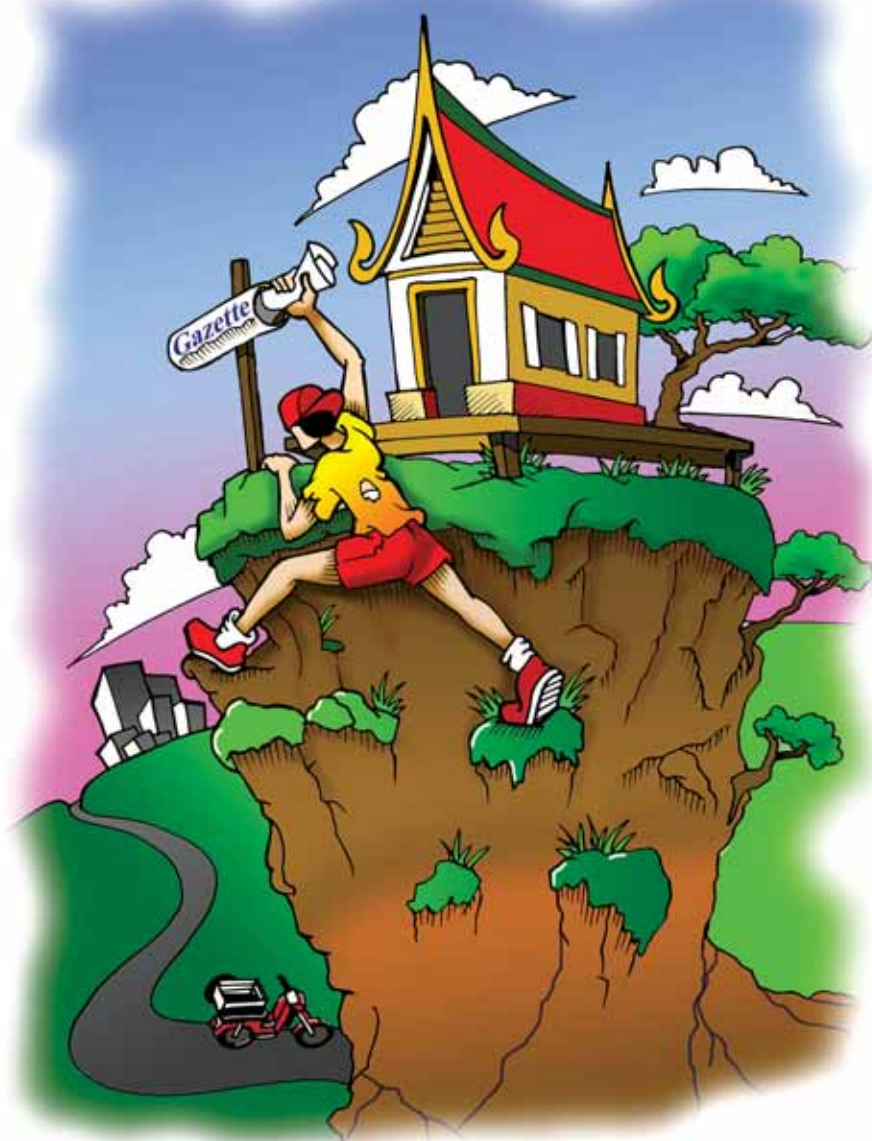
From left: Tawicha Thongthammachart, PTA association adviser, Laguna Phuket Kindergarten; David Seet, SAVP Resort Operation, Laguna Phuket; Dr Sommai Preechasilp, Deputy Phuket Governor; Nuanlaor Sabaijit, editor-in-chief, Sieng Taksin Newspaper; Niyom Tassaneetipagorn, SAVP corporate affairs, Laguna Phuket; Prae Sunantaraks, director of community relations, Laguna Phuket; and Aranya Chienginn, principal, Laguna Phuket Kindergarten.

Sansiri opens 'Child Friendly Space'

Sansiri launched its new Child Friendly Space at Mai Khao to provide education in a safe environment for the children of construction workers. The project, located near the construction site of Baan Mai Khao development, was officially launched on July 21 during a ceremony honored by Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut.



Sansiri staff, local media and children of construction workers enjoyed the opening celebrations.



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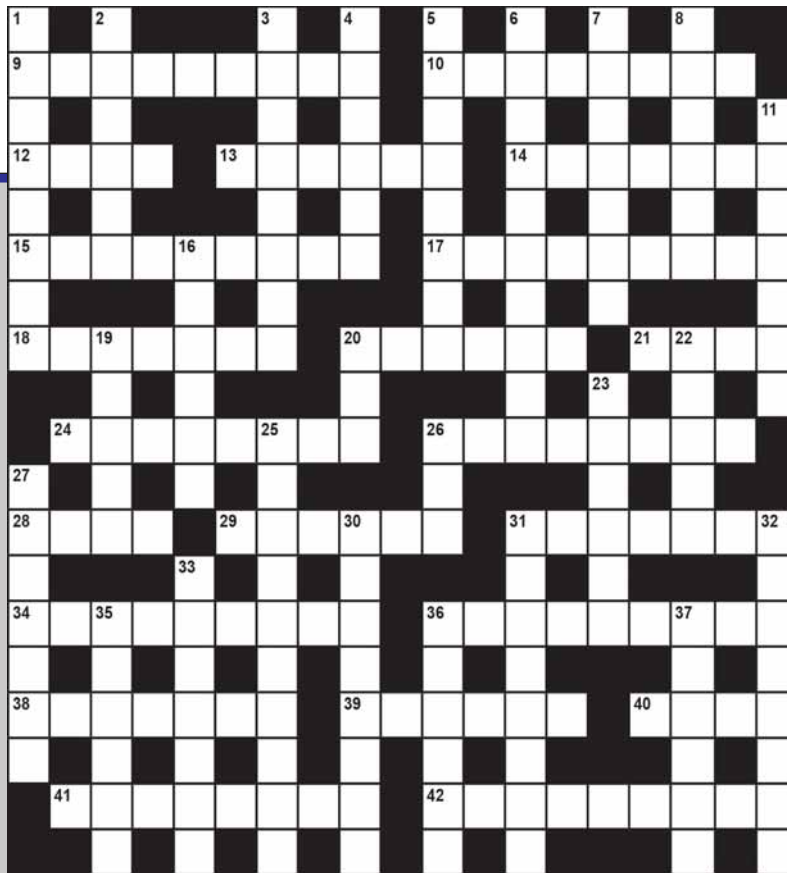
(Required)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Number of event seen outside (9)
 10. Possibly I care for the service in the air (8)
 12. René disturbed a sea eagle (4)
 13. Join chat, upset about thanks (6)
 14. January One high point for the caretaker (7)
 15. Cures in an arranged indemnity (9)
 17. Other than Cecil concerned with science (9)
 18. Les, trek out to find a hawk (7)
 20. Ranch spread out around circle in moor (6)
 21. A large volume to me (4)
 24. Very clean place below (8)
 26. Settlements with many pets moving about (8)
 28. Mary upset the soldiers (4)
 29. Tuck be possibly in the pail (6)
 31. Rep maybe to give up and go first (7)
 34. Maybe I party including everyone to a limited extent (9)
 36. Possibly get bar cap, travel holdall (9)
 38. Let rite change, give another designation (7)
 39. Ban Tom from a Thai Subdistrict (6)
 40. Scheme to pan out large (4)
 41. A cinema could be about right coming from the States (8)
 42. Do agree an unusual summer drink (9)



Down

1. Rate kiss maybe from star sign (8)
 2. Time in seven different contests (6)
 3. Guard sent out line (8)
 4. Crazy as nine could be (6)
 5. Causing sadness by the pact I arranged (8)
 6. Possible to carry jet in orbit (10)
 7. Mark no grin possible in the early part of the day (7)
 8. Champion involuntary spasm from acid type (6)
 11. Tell Roy, arrange truck (7)
 16. Try air new collectors' item (6)
 19. Turn up map as showing village on Phuket (5)
 20. The short answer (3)
 22. Weird route winding about (5)
 23. Harsh part, note (6)
 25. Exuberance of Eastern ox upset niece (10)
 26. Match against mine (3)
 27. Holds up the picnic baskets (7)
 30. Tony, seek different part upon which the rest relies (8)
 31. Or planes could be one's own (8)
 32. Bring about echo in green movement (8)
 33. Daughter around, Sir, but trouble (7)
 35. Make a new schedule to remit out East (6)
 36. Shared as usual (6)
 37. Song and dance nowadays

Words from the wise:

"Age is not important unless you're a cheese."
 – Helen Hayes

"The wise man does not give the right answers, he poses the right questions." – Claude Levi-Strauss

Medium

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

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

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

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Are you involved in finding constructive ways to work around limitations? Although responding to difficulties may not be easy, part of the reason could be that a creative project or budding relationship is going through growing pains. The Full Moon could aid you by bringing feelings into the open to be acknowledged and released.

difficulties may not be easy, part of the reason could be that a creative project or budding relationship is going through growing pains. The Full Moon could aid you by bringing feelings into the open to be acknowledged and released.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



There's an ongoing dance between expressing your love of life and treading gingerly around home and family

affairs which could be holding you back. However, all of this might be helped by focusing on solutions. For romantics, the weekend's Full Moon could enhance a special occasion and bring you and another even closer.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



If faced with uncertainty or dilemma, withdrawing from the world may be the wrong strategy, even though it might seem the

easiest. Doing so could add to any confusion when it could be better to tackle the situation head on. This week benefits show up if you're willing to make changes and can zero in on what's best for everyone.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your assertive yet charming way with others can inspire friends to collaborate with you on creative

ideas and other plans. Yet, watch out for unresolved issues that pit your social expectations against a backdrop of financial angst. Later though, the Aquarian Full Moon brings a promise of fun, along with heady romantic feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You might have to contend with a few stumbling blocks concerning the realization of ambitions.

