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INSIDE TODAY

February 28 - March 6, 2015

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■ **'WE HAVE SPENT FIVE YEARS RUNNING FROM EVIL'**

Cry justice

■ Video goes viral of Irish teen alleging property fraud, death threats, kidnapping

By **Voratuss Intasee**

A VIDEO posted on the Facebook page "Justice for Jessie" has gone viral as 15-year-old Irish girl Jessie Vard pleads for justice for her family, who have allegedly suffered from years of police corruption, death threats, property fraud and kidnapping.

Jessie posted the video denouncing the Thai police and justice system ahead of her 61-year-old father, Colin Vard, appearing in front of press in Bangkok on February 12, asking for justice in a more than 64-million-baht property fraud case dating back to 2009.

"Thai people should know about Phuket [and] what happens there. [There is] so much corruption. Nobody can control the corruption. I think nobody wants to control the corruption," Jessie says in Thai. "We lost our home and my father [lost] his business due to corruption. Now, we have no money and nowhere to live. [We are] scared to go out. We have spent five years running from evil."

Jessie alleged that corruption had infiltrated many institutions and people in Thailand, including the police, lawyers, land officers...

Continued on Page 4



Jessie Vard, and her little brother, Daire, have been living in fear since 2009.

Phuket beaches ranked among 'Best in Asia'

NAI Harn Beach and Kata Beach have ranked in TripAdvisor's top 10 list for Asia; two beaches in Krabi also made the grade.

Travellers' Choice award-winning beaches were determined based on the quantity and quality of traveller reviews and ratings for beaches on TripAdvisor.

Full Story on Page 5

Gov Nisit calms Muslim crowd threatening hotel

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong was forced to disband a mob of more than 100 Muslim protesters who were threatening to blockade the Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort last week.

The angry members of the local community were demanding an explanation from the owner of the resort, who they said was behind a complaint filed about the level of noise created during the daily calls to prayer.

Full Story on Page 3

Tree cut down to promote the arts, environment

THE felling of a 143-year-old *ma haard* tree, to be turned into a sculpture for Krabi Town, sparked social media outrage last week.

The Krabi Municipality Mayor responded by explaining that the structure would promote environmental conservationism.

Full story Page 6

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This Week



Business

Facility opens to train Thailand's hospitality employees. **Page 11**



Property

Take in the sunset over Cape Panwa from a luxurious villa. **Page 29**



Food

Banyan Cafe revamped its menu to fuse East with West. **Page 31**



Explore

Baz Daniel reveals the secret to staying young forever. **Page 32**



Environment

Why we should all be concerned about our coastlines. **Page 33**



In Focus

Homesickness is all too common, so we have tips to help. **Page 34**

Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Police move to ban lanterns, fireworks

By Kongleaphy Keam

POLICE have ramped up their campaign against fireworks and *khom loi*, the traditional "floating sky lanterns" used in celebrations throughout Thailand, in an effort to stop them being launched on Patong Beach.

The campaign began in earnest on February 19, when officers arrested vendor Chaichana Khueprathok, 38, at his house in Patong for selling floating lanterns on public land – that is, on Patong Beach – without a license.

At Mr Chaichana's house, police seized more than 800 lanterns.

"These lanterns can be dangerous and set other people's property on fire," Lt Col Pongpichan Chayanonpiriya of the Patong Police said.

"That's why we are targeting this problem, but as there are no laws specifically prohibiting people from buying and launching *khom loi*, we have started by targeting the vendors."

Mr Chaichana was charged under Section 41 of the Public Health Act 1992, which incurs a maximum fine of 2,000 baht.

"This [fine] is very low, and this is why [vendors] keep selling the lanterns," Col Pongpichan said.



Floating sky lanterns are used in celebrations throughout Thailand. Photo: TAT

"They are never afraid of paying 2,000 baht, because they can earn more than 10,000 baht a day during events, such as new year."

Tackling the problem of people setting off fireworks on Patong Beach was more straightforward, Col Pongpichan noted.

"Selling fireworks requires a permit, and vendors need a permit to sell them on public land, so that part we can easily enforce," he said.

