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INSIDE TODAY

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■ **'FOUL PLAY NOT SUSPECTED IN DEATH OF MAFIA SUSPECT'**

Pian Keesin found dead

■ **Mafia charges against rest of Keesin clan to be postponed for a week**

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

POLICE believe former Patong mayor and suspected taxi mafia kingpin Pian Keesin died a natural death, but have ordered an autopsy to rule out foul play.

"At this stage, doctors presume he died of a heart attack or cerebral hemorrhage," said Col Sien Kaewthong of the Phuket City Police.

Mr Pian's body was found in the en-suite bathroom of the main bedroom of his home north of Phuket Town on Tuesday morning.

"We saw no signs of a struggle. It looked like he died while taking a shower," Col Sien explained.

Mr Pian's body was found by his driver, Chanya Nhuset, who arrived at the house – at the Rock Garden estate in Samkong – to pick him up at 7:30am.

"I waited in the car until 10am, but he did not show up," Mr Chanya said. "I called him, but..."



Continued on Page 4 Mr Pian was found dead in his en-suite bathroom by his driver. Photo: Gazette file

SPECIAL REPORT

Patong cops defend entangling tourists in illegal taxi raids

POLICE have defended their actions in a raid that saw officers and military personal, clad in flak jackets and carrying assault rifles, besiege an illegal Phuket taxi carrying a family of foreign tourists.

The tourists, including two children in strollers, were forced to act as witnesses, point for photos and sign documents without a translator or an understanding of why they were being forced to do so.

Full story on Page 7

Lifeguards struggle to keep beachgoers out of deadly waters

A GERMAN man drowned at Nai Harn Beach on Wednesday while trying to save his brother-in-law. The man's death comes on the heels of life-guards at Kata and Karon beaches lamenting that beachgoers are ignoring warning flags.



Red flags mean no swimming.

Full story on Page 8

Eight masked men injure two in island drive-by shooting

EIGHT men riding motorbikes opened up fire on a group of four men in what police believe was a revenge attack.

Two were injured in the attack.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



Business

LivePhuket launches a new property rental platform. **Page 29**



Property

Best Western brings affordable comfort to Patong. **Page 31**



Food

The Savoury's satisfying and sumptuous Sunday brunch. **Page 33**



In focus

One photographer's winding path that led to Phuket. **Page 34**



Cycling

Phuket's pedaling pioneer's passion for cycling. **Page 36**



Sport

Athletes will flock to Phuket for the Laguna Triathlon. **Page 39**

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Ex-boyfriend stabs woman's new lover

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A TEEN, recently released from the island's juvenile detention center, is on the run after he stabbed his ex-girlfriend's new lover seven times in a jealous rage in Phuket Town early Monday morning.

Phuket City Police arrived at the scene, outside of Royal Phuket City Hotel, at about 12:30am. There, they found a 29-year-old hotel employee, named by police only as Ms Ple, standing near a pool of blood.

"Ms Ple told police that she is the girlfriend of Akekawit Limpanopas, 27, who had already been rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital by the time officers arrived," said Maj Ratthakhet Manmuang of the Phuket City Police.

"She said that her 17-year-old ex-boyfriend had attacked Mr Akekawit and stabbed him."

Ms Ple revealed that the minor, whose name police are unable to reveal, had recently been released from the Juvenile Observation and



At last report Mr Akekawit was still in the Intensive Care Unit.

Protection Center (JOPC) in Saphan Hin, where he had been detained over theft charges.

"Before he was arrested and taken to JOPC, he told me that if I found a new boyfriend while he was away he would kill the man as soon as he got out," Ms Ple told police.

"After the attack, he fled the scene on a motorbike with no licence plate."

Officers are searching for the suspect to arrest him on attempted murder charges.

As of Tuesday Mr Akekawit was still in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

Man kills kin due to loud prayers

A MAN has confessed to killing his brother for "praying too loudly" at their home in Phuket's Wicit subdistrict on October 2.

A local resident called police after discovering the body of Chaiyadol Nawee, 43, by the side of a street across from the Villa California housing estate on Chao Fa East Road.

"CCTV from the entrance of the estate showed two men dumping the body," said Lt Somboon Malai of the Wicit Police.



Rescue workers collect the body.

"We soon identified them as Mr Chaiyadol's brothers."

Police took Prasit Nawee, 47, into custody.

"We had a big argument," Mr Prasit told the police. "I was very angry because he was praying so loudly in the morning that he woke me up."

"I kicked him twice on his neck while he was still sitting in his meditation position. I didn't mean to kill him."

Mr Prasit was charged with murder, Lt Somboon confirmed.

"No charges will be pressed against the other brother," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Police suspect heroin overdose in American's death, one arrested

POLICE suspect that a 29-year-old American expat found dead on the side of the road in Kamala on September 28 died of a heroin overdose.

Not far from where the body of Texan Benjamin Neshor Jones was found on Soi 8, police arrested James Ward with 18 grams of heroin.

"We believe that Mr Jones died because of

a drug overdose. However, we are waiting for the autopsy results to officially name the cause of death," Maj Somnuk Damkeaw of the Kamala Police told the *Gazette*.

"We do know the two men were together before Mr Jones died."

According to his Facebook page, Mr Jones was working on the island for Phuket You Properties.

Mr Ward, who was arrested in a nearby house, was charged with possession of a Category 1 Drug with intent to sell, Kamala Police Superintendent Patthanajak Jakkapan confirmed.



Mr Jones. Photo: Facebook

– *Phuket Gazette*



Rescue workers recover the bodies of the two tourists.

Drive-by shooting

Police suspect eight-man assault was an act of revenge

By Thawit Bilabdullar

TWO men were injured just before midnight on October 3 in what police are calling a drive-by revenge shooting.

Four men were sitting around a table drinking at Baan Liporn when a group of eight masked men on motorbikes drove by and opened fire.

Watthana Suebsak, 18, was shot in the face and seriously injured, while Prasert Chanthip, 35, was also shot and wounded.

"The medical team had to support Mr Watthana's breathing while he was being taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital's Intensive Care Unit," Lt Suporn Muangkhai of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

"Mr Prasert was taken to Thalang Hospital with gun wounds to his left arm and leg."

Police are questioning the victims and checking CCTV footage



Mr Watthana was shot in the face when eight men on motorbikes opened up fire.

in the area in an attempt to try and identify the suspects.

"We don't know how many of

them had guns or how many times they fired at us. We were just running for our lives," Mr Prasert

said. "I don't know who these people are, but it looks like they were seeking revenge."

Bad weather: Officials trust speedboat operators' judgment

OFFICIALS are unable to prevent tour boats from departing the island despite the current heavy weather and small boat warnings, the *Gazette* has confirmed.

"So far this is only a weather warning, so we can only warn boat operators," Lt Col Chatchai Sakdee of the Phuket Marine Police told the *Gazette*.

"If the Marine Office of the

Governor's Office orders boats to remain in port, we could arrest and fine operators under Section 297 of the Navigation in Thai Waters Act."

The section stipulates that anyone who disobeys such an order will face up to three months in jail, a fine of between 500 to 5,000 baht, or both.

Regardless, Col Sakchai

remained confident that boat operators would not risk their own lives, or those of their passengers, by putting to sea during the current weather.

"We do not have a problem with small boats, as I believe they do not want to risk people's lives, their boats or their businesses," he said.

– *Chutharat Plerin*



Speedboats are allowed to put to sea despite small boat warning.

Wave kills two tourists on longtail boat trip

TWO Indian tourists travelling in a longtail boat drowned off the coast of Railay after a large wave swamped their boat and washed them overboard on October 5.

Ekkapong Kinglek, 25, the boat operator, was charged with reckless driving causing death, Capt Praphan Nhuchaikaew of the Krabi City Police told the *Gazette*.

The tourists, Yash Agarwal, 27, and Pankhuri Mittal, 26, rented a longtail boat to take them from Railay to Ao Nang at about 4pm.

"It was raining, but the waves weren't strong near Railay. I thought it would be safe," said Mr Ekkapong. "We were about 100 meters from the shore when we were hit by a big wave."

The passengers chose not to wear life jackets, even though they were provided on the boat, Mr Ekkapong added.

"Once the boat filled with water, I could not see them, so I decided to swim to shore to get help," he said.

Rescue workers from the Ao Nang Administration Organization and staff from nearby resorts scoured the seas for an hour before they were able to find the couple.

The bodies were taken to Krabi Hospital. The Indian Embassy has been informed of the deaths.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Police officer charged for Chalong murder

A PHUKET Provincial Police officer has been charged with gunning down a waitress in cold blood after forensic evidence showed that the bullet came from his gun.

Nuchiska Klasuek, a 35-year-old waitress, was shot in the head by an unidentified assailant in a pick-up truck on May 16, after leaving the popular Saraphan Pleng Pub live-music bar in Chalong.

"Ballistics tests confirmed that the bullet buried in Miss Nuchiska's head was fired by the gun belonging to this officer," Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaidoung said.

"He has been charged with murder and suspended from duty, pending final judgment when the case goes to trial," he added, declining reveal the officer's name.

Staff at the bar told police that the fatal shot fired at Miss Nuchiska appeared to have come from a passing pick-up truck.

However, CCTV images showed the officer's white Honda Civic heading toward Karon and then, minutes later, heading back toward the pub.

Col Jumroon confirmed that the officer would remain free on bail until the case went to court.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*



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30th Anniversary



Keesins given one week to grieve, then face charges

POLICE have granted the Keesin clan one week to grieve for the death of former



Gen Paween

Patong mayor Pian Keesin, before officials move ahead with pressing taxi mafia charges.

"I am aware that Mr Pian passed away. I am sorry for the family," Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Paween Pongsirin told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We will give Mr Prab [Mr Pian's son] some time to arrange his father's funeral. But after that, we will call the suspects to present themselves to the public prosecutor, which I expect will be in about a week."

Mr Pian's cremated remains are to be held at the Laem Singh Temple on the Patong beach road on October 18, with final funeral rites to start at 2:30pm.

— Chutharat Plerin

Death of a Patong don

From page 1

... nobody answered. Then I called Ms Nat, who lives in the house with him. Ms Nat was not home; she was on her way back from Surat Thani."

Eventually Ms Nat's niece, who was in the house, opened the door.

"I went to his room and knocked on the door, but nobody answered," Mr Chanya said. "I opened the bedroom door, as it was not locked, and saw him lying on the bathroom floor."

"I was shocked – his feet and hands were so pale. I immediately called the police."

News of Mr Pian's death spread quickly throughout Phuket, prompting crowds to gather in front of the home.

"We had to keep anyone who wasn't a relative off the premises so we could do our job," Col Sien said.

Mr Pian's body was taken to Surat Thani on Wednesday so that forensic officers at Region 8 Police could conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Prab Keesin, who heads the Pisona Group of companies



Rescue workers recover the body of Pian Keesin on Tuesday.

founded by his father, was expected to return to Phuket with his father's remains by Wednesday night. Funeral services were to be held at the Keesin family home in Patong from Thursday.

Mr Prab on his Facebook page lamented the death of his father "who gave him life and all opportunities".

In his native Thai, he wrote:
*Let there be sadness...
 Pian Keesin...come to an end...
 The former Mayor of Patong...
 ...a man with a fighting spirit...
 You, who always stood with the people...for all time...
 The kindness you gave your son...
 I shall never forget...
 Rest now dear father*

Mr Pian, along with his son Prab Keesin, was facing charges of extortion and criminal activity carried out by a criminal association after military personnel and Region 8 Police raided his home in August.

Mr Pian became Patong's first elected mayor in 1995 after the town was upgraded from "Sanitary Division" to municipality status the year before.

He was ousted by a council "budget blockade" led by Surasak Maneesri in November 2003. However, he was re-elected to office in January 2004 after Provincial Court judges found that his rivals had "cheated" in the preceding election by "importing" voters.

Mr Pian served as mayor until he was suspended in September last year and found guilty of vote fraud in March this year.

However, the court issued him a "yellow card", allowing him to run for re-election.

He ran for mayor again in April, but lost to current Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kepsup.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin



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Mr Pian is mobbed by supporters as he arrives at the Phuket City Police Station on September 1 to face charges of heading a criminal association.

No official services to be held for Pian

PATONG Municipality will not hold any official remembrance ceremonies to mark the death of Pian Keesin, who died on Tuesday morning.

"There will be no special event to mark his death at the municipality, but the office will help support the funeral," said Patong Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Poonsak Naksena.

"We will ask the Royal Household Bureau to provide a *fai prachataan* for the funeral."

A *fai prachataan* is a ceremonial funeral candle traditionally used to ignite cremation pyres for public figures recognized for their special contribution to society.

Prab Keesin, one of Mr Pian's three sons, was expected to return to Phuket with his father's remains on Wednesday night.

Funeral services were to be held at the Keesin family home in Patong from Thursday.

Mr Pian was elected as the

town's first mayor in 1995 and served five terms – totalling nearly two decades. Born in Patong on February 12, 1944, Mr Pian began his political career in 1974 as the *Phu Yai Baan* (village head) of Village 3 in what has since become Phuket's leading resort town.

Current Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kepsup, who was elected to her first term as mayor in April this year, was unavailable for comment.

"She's busy in a meeting with Governor Nisit Jansomwong, where they are preparing for a meeting with Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul for the upcoming Asian Beach Games," Mr Poonsak said.

The games, which are expected to bring more than 13,000 people from 47 countries to watch or take part in the events, will begin in Phuket on November 14.

— Chutharat Plerin

Top cop vows to boost safety for all islanders

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET'S new top cop took up his position on October 2, full of strategies to make the island a safer and happier place.

Maj Gen Patchara Boonyasit, previously the commander of the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, paid his respects to Phuket's illustrious history and cultural heritage by visiting the Baan Muang Mai stone and the Heroines' Monument, before checking in at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Gen Patchara said that he was looking to gain tourists' trust with improved island safety, and hoped to beef up the police volunteer force.

"I plan to provide the island with more tourist police stations, and will be calling on residents to volunteer. All stations should have seven volunteers to each police officer," he said.

Gen Patchara noted that he was confident that he could manage



Maj Gen Patchara Boonyasit paid his respects at the Heroines' Monument.

public safety in Phuket and keep tourists interested in visiting the island.

"I am not worried about working in Phuket. We will support those who do good and arrest those that break the law," he said.

"Phuket is special because we have so many tourists coming from all over the world. We welcome them, and if we do our job right, they – and hopefully their friends and families – will come back again."

"This is what we want."

Gen Patchara also impressed upon the *Gazette* the importance of CCTV.

"Officers need to take advantage of CCTV on the island. But first, we must determine which ones are working and which need to be fixed," he said.

"However, police cannot do it alone; we also need co-operation from island residents. If someone has private CCTV, they should turn it toward the road, so officers can make use of it if necessary."

Lastly, Gen Patchara stressed the need to keep police officers happy.

"When we are satisfied at work, we are able to do our job well. It is important that police are happy so that they are polite and positive when they help people," he said.

"People are the heart of a community, and police are here to support them and make sure that they are safe and content."



The ladyboys were arrested.

Police charge ladyboys for hug-and-run tourist thefts

A PAIR of pick-pocketing ladyboys were arrested in Phuket on October 1 after two tourists reported having been robbed by the duo while receiving a hug.

Pavel Abramov, 24, from Russia, and Moris Fosaati, 38, from Italy, both reported at separate times to Karon Police on Monday that they had been pick-pocketed by two ladyboys, said Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borirak.

"The two men explained the same scenario: the ladyboys pulled up next to them on the street to talk. About five minutes later, one of the ladyboys stood up to give the men a hug, and lifted items from their pockets," Lt Col Sophon explained.

Police used a signal from Mr Abramov's iPhone and CCTV footage to track down Chokamnuay Rongjuttu, 26, and Soonthorn Huajapetch, 18. They were found in Karon riding the motorbike they had used in the "hug-and-run" crimes.

The suspects led police to the apartment and confessed.

"We are sorry. We were drunk and needed the money just for fun," Mr Soonthorn said.

Both were charged with theft.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

'Cat burglar' caught by police, charged with robbery

POLICE have arrested a cat burglar who crept into a sleeping couple's hotel villa and stole a mobile phone and about 13,000 baht in cash.

"Thung Taothong, 28, was arrested at his apartment in Chalong and charged with robbery," Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borirak said on October 4.

Mr Thung was tracked down to his apartment after CCTV footage from the hotel revealed the licence plate of the motorbike he and his accomplice, still at large, escaped on.

"The plate number of the motorbike was

caught on CCTV and that gave his address," said Lt Col Sophon.

"We searched his apartment and found the clothes he was wearing in the footage, along with the phone, which was in his pocket."

CCTV footage also showed Mr Thung being helped over the hotel's perimeter wall.

"He then sneaked quietly into the villa and crawled on his hands and knees into the bedroom. He took the cash and mobile phone from the bedside table," explained Col Sophon.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Mr Thung (left) with the theft victims.



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Aussies' balcony spill prompts safety warning from officials

PATONG Police have urged local municipality workers to inspect the balcony railing heights of Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa after three drunk Australians tumbled off their second-floor balcony on September 30.

"It is beyond our jurisdiction to ensure that the railings are of a safe height. We actually voiced our concern before this ac-

cident, and again after it. However, we cannot push them to do their job," said Lt Col Sutthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police.

Col Sutthichai urged the public to be careful and look after their own safety.

"Please be careful and pay attention to your surroundings. If there is a low balcony railing, keep your distance," he said.

A representative of Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa declined to comment to the *Gazette* at this time about the balcony railings.

The 24-year-old Australians – Paul Hanson, Anthony Jones and Jean Cover – have since been released from hospital.

– **Chutharat Plerin**



The Aussies survived. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Tourists don't want dolphin park: poll

Island visitors have spoken up by casting their votes in opposition to the Nemo Dolphinarium which is set to open soon in Chalong

By Phuket Gazette

TOURISTS led the charge, as an overwhelming majority of the more than 7,000 readers who took part in the recent *Gazette* poll voted against opening the island's controversial dolphin park.

A staggering 4,353 of the 4,435 (98%) of those who identified themselves as "Tourists / Visitors to Phuket" voted: no – Phuket should not have a dolphinarium; they are cruel and it has long been known that captivity kills dolphins.