However, attuning to your creative flow could help you see ways around any pitfalls. As the Sun squares Saturn, there's a chance you're resisting an idea or opportunity that may be good for you, if you're willing to give it a chance.

YOUR horoscope By Patrick Arundell

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Perhaps your mind is set on an idea with an intellectual bias that could help re-create your future, or

maybe faraway shores and exotic sun-kissed locations beckon. Yet, deeper forces are also at work encouraging transformational insights, with the Full Moon bringing an opportunity to discuss and resolve edgy or awkward feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Keep your eyes open for opportunities that arise from seemingly improbable sources, as they could lay the

groundwork for future security. In addition, this week's blend of energies hints that it helps to be patient with friends who are on edge. Taking time to talk things over can bring understanding and healing regarding an ongoing issue.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The warmth of a confident Leo lineup helps support business and romantic relationships. Yet, this

week's influences can also foster stronger connections with those who might assist you with a key ambition. Later, the Full Moon in your sign encourages you to share information or feelings that you may have kept to yourself up until now.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



You seem to be brimming with bright ideas that you're easily able to communicate and that might

benefit your job or income as a result. Be on your guard though, as your positive outlook and resultant success could encourage jealousy. Over the weekend make time to kick back and take it easy, especially if you've been ultra-busy earlier in the week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Complex energies reveal that the week could have its ups and downs, yet with the right approach you can

still overcome difficulties and gain traction. The issue of whether to express yourself and your creativity freely, as opposed to withholding feelings and information, can be eased by allowing your intuition to guide the way ahead.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Thoughtful reflection may show you the way to seal a deal or stabilize communications, particularly around

finances and domestic affairs. Although a compromise might not be easy, it's possible that by trying different perspectives for size the right course of action will reveal itself. Yet, flexibility could be a useful asset too.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Optimism combines with liberating opportunities to encourage new beginnings, second chances and positive initiatives. The current alignment hints at a life-changing decision or a progressive option that could expand your horizons. Yet, as Mercury challenges Saturn, more practical matters could curtail this desire for fresh adventures.

Fire-powered business

By Maciek Klimowicz

IN THAILAND you're never far from a barbecue. A massive chunk of the ever-present street food is based on grilling different kinds of meat over an open fire. Still, Brad McElroy felt he wanted a barbecue of his own and decided to import one from his home country, the motherland of barbecue – Australia. That was 18 years ago and what started as a personal affair, grew into a full-time business that goes by the name of The Barbecue Store.

"I'm Australian and barbecue is a major part of our lifestyle, but when I was living in Bangkok I couldn't find a proper barbecue," explains Brad when asked about the origins of his business. "I decided to import one from Australia and then I thought it's better to take two, because I knew that as soon as I get one, one of my friends is going to want one too. Even before they arrived, the second one was already given away."

This is when Brad spotted the business opportunity and started selling barbecues from the garage of his Sukhumvit apartment. Eighteen years later the Barbecue Store employs 20 people and has outlets in Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Hua Hin and, of course, Phuket, where the company has been present for 17 years.

"The Phuket market is a bit seasonal, much more so than Bangkok, but it's been growing steadily by 15 to 20 per cent a year.

It's a good market for us because there is a big number of expatriates living here as well as many expats living in Hong Kong, Singapore etcetera who have property here and come visit a few times a year," explains Brad.

In the beginning it was mostly foreigners that The Barbecue Store catered to, but these days Brad estimates that up to 50 per cent of his customers are Thai. However, that is not the only change. One of the improvements to the lives of importers in Thailand is digitization – thanks to computerized systems, what used to be a week-long process of clearing a shipment of cargo to Thailand can now be done in less than two days. Almost two decades in business has allowed Brad to observe many such changes and improvements, but one thing hasn't changed whatsoever – his love for barbecue food. He still grills five times a week, sometimes even at breakfast.

"There is no shortage of local barbecue culture in Thailand; the street vendors use barbecues, and some people choose to have their food prepared by them, but others want to have their own barbecue. The ones that we sell are quite different from the small, clay pots with a grill on top you might see on the street," says Brad.

And indeed they are. The company has over 40 models of barbecue on offer with the smallest, portable grills starting at



The Barbecue Store has more than 40 barbecues of different size and price on offer. Photo: Supplied

2,500 baht and the most advanced, outdoor kitchens costing as much as 260,000 baht for a unit composed of a stainless steel grill, a refrigerator, stainless steel sink and more. But whatever the price or size, Brad guarantees high-quality – thanks to an ongoing relationship with Australia's leading retailer of barbecues, Barbecues Galore.

"When I import barbecues I select the right ones for Thailand, ones with high quality and that you won't have any issues with. That comes at a little bit of a price, but you get what you pay for, and you can be sure of many, many years

of barbecuing with it."

And if something does go wrong, the Barbecue Store offers a range of spare parts and a barbecue repair service.

Barbecuing is all about having a relaxing time with your family and The Barbecue Store makes shopping easier thanks to their website: barbecuethai.com. The page provides complete information and pictures, and a grill purchased online gets delivered to the customers door. "Around 20 per cent of our sales are generated online," says Brad.

But it's in the shop where you'll meet the staff, who are very proud

of being professional and passionate about their products. Not only will they give you information about your barbecue maintenance, but they will happily share their knowledge of grilling techniques for different kinds of meat and maybe, most importantly, make the whole affair more personal. After all, barbecue does today what bonfires used to do for our ancestors – they bring people together.

The BBQ store Phuket is located in 131/34-36 Moo 4 T. Sriroonthorn, Talang open from 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. For more information call 076 620125 or go to barbecuethai.com

mCommerce is making inroads in APAC

NUMEROUS developing economies in Asia-Pacific (APAC) region have impressively high mobile penetration rates. This has created opportunities for mobile operators to partner with banks, payment providers and merchants to develop new models of transactions.

A new analysis from Frost & Sullivan, *Analysis of the APAC Mobile Commerce Market 2013*, finds that the mCommerce market earned US\$76.17 billion in

2013 and expects this to grow to US\$153.26 billion by 2017.

Mobile Commerce has taken off due to the affordability of smartphones in emerging markets. Operators have begun to exploit the range of mobile technologies available to users and this, in turn, has allowed retailers to offer mobile shopping via mobile applications.

"Mobile operators could offer new services in conjunction with app developers and merchants to



Universal payment system will boost the market. Photo: HLundgaard make relevant information available and thereby, capture valuable opportunities at the right time," said Frost & Sullivan ICT Senior

Industry Analyst Serene Chan.

However, mobile payment currently lacks the interoperability of conventional payment modes such as credit and debit cards. The infrastructure of mobile payment in most retail outlets is inadequate, as there is no single mobile payment application that is common to all points of sale.

Until disparate functions are converged through a single platform for a seamless shopping experience, cash will continue to play a domi-

nant role in micropayment in the mass market.

"Mobile operators and banking institutions are adopting a collaborative mobile payment model to achieve compatibility across platforms and devices for mass market adoption," noted Chan.

"Pre-sales marketing and after-purchase activities will also go a long way in changing consumers' payment habits," she added. – Frost & Sullivan

Travel with mom

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is organizing the 'take mom on a trip in August' campaign, in its bid to encourage domestic tourism during the Mother's Day long weekend.

The TAT campaign, aims at encouraging family members to spend time together through domestic travel, and is also promoting group tours with a focus on family and working age individuals.

Such groups are rapidly expanding and have the spending power and the capacity to perpetually generate income for the tourism sector. – NNT

First Thailand-Pacific Islands Forum

On August 9-10 Thailand has welcomed 14 Pacific Island nations for the first Thailand-Pacific Islands Forum.

The Deputy NCPO chief Tanasak Patimapragorn, as host of the event said he believes Thailand is ready to work closely in areas of trade and investment with the Pacific Island countries.

Meanwhile, the former ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said that Thailand sees all Pacific Island countries as potential partners. He added that Thailand can offer help in areas like marine development, and

agribusiness expertise, as well as health and human resources development.

Furthermore, during the meeting, the Foreign Ministry looked into three key areas of cooperation: sustainable development, economic cooperation and cooperation in international forums. American and South Pacific Affairs Department Director-General Songsak Saicheua also emphasized Thailand's readiness to expand cooperation projects in the Pacific region by supporting capacity-building programs, and training. – NNT

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To invest or not to invest

LATELY, a lot of the phone calls I've been getting are from nervous retirees. They're nervous for two reasons:

One, many of my clients have seen their accounts go up by quite a bit. After all, the US stock market is showing all-time highs. If clients just purchased the ETF of the S&P 500, they're up 17% in the past year.

For those that might have been more aggressive and purchased a stock like Facebook, they've made over 100% on their money. Here's the chart for shares of Facebook and you can see that if you bought it at any time, you've made money this year.