However, regarding the iconic *khom loi*, Col Pongpichan said that he would have his officers speak

with tourists on the beach who are preparing to launch their lanterns, often regarded and touted as a quintessential part of a holiday experience in Thailand.

"We cannot stop them because there are no laws against launching *khom loi*, but we can point out that if the lantern burns other people's property, the person who sets the lantern alight will be in charged," Col Pongpichan said.

"If we can encourage tourists not to launch *khom loi* on Patong Beach, then the vendors will have no one to sell them to."

Long-time Phuket resident Stephen Paine passes away

WELL-known property developer and long-time Phuket resident Stephen Paine passed away peacefully on February 21.

For nearly two decades, Mr Paine was a respected and admired member of the Phuket community.

His property development achievements included Surin Heights and the Malaiwana Estate.

"Stephen was a generous, compassionate and loyal friend to many on the island and will be greatly missed," said friend Chantal Fernandes.

Viewing and prayers began on Wednesday at Wat Thep Vanaram in Baan Manik, Thalang.



Stephen Paine.

Services were daily from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, to conclude on Friday.

Final funeral rites and the cremation were to be held on Saturday, starting at 11am.

— Gazette editors

Brit found dead off Coral Island

THE body of a 32-year-old British national was found floating off Coral Island on Monday.

The man, whose name is being withheld until next of kin are notified, was last seen drinking at the bar at Coral Island Resort last Sunday night.

"The tourist checked into the resort on Saturday and was staying alone. He was last seen drinking heavily at the bar by resort staffers," said Lt Col Jamroon Plaiduang of the Chalong Police.

"Hotel staff told us that he arrived at the bar at about 9pm and started drinking. At one point, staff believed that he was too drunk, and offered to take him to his room. However, he insisted on



Police wait at Chalong Pier for the body to arrive from Coral Island.

remaining at the bar and drinking until it closed."

The man's body was spotted after 1pm on Monday. Police believe

that he died about 12 hours earlier.

"We are continuing our investigation," Col Jamroon said.

— Thawit Bilabduddar

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No tsunami warning after earthquake off Phuket

NO TSUNAMI warning was issued following an earthquake off Koh Yao Yai, east of Phuket, on February 20.

The earthquake, which registered 4.0 on the Richter magnitude scale, was centered in Koh Yao district, at about a depth of two kilometers, explained Santhawat Riweung, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office.

"Many people in Phuket felt the quake at about 1:02pm. However, there is no reason to panic," Mr Santhawat told the *Gazette*.

"The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) is carefully monitoring the situation, but there are no indications of a tsunami."

Mr Santhawat said the public would be updated about any developments as necessary.

— Chutharat Plerin



The earthquake struck off Koh Yao Yai.



Mr Seigneurin after the attack.

Police balk over linking of expat attack, Russian kidnapping case

POLICE have yet to investigate whether or not a hatchet attack on a French expat this month could have been connected to a Russian kidnapping case last year.

Frenchman Eric Seigneurin, manager of Blue Garden Resort and Spa in Cherg Talay, was attacked with a hatchet outside his home nearby on February 8.

He sustained a deep wound to the back of his head and was rushed to Thalang Hospital.

However, police have yet to investigate whether the hatchet attack may have been related to an "alleged" kidnapping ordeal, which saw 22-year-old Russian woman Iana Strizheus found bruised and battered in a room at Mr Seigneurin's resort last year.

The body of Ms Strizheus' boyfriend, Alexey Slabinskiy, 39, was found two weeks later.

"At this stage, our priority is to find Mr Seigneurin's attacker. I cannot say whether or not the attack was related to the Russian incident. We need more information first," Lt Jirasak Sungwisut of the Cherg Talay Police said.

"Mr Seigneurin has yet to come forward with his statement. I went to the hospital after the attack, but he was not in a state to talk because of his injuries."

Lt Jirasak said that police would expand their investigation once they had arrested a suspect.

— Chutharat Plerin

Governor disbands Muslim villagers threatening resort

By Voratuss Intasee

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong was forced to disband a mob of more than 100 Muslim protesters who were threatening to blockade the Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort on February 19.