Only 82 tourists – presumably the Nemo Dolphinarium's target market – ticked the box for: yes – Phuket should have a dolphinarium; many other global

tourist destinations have dolphin parks and shows that are very popular with tourists.

Those who identified themselves as "Local Foreign Residents" and "Thai Nationals" also voted overwhelmingly against the park, but were slightly more open to the idea.

Out of a total 1,420 votes from Thai Nationals, 1,306 were cast against the project (92%) and 114 (8%) for it. Local expatriates were marginally more opposed to the Nemo Dolphinarium with 95% of respondents voting against the park and 5% for it.

A number of individuals and groups have spoken out against the Nemo Dolphinarium, including Ric O'Barry, founder of



A connection between Phuket's dolphin park and the Taiji killing cove has been confirmed. Photo: Dolphin Project

Project Dolphin and well-known trainer of "Flipper". Mr O'Barry spoke exclusively to the *Gazette* about the incoming dolphin park and its connection to the killer Taiji

Cove in Japan.

Mr O'Barry is expected to join an event via Skype on October 16 which will be held at the Irish Times in Patong. There, local

marine conservationists and animal rights activists will discuss the lethal consequences for dolphins captured from the wild and kept in captivity.

Underpass races toward a November opening despite partial highway closures

THE northbound lane above the 600-million-baht underpass beside the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall has been closed so workers can repave the road.

"Motorists heading north can still use the underpass," Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad told the *Gazette*.

With the lane closed for repaving, motorists heading east past Central Festival can no longer turn left onto the bypass road.

Likewise, those heading west past Surakul Stadium can no longer turn right onto the bypass road.

"We suggest that other motorists use Bangyai Road behind the Big C shopping center while we



The underpass is set to open in November. Photo: Gazette file

complete the construction, which is expected to be done by October 20," Mr Samak said.

"After the northbound lane has been resurfaced, we will re-open it to traffic – but then we will close the southbound lane so we can repave that section."

Mr Samak is pushing for it to be fully open by November.

– **Chutharat Plerin**

Three motorists die in two accidents after being crushed by passing trucks

THREE motorists have lost their lives since the beginning of the month when they were crushed under the wheels of large trucks driving along two of Phuket's busiest roads.

Police plan to charge one truck driver who was driving an 18-wheeler near the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint for his involvement in an accident that crushed one woman and left another woman seriously injured on October 1.

The driver of the truck and trailer, Nirana Sawasdee, 37, told police that he was driving into Phuket from Phang Nga when the accident occurred at about 11am.

"I didn't see there was a motorbike riding alongside when I turned onto the main road after clearing the checkpoint," he said.

The motorbike and the rear wheels of the truck collided.

Sunisa Thinbangtiao, 40, the passenger on the motorbike, died instantly when she was crushed under the wheels.

Jirapa Korsuwan, 19, who was driving the motorbike, escaped with minor injuries.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation administered first aid to Ms Jirapa at the scene before delivering her and Ms Sunisa's remains to



Ms Jirapa was treated for injuries at the scene. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Thalang Hospital.

Mr Nirana was taken to Tah Chat Chai Police Station after the accident for further questioning, and was also tested for drug use, said Lt Santi Prakobkarn of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

Lt Santi confirmed to the *Gazette* on Wednesday that Mr Nirana had not tested positive for any drugs, but that he was to be charged by the end of the week.

"Drugs and alcohol were not a factor in this case," said Lt Santi.

"We have ordered Mr Nirana to turn himself into the Tah Chat Chai Police Station on Friday so we can press charges against him."

Lt Santi told the *Gazette* that the police would reveal the charges

once they had been officially filed.

Three days later, two more motorists were killed in a road accident as they ascended the infamous Patong Hill road, Patong Traffic Police told the *Gazette*.

The two people riding the motorbike died after being crushed by a six-wheeled truck in front of Sea Pearl Hotel.

The driver, who police have declined to name, was taken into police custody after the accident. He has since been released.

"The truck driver will not face charges for this accident, as we did not find him to be at fault," confirmed Lt Col Pratuang Polmana of the Patong Police on Wednesday. – **Phuket Gazette**

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Foreigners' right to witness

Tourists unknowingly riding in illegal taxi caught up in military raid

SPECIAL REPORT

By Chutharat Plerin

POLICE have defended their actions in a raid that saw officers and military personnel, clad in flak jackets and carrying assault rifles, besiege an illegal Phuket taxi carrying a family of foreign tourists.

"We flagged down a taxi with the assistance of the security guard in front of our hotel at Karon Beach. The driver agreed to take us [to Patong] for 300 baht," David and Cheryl Bowyer told the *Gazette*.

"When we arrived at Hooters, we were suddenly surrounded by 10 scary-looking police in flak jackets shouting in Thai. We thought we had been arrested. They asked us to get back into the taxi and have the driver drive us to the police station [Soi Bangla police box]," said Mr Bowyer.

The family protested about being under police escort: "We said no – we have two young children in strollers. One of the policemen agreed to ride in front with the driver, but we felt like we had no choice. I was willing to pay 1,000 baht just to get out," he said.

"They interviewed us and wanted to know where the taxi had picked us up and how much we paid. They asked for my passport but I wasn't carrying it, so I gave them my driver's licence which they photocopied. They ordered us around like criminals. They wanted a picture of me pointing at the driver, handing the driver money. They asked me to sign things I didn't understand."



The Bowyers (inset) were held up during a military raid on their illegal taxi driver. Photos: Supplied / Isaac Simonelli

Among the family's chief concerns was that they could not understand anything the officers involved in the arrest were saying.

"We just wanted to get out of there, but we felt like we had done something wrong. It felt like we had been arrested. We really had no idea what was happening. It wouldn't have been so bad if there was someone there that could clearly explain what was happening, but there was no one there that could speak English," said Mr Bowyer.

The whole episode took about an hour, but Mr Bowyer wrote: "It was really intimidating. After-

ward, they asked us if we wanted another taxi to take us to Hooters.

"We said 'no way', we really don't want to ever use another taxi in Phuket. But if we have to, we will request a taxi from our hotel reception."

After their forced role as witnesses, the family walked back to Hooters – while pushing two infants in strollers – to continue their holiday. "It was a long way away," said Mrs Bowyer.

Patong Police Traffic Inspector Ekkarat Plaiduang told the *Gazette* that it is standard practice to have English-speaking officers present when foreigners are in-

involved in police affairs.

"We normally have Tourist Police officers who can speak English present during such raids, and we often call in Tourist Police volunteers to help us when we need them," he said.

"Foreigners are supposed to be provided with translators to explain what is going on. In this case, there might have been a mistake, maybe the officials were caught up in the rush during the arrest."

Although there is no time limit on how long police may hold witnesses – including tourists – in order to record their statements,

Maj Ekkarat said that officers try their best to complete the process as quickly as possible.

"We understand that it wastes people's time, but when you are involved in any such situations, please co-operate with the police and we will make sure translators are provided," he said.

"If you do not see any officers who can speak English, please ask for one – you can even call your friends. You have the right to have a translator with you."

Maj Ekkarat urged tourists to use only legal taxis, and called for all hotels to provide notices in guest rooms showing what legal taxis look like, as a way of curtailing the illegal service.

"Please only use taxis with either green or yellow plates, which indicate they are registered public transportation vehicles," he said.

"If you keep using illegal taxis, the drivers will be encouraged by the demand and keep working illegally."

Maj Ekkarat firmly believes that if demand for illegal taxis is eliminated, there will be no supply.

"We have called in hotel operators in Patong to make sure they place guides in each hotel room showing tourists which taxis to use. I hope other areas are pushing it too," he said.

Meanwhile, tourists and residents should be prepared to see snap raids on taxi drivers continue.

"We are out looking to arrest illegal taxi drivers every day to make sure we get rid of them," Maj Ekkarat said.

"I believe there are only 20 illegal drivers left in Patong – we will get them all."



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ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE

Heroic tourist drowns during surf rescue in dangerous seas

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GERMAN tourist managed to save his brother-in-law from drowning at Nai Harn Beach late Wednesday afternoon, but could not save himself from the same fate.

Lifeguards were unable to resuscitate Frank Retsch, 34, after pulling him from the surf at Nai Harn. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"Mr Retsch came to Phuket with his wife, younger sister and brother-in law for their holiday," Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos said.

"I was told that Mr Retsch rescued his brother-in-law from the surf at about 5pm. I have yet to check on the brother-in-law's condition, but he was fully conscious when he was taken to Vachira Hospital."

After saving several people from drowning on Monday, lifeguards are urging all tourists to heed warnings to stay out of hazardous surf at Phuket's Kata and Karon beaches, as well as Nai Harn.

A section of Kata Beach was closed and red warning flags were posted along dangerous sections of Karon Beach, said Kata-Karon lifeguard chief Uten Singdom.

"We saved a few swimmers [Monday]. They all ignored the red flags and our warnings," he told



Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos (left) arrives at Nai Harn Beach after the drowning, and warns tourists of the real dangers of the surf. Photo: Rawai PR

the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

Mr Uten pointed out that strong surf where the water is only knee-high at the trough of a series of waves can be lethal for inexperienced swimmers.

"Waves may drag you out to sea, which could end up costing

you your life," he said. "We do not have enough ropes to close the entire beach. We can only post red flags, but that is not really helping to keep tourists out of the water."

Some sections of Kata and Karon beaches that are safe to swim have been marked by red-

yellow flags and are patrolled by lifeguards, Mr Uten added.

"Please swim in areas patrolled by guards. At least we'll be able to keep an eye on you," Mr Uten urged.

Mayor Aroon repeated lifeguards' plea for tourists not to swim where red flags are posted.

"The tourist drowning is another sad story that nobody wanted to have happened," Mayor Aroon said. "Please do not ignore lifeguards' warnings. Otherwise, this sadness will come again."

Lifeguards at Patong Beach have also urged tourists to heed warnings after two tourists were saved from the surly blood-moon surf this afternoon.

One of the men was stripped of his swimwear by the strong waves.

"We realized that they were in trouble, so one of our lifeguards took a jet-ski out to bring both of them back to the beach," Wirot Saweangphol, chief lifeguard at Patong Beach, told the *Gazette*.

Both tourists were taken to Patong Hospital.

"They were very tired from fighting the waves, but neither of them lost consciousness or suffered any serious injury," Mr Wirot said.

Additional reporting by Natthaphol Wittayarungrote



Rescue workers recovered the body of Russian national Pavel Dzembo from the sidewalk near the Nai Harn lagoon.

Russian killed in motorbike accident after leaving bar

A HELMET-LESS Russian national was killed in Rawai after he lost control of his motorbike and crashed into the sidewalk on October 2.

Chalong Police and Ruamjai Foundation rescue workers were called to the scene next to the canal near Nai Harn lagoon at about 1am.

"We found the body of Pavel Dzembo, 23, on the sidewalk that circles the lagoon," said Capt Patiwat Yodkwan of the Chalong Police.

"A Honda PCX motorbike was on the ground nearby, but there was no helmet found at the scene.

"His neck appeared to be broken, and he had been bleeding heavily."

Officers questioned witnesses, and were told that Mr Dzembo had left a nearby reggae bar and was heading to a hotel in the area when he crashed.

Police have yet to confirm whether or not alcohol was a factor in the accident.

"The body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to be examined and tested for blood-alcohol levels," Capt Patiwat said.

"We are waiting for those results to come back."

The Russian Embassy has been notified of the death.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Phuket NRC member granted royal endorsement

CHERDCHAI Wongseree, who failed to gain election to the Senate in March, has received royal endorsement to become Phuket's sole representative at the National Reform Council (NRC).

Mr Cherdchai was among the 250 candidates throughout the country whose names were published in the Royal Thai Government Gazette after being approved by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej to serve as NRC members.

Mr Cherdchai was among 17 candidates who applied to serve as Phuket's representative at the NRC. The list of candidates was sent to Bangkok last month.

A Phuket native and a law graduate from Ramkhamhaeng University, Mr Cherdchai, 54,

told the *Gazette* on Monday that unity and reconciliation were his top priorities.

"When I applied for the NRC position, I felt like this country needed help. It was falling apart. People were mainly divided into two groups – both under the control of politicians in Parliament," he told the *Gazette*.

"If a person is a native of Southern Thailand, but does not like the Democratic party, is that a bad person? I was asked that question... And that is why I stepped up to unite the country."

In March, Mr Cherdchai contested Phuket's sole seat in the Senate, but came second to local lawyer Chaiyot Panyawai.

– Chutharat Plerin



Cherdchai Wongseree has been granted royal endorsement as a member of the NRC.

Asean health experts target regional vaccination strategy

ASEAN health experts gathered in Phuket from October 1-3 for a series of workshops to hammer out strategies for regional vaccine security.

The three-day event, hosted on the island for the first time, involved a series of brainstorming sessions among health experts, centering on vaccine research and development, production and vaccine immunization.

The exchange of information is seen as the first step in paving the way for long-term vaccine security and vaccine self-reliance among the 10

Asean member countries.

"It is well recognized that the shortage of vaccines for national immunization programs [in Asean], during both regular and public health emergencies, is critical," said Dr Narongsak Ungkasuwapala, adviser to Thailand's Ministry of Public Health.

"This has a direct impact on the health of our citizens and has caused numerous difficulties with public-health management strategies in the past," he added.

Experts also stressed the importance of

maintaining a united front in managing vaccine research and immunization strategies, once the region enters the Asean Economic Community (AEC) next year.

"With a population of approximately 600 million people, it's crucial that the AEC develops a platform of vaccination security with the support of the World Health Organization," said Dr Charung Muangchana, director of the National Vaccine Institute.

Held from October 1-3 at the Cape Panwa Hotel, the three-day workshop on Opportunities for Regional Vaccine Security was organized by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the WHO.

– Natthaphol Wittayarungrote



Dr Charung at the conference. Photo: PR Dept

Tourists' safety comes first: Governor Nisit

By Athip Karndee

LOCAL community support is essential for tourists' safety and Phuket's image when the island hosts the Asian Beach Games next month, Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong said on Monday.

"We need more advertisements encouraging locals to get involved. Everybody on the island is hosting this event – we have to work together to best represent our homeland," said Governor Nisit, who took up the post as the island's top-ranking Interior Ministry official on October 1.

"I don't want the outside world slandering Phuket's name. Friendliness and warm smiles must be a

'I don't want the outside world slandering Phuket's name. Friendliness and warm smiles must be a priority, as Thailand is 'The Land of Smiles'

priority, as Thailand is 'The Land of Smiles'."

Contestants in the 4th Asian Beach Games will dig into the sands on Phuket starting on November 14 and the competitions will continue until November 23.

The island is expecting an influx of more than 13,000 people from 47 countries to watch or take part in the events.

Given the number of additional visitors to the island, who will arrive as

Phuket verges on the peak of its tourism season, Gov Nisit made it clear that island officials needed to learn from the horrific murders of two British nationals on Koh Tao and prevent anything similar from happening.



Phuket's Governor Nisit Jansomwong is putting the safety of tourists first during the Asian Beach Games. Photo: PR Dept

"We have predicted what possible problems might arise, and are already working on solutions to them," Gov Nisit said.

Region 8 Police began search-

ing for efficient ways to boost security on Phuket following the slaying of British tourists Hannah Witheridge and David Miller on Koh Tao.



Councilors. Photo: Saran Mitratat

Patong cables to be buried

THE power cables along Patong's beachfront road will go underground, the resort town's Mayor Chalermkluck Kebsup has confirmed.

The project is supported by about 200 million baht dedicated from a previous national budget, Mayor Chalermkluck previously explained to the *Gazette*.

But the Provincial Electricity Authority could not hand over the funds until Patong Municipality came up with about 77mn baht.

Explaining the news to the *Gazette* on October 2, Mr Weerawit said that the funds needed – in excess of 36mn baht – will now come from extra reserves held over from smaller projects that have been cancelled.

"The councilors are happy with this, and have approved the project," he said.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*

One gunman suspected in two 7-Eleven robberies

PHUKET police suspect that a single gun-wielding robber is responsible for two 7-Eleven stickups on October 5.

The first robbery took place at 1am at a 7-Eleven store on Ranong Road in Phuket Town. Then, at 10pm, a 7-Eleven at Baan Kien in Thalang was also robbed.

"We believe the two robberies may well be connected, as the robber caught on CCTV footage at both stores looks the same and, according to witnesses, spoke with a central Thai accent," Lt Col Sanit Nookong of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

CCTV footage shows the robber threatening staff at both stores with a gun and forced them to take money from the cash registers and safety boxes.

"However, the man who made off with just over 17,000 baht from



The suspect was caught on CCTV.

the 7-Eleven store in Ranong Road sped away on a motorbike without a licence plate, while the man in Baan Kien casually walked away with 6,500 baht," said Deputy Superintendent Chao Phomna of the Phuket City Police.

"We are checking CCTV footage in the Baan Kien area to see if we can trace the steps of the man's escape route."

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Boats ordered away from Navy base in Cape Panwa

THE Phuket Marine Office has issued an official order for boats to stay at least 500 meters away from the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command base in Cape Panwa, or face jail time.

The directive was handed down by the Marine Office on September 30, following an order from the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to re-organize public areas and ensure the security of the Navy, said Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut.

"Anyone who does not follow the regulations will be charged with defying an official order and could face up to six months in jail," he told the *Gazette* on October 2.

The order to clear out of the waters at Cape Panwa follows a similar one handed down last month, in which yacht owners with vessels moored in Ao Yon Bay were told to move to other anchorages, or face six months in jail.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

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The B25mn plate will be displayed on a Nissan Almera. Photo: The Nation

B25mn licence plate auctioned off for charity

CAR licence plate number 1 Kor Kor 1111 passed to a 19-year-old student on September 30, after he bid 25 million baht for it, making it the most expensive plate sold at an auction organized by the Department of Land Transport since 2003.

At 25mn baht, the plate has a value 52 times the price of the Nissan Almera to which it is to be attached. A Nissan Almera E CVT costs 480,000 baht, reported *The Nation*.

As the winning bidder, Thanapat Tuntisevekul, a law student at Assumption University, was allowed to create his own design for the licence plate. The graphic design chosen by Mr Thanapat for his plate is called "Eight Horses on the River of Nine Gems", which is believed to give luck, prosperity and safety to the driver of the car.