A year ago, when Facebook was trading at US\$25, it was a no-brainer investment for me. I use it every day and many expats that I know use it stay in touch with their families. The average Facebook user spends about 40 minutes a day on it. The company now accounts for \$1 of every \$5 spent on mobile advertising.

The reason shares had sold off after the IPO was that investors were concerned that more users were logging into Facebook on mobile devices and that Facebook would not be able to monetize mobile. Well, a year ago, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg came out and said that he will win the war for mobile ad dollars. Boy, did he deliver.

The problem now is that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, issued a cautionary statement on social media and biotech stocks in the middle of July. The



Finance

By Don Freeman

Fed said that share prices of certain sectors "do appear substantially stretched." When the Fed speaks, I listen.

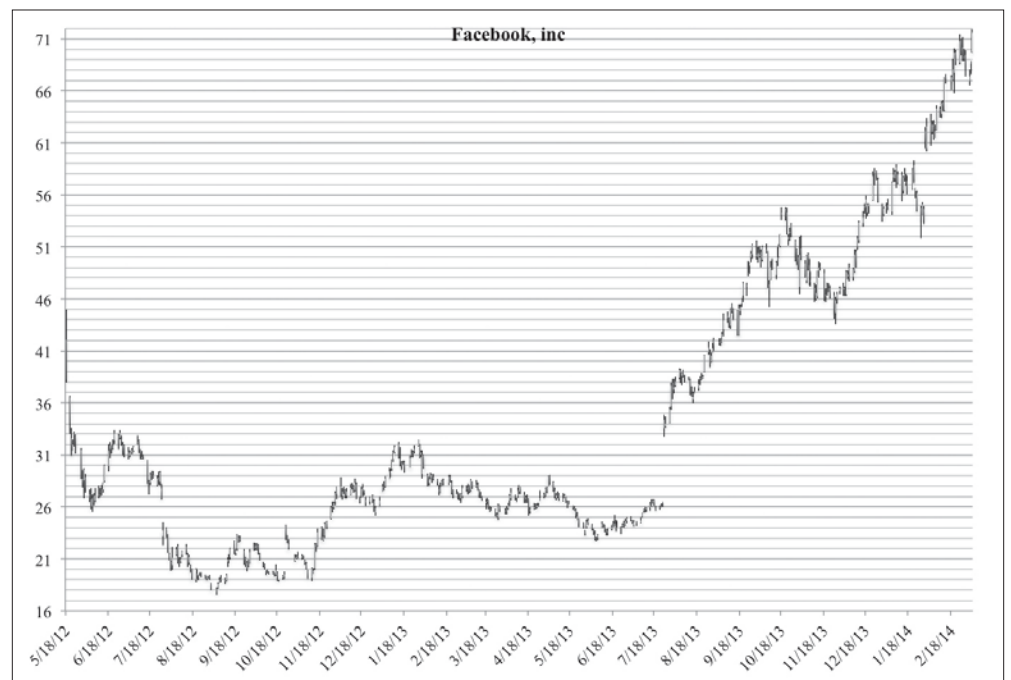
This leads me to the second reason many of my callers are nervous. Many are seeing these headlines and have not invested in the stock market yet. They're fearful that the market is going to crash and they don't want to be investing at a market top. Remember, it's buy low and sell high and not buy high and sell low.

So the question facing many investors today is, "what do I do next?" If you're already invested, do you sell and get out of the market? And if you haven't invested yet, how do I start after the market has gone up so much?

Well, there's no clear answer to these questions. A lot depends on your individual situation. For instance, some of my clients are offshore oil workers. They generate good income every month and they can invest through the market's ups and downs. Over the long-run, blue chip stocks and equities have proven to be the best investment for retirement.

For those that haven't invested yet and don't have the income of an offshore oil worker, they have to get defensive. What do I mean by this? Well, you want to be in stocks that will do well no matter what.

Two of my favorite defensive stocks are McDonald's and Coca-Cola. People all over the world are going to continue eating McDonald's and drinking Coca-Cola. Just go to our local McDonald's here in



Those investors who have been more aggressive and purchased a dynamic stock like Facebook, could have made over 100% on their money. Graphic: Joseph A. Rinaldi

Phuket and we can see all the Chinese and Russian tourists choosing to eat a Big Mac and fries over our delicious Thai food. And what's the beverage of choice at McDonald's? It's a Coke.

Why I like these two stocks is that the Great Depression of our lifetime was in 2008 and 2009. This was when the global economy almost collapsed, but shares of McDonald's and Coca-Cola held up better than other stocks. Throughout this period, both McDonald's and Coca-Cola paid their dividends and investors got a 3% dividend yield. McDonald's and Coca-Cola's businesses are so strong that it's like putting your money in the bank and collecting 3%. They're not going out of business tomorrow.

Buying McDonald's and Coca-Cola is not for everyone. Some may not like their businesses and think that the trend is towards healthier foods and beverages.

The point is that McDonald's and Coca-Cola are just two options when it comes to getting defensive with your investments. There are a number of ETFs, MLPs,

REITS, utilities, and other consumer companies that do just as well in a down market. They also pay the nice dividends that we retirees need to live on here in Thailand. (Stay tuned for my next article on the Vanguard Real Estate Investment Trust ETF which pays a nice dividend.)

"The first step towards financial freedom is realizing that you need a plan and then making the call and devising that plan. So give me a call and we can discuss what options are right for you. We can tailor a plan that fits your needs and that's what's important.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Adviser with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970 5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

Impiana welcomes new general manager and executive chef



New general manager of Impiana Resort David Xavier. Photos: Supplied

IMPIANA Resort Phuket recently announced the appointment of its new General Manager David Xavier and its new Executive Chef Christoph Lindner.

French national Mr. Xavier comes to Phuket following a tenure as general manager for Impiana in Chaweng Noi Koh Samui, director of food and beverage at Impiana KLCC and banquet and catering manager at Pan Pacific KLIA. Mr Xavier holds a masters degree in International Hospitality Management



Impiana's new executive chef Christoph Lindner.

from the University of Toulouse le Mirail in France.

A native of Germany, Mr. Lindner comes to Impiana with more than eight years in various positions in the food and beverage industry, including his previous post as executive chef at the Akaryn Boutique Resort and Spa in Koh Samui. Mr Lindner holds a bachelor degree in International Hospitality and Restaurant Management from the Paul Bocuse Institute in France.

— Phuket Gazette

Beachgoers speak up

EXPEDIA, one of the world's largest full-service online travel sites, recently released the results of the 2014 Expedia Flip Flop Report, an annual study of behavior and preferences among beachgoers.

The 2014 Expedia Flip Flop Report was commissioned by Expedia and conducted online by Northstar, a global research and consulting firm. The study was conducted among 11,165 adults 18 years of age and older, across 24 countries in five continents.

For the third year running, Germans were the likeliest to sunbathe fully nude at the beach. However, this year – for the first time – Austrians tied their German peers in that regard with 28% reporting having spent a day at the beach in the buff.

Asian beachgoers are typically more modest; only 2% of Japanese, 3% of South Koreans and 4% of Thai beachgoers have sunbathed nude.

The beach itself is the most popular travel destination for the world's travellers. More than half (56%) of the study's respondents took a beach vacation in the past year. A full three quarters (75%) of global travellers indicate that



Over 11,000 beachgoers took part in the worldwide survey. Photo: Kallerna

they are "very" or "somewhat" likely to take a beach vacation in the next 12 months.

In pursuit of such happiness, beach lovers will make sacrifices. The report revealed that 29% would "work weekends for a month" in exchange for just one extra beach vacation per year; 25% would give up a week's salary; and 11% would be willing to experience influenza for a full 48 hours.

Seventy-four per cent of worldwide respondents consider speedo-style briefs to be acceptable beach attire. A full 95% of

Brazilians approve while only 40% of Norwegians find the scanty swimwear stylish.

A full 50% of beachgoers report that they are afraid to swim at the beach due to sharks, though 35% of that group will swim regardless.

Such fears remain a prevailing concern for beachgoers despite the relative rarity of a shark encounter: The University of Florida's "International Shark Attack File Report" reveals that a mere 72 "unprovoked" shark bite incidents took place in 2013, worldwide.

— Phuket Gazette

Sansiri launches Child-Friendly Space initiative

By Maciek Klimowicz

LIVING up to the standards set by its own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program "Sansiri Social Change", which aims to help support and improve children's lives, Sansiri launched its new Child-Friendly Space in Mai Khao to provide education in a safe environment for the children of construction workers.

The project, located near the construction site of Baan Mai Khao development, was officially launched on July 21 during a ceremony honored by Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut. An open-air classroom is available to all children of construction workers inhabiting the nearby camp who can leave their children in safety and under supervision while they are at work.

"Kids arrive here everyday at 9am and can stay until 2pm. They participate in a number of activities, they learn Thai and English and play. There is a volunteer teacher and caretakers present at all times," explained Paniti Chantayasakorn, Senior Corporate brand communications manager at Sansiri.

There are currently 10 volunteers responsible for the children's safety. Some of them are Sansiri staff convinced to volunteer their time by the company's internal campaign to promote social responsibility.