The angry members of the Baan Ao Makham community were demanding an explanation from the owner of the resort, who they said was behind a complaint filed about the level of noise created during the daily call to prayer.

The anonymous letter was first filed to the Prime Minister's Office, via the 1111 Complaint Center hotline. It was then passed back down to Phuket through the Governor's Office to the Phuket Cultural Office, whose officers presented it to locals, explained Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak.

The complaint stated that a loud speaker used by the Issatul Islam Ao Makham Mosque was blaring between 11pm and midnight, and from 5am to 6am, causing noise pollution and disrupting people, Vice Governor Somkiet said.

Though the complaint was anonymous, Baan Ao Makham community leader Narong



Members of the Baan Ao Makham community voiced their frustrations.

Koombann said that the villagers were sure that the Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort was to "blame".

"The Chalet Phuket Boutique Resort and Restaurant, as well as the Bann Jom Thong villa are also located near the speaker, but they have never complained. They have always had a strong, peaceful relationship with the community over the last decade," Mr Narong said.

"We believe that it must have

been Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort that filed the complaint. They have never had a relationship with the community – so we are here now to demand that they clarify the situation."

However, Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort General Manager Denis Martin confirmed to the *Gazette* that the resort hadn't filed the complaint.

"We are glad to prove to the local people that we didn't file the

complaint," Mr Martin said.

Mr Martin noted that he was concerned that despite about 30 per cent of his staff being from the community, the complaint might lead to the resort being sabotaged.

At the scene, the mob refused to allow any resort representatives to make a statement – demanding that the owner make a statement.

"The points made in the complaint are not true. No mosque in the world prays at 11pm or midnight. We pray early in the morning, but not 5am – it's 5:30am, and we pray for no more than three minutes," Mr Narong said.

Vice Governor Somkiet apologized to the locals for not having fully investigated the allegations.

"I must apologize up front about having failed to properly check all of the information included in the complaints before signing off on it," Vice Governor Somkiet said.

It took the presence of Governor Nisit to finally restore order.

"I called the resort owner, but the owner is busy with business in Bangkok and will be flying back to Phuket on February 26. We will meet the owner in front of the resort at 10am that morning to discuss the matter," Gov Nisit told the crowd. "Please be patient."



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Police shoot out dealer's tyres in high-speed chase

POLICE involved in a high-speed car chase with a drug dealer on February 17 were forced to shoot out the front tyres of the suspect's truck to stop her escape.

Roh Kaewdam, 49, fled the scene of a drug bust on the bypass road with cops in hot pursuit.

"At about 2am on [February 17], six officers in a police car chased down Mrs Roh... who was driving a pick-up. They were forced to shoot out the front tyres of her vehicle after she refused to pull over," said Col Prawit Engchuan of the Phuket Provincial Police.

Inside the vehicle police found a plastic bag containing 53 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 9.55 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine). They also found another 658 *ya bah* pills in her pants pocket, said Col Prawit.

Mrs Roh was charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell, and will remain in custody until her court hearing.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Armed drug dealer nabbed

By Voratuss Intasee

THE arrest of a petty drug user on February 18 led to police busting a major drug dealer who was found in possession of an M16 assault rifle the next day.

Surasak Rabeabdee, 32, was arrested in a raid on a house in Kuku, north of Phuket Town, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee said on February 20.

"In the house, officers found 1,135 tablets of *ya bah* [methamphetamine], 7.9 grams of *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine], an M16 assault rifle with 155 rounds of ammunition and a .32-caliber pistol with 55 bullets," he said.

Mr Surasak was wanted for threatening a municipality officer with a handgun in an incident near the Downtown Market, on Ranong Road in Phuket Town, on June 21, 2013.

"Mr Surasak crashed his pick-up truck into a car belonging to Susathit Plawutthiwadee, an officer with the Phuket City Municipality," Col Peerayuth said.

"Mr Surasak got out of his pick-up to talk to Mr Susathit, but



Mr Surasak was caught after having evaded police since 2013.

on seeing Mr Susathit in uniform and mistakenly thinking that he was a police officer, Mr Surasak pulled out a handgun and threatened Mr Susathit, before fleeing the scene on foot."