The right to this 1 Kor Kor 1111 number is transferable through sale or inheritance. Mr Thanapat said an offer was made to buy it for 33mn baht but he turned it down. He said the price was "inexpensive", as 50mn baht had been prepared by his family for this bid.

Mr Thanapat, also known as James, said his family operated a real-estate business in Chon Buri, and they had obtained a few licence-plate numbers before.

He said he and his family were glad that the money raised by the auction was for a good cause – a fund to promote road safety.

Land Transport Department Chief Asdsathai Rattanadilok Na Phuket said the money from the auction would be given to the Road Safety Fund, which aims to cut accidents and raise awareness on safe driving.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej recovering well after surgery

HM KING Bhumibol Adulyadej's health has improved after he underwent a successful operation to remove his gall bladder, according to the latest statement from the Royal Household Bureau.

The operation, which took about an hour and 15 minutes, was performed late last Sunday night at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, reported *The Nation*.

The much-revered monarch has been receiving treatment since October 3.

The latest statement from the Royal Household Bureau, released on Monday, described HM The King's post-surgery condition

as satisfactory.

"His blood pressure is normal and his temperature has gone down," it said.

The statement said doctors had now given HM The King antibiotics and a saline drip.

People across the country have prayed for a quick recovery, since learning about his return to Siriraj.

A huge number of Thais headed to the hospital to convey their best wishes to the much-loved monarch.

Sitting on the throne for well over six decades, His Majesty has commanded overwhelming love and respect from his

people. He will turn 87 on December 5.

Prime Minister and National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) chief Prayuth Chan-ocha and several Cabinet members went to Siriraj on Monday to sign their best wishes for HM The King's good health. Former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra also visited.

Members of the general public can also write their best wishes for the King in books prepared by the Royal Household Bureau at the hospital.

The signing of best wishes, which can be done between 8am and 6pm, began on October 5.

Doubts amid arrests of Myanmar men for Koh Tao double murder

PRIME Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has ordered the police report stating that two Myanmar workers are responsible for killing British backpackers David Miller and Hannah Witheridge on Koh Tao last month be translated into English, said Permanent Secretary for foreign affairs Sihasak Puangketkeow on Tuesday.

PM Prayuth was prepared to explain the Royal Thai Police's conclusion to the Myanmar government, if asked, in his visit to Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

"If asked during the visit about the investigation into the Koh Tao murders, the premier is ready to explain all the details about the investigation to the Myanmar leaders," Mr Sihasak said.

Meanwhile, senior Thai police are determined to conclude the case over the murder of Mr Miller and Ms Witheridge on the resort island. Surat Thani police handed their report to public prosecutors on Tuesday, despite skepticism from the media and public of the pair's guilt.

Officials from the Myanmar Embassy visited the two accused – Maung Saw and Maung Win – on Tuesday and said later that the pair had admitted to killing the tourists, reported *The Nation*.

"We met Maung Saw and Maung Win at Koh Samui prison. They told us they committed the crime while they were under the influence of alcohol," said Aung



The two men have been said to have confessed to the double murder of the Brit tourists. Photo: The Nation

Myo Than, an embassy lawyer.

However, he said there were discrepancies between police statements and what they had said.

"A cigarette was found at the crime scene. The police announced that their DNA test results were taken from that cigarette. But the suspects said they did not smoke at the scene," Mr Myo Than said.

"They only said they smoked at a place where they were playing the guitar, about 25 yards from the scene. We went to the police

station to give their statements."

Kyaw Thaung, head of the Myanmar Citizens Association, who was part of the delegation, said another discrepancy regarded injuries found on Mr Miller. The suspects said they hit the man with a spade three times, as the woman was being raped and began to shout, Mr Kyaw Thaung said. Yet the police stated that the man was stabbed by a pointed item.

"They [the accused] said they did not think the man would die. There are differences between

their statements and Thai police statements," he said.

The Royal Thai Police's 850-page investigation report handed to public prosecutors on Tuesday recommended prosecuting Mr Maung Saw and Mr Maung Win.

At a press conference in Bangkok, national police chief Gen Somyot Poompanmoung rejected claims that the men had been framed. He insisted all police work was based on scientific proof and confessions by the two Myanmar nationals, he said.

NRC members vow to uphold duties, target nation's issues

MEMBERS of the 250-strong National Reform Council (NRC) have vowed to perform their new jobs in earnest and suggested a variety of ideas for reforming the country.

The list of 250 NRC members was published in the *Royal Gazette* on Monday, following endorsement by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Many of the council members are viewed as critics and opponents of "the old power clique" led by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, reported *The Nation*.

Seree Suwanpanont, an NRC member for legal and justice system reform, said the council should focus on political reform, and problems involving corruption should

be solved swiftly.

There is a wide range of reforms to be discussed and corruption is the crux of the nation's political issues, said Mr Seree.

NRC member Prasarn Marueka-pitak said national reform should happen continuously, and the NRC's work is to analyze and point out solutions to the problems.

The constitution that will come out shortly should state its authority and that of other agencies clearly, he added.

The NRC has been handed a veritable list of jobs to tackle as a committee, apart from giving its input to the Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC) about the new

AROUND THE
nation

constitution.

First, the NRC has the job of studying and making recommendations for reform in 11 areas to the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), the Cabinet and the National

Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

It also is required under the provisional charter to give input to the CDC for its writing of a new constitution. The NRC will then consider whether to approve the draft charter before submitting it for royal endorsement.

The NRC is empowered to nominate 20 out of the 36 CDC members, while the remainder will be nominated by the NCPO,

the Cabinet and the NLA. The CDC must be established within 15 days after the NRC convenes its first meeting.

Within 60 days of its first meeting, the NRC has to submit its comments and suggestions about reforms to the CDC, which has 120 days to write a new constitution. In all, a new constitution is expected within 295 days after the NRC convenes.

The draft charter will be submitted to the NRC, which has to decide whether to endorse or adjust it. If the NRC fails to finish its deliberation on the draft charter within the given time or does not approve the draft, the council and the CDC "shall expire", according to the interim charter. If that is the case, a new NRC and CDC will be appointed to complete the job.

Say hello to the man in charge

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

PHUKET does very well, and without much help. The island is well-known internationally, even more so than Bangkok. As governor of Phuket – and because this is my new home – I want to encourage locals and residents to work together and continue pushing Phuket in the right direction.

Phuket is ours. We should be proud of our beautiful province.

I urge Phuket residents, both locals and those who have moved here, to live and to work, to love the island as their home. When you are at home in a place, you feel the need to look after it and make it better for yourself and visitors.

More than taking care of the environment, we must also take care of each other. We must find a way for residents to live comfortably on the island. Tourism in the province lends itself to a very high cost-of-living. If residents aren't happy, they won't be able to make tourists happy.

I want tourists to love Phuket because of its kind, helpful and fair people. I want them to feel safe and enjoy their time here, and not feel like they have been taken advantage of.

We must work together to impress our tourists so they want to come back. While they are here, and also when they return home, they should be talking about the wonderful people of Phuket, not just the beaches and beautiful scenery.

These are my dreams as gov-



Here, he talks about tourism's importance and impact on Phuket and Thailand as a whole, and his dreams and goals for his new home province.

Nisit Jansomwong, 52, from Ratchaburi, landed on the island last week to take up the position of Phuket Governor. He has a master's degree in administration from Chulalongkorn University, where he graduated with honors. Before coming to Phuket, Governor Nisit was governor of Ratchaburi province for one year.

error. We have a lot of work to do to make all this come true, but we are already off to a good start.

Phuket's income is one of the highest in the country. I was recently informed just how many tourists visit Phuket. The fact that there are many millions every year highlights how important the island's tourism market truly is.

I think private businesses, such as hotels and tour companies, could do a lot to boost and promote our tourism industry. Many of them are known worldwide, and they are often much better than government officers at marketing local tourism services.

The government can help by supporting these companies. Meanwhile, the government needs to develop within itself and push the province forward so it can support the growing number of

tourists. We can do this by improving public safety and cleanliness, and developing public facilities.

I plan to work very closely with government officials, and make sure that every office on the island is moving in the same direction.

For now, all I can do is listen and learn. I am new here, and will certainly need help from the people who know what the problems are and have ideas about how to fix them.

The more we cooperate – government officials, private businesspeople, foreign residents and locals – the more we will be able to accomplish.

I cannot lead the province by myself. I need help from everyone to make our home a better place.



The man who killed his friend with a meat cleaver. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

Bad news

Island View

By Jeremie Schatz

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

THERE'S been a lot of death in Phuket lately. It seems that stories about death and violence have been pouring in on a regular basis over the past several weeks.

There was the drug-crazed maniac who chopped up his friend with a meat cleaver and tried to do the same to his girlfriend, and himself. Then, there was the murder victim who had presumably been strangled and bashed in the head that my friend and I found and dragged to shore while surfing in Nai Harn. After that, there was the man with wrists and ankles bound whose body washed up near the Sarasin Bridge; the brutal murder of the two young British travellers; and now another corpse – this time a female – with wrists tied discovered on Surin Beach.

I've yet to mention the list of violent attacks that did not result in death, as well as the high number of traffic injuries and fatalities.

Often, I am surprised when police are able to track down the perpetrators considering their lack of resources, alleged corruption and the ease with which criminals do seem to disappear into the jungle.

Catching criminals is one thing, but preventing crimes is a different issue altogether. The retroactive approach is likely to have a miniscule impact on dissuading people from committing crimes, especially with a justice

system that shows an excess of compassion to those who seem to be "remorseful" of their crimes.

I am not Thai and realize it is not my place to criticize the legal system here or pretend to advise on how to prevent crime.

But in some ways, this is a trying time for the Kingdom, especially regarding its reputation around the world. The spotlight was already pointed in this direction following the political dramas which unfolded in May, and the international media was dredging up the human trafficking issue, with the US threatening sanctions.

The last thing Thailand needs is innocent backpackers being raped and slain, closely followed by what many consider inappropriate and insensitive comments by the new premier.

The point is, reputation counts for something, and is even more important when four per cent of your gross domestic product is derived from tourism.

If word gets out that hotspots like Phuket and Koh Tao are becoming dangerous and anything less than carefree getaways, there may be trouble in paradise.

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

Returning a green book

MY CO-WORKER found a green motorbike registration book on Kata Road. We know that this is very important. How can we return it to its owner?

Carol Camanag
Phuket

Konlayut Jattutasri, Registrar at the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Licensing Division, replies:

Thank you for picking up the green book. It is very important to the owner.

You can post it to the owner's registered address that is listed in the book, or you can mail it to us at: Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office,

42/1 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, Talad Nua, Muang Phuket 83000, Thailand.

However, if you cannot read the address typed in Thai, please bring it to our office so we can contact the owner and find out whether or not he or she wants it mailed to them or if they want to collect it.

For more information, please call our office at 076-214 930 ext 102 or email us at info@phuketlandtransport.th.org.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

How can I extend my stay so I can learn Muay Thai?

I AM a US citizen who arrived in Bangkok without a visa. I was granted a 30-day visa exemption. I wish to stay in Thailand longer, as I would like to learn Muay Thai.

I would like to stay for three or four months. I am a genuine tourist and have more than enough funds in my bank account, and proof that I only wish to stay in Phuket to visit and train.

I was in Phuket earlier this year and was able to go to Ranong to extend my stay, but I don't know if I am able to do that now. Please advise on the best possible option.

AJ

United States

Joey Angeles, Customer Service Manager at Tiger Muay

Thai & MMA Training Camp, replies:

Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp can assist you in obtaining a non-immigrant education (ED) visa, which gives Muay Thai students and guests nine months to stay in the Kingdom.

Initially, guests can apply for a tourist visa in their home countries, at a Thai Embassy overseas, or can obtain a visa-on-arrival for 30 days at the airport.

Should a guest wish to extend his or her stay, they can receive assistance through our office. They will need to provide a copy of their passport, and later go to Malaysia on a "visa run".

We will provide the paperwork necessary to obtain the nine-



Extend your stay and learn the art of Muay Thai. Photo: Gazette file

month education visa. There will be a fee for this service.

We also require that guests provide a three-month down payment for training at our gym before we start the visa process.

Other expenditures such as lodging and flights for the visa run are to be paid for by the guests, along with the fees required by the Thai Embassy in Malaysia.

Hooters or bust?

THE foreign family with their two young children being subjected to a military-clad scare during a raid on the illegal taxi they hired is unfortunate (see page 7), but efforts by police to rid the island of “black plate” taxis still deserve full public support.

Like many other tourism-tarnishing incidents, this one involved tourists travelling on “mafia mile” between Karon and Patong.

Unfortunately, and without the family’s knowledge, the taxi arranged for them by a hotel security guard in Karon was unlicensed. This fact was noticed by authorities somewhere along the way, resulting in the vehicle being surrounded by heavily armed police when it reached its destination in Patong.

As is often the case in incidents involving tourists, this was one that should have been handled more delicately by police.

Unfortunately, no English-speaking Tourist Police officers were on hand to assist. Language abilities aside, the arresting officials should have found some way to convey to the family that they were not at fault and that their co-operation in serving witness against the illegal driver would help ensure the safety of others.

The police have defended their actions, insisting it was not possible to make translators available on short notice. That is a reasonable claim, but permitting the father to sign documents he could not understand, as has been alleged, is unacceptable.

It makes sense to have resort staff help visitors discern between legal and illegal taxis. As this incident reveals, however, it would be better if so-called “security guards” were also capable of making this distinction.

The fact that this was a black-plate taxi from Karon getting busted in Patong suggests that there is still some way to go before Phuket enjoys only legally-registered vehicles and drivers.

Inferences that the family were to blame for failing to exercise “due diligence” are unacceptable. This family chose Phuket as their holiday destination despite the imposition of martial law and travel warnings issued by many foreign missions. Phuket needs more visitors like them, especially at this time of year.

Anyone who has ever gone globetrotting with children knows what a trying experience it can be. For them to be inconvenienced in this way is unfortunate because there has probably never been a better time for foreign families to visit Phuket than now.

In the end, they were eventually able to stroll down to Hooters with only a sour taste in their mouths and a good story to tell friends when they get back home: a far better fate than that suffered by so many who came before them at the hands of illegal taxi drivers.



Wishing the new governor luck

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tourists' safety vital during Asian Beach Games, says Governor, October 6

It is nice – and very refreshing – to read that a Phuket official is already predicting issues that might occur during the Asian Beach Games and being proactive about how they can be solved.

This is all happening more than one month before the games even begin.

I truly hope that this is how the new governor plans to run the island – staying ahead of the curve rather than trying to pick up the pieces after the fact.

Good luck, Governor Nisit.

Rae Kathu

Let's keep an eye out for our youngsters

Re: Gazette online, Phuket teen stabs ex-girlfriend's new lover in jealous rage, October 6

This sort of thing is a huge worry to anyone who has children at or near dating age.

Phuket is a dangerous place for teenagers, and it seems to be getting worse all the time.

Hector Gazette forum

Shouldn't we be able to stop road deaths?

Re: Gazette online, Breaking News: 6-wheeled Phuket truck kills two on Patong Hill, October 4

Yet again, people die needlessly on Phuket roads.

When will those in charge check all drivers of any vehicles from motorbikes to trucks, buses to taxis for holding a licence and being fully insured?

So many of these deaths would

Letters to the Editor

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

be avoided if the authorities were doing their job and not simply being an ambulance waiting at the bottom of the cliff – or, in other words, waiting for an accident to happen.

Grim Reaper Gazette forum

Russians are people, like everyone else

Re: Gazette online, Show the Russians some Phuket love, October 5

Some Russians are rude, like some people from other countries, and some are nice.

Same-same.

They are spending money and investing here, one of the few nationalities that are doing so.

I find them no different than people from other countries.

Phuket seems to attract the dregs of the world from a lot of countries, as well as some nice people!

Peter Allen Gazette forum

We need more taxi drivers like this

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Hope for Phuket metered-taxi drivers, October 4

I would love to be able to call or wave down a metered taxi whose driver uses the meter correctly.

This would be great for the tourists and could help reduce the traffic congestion if one could catch a taxi rather

than driving himself.

Not to mention going out for a beer in the evening.

More drivers like this would be great all around.

Do you have any telephone numbers for these metered taxis?

Bill A

Gazette forum

Patong tunnel: A pie in Phuket's sky

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's Patong tunnel project balloons past B10bn, to include flyover, October 1

The joke is that the money has already been made with the “feasibility study”.

It costs 40mn baht just to decide yes or no. If anyone actually believes this tunnel will ever be built, I have some excellent swamp land for sale as well.

The Patong City sign is already looking precarious, and if a simple sign can't be up for more than two years without collapsing, a tunnel is pie in the sky.

Mister Ree Gazette forum

Beach vendors are not the problem

Re: Gazette online, Special Report: Phuket's billion-baht beach 'scandal' never kept a secret, October 5

I don't have any problems living in Phuket.

Local people are nice – only a few are not.

I miss the *som tam*, BBQ chicken, fresh coconut, ice cream, and fresh fruits on the beach sold by the local vendors.

When can they come back? They were not the problem.

Ida Lechler Facebook

Phuket Gazette

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Oct 11, 16, 18, 23, 30 6-10:30pm. Andaman Seafood BBQ Buffet at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Every Thursday and Saturday night Casuarina Beach Restaurant & Pub invites you to enjoy a stunning sunset view of Bang Tao Beach while delighting yourself in the freshest seafood BBQ dining experience, accompanied by a wide selection of salads, appetizers and hot and cold Asian dishes. Be sure to save some room for our decadent desserts. 1,190++ baht per person (food only). 595++ baht per child, aged from 6-12 years old (food plus free flow of soft drinks). Prices are subject to 10 per cent service charge and 7 per cent government tax. For reservations call 076-362999 and dial 7303.