The Phuket Child-Friendly Space was ini-

PROPERTY
Gazette

tiated by Sansiri together with Unicef and Alliance Corp and is yet another such project in Thailand with Child-Friendly Spaces already active in Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, Hua

Hin, Koh Tao and in many other locations around the country.

Child-Friendly Space is another project in line with Sansiri's Social Change activities. Other examples of the company's CSR activities include the "give" campaign with the objective of amplifying the voices of Phuket's youth's thinking, presentation and documentary-making skills allowing them to create real projects to help improve the Phuket community and the Sansiri Academy launched in Phuket in 2012 which provides free football training to encourage children to use their free time wisely and help them develop their talents and potential. Two children from the Academy have since joined the Thai national youth football team.

The Child-Friendly Space in Phuket currently caters to approximately 30 children while there are 70 kids living in the nearby workers camp.

"As of now only around half of the children from the camp attend our school," explained Chantayasakorn. "The rest are not yet being allowed to attend by their parents. We are working with UNICEF to understand why parents don't want their children in school," she added.



Nuna is 6 years old and she spends her days at the new Child-Friendly Space. She wants to be a soldier when she grows up. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Imperial in development drive

IMPERIAL Land Group plans to invest more than 6 billion baht in building hotels and shopping malls in Bangkok and the provinces, including Phuket, as it aims to be listed on the stock market within two years.

Speaking at the launch of his I'm Park Chula community-mall project in downtown Bangkok last week, managing director Suwan Lertpunyaroj said Imperial Land Group – which has decades of experience in developing more than 1,000 residential properties in and around the capital – was now tilting more towards retail and hotel projects.

The reasoning is that these types of property will offer more consistent growth and income to the group over the long run as it plans to float shares on the Stock Exchange of Thailand within the next two years.

The I'm Park Chula complex, for which the company won a fierce bidding contest against many big-name developers to get the long-term leasing right from Chulalongkorn University, is the group's second retail project.

The first such project, the One@Bobae wholesale mall, lies in the heart of the famous wholesale clothing market of Bangkok.

The group is also opening its first hotel/serviced apartments building, called Imperial Ocean Palms, at Phuket's Bangtao Beach in the next three months.

Suwan said Imperial Land Group had also secured a 3-rai (half-hectare) prime plot of land in Bangkok's Yaowarat area, where it will spend 2bn baht developing a four-star hotel and shopping complex called the Station One China Town project, which is scheduled for completion within three years.

It also has two plots in Hua Hin, where it will build a four-star beachfront hotel.

Meanwhile, the group is negotiating with the landowner to construct a hotel on New Phetchaburi Road in Bangkok, and is seeking a location in South Pattaya for building a community mall with an investment of around 1bn baht.

The overall investment sum for the planned hotel projects amounts to 5bn baht.

Imperial Land Group currently has annual sales revenue of about 500mn baht. Within the next few years, its goal is for retail income to be generating half of overall revenue, followed by low-rise

residential properties that will contribute 30 per cent, and hotels, the rest, Suwan said.

The group plans to develop one new hotel and community-mall project in city-center areas every year. Most hotel projects will incorporate retail development areas.

"Our strong point is in finding truly prime areas for development," he added.

Suwan said Imperial Land Group was one of only a handful of property developers that had survived the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Until recently, the group had mainly focused on developing low-rise housing projects in the eastern areas of Bangkok.

Housing projects under development include the Imperial Park (Ring Road-Pracha Uthit) project and the Imperial Laguna project in Bang Bua Thong.

The group also has a 25-per cent stake in an ethanol-plant joint venture with listed company Siam Gas and Petrochemicals.

It was also a partner of Ua Withya, a publicly traded company, in a commercial/residential project on Charoen Krung Road, and a new beachfront shopping mall in Hua Hin. – The Nation

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Way up high on the mountain



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

MIST is covering Mount Yotei like a soft white blanket as I sit in the train station waiting for the 15:15 local to Otaru. Despite being school holidays, and prime-time summer, the weather is decidedly wet. Travel by railway in the country is always one of my guilty pleasures despite this being a business trip.

Sitting at the North Eastern end of Japan, Hokkaido with its stunning peaks and laid back charm is one of Asia's great escapes. Over the past few years I've been a frequent traveller to Niseko and the mountain resort areas.

My mind wanders as the train makes its way down gentle slopes, with streams of rushing water breaking the visual tree-scape. Train travel in Japan remains a breakaway from technology, as there are rules to not talk on the rails on your smartphone.

For more than a decade Niseko has grown in popularity as a winter ski haven. The areas powder is considered to be some of the

world's best and draws visitors from around the world.

Though lately, Thai's have taken to the destination year-round like bees to honey. With the national carrier championing direct flights between Bangkok and Sapporo, popularity is rising. One of the key success factors remains visa free travel for nationals of Thailand (see story below). There is also the food factor and a sustained inflow of tour groups from the Kingdom. During winter, the annual snow festival is a much anticipated event, with many Asian's coming for their first look at the white snowflakes.

My concentration is broken as we come down to the foreboding coastal area, as large waves break onto rock strewn beaches. It's a more urban landscape, and as most travellers can tell you, rail travel in city areas is just so non-descript. At the end of the day the blur of buildings in the vast concrete jungle means you could be anywhere.

Still, the nearby mountains are a fresh memory. Over the past few days, talking to hoteliers and property types has been insightful, given there is a marked surge in summer visitors. While Japa-

nese have school breaks in August, and are a ready source of business, foreigners are also starting to appreciate the destination without its signature blanket of snow.

Seasonality has always been the bane of mountain towns and this one is no different. In an attempt to lure off-season tourists, the Hilton at Niseko Village has converted one of its two golf courses to an action adventure course tagged as Pure. Here, zip-lines and various other sports facilities dot the horizon.

For the first time in a long while real estate developers and agents are saying the market is stabilizing in a way not seen for many years, going back before the global financial crisis. Though, like Southeast Asia, some of the new products like Ki Niseko are smaller and move investment focused for rental yields.

Dining is one of the attractions of the area, and unlike the heart of winter where you need to make reservations virtually months in advance at some of the popular restaurants, in the lean season excellent dining options are abundant.

Like so many ski resort towns in North America a large part of the accommodation supply is not



A serene view of Niseko Village, with the Hilton at the center. Photo: Glen

hotels but condos and holiday houses. Though one dramatic change over recent times is that mid-summer can get hot and humid and the majority of these units were not built with air conditioning. Up until a few years ago developers scoffed at the concept and now they are rushing around with fans and portable air units to chill down a new type of traveller – the summer version.

A passing conductor yells out

that Otaru is approaching and my train trip is nearly over. Was that a blissful sigh that came out of my mouth or perhaps one of envy for those still high up in the mountain paradise of Niseko. If you haven't been, my suggestion is check it out, be it for a winter ski trip, or a summer escape from the tropics.

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

Japan lures Thai buyers to resort town Niseko

JAPANESE property firm Niseko Resorts Group has been road-showing its project, The Orchards – located in Niseko – to



A house in The Orchards. Photo: NRG

Thai investors interested in buying a luxury residence on Hokkaido. The road show, which finished last week, was conducted by Colliers International Thailand.

Niseko Resorts Group CEO Eddie Guillemette said his company was thrilled to be given the opportunity for its development to be showcased in Thailand, especially after witnessing a significant recent increase in the number of Thai tourists visiting Hokkaido.

Meanwhile, there is no restriction on foreign ownership of freehold land and houses in Japan, which has helped fuel the interest of prospective Thai-based buyers in its resort location, he said.

Guillemette added that Niseko was much more than just a ski destination, "but a healthy, four-seasons retreat for families like my own who live in crowded cities where clean air, space and amazingly fresh food can be hard to find."

Colliers International's senior sales manager, International Project sales and marketing, Christian Robb, said Niseko had been really popular with Thai visitors during the 2013/2014 winter season, following the recent opening up of a direct flight from Suvarnabhumi

Airport to Sapporo – the largest city on Hokkaido and the fourth-largest in Japan – and the introduction by the Japa-

nese government of a 15-day tourist visa-free period for Thai nationals to enter the country.

Robb added that The Orchards – Niseko's newest development – would be ready in time for the 2014/2015 winter season.

The Orchards, an exclusive master-planned community, celebrated its grand opening earlier this year with the opening of the clubhouse and launch of the resort hospitality services in Niseko, Asia's premier international mountain resort.

The third development by property specialists, Niseko Resorts Group, The Orchards offers a combination of privacy, space and convenience with 46 luxury-home plots and five commercial plots over seven hectares of land.

Located in a pristine natural environment featuring panoramic views, mature cherry trees and a large central feature pond, The Orchards is a 1.2-kilometer drive from Niseko's Hirafu Ski Village.

Plots range from 500 square meters to over 1,000 sqm, and there are currently 20 land and house packages for sale ranging in price from 55 million to 300mn yen (17.3mn-94.5mn baht), said Guillemette.

– The Nation

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Simply steak at La Boucherie

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE bold French-style steak house La Boucherie has opened its doors in Chalong and is prepared to take over the island with one successful branch already in Patong and locations in Phuket Town, and possibly Chalong Talay, in the works. However, the international chain La Boucherie, “the butcher” in French, is not attempting to do anything extravagant as it falls in stride with longstanding Parisian bistro tradition.

Slices of beautifully pink in-house made *terrine de foie gras*, buttery escargot, rich beef burgundy stew and exquisitely cooked-to-temperature steak marks La Boucherie as a no-frills bistro, where the food and wine are left to do the talking.