Police soon arrived at the scene to find 4,580 pills of *ya bah*, 50 grams of *ya ice*, an M3 submachine gun and nearly two dozen .45-caliber rounds for the M3 in the pick-up truck.

"Police began searching for Mr Surasak after discovering that the pick-up truck was registered in his name. A warrant for his arrest was issued, and he has been on the run ever since," Col Peerayuth explained.

That was until February 18, when police arrested petty drug user Sorasak Sukjan for possession of two pills of *ya bah*.

"Officers arrested Mr Sorasak at about 9:30pm. During questioning, he said that he could provide the known location of his supplier, who he said was a major drug dealer known as Surasak Rabeabdee," said Col Peerayuth.

Mr Surasak was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, possession of a war weapon and corresponding ammunition, and reckless driving causing damage to private property.

"We have learned some new information from questioning these suspects, and we are now investigating these new leads in order to arrest other drug dealers," Col Peerayuth said.

Teen makes plea for help in fight against corruption

From Page 1

...and banks, echoing her father's statement on February 12.

"They all work together, the poor and innocent must lose," she says. "My father nearly lost his life too. Many times people tried to kill him because he fights the corruption."

Jessie alleges that her father recently came to Phuket to follow up on a tip-off that he received about a police report he filed having been changed, and evidence he provided having been removed.

However, she says that he was threatened and chased off the island.

"I ask, is there any law or justice in Thailand? I carry this pain all my life. All our human rights have been taken from us," Jessie says.

She recounted an incident about five years ago when men arrived at their home in Phuket and threatened to kill her father, and attempted to kidnap her and her brother. She claimed that the local police failed to take appropriate action.

"My dad is five years trying to make [a] police report. Does my father have to die for us to get justice?" she asks.

"I ask all good and honest people to share my video and let the world see the good in Thai people not just the bad. We need your support and help."

Her plea is being heard. As of Wednesday afternoon, the video – which was posted on February 3 – had 98,286 views, 3,114 likes, 350 comments and 2,867 shares.

The "Jessie for Justice" page had drawn more than 350,000 visitors in preceding 24 hours.



Jessie Vard made her public plea through a Facebook video.

Journalist Andrew Drummond, who recently left Thailand for fear of his and his family's safety, documented Mr Vard's case in 2011.

"Two children of an Irish businessman [Mr Vard] were thrown into a well while his housekeeper, working with 'organised criminals' set about to defraud him of his mansion and six other houses on the Thai island of Phuket, it was claimed today," Mr Drummond reported on May 1, 2011.

"We have been advised by the police to move location every three days," Mr Vard told Mr Drummond.

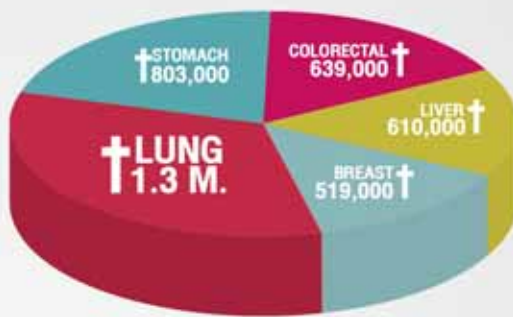
"I am virtually penniless. But what I cannot ever come to terms with is what happened to my children. They have nightmares every night and wake up screaming. They are reliving what happened to them in the well."

At the press conference on February 12, Mr Vard handed Lt Gen Prawut Thavonsiri, a national police spokesman, the documents backing his case of the alleged fraud.

Gen Prawut promised to investigate the more than five-year-old case as soon as possible, the Thai news portal *Manager Online* reported.

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Phuket beaches back on 'Best in Asia' list

By The Nation / Gazette editors

NAI Harn Beach and Kata Beach, both on Phuket's southwest coast, have ranked in TripAdvisor's top 10 list for Asia, with two beaches in Krabi also making the grade.

Nai Harn beach ranked third, while Kata beach returned to the rankings, coming in at number eight.