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

The October lunch will be at Divino, Chermg Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Maggy Wigman on 086-594 1758, email info@piwc-phuket.com

October 17, 11am-11pm. Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal

Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant presents Curry Fridays. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Buffet highlights include tandoori chicken, mutton vindaloo, butter chicken, matat paneer, bombay aloo, garlic naan, basmati rice, vegetable samosa, aloo tikka and more. All you can eat for only 449 baht net! Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, only at Karon Branch. Open Daily: 11am to 11pm. For reservations, please call 076-286464 or visit the



Photo: Thomas Steiner

October 10, Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal 11am-11pm

website: navrangmahal.com

Oct 17, 6-11:30pm. Surf and Turf BBQ night @ Two Chefs Kata Beach

Two Chefs Kata Beach are serving a large BBQ buffet with Aussie favorites including prawn cocktails, BBQ pork ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken drum sticks, Wague-Aussie beef burgers, salt & pepper calamari, kiwi marinated Australian ribeye, fish and chips, meat pies, Caesar salad, coleslaw, lamingtons, pavlova, cupcakes, chocolate brownies and much more. All this for only 695 baht, children under 12 years 350 baht (under 3 free). Two Chefs house band will entertain you till the late hours. There

will be a sing along competition with the band, with some nice prizes for the winners! Come for the food and stay for the fun. For more information call 076-333370 or email kata@twochefs.com

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V. This is a public holiday in Thailand.

Oct 31, 6-11:30pm. Halloween Party @ Two Chefs Kata center

It's time for a Halloween Party again. Two Chefs Kata are serving a large buffet with a wide range of international favorites, including pumpkin soup, Lucifer's roast pork, salmon

with devil sauce, bloody mary mussels, grilled ribeye steaks and a wide range of desserts from our in house bakery. All this for only 795 baht, children under 12 years 395 baht (under 3 free). Great prizes for the guests with the best costumes of the evening. Two chefs house band will entertain you till the late hours. It's always more fun at Two Chefs! For more information call 076-330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com

Freaky Friday at FatBoy's Grill

At FatBoy's Grill, we are holding a Halloween Freaky Friday Dinner Party. Join us if you dare. October 31, 2014 at the deadly hour of 7pm. Three course be-

witched meal. Wicked Witch Salsa Dancing (now you can learn how). 950 baht per adult and 650 baht per child (under 12). RSVP now if you dare: 085-089 7942.

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 Maggy Wigman on 086-594 1758, email info@piwcphuket.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.

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

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 Chermg Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p> | <p>MCOT World</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p> | Tuesday: | 12.05pm & 7pm | Wednesday: | 6pm | Thursday: | 1pm & 8pm | Friday: | 9am | Saturday: | 1pm | Sunday: | 6am | <p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> | Tuesday: | 12.05pm & 7pm | Wednesday: | 6pm | Thursday: | 1pm & 8pm | Friday: | 9am | Saturday: | 1pm | Sunday: | 6am |
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Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

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YOUR Phuket

Rotary rocks out at Bliss for Phuket's children in need

The island's glamor crowd turned out in force on October 4 for Phuket's needy kids. Food, wine and two great bands kept Bliss guests partying into the wee hours. The charity event, proudly sponsored by the *Gazette*, was organized by the Rotary Club of Patong Beach to support underprivileged children.



From left: OB Wetzell; Brad Kenny, Larry Amsden and David Arell.



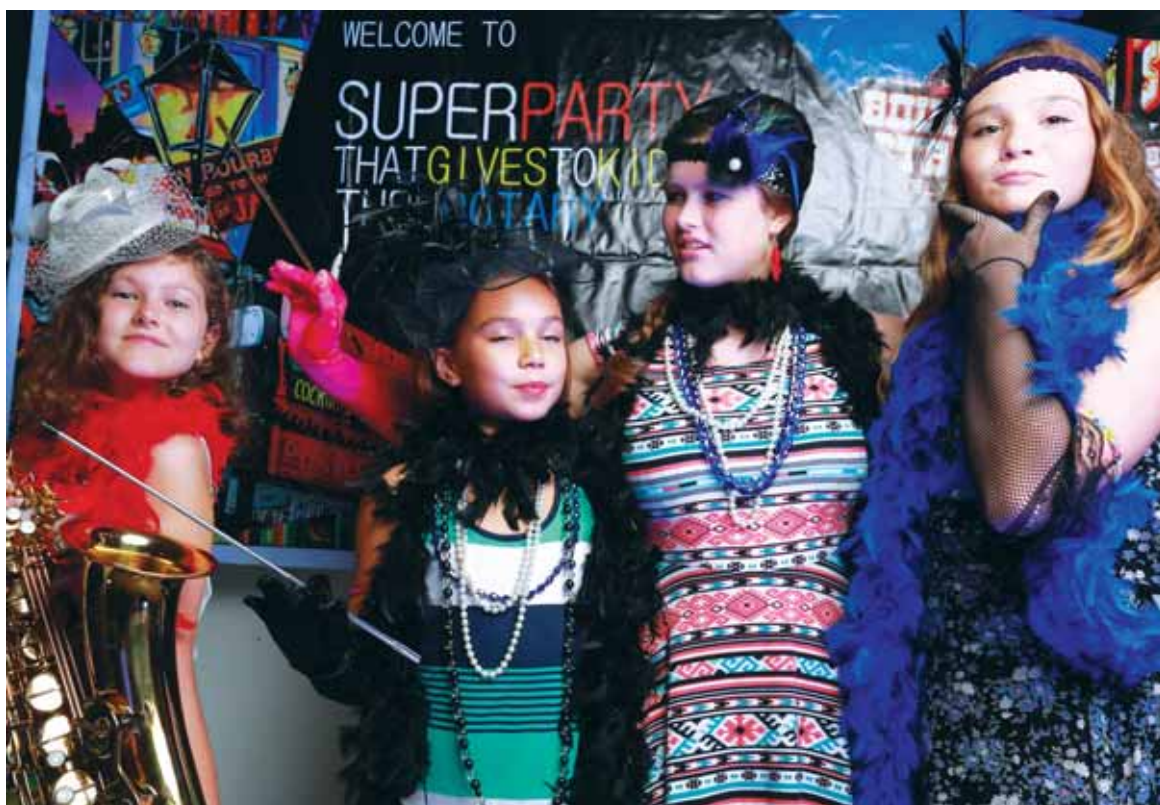
From left: Wolfgang Meusburger; Wanida Hongyok; Sam Fauma; Debbie Dionysius.



Kanokkorn Preuksakit and Jakkapan Jitsomboon from the Rotary Club of Sino Phuket.



The night's entertainment: Singer Pjae Stanley and the Colin Hill Band kept guests rock 'n' rollin' 'til late.



The kids had lots of laughs too... dressing up and posing for the camera in fancy dress.



Lilly and Bob, no strangers to Phuket, joined the night's revelry.

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PROPERTY of the week

PROPERTY
AND MOTOR
INSURANCE



See page 16

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

phuket
home
services

phuket
property
inspections

See page 19

JOB of the week



Club Tropical



See page 21

BOAT of the week

Boatshedphuket.com

INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 25

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Properties For Sale

LAND PLOTS



Several land plots for sale in Rawai and Nai Harn. Very nice pieces. Some sea view. Chanote. Large and small. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)



Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 090-487 8084. Email: utaipan@yahoo.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

HOUSE FOR SALE



Between Amphur Tubpud-Amphur Panom near Khao Sok National Park. Land: 1 rai, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 air conditioner Price: 2.2 million baht. Please call. Tel: 081-667 1637 (Thai), 082-539 6433(English).

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270 degree view of Patong beach and town, 10th floor, 54.35sqm. 11 million baht ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

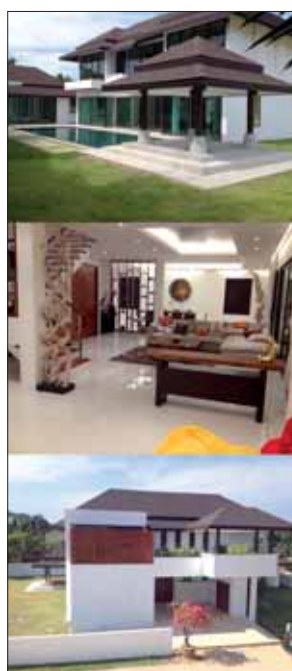


Within unique development - 8,700,000 baht. Please call 081-077 1765. Email: phuketformations@gmail.com

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

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

2 POOL VILLAS NEXT TO PIA



Ready to move in. Villa 1: on 1,100sqm land, 16.9 million baht. Villa 2: on 2,200sqm land, 21.9 million baht. Brand-new, each with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool. Guest bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Perfectly located in a development with underground electricity and security, only 800m from Mission Hills Golf Course, less than 10 minutes to airport, Phuket International Academy and Ao Po Grand Marina. Please call 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

RESORT

For sale or rent in Patong, 1200sqm land, 20 rooms, pool, restaurant, fully furnished, equipment. Contact email: guidolando2@hotmail.com

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

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

2BDR BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2bdr / 2bath ens, huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant, in 5* resort with access to gym, spa, ideal for family, separate storage, furniture incl, fast owner sale, leaving Asia, 13.9MM neg. Tel: 096-532849(English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.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

POOL VILLA FOR SALE / RENT



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

BEACHFRONT VILLARAWAI



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

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA

Seaview over Chalong Bay marina. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, private pool. Chanote. Size: 800sqm. Price: 25 million baht. Tel: 084-868 1732. or 084-933 9829. Email: kigwd@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, land 350sqm, Chanote. Only 3.3 MB. Tel: 093-713 2278, after 5pm.

HOUSE FOR SALE



In Soi Sansabai, Patong. Call Yooyen for details on 087-895 0362 (English & Thai). Email: panyaah249@gmail.com

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN



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

FREEHOLD POOL VILLA



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

LAND FOR SALE



73square wah with Chanote titles. 15 minutes to Panwa Beach (Ao Makham bay). Conveniently located, road frontage. Please contact 081-6912526. Email: s_jumpon@yahoo.com



Condo for Rent/Sale

Rawai Condominium 60sqm., 1 bed, 1 bathroom, Great kitchen, fully furnished, European style, first floor, swimming pool view, price for sale 3.9 million baht, price for rent 30,000 baht for long-term.

For more information

English: Denis 082-539 6433, Sue 087-897 4421, Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

RETIREMENT SALE KATA

6 apts, office, spa, great location. makeoffer. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: kataari@yahoo.com for photos.

KATA 3-STORY HOME

Great income property. Reduced Price: 3.3 million baht. Must sell. Tel: 088-168 5032.

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.

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).

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

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.

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

Properties For Rent



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanof1@hotmail.com

2-BED APT PATONG

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

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished and colorful, Rang Hill Area. Tel: 089-668 3639. Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com www. BaanPhi takTawee.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

DLX SEAVIEW APT

2 bdrm in Kata, quiet location, Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

APARTMENT AT KATHU FOR RENT

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

VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG

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

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



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

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

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

BIG HOUSE IN HERITAGE KATHU

4 bedrooms, 5 baths, maid's house, 2 kitchens, size 400 M2, community pool, garden, furnished. Rental at 65,000 baht per month, or sale at 19.5 million. Both negotiable. Tel: 083-103 7472 (Thai), 083-181 6037 (English). Email: thailegobricks@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: artipmj@yahoo.com, www.premierpropertiesphuket.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

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

3- BED KATHU GOLF VILLA

For rent 3 bed 3 and half bath on top of private hill overlooking Loch Palm golf course. Big pool, 4km to BIS and HeadStart International School. Quiet, new furniture, maid, WIFI, security. Long-term 75,000 per month 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: srdupouy@gmail.com, www.tropicalhouse.net

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 air con 087-2667191.

2-BED CONDO PHUKET

2 bed, 2 bath on 10th floor for rent at Suan Luan Park, offering both park and ocean views. 6 mins to biggest shopping mall, and just 20 mins to the beach. 35,000 baht per month, long term. For info and pics, call Noi on 087-269 8492.

NEWER HOME - MAI KHAO BEACH

5 bed, 4 bath, 29,000 baht / month; near Mai Khao Beach (NW coast). Tel: 099-480 4109 (English & Thai).

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/

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: bcurrent@hotmail.com

SERVICE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Fully furnished, swimming pool, daily and monthly rate. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivilla phuket@gmail.com www. nanaivilla.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

7,000 BAHT PER MONTH

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. panwa green.weebly.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT



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

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

MARKETING MANAGER

Real estate company looking for foreign-national manager with good English skills. Basic salary + commission + work permit. Tel: 089-594 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

OPC MANAGER

Real estate company looking for OPC manager. Good English skills. Tel: 089-564 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for an Office Assistant. Must have good knowledge of spoken and written English. Basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

TELEMARKETER

Earn up to 5,000 baht / day working from home. The candidate will be responsible for outbound calling in English and Thai and will be held to specific goals and quotas. Candidates must have 2+ years of related experience as a telemarketer or otherwise in sales. Email: recruitment@holiplanet.com

LIVE IN HOUSEKEEPER

Thai lady to live in with small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, pets, some childcare and cooking. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: ritalouised obson@hotmail.com

RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

From the success of Live Phuket, we are launching Live Samui and need a talented, driven and smart person to join the young holiday rentals team. You must speak and write almost perfect English, ideally someone who has either lived or worked in Samui. Must be a Thai National. Basic + Commission = 100,000 baht or more a month. Email: paul@livephuket.com www.livesamui.net

FULL TIME HOUSEKEEPERS NEED

Villa in Nai Harn looking for live-in staff, possibly a married couple. Duties include: cleaning, laundry, cooking, and day-to-day maintenance. Experience, references and English required. Excellent salary and accommodation. Tel: 081-970 7633(English & Thai). Email: fortna_nachat1@gmail.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).

HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANT

Salary: 30,000 Baht / month. Please send CV. Duties: management of two entities in Laguna and one in AoPo; maintain the working condition of all equipment; interaction and control of the contractors and the payments; control and organization of the cleaning service; check-in / check-out guests, provide the support of their accommodation and logistics; food purchases. Requirements: English fluency; Thai woman from 24 yrs; experience in similar work from 3 yr. Email: hr@nexdigital.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED

Native English Speaking Customer Service Agent needed for E-commerce Fashion Retailer. Work Permit. High Salary. 5-day Work Week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-282759. Email: carla@holyclothing.com Web for full Details Here: http://bit.ly/ROWNBD

DOG & HOUSE SITTER WANTED

In the Laguna area: Looking for a mature animal lover who has their driver's licence (to take the dogs to the beach for daily walks), enjoys their days hanging out at home and could move into my villa while I'm away & take care of my dogs & villa. Starting mid-October for 1 week & again at Christmas for 10 days. Please contact kyle_lagunda@icloud.com

CENTURY 21 BOAT LAGOON

We hire: sales / rental agents + office assistant requirements: highly motivated, experience in Phuket property, ability to work independently, flexible, good English, driver's licence. Tel: 086-747 9292. Send CV to century21@smartproperty.net

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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



Welcome Phuket Co Ltd, is a new company providing Tour Desk Services in Phuket, is looking for:

TOUR DESK SALES TEAM

EDUCATION: University Degree

LANGUAGES: Excellent command of English and sufficient written knowledge to deal with suppliers/vouchers/brochures

ATTITUDE: We are looking for active and fun loving people who are keen to connect with our guests & who love to sell/ learn

AGE: Roughly 23-30 years old, but if older & confident, and have interesting work experience, please apply

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TOURISM/HOSPITALITY: Appreciated but not required

IT: Must be knowledgeable with internet, basic wordprocessing such as Microsoft Office

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES: We are especially looking for one or 2 of following languages Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, French and German

WE OFFER

RENUMERATION: Commensurate with experience and consisting of a fixed and commissionable part

LOCATION: Various hotels in Phuket

FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY: To interact with an international clientele from all over the world. Improve your spoken languages, gain in confidence and experience, grow with us

RESPONSIBILITY: To act and take charge and prove to yourself that you are good at sales and reap the rewards, learn to manage the administrative part of the business in addition to the hands on part

STARTING DATE: November 1st, 2014 or before

Interested candidates are invited to send their applications by email to info@welcomephuket.com before October 15th 2014

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

We are hiring Food & Beverage Manager. Good salary with work permit. Experience working with Thai staff preferred. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

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

COOKS URGENTLY NEEDED

Busy farang style restaurant needs 2 full time cooks. Some experience necessary but training given. Good salary and can start immediately. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English & Thai), 087-283 6074.

Live in Patong?

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



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

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

- ▶ **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282254**
- ▶ **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: **076-280400**
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282403**

PATONG

- NEW** ▶ **Andy's Real Estate Agency** (Opp. Savoeys Seafood) Tel: **076-341644**
- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-344521-2**
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-290468**

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: **076-232398**
- ▶ **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: **076-258369**
- ▶ **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone 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**

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna at Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

EUROPEAN CHEFS

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

ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

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

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: nycphuket@gmail.com

RUSSIAN SALES PERSON

Siam Real Estate require an experienced Russian speaking sales person to sell property. Must speak good English, be computer literate, and have an international driving license. Salary plus commissions, and Work Permit provided. No calls; send CV only. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

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

CONDOMINIUM MANAGER

A medium-sized condominium development in the Cape Panwa area is looking to appoint a CJP Manager to take over the day-to-day running of the estate. Applicants should ideally have related experience and possess a good knowledge of English. Salary in the range of 30,000 to 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-695 0088 (English & Thai).

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.

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: calen@chakri.com.my www.chakri.com.my



With a new senior management team now in place, we are currently recruiting experienced vacation ownership personnel for the following positions for our Kata Cold Line sales desk, due to open to the public soon.

- Line managers: English, Scandinavian & Finnish
- Sales consultants
- Opc managers with team
- Opcs

We offer what we feel are competitive commissions for sales and marketing staff, and above average monthly salaries for the back room sales support staff.

THE TYPE OF APPLICANTS WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARE:

- Energetic & Dynamic
- Stable & Reliable
- Able to think for oneself
- Team Players

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US:

- Valid Work Permit
- Paid correctly twice monthly
- Fantastic Product with Solid Inventory
- Quality Tour Flow
- State-of-the-Art Sales Centre.

For more information please email: frank@clubtropical.asia, Tel: 081-892 6101.



HOTEL RECEPTION

Thai only needed. Speak English, can use computer. Good wages and commission, holidays. Tel: 088-444 7801.