French-Italian Executive Chef Philippe Rinaudo explains that the secret to each plate is relying on simplicity and quality – giving in to the tried-and-true French method of allowing butter, cream and quality in-house butchered meats do the hard work.

“Because this is a steakhouse, we [import] nice meat from Australia. And the rest, I like to try to do exactly like in France, simple and perfect. When you taste it you’ll know,” Chef Philippe said as he presented a 1,000 gram rib steak to a table of two. “Simple, simple is good – fantastic.”

Chef Philippe’s philosophy falls in line



French-Italian Executive Chef Philippe Rinaudo explains that the secret to each plate is relying on simplicity and quality – giving in to the tried-and-true French method of allowing butter, cream and quality in-house butchered meats do the hard work.

with the French tradition of bistros, which are renowned for serving moderately priced, simple home-style meals focusing on quality. Urban legend says that the term “bistro” was derived from the Russian occupation of Paris in 1815, where Russian officers would demand speed in service by yelling “bystro” (quickly) at servers. The legend is, of course, hotly contested by many French academics, but no matter the etymology, Chalong residents now have a quality example here in Phuket, and speed is not of the essence.

La Boucherie Restaurant Manager Yann Boquien explains that the steak house isn’t designed to just be a “get your food and get out” restaurant. It is a place for casual business lunch meetings, as well as a lounge with locally distilled alcohol used in classic cocktails and Belgian beer on tap.

Perhaps more importantly, it is a place to linger over a bottle of wine as the night drags on without the pressure of many of the bar scenes on the island. Though the Chalong branch shuts its doors at 10pm, Yann explains that

it is a pleasure to send the staffers home and drift into the background as even a single table of guests watch the hours past closing time tick by as they enjoy their evening.

“I am French. People need to know they can come here to relax, there is no pressure, just the pleasure of good food, good wine and time.”



Steaks don’t get much juicier than this – what else do you need? Photos: Isaac Stone Simonelli



The classic french dessert creme brulee is a fitting finish to your meal at La Boucherie.

Bangkok named ‘foodiest’ city

BANGKOK has been declared the world’s “Foodiest City” and two of its prominent restaurants have been recognized for their signature dishes, according to the “Tastiest Fast Feasts” Awards recently conferred by the British culinary website Chowzter.

The awards, which aim to uncover the most delicious fast food served by locally owned establishments with locally sourced food, are based on nominations by local food experts and bloggers. These were narrowed to 60 and tested by a team of Chowzter tasters. They cut across several categories including pizzas, vegetarian, bakery, rice, sandwiches and more.

Bangkok won in the “Foodiest City on Earth” category. In Bangkok, the pad Thai served at the Phat Thai Thip Samai restaurant won in the “Noodle” category, and the garlic fried chicken at the Polo Fried Chicken restaurant was nominated in the “Tastiest Bird” category.

According to a review in the

Asian Wall Street Journal, “In the Foodiest category, Bangkok bared forks with London, Lima, Singapore and Vancouver. But the city known for its vast array of food on the go and some of the freshest, flavor-packed offerings – even if it also wins recognition for the world’s top restaurants – ultimately triumphed.”

Justin Mellot, one of Chowzter’s founding employees, was quoted as saying, “We love that much of Bangkok’s food scene is all about fresh produce, fish, and meat being put together to make amazing dishes sold in the streets by experienced street food magicians. These individual vendors are the unsung heroes of the food world.”

Chowzter’s Bangkok representative Mark Wien, founder of eatingthaifood.com wrote, “There are few dishes in Thai cuisine more famous than pad Thai, and one of the most well-known restaurants for this noodle dish is Phat Thai Thip Samai. They use high quality

ingredients and still cook their pad Thai over high flaming charcoal to give it a lovely smoky flavor. The Phat Thai Haw Kai Kung features soft rice noodles cooked with fat juicy prawns that are then flash wrapped in a paper thin egg coating.”

TAT Governor Thawatchai Arunyik commented, “This is another wonderful honor for Thailand and our concept of ‘Thainess.’ Thai cuisine is famous all over the world, and these awards will give visitors more reason to come and enjoy our enormous range of delicacies. It is always nice to be recognized and appreciated, especially the ‘unsung heroes’ of our tourism industry.”

According to Ministry of Sports and Tourism figures, visitor spending per capita per day in 2012 totalled 4,392 baht, of which 19 per cent (821 baht) was on food and beverages. In 2011, the expenditure on food and beverage was 784 baht, or 18 per cent of the total.

– Phuket Gazette

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James Brown biopic brings back the funk

By Patricia Reaney

AT FIRST, Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer thought she was seeing early concert footage of James Brown but was then told it was a screen test by Chadwick Boseman to play the “Godfather of Soul” in the new biopic *Get On Up*.

From the gliding, intricate footwork to the hunched shoulders and fluid movements, Boseman had nailed Brown’s singular mannerisms and raspy voice.

“It was just him from the back, and then from the side, and it was all in silhouette with the hair. I could not believe it, and he had only been learning the dance for three days,” said Spencer, 44, who plays Brown’s no-nonsense, knife-wielding Aunt Honey in the film, which opened in US theaters last week.

Spencer, the 2012 Academy Award winner for *The Help*, said Boseman immersed himself in the role of the three-time Grammy winner, who died on Christmas Day in 2006 at the age of 73. “Things happen when they are supposed to. This was supposed to be Chadwick Boseman’s role,” Spencer said.

Get On Up follows the man and his music in flashbacks from his impoverished early years in a shack in rural South Carolina, to living in a brothel run by Aunt Honey and singing in a local church, to his early career performing with the Famous Flames and later international stardom. Behind the glitzy costumes, pom-



Mastering the dance moves and getting past the caricatures of Brown, famously parodied by Eddie Murphy on the comedy sketch show *Saturday Night Live*, posed the biggest challenges.

padours and showman’s bravura, the film, produced by Mick Jagger and Brian Grazer, shows Brown as an industrious teen scrounging a living, a troubled, perfectionist musician, an egotistical performer and a shrewd businessman.

Bozeman, 32, is no stranger to playing iconic figures. In a break-

out role, he portrayed black baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson in the 2013 biopic *42*, but bringing one of the most influential figures in popular music to the big screen was a challenge.

“I was scared of it. There was no part of it that was straightforward and easy,” said Boseman, who like Brown, hails from South Carolina.

Mastering the dance moves and getting past the caricatures of Brown, famously parodied by Eddie Murphy on the comedy sketch show *Saturday Night Live*, posed the biggest challenges. Boseman worked with a choreographer, spent time in the South to get into the part and spoke to Brown’s family to capture the essence of the man.

For Jagger, finding an actor who could dance and depict Brown’s charisma with the audience in the film, which was directed by Tate Taylor (*The Help*) was important.

Jagger and the Rolling Stones played on the same bill with Brown in 1964 at a live concert in California. As a performer influenced by him, Jagger wanted to find just the right actor to play Brown.

“For musicians, and for listeners and dancers alike, I think he has made this huge contribution, this lasting contribution which goes on. I think this movie does, hopefully, that legacy justice,” said Jagger.

Judging from early reviews, the filmmakers got it right with Boseman. “It’s that rare musician’s biography with a deep feel for the



Chadwick Boseman’s performance as Brown has been universally praised.

music. And in Chadwick Boseman, it has a galvanic core, a performance that transcends impersonation and reverberates long after the screen goes dark,” said the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Trade magazine *Variety* said whatever the film’s shortcomings, “one thing that’s faultless is its star, Chadwick Boseman, who plays Brown from age 16 to 60 with a dexterity and invention worthy of his subject.”

It also received a rave review from the *New York Times*, saying it, “thrillingly captures the frenzy of Brown’s music, and the forces driving that frenzy, both musical and personal. Like its gyrating,

spasmodic staccato beats, “Get On Up” refuses to stand still. It whirls and does splits and jumps, with leaps around in time and changes in tempo that are jarring and abrupt and that usually feel just right.”

Despite much praise director Taylor was widely criticized for his timeline shifting narrative structure, “Taylor can’t let go of his pretentious design, he dissolves linear narration, plowing backward again and again, giving us more Southern-gothic moss. Didn’t anyone tell Taylor that you can’t explain a phenomenon like James Brown any more than you can explain Mozart?” said David Denby of *The New Yorker*

— Reuters

Coming attractions



Sin City: A dame to kill

Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller reunite to bring Miller’s “Sin City” graphic novels back to the screen. Released August 21.



The homesman

A claim jumper and a pioneer woman team up to escort three insane women from Nebraska to Iowa. Released August 21.



What if

Wallace and Chantry puzzle out what it means if your best friend is also the love of your life. Released August 28.



Deliver us from evil

New York police officer Ralph Sarchie investigates a series of crimes. He joins forces with a priest, schooled in the rites of exorcism. Released September 4.

The day of the Dahlia



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

THAIS are seriously superstitious. There are lucky days when big decisions must be made and unlucky days when everything must be put on hold. Lotteries are a national obsession. Ghostly presences haunt every soap opera, bringing misfortune to those who fall foul of them. Good or bad karma is part and parcel of daily experience.