Railey Beach and Phra Nang Beach, both in Krabi, ranked seventh and ninth, respectively.

Travellers' Choice award-winning beaches were determined based on the quantity and quality of traveller reviews and ratings for beaches on TripAdvisor gathered over a 12-month period.

"It's that time of year when most people are dreaming of lying on a beach, so it's the perfect time to unveil the world's best beaches, based on feedback from the TripAdvisor community," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor.

The news also follows Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong pointing out in December that Phuket had failed to be ranked among the "World's 100 best beaches" in a CNN Facebook poll last year, but that beaches at Phi Phi Island and Maya Bay had made the grade.

Governor Nisit's came at a



Kata Beach returned to the 'Best in Asia' ranking, coming in at number eight.

meeting in Phuket Town where he unveiled the new rules for beach management.

Under the new rules, vendors renting out umbrellas, offering massages or selling food and

drinks were allowed to return to Phuket's beaches – but not vendors who rent out sun-loungers or beach chairs.

"This ensures that the vendors do not detract from the natural

beauty of the beaches," Governor Nisit explained at the time.

"Let's do this together, and, above all, I want to see Phuket people united in welcoming tourists."



Tuk-tuks gathered at Provincial Hall.

Illegal tuk-tuk drivers implore Gov to speed up registration

A GROUP of illegal tuk-tuk drivers drove to Phuket Provincial Hall on Tuesday to request the governor's help, as their application process has dragged on for months following the crackdown on illegal drivers last year.

"The National Council for Peace and Order's crackdown on taxis has put us out of work for months," said Anan Plermjit, a representative of the group.



"We accepted that we had to become legal, and filed our applications with the Phuket Land Transport Office [PLTO]."

About 200 tuk-tuk drivers applied for licences following the crackdown, but only about 126 of them have been approved by the PLTO so far, said Mr Anan.

"We just want to go back to making a living and paying off loans for our vehicles. We took the right steps in becoming legal and don't understand why it is taking so long," said Mr Anan.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong promised the drivers he would raise the issue with the PLTO.