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: woman to clean, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com or call 083-105 2707 (12.00-20.00) . www.home-phuket-service.com

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: tkstourskohsamui.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: hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

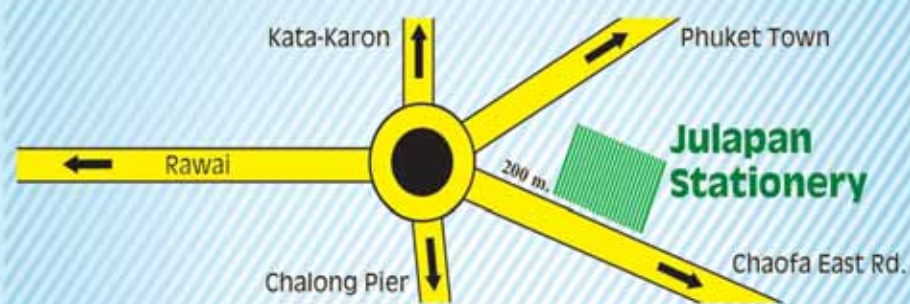
Employment Wanted

STAFF WANTED FOR STAGE WORK

We are looking for staff to work on stage at Nightmare in Phuket as a brand-new haunted attraction. Tel: 080-385 9062. Fax: 076-344506. Email: ellak@live.se

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!

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

RAWAI RESTAURANT

For sale area 3,800sqm. Big garden & parking. Good lease, low rent. Sale 1.5MB. Tel: 089-646 7176. Email: big_redchili@yahoo.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: matt.hew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

SMALL RESORT COMPLEX KAMALA

Available from January 1, 2015. Lease: 1 year minimum. Total 7 apartments of different types: 1-bed, 2-bed and studio apartments. Swimming pool and separate Jacuzzi, landscaped gardens. Private road. Established business with ongoing occupancy bookings in place which transfer to the lessee. Contact for details. Tel: 084-837 5985. Email: robbiesfant@gmail.com

RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermasuk. 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

WESTERN-STYLE BAKERY FOR SALE

Land and House, Chalong. Existing customers for regular delivery. For more details, Tel: 081-895 1848.

MINI MART FOR SALE

Patong Beach. Well established business. Regular customers daily. Two new hotels opening soon within 50 meters. Sell with all fixtures, fittings and stock. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-469 4105 or email hswaine@hotmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Clubhouse within a private apartment estate in Bang Tao is looking for a tenant to operate a restaurant or coffee shop facility. Full kitchen and seating area on-site. Please see our website at www.barrestaurant.simplesite.com for Tender Requirements. Email: aey@aclegaladvisors.com and bp_oc@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE SOI FREEDOM

1st bar inside soi. 3 year lease. 5.5 million baht. Rent 48,000 baht per month. Reduction for 6 or 9 year lease! Phone for more details. Tel: 087-676 1926 (English & Thai) or 088-820 2725 (English). Email: shaunrice@btintenet.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.phuketislandproperty.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. Please send your resume to the email address below. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: info@phuket-condos-homes.com

LUMPOON'S COFFEE HOUSE

For sale, Fully equipped. Great location at Chalong Circle. 081-476 5808.

BAR RAWAI FOR SALE

Busy garden bar- rest 6x6 year lease 5 year left on lease now 2 bedroom house attached rent 20,000 month paid to April 2015 sell 990,000 bath. Tel: 080-026 6704 (English). Email: breggmorgan1968@hotmail.com

BANGLA ROAD BAR FOR SALE



BAR FOR SALE : MID BANGLA ROAD. 1st row, beside Tiger 1 - opposite Séduction and Tiger discothèque. Contract: 3 years. Monthly rent: 80,000 baht. Asking price: 5.9 million baht. Please call. Tel: 061-216 2881. (English & Thai). Email: momo_f@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

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

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 |

Dive Gear

DIVE SHOP
CLEARANCE

Due to Dive centre closure on PP Island we have a large amount of 2nd hand Bcd's and regulators for bulk sale, please call or email for details. Email: precarious_phil@hotmail.com www.vikingdiversphiphi.com

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).

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)

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

Personal
Services

ENGLISH TEACHER

Find anything online with Qismi Marijossan, like facebook. tel: 081-415 1894.

BRIDE AND
HAIR STYLIST

Professional hair stylist. Nail color service at the shop or at your place. Tel: 089-288 1629 (English & Thai).

JOIN RAWAI
BACKGAMMON
CLUB

For free. Tel: 081-370 9661.

Personal
Services
WantedTHAI TRANSLATOR/
COMPANION

International company director requires the assistance of a lady 27-32 years old with basic English as a Thai translator and travelling companion. Five-star accommodation and good salary offered. No previous experience required. Tel: (27) 082-821 4775, (27) 082-821 4775. Fax: 031-700 1282. Email: brian.miraclemould@gmail.com www.miraclemould.com

Mobile
PhonesIPHONE 4S
CALL NOW

Call 091-161 0868 for quality secondhand iPhone 4s (16GB).

Business Products & Services

VISA SERVICES

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

40FT SEA CONTAINER

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

SOFTWARE
DEVELOPMENT

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroo@gmail.com

INSURANCE SERVICE

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

WORLDWIDE
AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8:30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Tel: 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

Audio / Video
Equipment

HI-FI AV RECEIVER

Cambridge Audio 540R V.20, excellent cond: 7,900 baht. 9-inch Acer monitor: 18,506 baht. Tel: 080-041 4240.

Golf Stuff

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.

DINO DAYCARE CENTER

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

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

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

DINODAYCARECENTER

Computers

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SOLUTION TO THIS**Cryptic crossword****COFFEE break**

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. Question: *quietson* 10. GAR: Ga-R 11. FARANG: F.A.-rang 12. ASIDES: *said*-E-S 13. REFUSAL: *false*(U) 14. EVEN: as much as 15. AQUAMARINE: *amarqueina* 17. NICETIES: *niecesit* 18. REDUCED: Red-cued 19. SHOE: *hose* 21. INSITU: in-*suit* 24. THENATIONALANTHEM: the-national-*theman* 27. OFFSET: the start 29. EVER: *never* 30. PRELATE: pre-late 33. WATERSKI: *weatrisk* 35. SOLDIERMEN: *solemnride* 36. UTAH: U-ta-H 37. REDSKIN: *drinks*(E) 38. FLESHY: *flyhes* 40. PODIUM: P-odium 41. ROO: diminutive 42. COLLATOR: *tocollar*

Down: 1. SUBSEQUENT: succeeding 2. USED: *dues* 3. DISSUADE: *issuedad* 4. INTRAIN: *irantin* 5. PRISONCELLS: *slipcloser*(N) 6. AFFLICTION: *factionif*(L) 7. PRIEST: *petsir* 8. INTEREST: attention 10. GAFFE: *gaffer* 16. AMULETS: *letasum* 20. HINGE: *ginhe* 22. SCHOLAR: *clashor* 23. SIDEWINDERS: *redssidewin* 25. ANTISERUMS: *manitssure* 26. MOTHERHOOD: *herhotmood* 28. FRACTION: f-R-action 31. RAINFALL: R.A.-in-drop 32. CLINICS: CL.-in-I-C-S 34. ETHNIC: nice[up](T)(H) 35. SAKOO: *ask*(O)(O) 39. ERAS: are[up]-S

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Nok Air visits JW Marriott

Oriol Montal, general manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa welcomed Nok Air to a luncheon recently, following the launch of Thaicom's free in-flight WiFi.



From 3rd left: Captain Virin Anakevieng, VP, flight operations; Suriyapa Bunnag, VP, corporate communications; Mr Montal, the hotel's GM; and Pinyot Pibulsongkram, VP of marketing – pictured with Nok Air ambassadors.

Formula 1 driver welcomed to Thanyapura Phuket



Rookie Formula 1 driver Marcus Ericsson (right) and his trainer Alex Elgh (left) from Sweden recently stayed at the Thanyapura Phuket. They were welcomed by Troy De Haas (centre), the sports hotel's director of sales.

Chamroen is guest of honor



Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tippayapongtada (center) was guest of honor at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, held recently to mark the grand opening of Shivalai Boutique Condominium.

Taking the right attitude


The Attitude Club's management team joined recent Phuket Vegetarian Festival celebrations and also donated t-shirts to Phuket Town shrines taking part in the festival – sporting the name of each shrine.



Kanokpan Pranveerapaiboon, The Attitude Club's real estate managing director (second from right) and her team (from left): Onnoot Kiratisutthisopon; Chalernsri Saeto; Jutarat Na Takourtung; Irin Songpreeda; and Jitchaya Khocharat.



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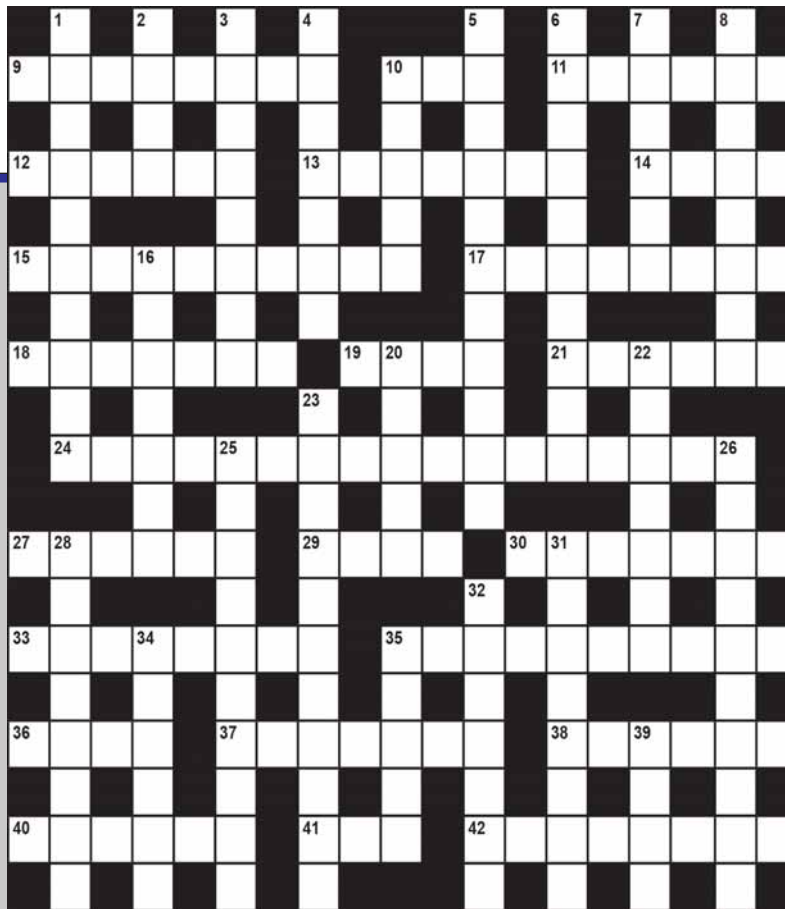
(Required)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Quiet son to arrange an enquiry (8)
 10. Georgia river fish (3)
 11. Football Association called foreigner in Thailand (6)
 12. Said maybe two points in whispered words (6)
 13. Denial in possibly falser about-turn (7)
 14. As much as equal (4)
 15. A marque in a different color (10)
 17. Niece, sit out the finer points (8)
 18. Brought down communist badly cued (7)
 19. Hose could be something on the foot (4)
 21. Fashionable suit possibly in its original place (2,4)
 24. The citizen of a country may be the man for a patriotic song (3,8,6)
 27. Counterbalance to start (6)
 29. Not new, never for all time (4)
 30. Important churchman before passed on (7)
 33. We at risk possibly in activity behind a speedboat (5,3)
 35. Solemn ride arranged for those in the army (7,3)
 36. Socially acceptable thanks hard to state (4)
 37. Offensive term for native American drinks, maybe out East (7)
 38. Fly, he's turning obese (6)
 40. Raised speaker's area of past general disgust (6)
 41. Diminutive Australian animal (3)



42. Out of order to collar one who puts things in order (8)

Down

1. Succeeding next (10)
 2. Utilized dues badly (4)
 3. Discourage new issue, Dad (8)
 4. Maybe I rant in progressing (2,5)
 5. Slip closer, move around new accommodations in jail (6,5)
 6. Suffering strange faction if left in (10)
 7. Cleric destroyed pet, Sir (6)
 8. Attention to financial returns (8)
 10. Gaffer not right to blunder (5)
 16. Let a sum be arranged for charms (7)
 20. Depend on gin he organized (5)
 22. Academic clash or discord (7)
 23. Possibly Red's side win the missiles (11)
 25. Man, it's sure to change therapeutic agents (10)
 26. Her hot mood changed for child-raising (10)
 28. Political clique about right for a subdivision (8)
 31. Rear Admiral in drop of precipitation (8)
 32. Liquid measure in island caught small health centers (7)
 34. Nice arrangement, about time, hard for being race related (6)
 35. Ask about circle round Phuket district (5)
 39. Periods are up second (4)

Words from the wise:

"Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves – and be free."
 – Cesar Chavez

"A true teacher defends his students against his own personal influences."
 – Amos Bronson Alcott

Medium

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

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

Hard

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

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A restless energy could cause unexpected disruption in a key relationship, requiring a change in the way you interact. Yet, as Mercury dances back into your sign, you might find the answers to your current problems lie in the past, and can be unraveled if you're willing to sit down for a heart-to-heart conversation that promotes deeper understanding.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Finding balance can be the theme of this week, as potent influences encourage you to examine your priorities regarding daily habits – both physical and spiritual. If you have emphasized one aspect over the other, it may be time to try and restore harmony. Making time for work, rest, meditation and exercise will bring inner peace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Romance, adventure and faraway places can call out to you. Yet, the lunar eclipse in Aries could

disrupt plans while also encouraging a rebellious streak that might actually exacerbate problems. Expect the unexpected, but don't rush into a love tryst or a creative project impulsively. Allow your gut instincts to guide you, and take one step at a time.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Though familial ties can require a compromise, it's time to trust your intuition and act on your own insights,

particularly as matters on the home front may require you to take action. Yet, an event that encourages change regarding home, career or key ambitions could be the catalyst that alters things for the better in the long-term.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Unexpected news could disrupt plans, and may coincide with a decision to brainstorm for fresh

ideas. It's possible you'll have to relinquish a project that you've worked hard for, yet doing so might enable you to take on something even more fascinating and worthwhile. Later, a sparkling attraction can see you buzzing with the possibilities.

YOUR horoscope By Patrick Arundell

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



A lunar eclipse can bring any latent financial concerns to the forefront of your mind, but may also act as a catalyst to getting things sorted out once and for all. In view of this, try to avoid the temptation to splurge this week, as you might need to conserve your cash for unexpected expenses or bills. In fact, if you aim for a balance around all areas of life, it will be for the best.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The week ahead is powered by a lunar eclipse in your sign, one that is part of a dynamic aspect pattern. As a result, you may have to let something go so that you have space for bigger, and perhaps better, things to come your way. However, it's best not to be too impulsive, Aries. Allow matters to develop naturally for best results.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



An event or piece of information could cause you to rethink your lifestyle and health routines with a

view to making one or two major changes. There's no need to implement such plans all at once though – so easy does it! Later, as Mercury rewinds back into Libra, it may be time for a reunion of those people or family members you see less frequently.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Is it romance or just a good friendship? It may be this week's blend of powerful energies that causes the

pace of events to quicken, particularly should you find yourself falling in love. If you're deeply attracted, think slow, the slower the better. However, becoming part of a new social group can prove richly rewarding.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



This week's lineup, including a lunar eclipse, encourages you to more fully take on your mission and

purpose by embracing any unexpected opportunities. In order to take advantage of these you might need to reduce your workload, though. Yet, it can be worth it, as you realize how much more fulfilled and contented you feel.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



Life can be full of surprises, with a lunar eclipse bringing wonderful options to expand your horizons. It's

possible that you'll be motivated to embrace activities that have a learning curve built into them. Meanwhile, new challenges and opportunities could also beckon. Furthermore, a breakthrough regarding a long-term problem may also prove possible.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Try to get to grips with a financial matter before it comes to a head. If you know that there's something

you need to tackle, give yourself a chance to call the shots, and try to do it as soon as possible. Later, you may find yourself challenged by a project that could be quite lucrative, but follow your ideas up, rather than follow the pack.

Old game, new players

By Jeremie Schatz

BEING an entrepreneur can be daunting at times. It often entails subjecting oneself – and one's bank account – to an unknown level of risk and necessitates taking a blind step into the unknown. There are usually no guarantees and failure is a common, yet unwelcome, outcome.

"Five months ago we said 'we are going to come out to Thailand, set up a business and it is going to work'," says LivePhuket cofounder and Chief Operating Officer Michael Kenner.

Five months on, British national Michael and his partners are here in Phuket with a business that is working.

Upon arriving in March, Michael reunited with his two long-time friends and classmates, Alon Tishler and Paul Trayman, and together with five-year Phuket resident Brennan Campbell, launched their new company LivePhuket.

LivePhuket is an online property rental and real estate sales platform that is aimed at Phuket's high-end villa market – properties that are over US\$200 (6,500 baht) per night.

Although the three 29-year-olds knew their goal was to start a company here, it was unbeknownst to them when they boarded their Thailand-bound flight what exactly the company would do.

"We came out to Phuket and the first thing that happened was we were looking for a villa to stay, and our experience was absolutely awful," reflects Michael.

They took that experience as a hint, a sign that there was a much-needed service which was being poorly executed by other companies.

Within three weeks the late night discussions, debates and decisions

came to a head and the business was launched.

The four entrepreneurs with backgrounds ranging from investment banking to real estate and project coordination unloaded their savings into their new company, investing more than US\$100,000 and hiring three people to work with them in their Kamala-based office, as well as 10 offshore contractors tackling the IT engineering and operations side of things.

The fledgling company clearly represents the latest generation of ambitious startups full of energy and enterprising youthfulness. The laid-back office atmosphere, genuine care for their employees and desire to build something great out of nothing is a welcome approach compared with the stifled environments of old-guard companies.

LivePhuket is a startup in the true sense of the term. They are looking to identify and carve out a business model which can be scaled up and expanded throughout Asia, with a strong emphasis placed on researching and developing the needs of the market.

"We started focusing on the vacations rental market and we went through the pain of making every mistake in the book," laughs Michael.