There are, predictably, a host of so-called "lucky plants" – for example braided money trees nicknamed "the bringer of good fortune", jade plants (*crassula ovata*), mistletoe figs, *euphorbia millii* (crown of thorns) and the extraordinarily named *zamioculcas*. All these are commonly found in pots fronting Thai properties. Indoors you may also encounter a lucky bamboo – actually *dracaena sanderiana*. Not just attractive presences, but harbingers of good fortune. There are even lucky floral garlands, that, draped from your rear view mirror, will protect you and your vehicle's passengers.

Unlucky plants? Yes, they too exist, though in some cases, a change of name has their image. Thus the *plumeria* or *frangipani*

was originally known in the kingdom as *lantom*, an epithet connoting sadness: old people forbade its ill-starred presence in their homes or gardens. Its image was not helped either by the fact that these trees were often planted in Muslim graveyards. Nowadays, the common and much sprightlier name accorded the shrub by Thai horticulturalists is *leelawadee*.

A similar mutation could transform the status of the dahlia. In a recent informative article, Normita Thongtham pointed out that the dahlia used to be known in Thailand as *rak rae* or "unstable love", an unfortunate association, especially for a superstitious wife fearful of her husband's potential infidelity. Now the name, like that of the *plumeria*'s, has been changed to *rak raeg* or "first love" in an attempt to bolster the plant's popularity. I had always assumed that dahlias, one of the world's most attractive and varied herbaceous perennials did not grow here because they could not cope with Phuket's climate. But this is apparently by no means the whole story.

That dahlias deserve to be grown more widely in Thailand is undeniable. After all, they come from Mexico and Central America so they are more likely to flourish here than in areas such as the

United States or Europe where they are massively popular. But they do need plenty of tender loving care.

Ideally they require sandy, slightly acidic soil and plenty of water and sun. Moreover, they are heavy feeders and prefer a fertilizer with extra potash – say a 6-12-12 formula. They can be grown from seed, ideally in trays or pots sown about an inch apart and covered with a quarter inch of fine soil. They will need to be watered sparingly but regularly. Transplanted when a few centimeters tall or kept in large containers, they will bloom in as little as four months. Since they have heavy, succulent stems and weighty, often whopping blooms, dahlias will need to be staked, preferably early in their progress to maturity otherwise they are easily damaged by wind. In conditions here, I would suggest the best situation would be a sheltered spot with filtered sunlight.

The professional method of propagation is to use tubers. Dahlias, a member of the *asteraceae* family are atypical in that they produce large clumps of fleshy rhizomes, rather after the manner of canna lilies. After two years of display, carefully prise the whole clump out of the soil, and store in a clean, dry place until you want



There are over 1,600 types of dahlia. Photo: Harald Hoyer

new plants. The clump should be separated with a sharp knife into individual tubers, ensuring that each tuber has at least one eye or growth point which, if left alone, will develop into a shoot. The cut area should be allowed to heal, then the tuber can be potted with the shoot pointing upwards. Pinching out the growing shoots just above a set of leaves, encourages a bushy habit and more flowers.

And what flowers. They vary in size from densely petalled half-inch pompoms to "dinner-plate" varieties which can measure up to a foot across. Shapes vary from single, daisy-like forms to double blooms,

cactus or anemone shaped flowers, fimbriated ones with elegantly twisted petals, neat, ball-shaped flowers, and even ones that simulate the shape of water lilies. Many varieties possess flowers of two or more colors. No fewer than 99 varieties have been awarded the Royal Horticultural Award of Merit, whereas the National Collection in Cornwall consists of over 1600 named species and cultivars.

Gardeners of Thailand, it's time to catch up...

If you have a question or a garden you want to see featured, email : drpaccampbell@gmail.com.



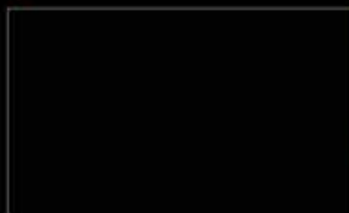
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Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

IT'S that time of year again, when the Phuket heavens open, the Soi Bangla fleshpots close and Bicycling Baz absconds to parts foreign for rest, recreation and his annual immersion in Kulcha with a capital 'K'.

This year I found myself in Paris again, a city better known for its Brie, baguettes and berets than its bicycles, but with a little inventiveness it proved possible to unearth cycling possibilities within this hurtling metropolis.

I'd cycled with the eccentrically-named Fat Tire Bike Company in other European countries and had enjoyed their brand of devil-may-care insouciance amidst the manic downtown mayhem of Berlin and Barcelona. As I've always loved the limpid impressionist fluidity of the big bearded botanist Claude Monet, I decided that taking Fat Tire's full-day biking adventure to Monet's lily-logged gardens at Giverny would be just the ticket.

To warm up for the day trip to Giverny I decided to take Fat Tire's evening junket around Paris, if only to see how they manage to cope with taking a bunch of naïve tourists around one of the most fearsome traffic-laden cities in Europe under the cover of darkness.

A rag-tag group of tourists ranging from hard core cycling nuts, to mums and dads with teenagers and even a granddad or two, gathered on a rainy evening at the allotted meeting point under the Eiffel Tower.

Our tour leader, Chuck, sported a purple Mohawk haircut and a Bronx accent as he briefed us



Monet's famous gardens that inspired his impressionistic paintings. Photo: Baz Daniel

from aloft a stepladder on the tactics for surviving a night on a bike in central Paris. Apparently, the key is to stay tightly together....to become, as Chuck put it, a single dynamic pedaling entity like a giant organism facing down the maniacal bus drivers for which Paris is famous. He said that even a Parisian Peugeot-driving psychotic would think twice about plowing into a tight group of thirty cyclists, whereas a single pedal-pusher would be a sitting canard.

Kitted out with bikes, Day-Glo vests and a paranoid compulsion to stay within our pack, we set off through the hurtling mayhem taking in such iconic Parisian sights as the Boulevard Saint Michelle, the grounds of the Louvre, the Jardin des Tuileries and Pont Neuf, ending up aboard the Bateau Mouche for a wine cruise



Baz touring with the eccentrically named Fat Tire Bike Company.

along the Seine past Notre Dame and finishing back beneath the throbbing lights of Monsieur Eiffel's enormous phallic symbol.

It really was a marvelous and only occasionally life-threatening

experience and I heartily recommend it whenever you next forgo the pleasures of Patong for Paris.

The next morning, bright and early, saw another group of ardent Pedal-files assembled at the Gare Saint Lazare for Fat Tire's full-day tour to Monet's house and gardens at Giverny. Today's leader was pretty, pony-tailed Amelia who proved to be a fountain of knowledge about French art, having a degree in art history from Colombia University.

We piled aboard the train for an hour's ride west of Paris along the Seine. We disembarked and got kitted out with our bikes, then rode to a country market to buy our picnic lunch. This featured a fabulous selection of local produce including wondrous salads, meats, freshly-baked breads, cheeses to die for and of course flagons of

local French wines at low, non-Thailand tax rated prices.

We loaded up our backpacks with produce and headed off for a group picnic lunch on the banks of the Seine beside an ancient stone bridge surrounded by garrulous ducks which were obviously well versed in the art of begging for morsels from gullible day-tripping cyclists.

Post-lunch we pedaled the short distance along the river pathway to the tiny village of Giverny and Monet's stunning house. Locking our bikes, we then spent a glorious few hours walking about Monet's famous gardens, lily pools and Japanese bridges, drinking in the riotous floral incandescence that inspired the master in his famous impressionistic paintings.

The gardens are truly magnificent and one can understand why Monet dedicated so much of his time and genius to capturing these scenes on canvas. We saw the now water-logged punt, in which the great man used to sit for hours on end painting en plein and the fairy-tale Japanese bridge which he made so famous in his depictions of Les Nymphes.

Our final port of call was Monet's nearby grave in the local church of Giverny. Built in the 15th and 16th centuries, this is the church that Monet and family attended. A white marble structure behind the church, adorned with lots of his beloved flowers and topped by a cross marks Monet's last resting place.

As I sat there contemplating Monet's love of life, beauty and the natural world, I couldn't help but think that such passions could help us Phuketians manage the rapid changes that are overtaking our island home. You can learn a lot, it seems, from lilies.

Keeping cool in Kanchanaburi

KANCHANABURI is one of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations, especially for nature lovers and tropical climate aficionados. The region's hills trap the heat and the intoxicating temperatures induce a dreamlike state-of-mind which is perfect for exploring the esoteric local attractions – many extraordinarily surreal.

Most visitors come to see the Bridge over the River Kwai, or stopover before heading to the waterfalls of Erawan. Some come to relax for a few days by the tranquil river. But I was seeking something new; temples and miracles.

The river's a good place to start exploring. In the shadow of the town's famous bridge, you'll find the Hell's Angels of the Kwai – boatmen who, for around 600 baht (depending on stops), will take you downriver in brightly colored boats. Powered by massive engines, these flat-bottomed beasts speed and bounce you through the heated air. It's like flying and, unless you're a nervous sailor, it's a crazy wonderful ride.

Most day-trippers follow the Kwai to Wat Tham Mangkon Thong, a temple crammed

into a hot little gap in the hills. It's a short distance from the river but a pick-up drops you off for an eye-watering sum. Here you'll find a Naga staircase with a cave at the top and a great river view – remember to stoop if you traverse the cave, and it pays to have youthful knees. But the cave is secondary to the main attraction. This is a place of miracles, at least for the devout, for Wat Tham Mangkon Thong is home to Kanchanaburi's famous floating nun.