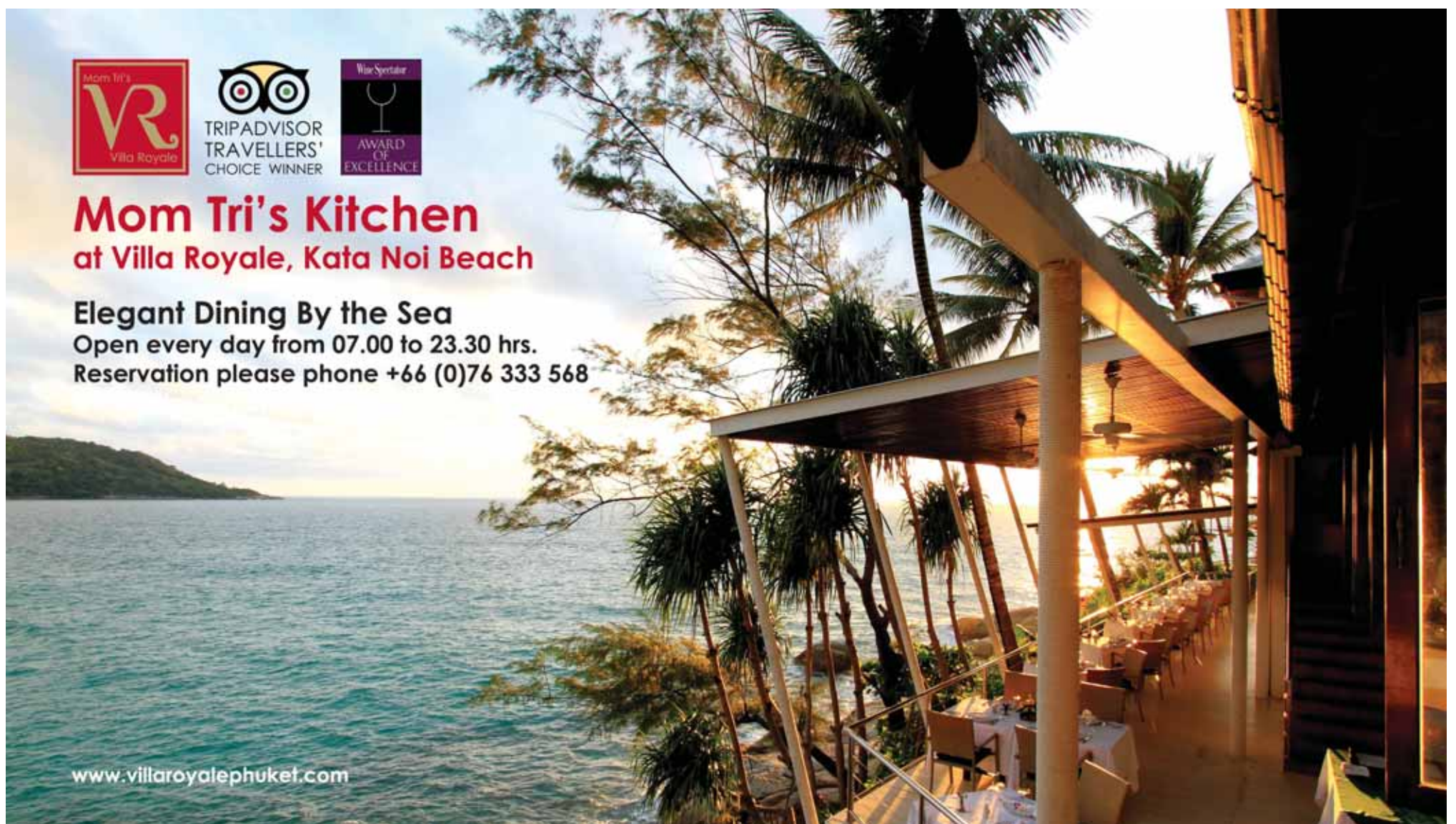
– **Woranut Pechdee**


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No ban on charter flights, confirms AoT Phuket official

PHUKET International Airport has no plans to ban charter flights, despite a Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) directive ordering the airport to give priority to commercial passenger flights, an AoT Phuket official confirmed on February 21.

"Charter flights have not been banned from landing at Phuket International Airport. However, we must follow the DCA's directive, which states that commercial passenger airlines with regular slots take priority over charter flights,"

explained the AoT official, who declined to be named.

According to the official, there are just not enough slots to meet demand, and so priority must be given to those carriers with regularly scheduled services.

"Safety is a priority during the busy holiday season," the AoT official said.

"It can get very busy, so we have to make sure that everything runs smoothly – with commercial passengers carriers landing at their allotted times."

While there was no ban, charter flights wanting to land at Phuket Airport would first need to obtain permission from the DCA, he added.

"Any charter flights wanting to land in Phuket Airport will be given slots by the DCA, as soon as they become available," he explained.

"We apologize for any inconvenience or delays this may cause, but it is a necessary safety precaution."

– Chutharat Plerin



SilkAir commercial flight at Phuket Airport.

Tree killed for environmental awareness art



Mayor Kittisak sits in the tree.

THE felling of a 143-year-old mahoe tree, to be turned into a sculpture for Krabi Town, sparked social media outrage last week.

Krabi Municipality Mayor Kittisak Phukaoluan took credit for the idea and responded to the criticism by explaining that the structure would be a positive way to promote environmental conservationism and tourism in Krabi.

"I think it is a good strategy for boosting the environmental conservation movement. It will make people more aware of the destruction of nature and it will motivate us to protect our environment," Mr Kittisak explained.

"It will also promote the arts in Krabi."

Mr Kittisak announced that the sculpture made from the tree would be named "Born to Die".

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

'Aquarium' boat fined

By Kongleaphy Keam

AN "AQUARIUM in the wild" boat owner was fined 10,000 baht for improper use of his boat after a Facebook post claimed the operation was breaking the law.

The large fish hold of *Lok Tai Taley* (World Under the Water) had been converted to allow fish to swim freely into it and guests to walk among them, Maj Anurak Parinyasathiragul of the Krabi Marine Police told the *Gazette*.