"The whole thing has been very, very difficult because you have to put your ego aside and realize that when you are building a business like this, you don't really know, because we all thought that we did know."

One valuable lesson they learned is that security is paramount. Since being swindled early on by fraudulent renters, they have made a marked increase in security by implementing the latest facial recognition measures as well as



The LivePhuket locally-based team, from left: Gate Thanyathorn, Win Tschudin, Alon Tishler, Michael Kenner, Brennan Campbell, Paul Trayman and Jinnie Apinantaporn. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

developing face-to-face relationships with property owners.

"The main challenge for us really has been competing with companies such as these giants like Airbnb. Our vacation rental business especially is a direct competitor – their market is our market."

"On the first of October we released a platform that is better than theirs for the first time, but we've always been behind them technology-wise."

Although in many ways LivePhuket's services overlap with those of Airbnb, they have the distinct advantage of being locally-based.

"Our platform doesn't just cater to vacation rentals such as Airbnb's, it does long-term rentals and sales," notes Michael, adding that they feel the development of a strong local presence

will help them carve out a niche.

Despite Phuket's property market having reached a level of maturity, it is highly volatile with prices swinging wildly between seasons, locations and other outside influences such as the recent coup. The LivePhuket team has embarked on a mission to bring a new level of transparency, continuity and, eventually, stability to the market.

"We want to form partnerships, we want to work with the right people, we want to help people. Let's work together and let's help this market be better and benefit from it," said Michael. "[We want to] try and work with the Land Office, try and make this more open... open up and really publicize [the data] and help people make the right decisions rather than people getting absolutely burned."

LivePhuket's Director of Mar-

keting, Strategy and Innovation Alon Tishler said, "We are trying to provide this core information which is reliable and anyone can just reference it in the market, and that in itself, I think, will provide stability."

With their fresh, new platform released on October 1, LivePhuket has been enjoying a positive response, reaching more than 80 bookings per month and expecting to clock over 100 per month soon. They plan to continue improving their platform and presence in Phuket, but that isn't stopping them from thinking big.

"We are really trying not to just be the biggest in Phuket, but we have larger aspirations after this [Phuket branch] to start a Samui branch and a Pattaya branch – we want to be a larger company that facilitates this in Asia," resolves Michael.

Business summit to be held in Yangon

THE Asean Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has announced this year's Asean Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) will be held in Yangon, beginning November 11.

The three-day conference, now in its 11th year, will see representatives from both the private and public sectors addressing ways Asean can better leverage its cultural bonds, history and infrastructure growth to promote the region's potential.

"ABIS brings together private and public sector organizations, government representatives and captains of industry from within and outside Asean for effective dialogue to advance industry and business in the region," said U Moe Kyaw, managing director of Myanmar Marketing Research and Development.

The 8th Asean Business Awards will also be held in conjunction with ABIS and will recognize Asean companies for their contributions to regional and economic growth.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Managing retirement

Beyond the working life: Money matters retirees need to consider

WHEN planning for retirement, once a plan is in place, the next step is actually to manage it. While it's not a full-time job, there are certain things that need to be regularly taken care of in order to ensure one's retirement runs smoothly.

First, the age-old question of whether to rent or buy needs to be addressed. Many clients and fellow expats contemplate what to do in terms of housing. The first consideration is whether or not they still own a home back in their native country. Some will have decided to rent out their homes and use the rental income as part of their retirement earnings.

Others are unable to part with their homes because of sentimental value, or they still stay in it when visiting home. However, if there is a mortgage on the property, it's best to sell it. There's no room for a mortgage or debt in managing your retirement. Debt is a sure way to manage your retirement into the ground.

Here in Phuket, renting is recommended. For one, renting gives retirees the ability to determine if a unit or building is right for them. There are many horror stories of bars opening and the noise making for many unpleasant nights. Second, there are few, if any, management companies that care for properties like those in the US.

Renting provides the option of walking away from just a security deposit and one month's rent if it's a one-year contract. Search for rental property in the low season, as deals will be plentiful and there will be a broad selection of



Careful management of personal finances is crucial to keeping retirement on track. Photo: Walter Siegmund

units and buildings.

If a house is desired, renting is the way to go because foreigners cannot technically own land. There are many unscrupulous agents who will say that setting up a Thai company is the way to go. Tell that to the expat whose lawyer kept the 51% when he was supposed to just be the nominee. Retirees cannot afford to put themselves in a bad situation.

If the decision to buy is made, be sure to consult with a reputable



Finance

By Don Freeman

Many retirees have been misguided and misinformed that stocks are too risky for them... The reality is that a balanced and diversified portfolio is what's important.

have a contingency plan.

The second thing to address when managing one's retirement is life insurance. Life insurance is actually something probably not needed once retired. The only reason to keep a current life insurance policy is if large debts are held. Most retirees are better off cashing in their life insurance policy and investing it elsewhere.

Third, retirees should ensure their affairs are in order. All accounts should have designated

beneficiaries – this goes along with a will and ensures who gets what. All important documents should be easily accessible by family. This should include a will, trust documents, insurance policies, a detailed listing of assets – including account numbers and dollar amounts, and a durable power of attorney.

The fourth and final part of managing retirement is managing a portfolio. The two critical pieces to managing a portfolio are yearly portfolio adjustments and actually building on a portfolio. Even though retired, with the right Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and stocks, retirees can actually grow their retirement portfolio with adequate planning.

Many retirees have been misguided and misinformed that stocks are too risky for them and bonds are the best investment, because they produce income. The reality is that a balance and diversified portfolio is what's important.

"Managing a portfolio also involves managing withdrawals and then re-balancing the portfolio after the withdrawals are made. A common question from clients is which account should they take their money from? That's why each retirement portfolio is unique and why a custom plan is necessary.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, an independent US Registered Investment Advisor. 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.

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Appliance manufacturer makes move to Thailand

TURKEY-BASED Beko, the second-largest home-appliance player in Europe, is setting up in Thailand with an eye to making this country the brand's regional manufacturing hub in Asean.

"We are seriously considering investing in Thailand to manufacture major home appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines. The plant will cost about US\$100 million initially, and the decision will be made by the end of this year," Levent Cakiroglu, chief executive of Arcelik, the owner of the Beko brand, said last week.

The company is studying options for the region, he said.

It researched the Thai market for about three years before deciding to come here.

Thailand has many strengths as a potential manufacturing centre for Asean, including a central location, developed transport and infrastructure, established supporting industries, business-friendly environment and sizeable domestic market.

Thailand is also one of the most attractive

investment locations in the world, he said.

Beko operates about 14 factories in Europe, China and South Africa.

The brand's debut here would spearhead its regional ambition to become a favorite brand of consumers in the Asean Economic Community (AEC).

It aims to replicate in the AEC its phenomenal success throughout Europe, where its washing machines, refrigerators, dishwashers and cooking appliances have become market leaders.

"We also aim to achieve US\$500mn in sales in the Asean region in the next three years, of which 10-12% will be from Thailand."

Beko has been active in more than 100 countries. In Asean, its products are already available in Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as well as farther away in Australia, New Zealand and China.

It plans to market in other countries in Asean by next year, including Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

– The Nation

BEKO

Best Western heads east

PROPERTY Gazette

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT'S easy to spend big bucks in Phuket. Those who arrive on the island with the popular misconception that "Thailand is cheap" might be sorely disappointed when faced with local prices.

However, the costs can be easier to swallow when you get what you pay for – such is the case with many high-end resorts and restaurants. Less so, though, when the quality obviously doesn't reflect the price tag, with the island's public transport being the best (or rather worst) example.

Luckily, things seem to be beginning to change, and soon, taking a reasonably priced metered taxi to the beach and spending a day sunbathing on clean sand – rather than on shabby, overpriced plastic beach chairs – might one day become a real option in Phuket.

This emerging vision of a more visitor-friendly holiday destination that is gaining clarity is great news for the Best Western Patong Beach hotel.

"Affordable, yet high quality, accommodation is on the rise and Best Western Patong Beach is here to capture that market," explains Maetapong Upatising, the managing director, Phuket Villa Hotel Ltd, the new hotel's operator.

Representing a brand which

operates the world's largest hotel chain of over 4,000 lodgings in 100 countries, enables the new Best Western to offer attractive rates while keeping the room and service standards on par with guests' high expectations.

In the words of Mr Maetapong, Best Western Patong Beach is aimed at, "Budget-minded travelers who want a room with the minimum services and amenities required for a comfortable stay, without paying extra for costly services."

This might sound modest but the list of amenities is long: air conditioning, private balcony, flat-screen television, free Wi-Fi, mini-bar, key card security and much more.

The hotel's 224 stylish rooms are spread over seven floors serviced by elevators, and are available with a choice of a double or twin single beds. All rooms feature en suite bathrooms and are kept in a cool white decor complementing the tropical surroundings.

"The style is 'modern oriental' – a blend of Phuket feeling, with elegant, modern architecture. The result is a refined, relaxing ambience combining a lively and active atmosphere with timeless elegance," explains Mr Maetapong.

Best Western Patong Beach offers a range of facilities including a rooftop pool and bar, and a large swimming pool featuring a Jacuzzi and kid's splash area. Guests can opt for a lazy day on a sun bed, or some active time in the well-equipped fitness center. A visit there might be



Best Western Patong Beach targets budget-minded tourists holidaying in Phuket. Photo: Supplied

well-worth considering after dining in the on-site contemporary, all-day dining Mana Restaurant, perfect for a romantic wine dinner under the stars, or for a quick snack. The choice of local flavors and international favorites

will leave no one hungry.

"And don't forget our friendly team who will make each stay one to remember," adds Mr Maetapong.

The Best Western Patong Beach is

located at 190 Pangmuengsai Gor Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket, Thailand 83150. The promotional rates for the opening month of October start from 1,599 baht per night. For more information call 076 360200 or go to bestwesternpatongbeach.com

Sansiri continues to hammer at ready-to-move condo market

SANSIRI continues its Phuket campaign as it targets the ready-to-move-in condominium market with the annual "Sansiri Life Comes Home" fair running until Sunday at Central Festival.

To coincide with the promotion of its most recent addition to the market, Sansiri has launched the nationwide fair in Phuket, highlighting 11 projects on the island including city condos, resort condos, single houses and town houses.

"Ready-to-move-in condominiums are presently in high demand and this is part of the success of THE BASE Uptown-Phuket for both Thai and International buyers," said Uthai Uthaisangskul, senior executive vice president of the company's business development and project development division.

"It is clear that people like to live



Mr Uthai says Phuket condos in high demand. Photo: Gazette file

in a central location where there are new department stores, easy access to restaurants, supermarkets and key facilities."

Sansiri's push in the market is mirrored by its own efforts and those of other property developers in Bangkok that are cashing in on the strong demand for luxury condominiums in Bangkok, despite an expected economic growth rate of less than two per cent.

Location and design are the crucial factors behind the current sales success of developers in the luxury-condominium segment, reports *The Nation*.

"Despite the country's slow economic growth [this year], demand for luxury residences is still strong at a time when supply in the market is limited, and there is limited land available for the development of luxury condominiums in prime locations,"

Raimon Land CEO Johnson Tan said last month when speaking about the market in Bangkok.

With recent crackdowns on illegal land titles, Phuket has perhaps never had so little land available for major, prime-location developments. A fact that no doubt bolsters Sansiri's confidence in the success of their most recently completed project.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

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Property tax part of World Bank's plan for equality

A WORLD Bank official has recommended battling economic inequality through tax reform that includes progressive taxes on property, inheritance and capital gains.

"One of the key elements that advanced countries have done in order to lower inequality is the introduction of an effective tax system, so the World Bank welcomes the Thai government's effort to reform critical parts of the tax system and to reform [it so that it] reduces inequality, so that rich people get taxed more than poor people," said Ulrich Zachau, the bank's country director in Thailand.

The taxes that are collected should also be spent on the poor, such as improving the quality of education outside Bangkok, he said.

Three other key factors noted were increasing competitiveness, especially in the export sector; developing the skills of the labor force; and reducing energy intensity.

— *The Nation*

Novotel Phuket takes five

By Jeremie Schatz

KARON will be able to add one more option to its lodging stable on October 15, with the grand opening of the island's fifth Novotel – Novotel Phuket Karon Beach Resort and Spa.

The 224-room resort will bring the count of Accor-operated hotels in Phuket to 10.

"Phuket continues to be the destination of choice for many regional and international tourists," said Fraser Ross, general manager of Novotel Phuket Karon Beach Resort and Spa.

The resort will feature a range of accommodation offerings to suit most needs, including 16 plunge-pool suites, 20 standard suites, 56 deluxe rooms, 30 deluxe family rooms, nine superior plunge pools rooms, 45 superior rooms and 48 standard rooms. All rooms are fitted with international-standard amenities, including 42-inch flat-screen televisions, Wi Fi, in-room safes and more.

When stomach's begin rumbling, guests won't have to go far. Several on-site dining options will be on offer such as The Horizon all-day-



Accor Group adds a fifth Novotel to its Phuket arsenal as it moves to bank in on the natural beauty of Karon Beach. Photo: Gazette file

dining restaurant equipped with a show kitchen and offering Thai as well as international cuisine.

The Tai Restaurant will offer a tempting variety of exotic dishes

from its Thai and Pan-Asian menu. Other dining opportunities guests will find are Joe Kool's Pool Bar and Grill, which will cook up pizza, pasta and burgers, and

Champions Sports Bar, where sports fans can catch up on the latest scores and enjoy a cold one. Naturally, 24-hour room service is also available for those who can't bring themselves to leave their rooms.

Guests will have three pools to choose from, one of which is part of the Kids Club.

The In Balance Fitness center will offer trainers and equipment to keep holidaygoers from getting too lazy, while the spa can help alleviate the soreness from that intense workout and facilitate some well-deserved pampering.

The resort's location is top-notch, close enough to hear the waves crashing while still being a leisurely stroll from the center of Karon. The raucous nightlife of Patong is a short taxi ride, while access to the other southern beaches is still convenient.

In celebration of their grand opening, the Novotel Phuket Karon Beach Resort and Spa is offering a "Stay 3, Pay 2" promotion, which gives guests a free day's stay in addition to complimentary breakfast for two during their stay.



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A strong brand can take a company further than a good view. Photo: Gazette file

Price property to bank in on long-term branding benefits

OVERWHELMING demand for a project would seem to indicate that it's underpriced, and therefore raising the price is rational, but how much should it be raised by? Classic economic theory states that it should be raised to extract the maximum economic value – raised to a level that causes some potential buyers to drop out – until their number is equal to the number of units available.

In practice, this isn't what is done. Normally the response is not to raise the price at all despite indications of very strong demand. Why would a company do this?

A company that plans to be in business for at least 150 years, or more, needs to take a wider and longer outlook than smaller private developers that may only exist for the life of a single project or two.

A large company that is a top seller of condominiums in Thailand has a significant role in the market, the economy and society that a smaller company just doesn't have.

Owning real estate is the most important mechanism by which most people build the wealth that

allows them security and freedom later in life. If the company is penetrating a market of first-time buyers, it doesn't help them if they have to pay at the absolute top end of the market, and it doesn't help them become stable and prosperous members of society, if the company extracts the highest possible price.

A company's top responsibility is to its shareholders. However, if customers earn a positive return from buying the property, it builds the brand, whereas if customers end up owning a property with "negative equity", that will damage the brand.

Having the reputation that no one loses money buying property with the company has immense economic value that will be manifested in the next several hundred projects launched over many years, and will vastly outweigh the small amount of theoretical value left on the table in any single project.

Brand must be taken seriously, as it's a key competitive advantage in the market.

— *The Nation*

More than a 'Savoury' affair

By Jeremie Schatz

IT'S NO secret that brunches abound all throughout Phuket. A variety of restaurants and resorts offer the plentiful meals – infamous for leaving diners in an engorged state.

However, this is an ideal proposition not only for vacationers who have vowed to overindulge, but for expats who want to gather with fellow gluttons and make their way around the brunch circuit.

The Vijitt, which lies between Friendship Beach and the Rawai Pier, has been a family vacation getaway for decades, but their brunch is a relatively new addition.

The location and view which unfolds in front of the Savoury Restaurant is lavish in and of

itself. A few tables provide a clear view of the inviting turquoise waters and lush islands offshore. Moments without boats crawling across the horizon leaves one wondering whether the view is really a huge canvas painting epitomizing a tropical paradise.

The restaurant has limited seating so, it never seems crowded or rushed. The enormous saltwater pool extends from the edge of the restaurant – close enough for a mid-brunch dunk or as an ideal distraction for the kids.

An acoustic guitar duo sing and play a mix of low-key bossa nova

dance pieces with a few upbeat big-band style jazz tunes for good measure.

Executive Chef Sarawut Chingchai ensures that the food is as fresh as the sea breeze, and he clearly steers the theme toward Phuket's bountiful sea platter. The selection of light-flavored sushi, oysters-on-the-half-shell and meaty cocktail shrimp is where many guests decide is the logical place to begin.

The cook-to-order barbecue station offers lamb and pork chops, steaks, squid, pork and chicken satay, tuna steaks, giant prawns and squid with an array of rich, flavorful sauces to lather it all in. An especially attractive pairing is the lamb chops – which were served juicy and cooked just

right – drenched in a shitake mushroom sauce – the flavors dancing together to create palette-pleasing magic.

A fresh foie gras station complete with an on-hand chef to cook it the way you like, and a wide variety of breads, will satisfy those with rich tastes.

An enticing selection of pre-cooked dishes are on offer including extraordinary beef-wrapped vegetables with shitake mushrooms, sweet and zesty tamarind prawns, baked fish with olives, mashed potatoes and more.

Those who prefer their food to



The Savoury Restaurant offers a brunch clearly geared toward a bountiful seafood platter. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

have grown from the ground will discover an extensive salad bar to graze from with fresh local greens and a seemingly endless supply of additions and dressings.

Additionally, those with a serious sweet tooth will be delighted by the vast assortment of sweetmeats, in-

cluding crème brulee, tiramisu, chocolate mouse and more.

The Vijitt fulfills the most important requirements of a Sunday brunch: a wide selection of dishes made with high-quality ingredients, a relaxed and luxurious ambiance and a striking view.