When enough people have gathered (though private showings can be arranged at a price), the temple's resident holy woman opens the door to an aquatic amphitheater with tiered seating surrounding a deep and murky pool. In an atmosphere of reverent silence, she lowers herself into the waters and... well, she floats. She floats on her back, she floats in a submerged seating position and she floats with her arms outspread. She certainly seems beatifically buoyant but whether the less-devout merely sink, hasn't been recorded. But it's worth seeing, if only to say you have.

Another temple on the boat tour is Wat Kao Pun. After scrambling up steep steps



Travellers often stop in Kanchanaburi before heading to nearby waterfalls. Photo: FearOfMusic

to the over-sized Buddha, revel in the region's best view of the river valley. You also may even see, or certainly hear, Kanchanaburi's famous floating karaoke palaces that are towed up and down the river. A short walk away, the temple itself boasts a deep and exciting cave to explore, full of statues and narrow passages: not for the claustrophobic but a

fun adventure into the underworld.

Of course, these are just a few of the main tourist attractions, but there's more to see over different trips. And this is easily done. Kanchanaburi is easily reached and the town is a great base for seeing the rest of the province. Just enjoy the heat, take a look around and soak in the experience and if it's weird, then you know it will be memorable. – TAT

PSU goes green

By dr Peter W Harris

A NEW International Diploma of Sustainable Development course being established by Prince of Songkla University (Phuket Campus) is the beginning of an education revolution in Phuket.

"Transforming the educational paradigm to provide a rich and vibrant education" is the goal of the new Andaman International College of Arts and Sciences to be opened in 2015, which was announced by Dr Chantinee Boonchai, the project director of the new diploma course.

The program will consist of two years of integrated arts and science subjects and two years specialized major subject studies. Participants in the program will also link up with international universities specializing in their field of study.

The diploma is a stride in the direction of realizing that the future belongs to the young people of Phuket. The youth will inherit this 576 square kilometer of island, with its mountains, forests, plantations and sandy beaches; they need to be empowered with the skills and wisdom to manage the ecological heritage, generate prosperity and wealth, as well as strengthen the collective institutions of the community and help to give each person and family a sense of well-being.

The right training will provide practical skills for the commercial sector and policy

skills for all levels of government. The key issues of water, waste, energy, marine biodiversity, food security, health and well-being (including impacts of official and non-official population growth) will be firmly tackled in the program's curriculum.

These skills must be developed at all education levels, not just at the university level. Teachers must move away from using rote learning and conformity to developing creativity, so that students can become empowered to think independently and solve problems for themselves.

Project based learning (internships and applied work practice), reflective learning (participatory action, observation and inquiry) and group based learning (team assessment and group work) is the right approach to instill critical thinking skills in students. This style of education could be described as learning *about* the environment, learning *for* the environment and learning *in* the environment.

For it to be successful, the new International Diploma of Sustainable Development must respond to specific local and regional issues by providing a vocational skills-based program that would enable graduates to immediately gain access to business, government and community workplace positions.

The vocational emphasis should be on workplace and community settings, which could include projects such as working with



Photo: Portland State University

Prince of Songkla University now offers an International Diploma of Sustainable Development.

a local village community on recycling and waste management. Where and when it is possible, the projects must start with the local community leader, the projects must start with the local community leader, who can work with students and local commu-

nity members to research, plan and engage, as well as set up a broader system that improves the environment and provides greater income to the community.

Now is the time for change, and a new Phuket is on the horizon.

Retailers step-up on sustainable seafood

MAKRO, Tesco Lotus and Tops supermarket chains recently became the first retailers in Thailand to stop selling parrotfish,



A bicolor parrotfish. Photo: Riling

after receiving an overwhelming number of petitions from environmentalists and concerned consumers.

It is remarkable how an online campaign calling on Thai and international retailers to stop selling parrotfish drew huge consumer and media attention, gained public momentum, and achieved results in a matter of days.

It is evident that consumer pressure can quickly and effectively shape corporate behaviour to become more responsible towards the environment that we all depend on. This most recent call to action indicates a growing interest and awareness among Thai consumers in a do-no-harm policy for the environment and the need to protect our coastal ecosystem.

Each Thai consumes an average 33 kilograms of seafood per year, almost twice the global average. While demand for seafood continues to grow, supply from domestic waters is decreasing at a rate of 1.7 per cent per year. Of the total marine catch, 60 per cent is caught in Thai waters and the rest from wa-

ters outside the Thai Exclusive Economic Zone. The colourful parrotfish plays a unique role in maintaining the health of coral

reefs by grazing reef crust, eating algae that threaten growth and beauty of coral reefs, and producing coral reef sand. When parrotfish are overfished, and polluted wastewater is released into our ocean, algae overgrow and threaten both coral reefs and the health of our marine ecosystem.

Retail grocers are one of the main sources of consumer seafood purchases in urban areas and thus have a strong connection to the health of Thai waters and oceans. While removing parrotfish from the shelves is a step in the right direction, retailers could go to the next level by creating sustainable seafood purchasing policies, requiring their suppliers to deliver seafood products that are caught sustainably, and placing sustainably-sourced seafood products in their stores.

There are already efforts underway in the US and Europe, where retailers source and sell sustainable seafood products in their stores. How did it happen? Consumers demanded it and retailers seized the business opportunity. – *The Nation*



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Phuket FC host UD Almeria

By Jeremie Schatz

TORRENTIAL downpours prior to and during the first half of the friendly match between UD Almeria and Phuket FC left the 3000 strong audience wondering if they had perhaps shown up at an international water polo tournament, rather than the historic first matchup between the local boys and a big international soccer club.

The game, held on August 6, was marked by stilted, splashy play throughout the first half as both teams tried to find traction on the waterlogged pitch.

Both Phuket FC and Almeria – who narrowly escaped relegation from Spain's first division La Liga last season – missed chances at their opponents goals in the first half.

But the Spanish team came back strong in the second half, dominating the ball and holding Phuket FC to straggled defensive positions.

The first ball to beat goalie Adisak Duangsri rocketed into the net from the boot of Tomer Hemed.

Next up, forward Quique Gonzalez dodged the ball into the Phuket FC goal.

Three minutes later it was the

turn of forward Jonathan Zongo to close out Almeria's scoring for the evening.

Beaten but determined to show their chops, the Phuket Ronins pushed forth with a burst of speed from Christian Alex driving the ball past the Almeria defenders for a cross to mid-fielder Eakkartit Somjit, who neatly tapped the ball into the Almeria net with just minutes to spare before the final whistle.

UD Almeria is currently on tour as part of the LFP Global Challenge – a La Liga promotional campaign.



UD Almeria claimed a 1-3 win over Phuket's favorites. Photo: PR Dept

Bondi Bar Bashers win a nail biter

By Rashmi Chandwaskar

RIDING high on confidence after winning the opening four matches of the campaign, Bondi Bar Bashers faced second placed Thalang Cricket Team in the fifth round of the Outrigger 20/20 competition – a contest of mouth-watering expectation. Having already lost to Bondi Bar Bashers in the first half of the Outrigger T20 league, TCT was on the back foot, but determined to make amends.

Bashers' captain Seemant Raju decided to bat first following the coin toss, but Thalang took first blood with the early scalp of Raju in the second over. Raju failed to click this time, but his opening partner Imtiyaz Mushtaq held the innings together, while wickets kept falling in quick succession

at the other end. The BBB batsmen were seemingly in a hurry to get back to the ACG clubhouse. Credit must be paid to the TCT fielders for not putting down a single catch that came their way, apart from a valiant effort on the boundary by Barrie Buck. In spite of the efforts in the field, Mushtaq reached his fifth half century of the season before losing his wicket on 58, with the score on 100. Pir Sami entered the fray for BBB and a late flourish with the bat, scoring 40 off 20 balls, boosted the total up to 137.

TCT got off to a good start, with Justin Thomatos and Andrew McMillan forming the backbone of their batting. Thomatos fell cheaply (5) to the pace of Sami and a good take behind the stumps by Anthony



Paddy Morton looks to get forward.

Van Blerk. Simon Weatherell was next to the crease and with runs being picked up regularly, it looked like being a long day in the hot sun for both batsmen and fielders. Consistent line and length bowling from Mohnish Chandwaskar was rewarded with Weatherell's wicket (13) and the removal of his middle stump. Suddenly, TCT were looking less assured of victory, but the

comforting presence of McMillan in the middle remained. The TCT batsmen attempted to move the innings along with big shots, but were thwarted by the bowling of Paddy Morton, Chandwaskar, Raju and Sami. It wasn't long before the wicket of Cowell (22) was taken. In walked the big-hitting Roshan Jayasuriya (17) – playing his last match in Phuket – and tried to smash his way into double figures, but he could not sustain his efforts for long before coming undone by the leg-spin of Morton. TCT skipper Craig Murphy joined McMillan for the final two overs, with 18 runs required for victory and a grandstand finish in the making. Despite a few fielding hiccups, it was BBB whose nerves held and Murphy was run out on the last ball of the game

only two runs short of the total.