The Vijitt's Sunday brunch bounty is available from 12-3pm and starts at 1,099 baht per person including free-flowing soft drinks.

For more information, visit: vijittresort.com or call 076-363600.

An island of Asian flavors in Patong's fast-food strip

IT'S EASY to forget you're in Asia when walking down the busy streets of Patong. Pizza, burgers and steaks are all widely available, but try and find some oriental flavors and you'll be faced with a challenge.

Here's a hint if you're after some of the best Asian flavors in Patong: Located on the 7th floor of the KEE Resort & Spa is the KEE Sky Lounge, a restaurant occupying what must be one of the best dining spaces in the coastal party town. Make sure you show up at the KEE Sky Lounge before sunset and prepare to be amazed – the 360-degree panorama is nothing short of breathtaking.

And so are the menu choices. A quick scan might leave you sort of confused as flavors and culinary traditions seem to mix here in some mysterious, and even



KEE Sky Lounge cuisine focuses on Asian fusion. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

chaotic, ways. Luckily, the KEE Sky Lounge Executive Chef, Sonthaya Kaewpradit, is there to explain.

"Our focus is on Asian fusion

and 80 per cent of the menu is reserved for this category, with the remaining 20 per cent covered by more traditional Western and local flavors. The focus is on the Asian side with many different cuisines represented," he says.

Reading through the KEE Sky Lounge menu is like travelling across Asia. You can, for example, begin the journey in Vietnam with some fresh spring rolls; move on to Japan for a wasabi-cured tuna steak; pay a visit to China while enjoying the tender Peking duck; or return to the Andaman coast for the creamy local seafood soup. All this while sitting at your table and enjoying the catchy tunes performed by the in-house band. The KEE Sky Lounge's menu can take you down many different paths, but all will leave you fulfilled.

– Maciek Klimowicz



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As fate would have it

By Jeremie Schatz

OUR lives are rife with twists and turns. Many of us wander down paths which we never would have expected to find ourselves on.

Chiang Mai native Jessi Cotterill hadn't an inkling that she would one day forgo her English teaching position at Chiang Mai University and ease into domestic life in Chumphon, only to end up as a successful photographer on the island paradise of Phuket.

THE DEPARTURE

With a degree in English from Payap University in Chiang Mai, Jessi landed a position as a basic English teacher at Chiang Mai University. After two years of teaching, she succumbed to temptation by the unknown and was whisked away to the wilds of Chumphon.

"I lived in Chumphon for four years in a small village by the beach. It was very quiet and peaceful. Apart from building a house to live in, I learned things like gutting fish, being out in the sea with local fishermen watching them catch squid and was able to mingle with local southern people who are much different from people in the north.

"I helped set up a small school for Burmese kids. Life was so easy and peaceful, but this path wasn't for me just yet – maybe in 30 years, but not yet.

"I started [taking photos] in Chumphon actually. I bought a camera and would just take pictures of the beach, Burmese kids and dogs.

"There were some journalists from the *New York Times* who came to the house to interview a man I lived with who was an author and they brought a photographer with them too. They saw me taking photos and they said, 'you have an eye for it, you should go for it'."

Along her travels, Jessi crossed paths with other photographers and photojournalists who hinted at her natural photographic instinct.

A seed was planted but lay dormant for some time.

THE AWAKENING

Eventually, when the house was finished, Jessi got restless. She would take short jaunts to nearby locales and when the magnetic draw of wanderlust seized her, the

journey's led to farther-flung locations for longer periods of time.

"I was kind of lost at that time – when I was 35. I wanted to do something more meaningful than just cooking and baking at home. Not to say that cooking and baking are not good, but at that time I felt like a fish out of water. I kept thinking that I could do more and I wanted to do more, to do something that was more adventurous and would make me proud of myself. The house was finished and the man was satisfied with his writing work there...

"I was so unsettled in my mind, I was so confused about the meaning of my life, the meaning of living, so I decided to do meditation.

"I went back to Chiang Mai to do some meditation and stay in the temple for a month not talking to anyone. It was my first time so I just chose the hardcore one. I thought, 'okay one month, it's okay, I can do it'.

"You have a lot of things inside, you get to know yourself... it's like a journey but inside your mind."

Fate led her to Phuket where a friend had opened a bakery and offered her a

job, but when a nearby school offered her an English teaching job, she bade farewell to the early baker's hours.

"At that time when the school had some event or ceremony, they would ask me to take photos. I got to take photos of the kids – candid style – for Loy Krathong or Songkran."

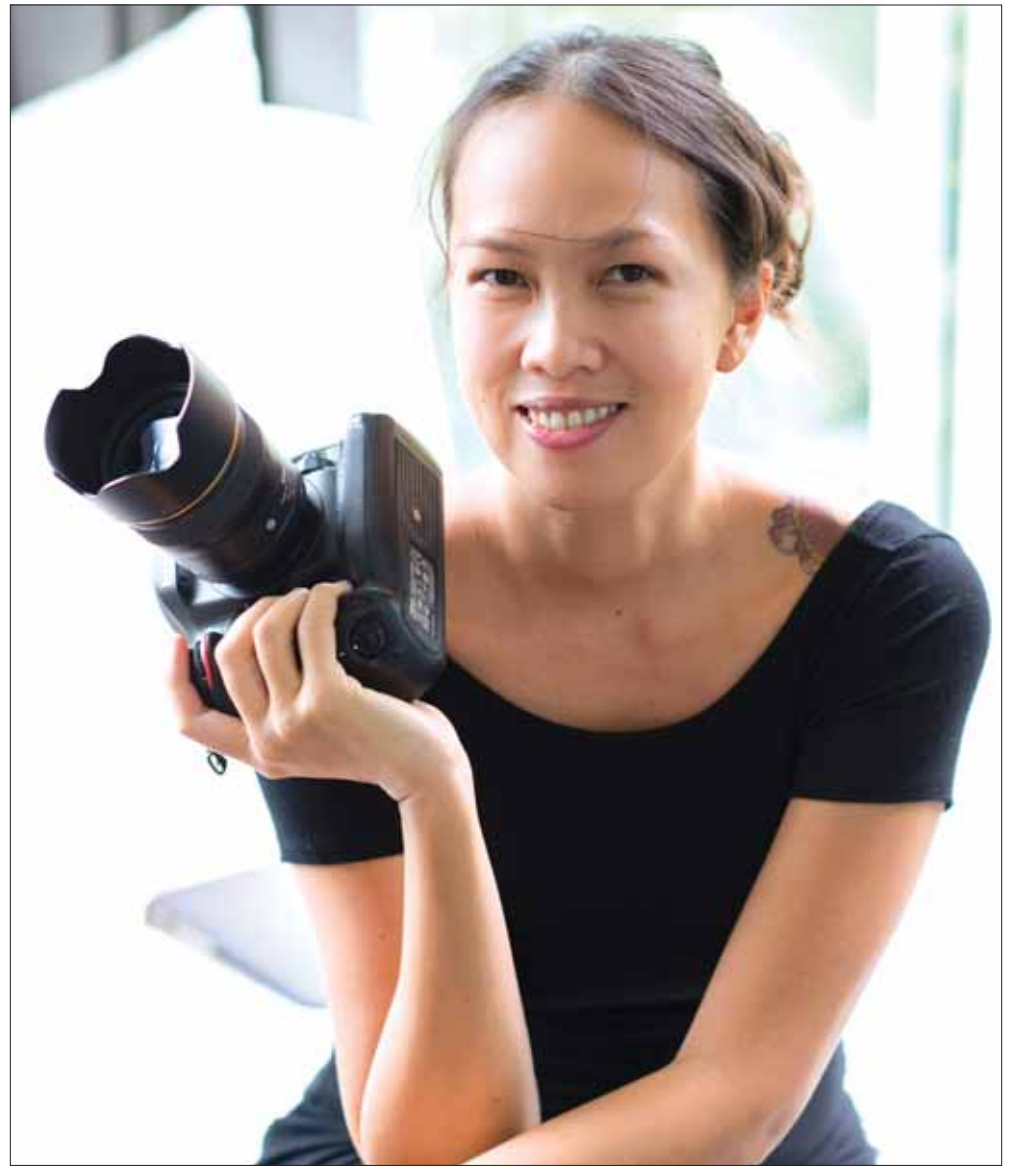
THE OPPORTUNITY

A chance encounter led to her acquaintance with the chef from an upscale restaurant on Surin Beach. "He asked me 'okay, how about you come to take photos at Opus One, we have a DJ coming and people partying'."

Without realizing it at the time, this was a fork in the road that led to Jessi's current success. The few initial events she was invited to cover paid only in good food, drinks and, most importantly, exposure and networking opportunities.

With ego set aside, Jessi honestly admits that at that time, she wouldn't have been able to subsist on her photography skills alone – the people who saw her potential and gave her a chance, were instrumental to her current success.

A cascade of events ensued which led Jessi to ongoing work with Catch Beach



A winding path led Jessi on a journey through Thailand, and her own mind. Photo: Benjamin Jenkins

Club, Xana and other work for private clients. She was asked to carry out food shoots, fashion and corporate portraits.

Now, Jessi is well-known around Phuket and is often jumping on planes for shoots in Koh Samui and Singapore. A recent contract with a major conference organizer will see her travelling to other far-flung destinations.

She says her preferred subject matter is food, but she has also developed a new-found appreciation for shooting conferences.

"When they are trying to listen to the speakers or they are speaking with emotion, talking, trying to explain things, I love that – to capture that moment."

Jessi's philosophy regarding her work is common among those who love what they do in that it is a labor of love.

"I think taking photos is a tool for me to

travel, to meet people. I don't think of it as a job. It's a skill, you can use it to continue to have the next journey in life."

Jessi's subject matter is constantly evolving. She has been gradually diversifying genres – adapting her skills and styles to shoot weddings, engagements, portraits, events and conferences, and still-life projects.

"Some photographers told me I should choose to be an expert in one type of photography, and I tried. Though I prefer food photography, I can't leave other types behind because it keeps me excited to do something new.

"It's just like being a baker. You don't want to bake only cookies, you want to bake cake, bread, and sometimes you get to make tiramisu."

For more information, visit: jessicotterill.com

Preventing criminally bad Thai food

EATING Thai food overseas can be something of an adventure for Thais, not least when the everyday dishes we order arrive on the table as something else entirely. Most of us have experienced our *kang khiaw wan* (green curry) looking suspiciously like *tom kha kai* (chicken soup in coconut milk) or the requested *pad krapao moo* (stir-fried pork with sweet basil) arriving as *pad prik phao moo* (stir-fried pork with chilli paste).

This lack of standardization in

Thai cuisine, one of the most popular choices in the world, is being taken seriously by the Thai food police, with the National Innovation Agency (NIA) introducing a "Thai Delicious" campaign that aims to ensure authentic taste, aroma and presentation whether you're eating in Bangkok, Paris, New York or Johannesburg.

The project is creating standardized recipes for Thai dishes to add value to the national cuisine through a combination of home economics



The project will create standardized Thai recipes. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

with science, food technology and tasting sensors.

Well-known Thai chefs and restaurant owners have been drafted

to work with food scientists and food institutions across the country to set the characteristics of authentic Thai dishes.

"Our job is to come up with the preferred tastes of our most famous dishes and these are then endorsed by government for both local and international consumption, and particularly for the estimated 20,000 Thai restaurants operating overseas," says Supachai Lorlohakarn, NIA's assistant director.

"We know from firsthand expe-

rience that the tastes of our dishes deviate widely and that there's sometimes no difference between a bowl of *tom yum goong* and *tom kha kai*. If we do nothing, then the confusion will be more widespread and we will lose our character. We are officially setting the authentic character of each dish, though it's not a totally rigid policy. Our aim is that non-Thais should understand and appreciate the authentic taste of our most famous dishes."

– *The Nation*

Revealing new vistas

ONE of the great pleasures of writing a gardening column is that it brings you into contact with many enthusiasts, both as online correspondents and in person. The latter are people who, quite justifiably, want you to visit and write about their treasure-trove of a garden, or who need advice about planning a new venture or landscaping an existing one.

I recently had the opportunity to visit an estate perched on a wooded Phuket hillside, so ingeniously sited and landscaped that the villas are barely visible from the main road. The estate road snakes steeply upwards, flanked on either side by tall concrete walls that guard the properties behind. From the private, immaculately manicured gardens were breathtaking sea views.

The individual gardens required no attention from me. My brief, rather, was how best to rework in order to better conceal the retaining walls with appropriate plantings. These vary in height – some are as much as fifteen feet or more and are discolored by dampness in many places. In front of these barriers are low concrete planter troughs currently occupied by *heliconias*, spider lilies and, above all, bamboo – all there to camouflage the bare walls and provide an attractive and verdant approach to the development.

The bamboo, now mature, is a problem. On the one hand it does form an effective green screen, especially where a dwarf variety has been selected, which is lower denser, and thus more effectively conceals the concrete. But in many places, it has become too tall and “leggy”, with very healthy top growth but only bare stems lower down. Moreover, where the bamboo overhangs, it creates deep pockets of shade.



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

Bamboo has two major disadvantages: it sheds leaves constantly, and it has invasive root systems which inhibit the growth of other plants.

There are several possible options. The most draconian one would be to remove most of the bamboo where it is spiraling out of control, and replace it with climbing plants or vines. A less severe measure would involve pruning the tops and waiting to see if this encourages bushy lower growth.

Bamboo has two major disadvantages: it sheds leaves constantly, and it has invasive root systems which inhibit the growth of other plants. It grows from underground rhizomes – surprising, then, that in this situation it had neither formed

large clumps of new growth, nor produced masses of springing shoots. Had it done so, the crowded stems would have more effectively masked the lower areas of concrete.

Ground cover is less of an issue. Many areas, especially larger expanses, have been blanketed by *wedelia* (golden button or *kradium thang*), a creeping

ing daisy with dark foliage and small yellow flowers. It has become naturalized in parts of Phuket and is hardier than most grasses. On top of some walls, it has been trimmed back so the brown roots and stems are exposed. Better to let it cascade down over the blank expanses of wall.

Elsewhere, much larger growths of *bougainvillea* have been successfully encouraged to form colorful drapes. The *wedelia* could be supplemented by *tradescantia* of which there are two varieties: spiderwort, which is deep purple; and boat lily, which has purple leaves with green undersides. These have the advantage of producing neat, orderly clumps no more than a foot or so high. They will gradually cover large areas of ground but need some sun to develop rich colors.

Small shrubs, which would help mask



Supplement *wedelia* with deep purple spiderwort, which form neat clumps. Photo: Tim Green

the retaining walls at lower levels, could include: *euphorbia cotonifolia*, which has conventional purplish foliage and will grow almost anywhere; dwarf *tabernaemontanas* with white pinwheel flowers and evergreen foliage; and *aglaonemas* or *dieffenbachias*, both rainforest plants, and like ferns, are tolerant of deep shade. The best bet of all might well be *spathyphylums* with dark leaves and white, arum lily-like flowers.

In general, the soil in these low planters is not ideal – at least evidenced by the areas where some of it has been exposed. Builder's rubble and limey soil are the norm in most developments and most topsoil has usually been removed. So when replanting

is on the agenda, replace the existing earth with some new topsoil with a general fertilizer (16-16-16), and bags of proprietary compost can be mixed in. They contain few nutrients, but they do act as soil amendments to improve structure and water retention.

As for going higher, we will look next time at larger shrubs.

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



Mask retaining walls with *spathyphylums*. Photo: Forest and Kim Starr

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The pedaling pioneer



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

MARTIN Brot, the owner of Siam Bike Tours, is an extraordinary man. He is undoubtedly one of the pioneers of long-distance recreational cycling in Thailand, and his company has built an international reputation which lures hundreds of cyclists to Thailand and Phuket, every year.

Meeting Martin is a joy in itself... he's a vital, energetic ball of wiry fitness and enthusiasm. He's a living, breathing advertisement for the physical and mental benefits of a healthy, outdoor, cycling-based lifestyle. He's also a man who has turned his life-long passion into a successful business where his hands-on involvement brings happiness and healthfulness to hundreds of his clients. That, to my mind, is as close to a perfect definition of "success" as you will find!

Martin is an example of that famous adage about not judging books by their covers. He stands about 170 centimeters tall and weighs just 63 kilograms soaking wet – a weight that he's maintained since he was a slip of a lad of twenty summers. But hidden within his sinewy frame are a heart and engine of extraordinary power and strength. He has incredible lung capacity, aerobic power and leg strength, which, coupled with his intense mental resilience, make him the incredible distance cyclist that he is.

How did this come about? As is the case with most first-class athletes, it is the result of genetic predisposition and training.

Martin was born in Davos Platz in the Swiss mountains surrounded by greenery and well-oxygenated air. He was also fortunate to discover his passion for cycling at a young age. He was given his first bike at 14 and immediately fell in love with cycling. He was already



The owner of Siam Bike Tours, Martin Brot (left), shown with Thanyapura's Jurgen Zack. Photos: Supplied

a keen hockey player and had developed great aerobic power and leg-strength as a result, and so a year later he started cycle racing. He was naturally good at it, but soon realized he didn't want the full-time commitment and single-mindedness that competitive cycling dictates.

While Martin is an excellent amateur cycle racer with many prizes in his trophy cabinet, he says, "Following a sort of Buddhist 'middle way' is my ideal for cycling. While I love racing and relish the competitiveness and challenge, I also enjoy a drink and even the occasional small cigar. For me, it's more important to lead a balanced and happy life than to win races."

Thirty years ago, when he was 26, Martin and his vivacious wife Rosita started coming on holiday to Thailand. They discovered Phuket and immediately fell in love with the laid-back charm the island had in abundance in those seemingly far off times. They spent many happy hours cycling around Thailand

caught on like "blazing saddles", and so they launched their Siam Bike Tours company.

"Our Bangkok to Phuket cycle ride was a wonderful way of engaging with, and intimately experiencing, the real Thailand. The locals we met were unspoiled and a group of Western cyclists in bright Day-Glo attire on road bikes

was a huge novelty. The 810-kilometer-ride spread over eight days was designed to give participants a memorable biking adventure on beautiful well-paved routes through diverse tropical landscapes in pleasant temperatures," recalls Martin.

"I believe that experiencing the culture, seeing the sights, meeting locals, savoring Thai cuisine,

making friends, enjoying traditional Thai massages and simply having fun while exercising in the Thai outdoors is a formula that's hard to beat."

Certainly, over the past 11 years, hundreds of happy participants would agree and the fact that more than fifty percent of Martin's current clients are 'returners' is the best possible endorsement for Siam Bike Tours.

Following on from his Bangkok to Phuket rides, Martin expanded road-bike touring to all corners of the Kingdom. He now rides the fearsome loop northwest of Chiang Mai through Pai, Mae Hong Son, Mae Sariang and finally, to 'the summit of Thailand', the peak of Doi Inthanon at 2,565 meters – a tour of tremendous climbs and stunning mountain vistas which is certainly not for the fainthearted.

He leads tours through Thailand's eastern national parks then onwards to Cambodia and Koh Chang in the Gulf of Thailand; through Isarn from Udon Thani to Ubon Ratchathani along the Mekong River; and from Chiang Mai to Bangkok. He has even started specialized triathlon training rides working with legendary Ironman Jurgen Zack of Thanyapura and building in running and swimming sessions after the day's rides!

Amazingly, Martin has lead every single tour his company has conducted over the past eight years, clocking up some 22,000km last year alone. Now, at the age of 56, Martin is also approaching one hundred road tours of eight to 12 days' duration.

Martin is both a pioneer and an inspiration. So much so, in fact, that Bicycling Baz has signed up with him to ride from Bangkok to Phuket starting on December 6, which will be further discussed in a future Blazing Saddles column.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'd better start training!

He now rides the fearsome loop northwest of Chiang Mai through Pai, Mae Hong Son, Mae Sariang and finally, to 'the summit of Thailand', the peak of Doi Inthanon at 2,565 meters... /

on road bikes and then, 11 years ago, decided to 'test market' leading an international group of riders on a week-long Bangkok to Phuket adventure. The idea



Martin Brot of Siam Cycle Tours has been leading long-distance bicycling trips throughout Thailand for the past 11 years, an endeavor which sprouted from a Bangkok-Phuket ride.

Residents take on trash

By Jirawat Kuramakanok

GLOBAL warming is an important issue, not just at the government level, but also for local communities. If waste is properly managed at the local level, it can have a positive knock-on effect within the larger global community.

Living on the relatively small island of Phuket, it's crucial that we take responsibility for our day-to-day actions to minimize the carbon footprint we leave behind on the region's pristine environment.

One such place that has taken some interesting steps to manage its waste is Singtao Thani Village in Kathu – the first of 19 Kathu villages to establish a waste and recycling business. Situated near Patong, the village is home to about 300 residential households of people working mostly for the hospitality and tourism industry.

Despite the differing working hours of those living in the village, residents have managed to find time to meet, elect community leaders and put in place a community waste-management business.

"Most environmental problems start with trash," said community leader, Watana Wijitsopa. "Global warming has been driven by waste, and in Phuket, it's the big-

gest environmental issue."

The Singtao Thani Village community has now gone out of its way to tackle the problem, beginning with waste separation.

"The shared experience of waste-management has also brought the community closer together," added Mr Watana.

The recycling business, which currently involves about 15-20 households, begins in the home with sorting out the different waste products. Each household then brings its trash to a public community area set up with special storage bins for the different types of waste.

Once collected, the sorted waste – such as plastic and glass – is then sold to local rubbish collectors for 3,000 to 4,000 baht and the money earned is used to purchase things for the community's public areas, such as fertilizer, cleaning materials, plants and trees, and outdoor furniture.

The community's waste collection depot is also being put to other good uses. Previously an overgrown area with no particular purpose, the community's residents have also turned it into a meeting spot and fitness center.

Community leaders are hoping to expand the village's waste-management business further; en-



Mr Watana says community waste-management has brought residents closer together. Photo: Jirawat Kuramakanok

couraging more residents to join the project and pursuing further training that focuses on honing residents' waste-management skills and developing their waste business.

"At the moment, we do not feel

that we have enough waste-management experience, so we are looking for assistance from those organizations with expertise in this area," said Mr Watana.

The village's residents also show a willingness to improve on what

they are trying to achieve, Mr Watana said. He added that the Kathu Municipality was supportive of the Singtao Thani Village initiative and was hoping to encourage other villages in Kathu to follow their example.



Phuket's accumulating waste is a growing concern. Photo: Gazette file

Creating a culture of sustainability



Green Thoughts

By Dr Peter W Harris

ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability has been emerging as a concern across Phuket and Thailand. Waste and litter are an important part of this issue. Large-scale action to avoid waste and litter creation can greatly reduce the environmental and economic costs of product consumption, waste disposal and litter cleanups.

The most obvious environmental impact associated with waste is the fact that the things we throw away take energy and resources to produce.

When materials are dumped in landfills or taken to an incinerator, the energy and resources used to produce them are wasted. The way waste is handled has its environmental impacts. When sent

to a landfill, materials that don't break down (metals and plastics) take up space, while organic materials that decay produce greenhouse gases (methane).

Back in 2009, Phuket began facing problems associated with 10 million annual tourists, such as demands on land, fresh water, food security and energy self-sufficiency.

Since then there has been active involvement in change with the establishment of community cleanup groups, public campaigns, educational programs, increased concern for marine life and our coastal waters, and greater use of incinerators. Of significance is the determination of the present government to enforce environmental compliance in coastal and natural forest areas.

If, as a community we are to succeed, then every citizen in our local communities needs to be involved.



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Phuket Gazette

UNDERWOOD



Tourney reaches epic proportions

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE were just 35 teams competing in the first edition of the BISP International Football tournament in 2001. Thirteen years later there are 127 teams from eight countries coming to compete in the tournament, this year renamed the BISP Soccer 7s.

"There will be over 1,300 competitors. With all the coaches, it makes for 1,550 people taking part in the event," calculates BISP Athletic Director Jeff LaMantia, who was involved in the organization of the tournament from its very first edition.

"We've had teams coming back year after year with some performing in all 13 editions. I could watch it grow into a major sporting event," he's proud to add.

LaMantia can see a number of reasons which made the tournament so successful, among them, the appeal of Phuket as a tropical island.

"The main reason why it succeeded is that Phuket is such a great destination. Also, the tournament is very well organized; the whole community comes together to make it happen.

"The competitors are fantastic, coming from different parts of [the world]. We have teams from India, from Singapore, from Brunei and more, which makes it a highly competitive tournament played in the spirit of sportsmanship," he explains.

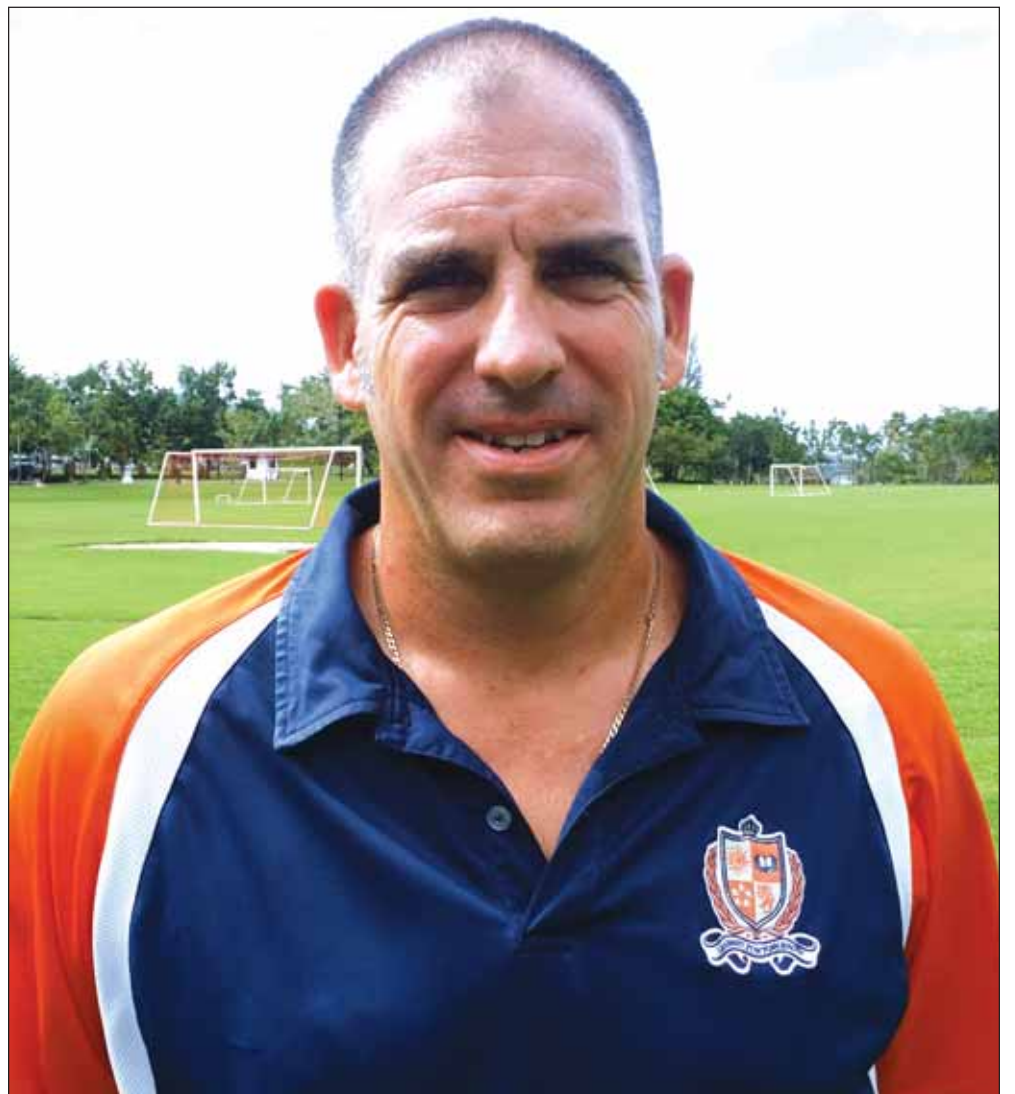
The tournament will see teams of seven players, including the goalie, competing in five different age groups, both for boys and for girls, starting from under nine years old up to 19. First, second and third place for every age group receives an award, and there is a best player award in each age category. Those on the podium receive trophies and medals.

"And the team that scores first place will take away a big banner which they can place in the gymnasium of their school," adds LaMantia.

This year the BISP international football tournament is coming under a new name, the BISP Soccer 7s. Simon Ostheimer, BISP's marketing and communications manager, explains the reasons behind the change: "We want to put the tournament where it deserves to be – on the international sports events map. Our tournament is the largest event of its kind and we believe it deserves to be recognized as such. Hence the new logo and the new name that reflect the world-class quality of the tournament."

LaMantia assures: "The spectators can expect some really good competition, there are very good footballers coming in and there will be a lot of great football to watch. On top of that there are food stalls, musical performances and lots of great atmosphere."

To experience it all make sure to visit



British International School Phuket's Athletic Director Jeff LaMantia. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

the BISP campus. The tournament runs over two days, starting on November 7. The opening ceremony will take place at 7am with final awards being presented at around 5pm on the Saturday.

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

Triathletes preparing for iconic Laguna race

THE 21st Laguna Phuket Triathlon returns once again on November 23, marking the beginning of Laguna Phuket's week-long Tri-Fest.



The Laguna Phuket Triathlon returns. Photo: Gazette file

rubbing shoulders with the likes of Belinda Granger (AUS), Massimo Cigana (ITA), and Till Schramm (GER), to name a few.

This year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) will celebrate its 21st appearance while welcoming the return of Challenge Laguna Phuket (CLP) on November 30 to its week-long iconic multi-sports event "Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2014".

During the seven-day fest, Laguna Phuket will be a hive of activity, with athletes and guests taking part in social activities, training sessions and competitions scheduled at the destination resort.

On November 30, athletes will race in the second annual CLP – a longer, more challenging triathlon, comprised of a 1.9-kilometer swim, 90km bike ride and a 21km run.

THE RACE OF LEGENDS

The days separating the two events in Phuket will be filled with a host of Tri-Fest training and social events held in and around the Laguna Phuket destination resort.

The triathlon carnival has proved a popular attraction for international athletes eager to sample the delights of Thailand while

Granger first raced in the LPT in 2001 and has returned every year since, except 2004 and 2006. During those years she achieved podium finishes in each race and has been champion in 2008 and 2010. This year, she will race her 12th LPT and second CLP a week later.

Cigana, LPT's triple champion, will try to make an impression on Schramm, who raced in the inaugural CLP Tri-Fest last year and was impressed by the region's lifestyle and professional race organization.

The enduring appeal of the LPT and the unique challenges of the CLP are attracting entries from leading international pro athletes, as well as age groupers worldwide.

To date, a combined 1,300 athletes have signed up for the two main races. Registration for the 2014 LPT is open until November 10 for individual races; November 15 for Team Relay and 6km Fun Run; while the half-distance CLP is open until November 20. Approximately 1,500 athletes are expected to sign up for this year's races.

– Phuket Gazette

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Crash raises safety concerns

By Patrick Johnston

FRENCH Formula One driver Jules Bianchi suffered a traumatic brain injury in his Japanese Grand Prix crash and remains in a critical but stable condition, his family said on Tuesday.

In a statement issued through his Marussia team, they expressed appreciation for messages of support from around the world and said the 25-year-old's crash at Suzuka on Sunday had left him with a "diffuse axonal injury".

Two eminent neurosurgeons – FIA medical commission president Gerard Saillant and Italian professor Alessandro Frati – were also at the Mie General Medical Center in Yokkaichi after flying from Europe at Ferrari's request.

"The medical professionals at the hospital are providing the very best treatment and care and we are grateful for everything they have done for Jules since his accident," the family said.

"The hospital will continue to monitor and treat Jules and further medical updates will be provided when appropriate."

Bianchi aquaplaned off the wet track at speed with his car hitting the rear of a recovery tractor that had been deployed to remove Adrian Sutil's crashed Sauber.

A Suzuka track spokesman said the crash was down to bad luck rather than poor judgement by race officials.

"Officials raised 'double yellow flags' after the accident by Sutil, which means drivers had to slow down to the speed that they can immediately stop, but unfortunately Bianchi's car aquaplaned right at the time and ran into the accident site, which was bad luck," said circuit spokesman Masamichi Miyazaki.

"Admittedly, rain was coming and the road was wet, but not heavy enough to halt the race, and I believe the race officials made the same judgement."

The governing International Automobile Federation (FIA) said president Jean Todt had asked race director Charlie Whiting to carry out a detailed report into the precise circumstances of the accident.

The crash brought an early end to the race, with winner Lewis Hamilton and the rest of the paddock praying for the Frenchman, who is also a Ferrari test driver.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Former Formula One driver Martin Brundle, now a commentator in Britain, was one of many people involved in the sport who questioned the safety procedures used.



French Formula One driver Jules Bianchi was seriously injured in a crash that brought a halt to a wet Japanese Formula One Grand Prix last Sunday. Photo: Reuters

He recalled his own near miss with a crane when racing 20 years ago and queried the need for them to be so close to the track.

"I nearly lost my life against one of them, I just missed it and hit a marshal. I closed my eyes and I thought that was the end," he was quoted as saying by British media.

"The tractors are just too high and you are sitting down low. I've been saying

this for a long time.

"You are going into the barrier if you go off there. There's no way of recovering, you are going too fast."

Bianchi's accident was the most serious involving a driver at a grand prix weekend since Brazilian Felipe Massa suffered near-fatal head injuries in Hungary in 2009 after being hit on the helmet by a bouncing spring shed from a car in front. – Reuters

Anti-doping chief: Beware of bad guys

THE man tasked with eliminating drug cheats says criminal gangs now control a quarter of all world professional sport.

David Howman, director-general of the World Anti-Doping Agency, called for everyone involved in the fight against sports corruption to band together to ensure the "bad guys" don't win.

"The biggest threat to sport is organized crime," Howman told delegates in London for a conference on securing sport.

"Don't let us compartmentalize it into match-fixing or bribery, it's organized crime."

"And I think, now, organized crime controls at least 25 per cent of world sport in one way or another."

Howman said those who were distributing drugs, steroids, HGH (Human Growth Hormone) and



David Howman, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency Photo: Reuters

erythropoietin (EPO) and so on, are the same characters who corrupt athletes and pay money to fix games.

"They're the same bad guys," he told delegates.

"Now, the good guys have to prevail. Who are the good guys? Let's get them together and make sure they can work out a plan."

"Because, otherwise, the bad guys are going to win." – Reuters

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SPORTathlon

The Gazette: your go-to for the 4th Asian Beach Games

THE *Phuket Gazette* has joined forces with the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) to ensure that the world takes notice every day as Asia's top athletes battle it out from November 14 to 23 at the 4th Asian Beach Games.

With Governor Nisit Jansomwong encouraging the local community to get involved, both to show that Phuket can still glisten and to ensure the safety of tourists, the SAT and the Gazette have inked an exclusive Media Partnership Agreement under which the island's leading news and events organization will use all media at its disposal – print, broadcast, web and aerial – to bring the event to sports fans, game by game and day by day.

"We believe that the *Phuket Gazette* can help promote and enhance the impact of this event – encouraging many people, both Thai and foreign, to be involved," Theerawat Sinlapaarcha, an

SAT spokesman, said on Wednesday.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) regulated event is still in its infancy. The first games were in 2008, in Bali, Indonesia, before they jumped to Muscat, Oman. Then, in 2012 they were hosted by Haiyang, China.

"This kind of event is relatively new; beach game competitions aren't that famous right now. However, if the event goes well, many people living in Phuket or nearby provinces, as well as those who are visiting from abroad, will have a better appreciation of the games and of Phuket," Mr Theerawat said.

In addition to the local crowd and regular holidaymakers, the island is expecting an influx of more than 13,000 people from 47 countries to watch or take part in the events.

With 26 sports, ranging from air sports to beach basketball, and 168 gold medals up for grabs, the *Gazette* is proud to represent the island and take the lead in providing up-to-date coverage of the exciting happenings that will soon unfold here. Don't miss the action – Asian Beach Games, November 14-23, Phuket, Thailand.

– *Phuket Gazette*








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