Since 2012, the game between BBB and TCT is also played as the Tristan Sheridan Memorial Cup in honour of a member who tragically was lost to Phuket cricket. After two seasons, BBB finally managed to lay their hands on the Tristan Sheridan memorial cup.

The next fixture is on Sunday August 17 with Laguna playing ICC in the morning and The Village playing Bondi Bar Bashers in the afternoon. Start times are 10am and 2pm respectively.

If you are interested in getting involved with cricket in Phuket, please email the Phuket Cricket Group Chairman at chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com, or visit www.phuketcricketgroup.com and www.acgphuket.com for more information.

Up your game with a hybrid

By Sean Harrison

WATCHING the Open Championship this year at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, you may have noticed how some of the players were using their Hybrid (Rescue) club around the edges of the putting surface.

Many of us have seen tour players including Tiger Woods and Justin Rose use this style of shot many times now on the US Tour. So the fact that it's now being used on US Tour and Links style courses just shows how it is becoming a more popular shot for percentage play.

This is a golf shot that any standard and ability of a golfer can try if they want to sharpen up there short game.

When you are close to the green and only have tightly mown fairway between your ball and the putting surface the bump and run style shot with the Hybrid helps you get the ball a small amount in the air, before landing on the putting surface and rolling out like a putt.

At set-up, take your hold fur-



Hybrid club helps you get the ball a small amount in the air, before landing on the putting surface. Photo: Supplied

ther down the grip and position yourself to the ball as you would for your normal chip and run shot.

Try to get the same pace and rhythm to the stroke as you would for a putt, letting the club face flow through the ball at impact to your finish position. Get these main points right as you would with any of your basic chip shots and you will soon start to feel real control – getting more confidence with this method.

Note – The first thing you will

probably notice is how quickly the ball comes off the club face.

So if you can, spend a bit of time on the practice green at your local club practicing the Hybrid bump and run, before trying the shot out on the golf course.

Tip by Sean Harrison, PGA Golf Instructor at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For golf enquiries, golf course and instruction reservations email golf@lagunaphuket.com

Phuket United			
FTPL TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Chonburi Blue Wave	30	85
2	Royal Navy	30	65
3	Thai Port FC	30	64
4	Phuket United	30	60
5	CAT FC	30	57
6	Ayutthaya City	30	54
7	Samut Sakhon	30	46
8	Bangkok FC	30	46
9	Sri Pathum Si Saket	30	44
10	Nonthaburi	30	41
11	Khon Kaen	30	38
12	Pattaya Arena FC	30	38
13	Highways Department	30	23
14	Uthai Thani	30	13
15	Chiangmai	30	12
16	Suphanburi	30	3

*Last Update: 10/08/2014

PHUKET NEXT FIXTURE			
NAKHON PATHOM UNITED			
AUG 16 5 pm			
@NakhonPathom Provincial Sports Stadium			
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	25	52
2	Royal Navy	25	47
3	Saraburi FC	25	46
4	Angthong FC	25	42
5	Bangkok FC	25	41
6	Chiangmai FC	25	40
7	Krabi FC	25	36
8	BBCU	25	36
9	Pattaya Utd	25	36
10	Ayutthaya FC	25	35
11	TTM Customs	25	34
12	Roi Et Utd	25	31
13	Phuket	25	31
14	Trat FC	25	29
15	NakhonPathom	25	25
16	Phitsanulok FC	25	25
17	Khon Kaen FC	25	18
18	Sri Racha FC	25	3

*dates subject to change **Last Update: 13/08/2014

Phuket Cycling Fest 2014

By Mark Knowles

IF YOU'RE looking for a way to enjoy the beauty of Thailand close-up and personal, then make a note in your planner to join Phuket Cycling Fest 2014, held over a two-day period on September 6 and 7.

Surrounded by some of the best natural scenery in southern Thailand, the Fest aims to promote Phuket as an ideal destination for cycling tours – encouraging foreign and domestic tourists alike to find out more about local attractions, while pedaling through stunning valleys, cool coconut plantations and picturesque villages.

Activities kick off on Saturday with three separate cycling

Surrounded by some of the best natural scenery in southern Thailand, Phuket is an ideal destination for cycling tours.

tours ranging in length from 80 kilometers for the fittest cyclists, to 35km and 10km for those wishing to set a more pedestrian pace. All three tours begin and end at 5am in Suan Chulermprakiet 72 Years Queen Sirikit Park.

During the two-day Fest, a bustling bicycle fair will also take place at Queen Sirikit Park, boasting the booths and stalls of bicycle specialist, with supporting activities, including demonstrations of bike fittings and displays of the more antique velocipedes of yesteryear.

Saturday will also see "Night Ride" starting at 1pm, which is expected to be attended by a number of local celebrities.



The Phuket Cycling Fest 2014 is organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. Photo: Dave Silver

Real lift Super Cup thanks to Ronaldo

CRISTIANO Ronaldo struck twice as a rampant Real Madrid side, featuring the most expensive strike force ever assembled, powered to a 2-0 win over Sevilla in an all-Spanish UEFA Super Cup on Tuesday.

It was a thoroughly deserved victory before a 33,500 crowd at the Cardiff City Stadium in the traditional curtain-raiser to the European club season.

Europa League holders Sevilla battled well but were outclassed by the Champions League winners.

Carlo Ancelotti's men dominated from start to finish with Ronaldo producing two sublime finishes to beat keeper Beto, his Portugal team mate, after 30 and 49 minutes while Sevilla were restricted to just two chances.

The first opportunity for Sevilla came after 20 minutes when Vitolo forced Iker Casillas to make a block at the near post and the second arrived in the closing stages when Grzegorz Krychowiak prompted an acrobatic save from the experienced keeper.

Real were superior in defence, midfield and attack with Ronaldo showing no sign of the knee injury that blighted his 2014 World Cup campaign in Brazil.

After being presented with the Man of the Match trophy by his former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, Ronaldo told reporters: "It's the first official match of the season and I was not sure how I would feel. "But I felt good and had no

problems, I didn't feel any pain.

"We realized it was going to be a hard game but we played well, created more opportunities and played better and with more intensity and we were the worthy winners."

Ronaldo praised debutantes Toni Kroos and James Rodriguez, now at Real after both enjoyed a successful World Cup.

Kroos helped Germany become world champions while Rodriguez was the tournament's top scorer with six goals for Colombia.

Four-man attack

The pair played well in Cardiff with Kroos in a deep midfield role and Rodriguez part of Real's expensive four-man attack which cost in the region of 270 million pounds.

Rodriguez, who cost 63mn pounds from AS Monaco, lined up alongside Cardiff-born hero Gareth Bale, the world's most expensive player at 85mn.

Ronaldo was an 80mn pounds purchase and France striker Karim Benzema cost 40mn.

Although the European champions only scored twice, they could easily have had six or seven goals.

"We did our best but Real are a very good team and they were better than us tonight," said Sevilla coach Unai Emery after a typically passionate and animated performance on the touchline.

Counterpart Ancelotti said Real would be even stronger this season than they were last term.

"We played very well especially bearing in mind we haven't had much time to prepare for the game," the Italian added. "We controlled the game and Kroos and James played well."

"(Midfielder) Xabi Alonso was not playing tonight but he will play a very important part this season. We are now more competitive in every position and no one player can play 65 games, it's not possible."

"We might be starting on a very important winning cycle, we have a set of outstanding players and an exceptional squad and we can stay at the highest of heights and compete in all competitions," said Ancelotti.

Ronaldo began the move that led to the first goal inside his own half and finished it by sliding in to convert a deadly accurate crossfield pass from Wales winger Bale.

Benzema and Kroos were involved in the second goal and Ronaldo supplied a thunderous left-foot shot that Beto got a hand to but could not stop.

Bale, playing a club match in Cardiff for the first time in eight years, was cheered every time he touched the ball.

The closest he came to a goal was in the dying minutes when he struck a fierce effort that Beto saved well.

– Reuters



Real Madrid's captain Iker Casillas prepares to raise the trophy after winning the UEFA Super Cup final against Sevilla. Photo: Dylan Martinez/Reuters

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SUNDAY 6TH JULY

Rooney made MU captain



By Tony Jimenez

NEW Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has given England striker Wayne Rooney the role of team captain and made Scotland midfielder Darren Fletcher his vice-captain.

"It is a huge honor for me – and for my family – to be named captain of this great club," Rooney told United's website after Van Gaal's side beat Valencia 2-1 in a pre-season friendly at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

"It is a role I will perform with great pride. Team spirit has always been very high in our dressing room and I am very grateful to the manager for the faith he has shown in me.

"I look forward to leading the team out on Saturday at our first match of the new season," added Rooney referring to the opening Premier League fixture against Swansea City at Old Trafford.

Former Netherlands coach Van Gaal, who took charge of United last month, said Rooney had the capacity to galvanise the youngsters in the squad.

"For me it's always very important the choice of captain," added the Dutchman. "Wayne has shown a great attitude towards everything he does.

"I have been very impressed by his professionalism and his attitude to training and to my philosophy.

"He is a great inspiration to the younger members of the team and I believe he will put his heart and soul into his captaincy role," said Van Gaal.

"Darren Fletcher will become the vice-captain. Darren is a natural leader and will captain the team when Wayne isn't playing."

Rooney, 28, joined United from Everton 10 years ago while Fletcher, 30, has spent his entire professional career at Old Trafford.

– Reuters

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