"Counter to some of the allegations made against Nikom Ocha, the boat owner, the license for the boat had not expired; it was not a 'glass bottom boat'; all the documents were in order and when we were there, there was no evidence of tourists catching or feeding the fish," Maj Anurak said.

"However, the boat was being used improperly, as it had been permanently anchored in Tonsai Bay, Phi Phi, so tourists could come look at the fish, yet it was licensed only as a ferrying vessel."

Mr Nikom was charged 10,000 baht.

"This is all the Marine Office can do," Maj Anurak said.



Lok Tai Taley was converted to allow tourists to walk among fish, as they swam through the fish hold of the boat. Photo: Marine Police

"However, officers from the Phi Phi National Park will come and check if the company, Phi Phi Cruiser, is breaking any national

park regulations."

The boat has not been seized or removed, Maj Anurak said.

"But we will keep monitoring

the boat operators. If they keep taking tourists on the boat to see fish without a proper permit, we will keep on fining them," he said.

Wanted biker 'Kaos' arrested in Australia

WANTED Australian biker Brett "Kaos" Pechey, recently pictured at an MMA training camp in Phuket, was taken into custody on landing at Brisbane Airport on February 11.

Last month, Phuket's leading law-enforcement authorities told the *Gazette* that Mr Pechey was not on their watchlist.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee, Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij and Phuket Tourist Police chief Urumporn Koondejsumrit all concurred – in the eyes of Phuket law enforcement, Mr Pechey was not a wanted man.

However, Lt Col Watcharapol Kanjanakuntorn, deputy superintendent of the Immigration office at Phuket International Airport, said, "I have passed the information to our inspection team to search for him and get more information."



ARRESTED: Brett 'Kaos' Pechey

Detectives from Taskforce Maxima, who took Mr Pechey into custody, had been working with other departments and jurisdictions both in Australia and Thailand to find him, reported ABC news.

The *Brisbane Times* reported that Mr Pechey likely flew home to face a string of charges for violent offenses, including extortion and assault, after running out of the funds necessary to live in exile.

– Phuket Gazette

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Beach rule clarity

Officials continue to scramble to clarify rules, inform tourists

By Chutharat Plerin

PACKAGED snacks have, for the moment, been given an official stamp of approval for consumption on the beach, while Phuket's local administrative bodies determine which other types of food they might permit us to eat.

The clarification comes in the wake of Governor Nisit Jansomwong announcing on February 17 that smoking and eating would be banned from Phuket's beaches as part of the new post-cleanup beach improvement rules.

"At the moment, we are not allowing meat [or seafood dishes], such as *som tam* or deep fried chicken, on the beaches. Snacks that come in a package, such as crisps, are fine though," Vice Governor Suthee Thongyam told the *Gazette* on February 20.

Vice Governor Suthee went on to explain that officials needed more time to finalize the details of the food rules.

"There is a long way to go



The cards will be distributed to tourists. Image: MOTs

before the rules can be finalized and standardized. As Governor Nisit has said, these rules aim to change the bad habits that have been a problem on the beaches for 30 years," V/Gov Suthee said.

The Vice Governor noted that

penalties had not yet been set for beachgoers who breach the food rules.

In a move to inform Phuket tourists of the latest beach bans and what rules are in force on the sands, Governor Nisit has ordered

that leaflets be handed out at the beaches in four languages.

Artwork for the leaflets in English, Thai, Chinese and Russian have been issued to all local administrations, Gov Nisit said.

"They are to make sure the leaflets are handed out to hotels, resorts, tour companies and tourists on beaches in their areas," said Gov Nisit.

"The artwork we have sent is a sample only. They are free to create their own designs, but the message must remain the same.

"We expect the leaflets to start being handed out to tourists next week, and we expect signs to start being installed at prominent entry points to the island's most popular beaches within two weeks."

Japanese language will be added to the notices later, when the translation is completed, said Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket Office.

Additional reporting by Saroj Kueprasertkij

Phuket Governor prepares to stave off island drought



The Bang Wad Reservoir has about 4.5 million cubic meters of water.

THE Phuket governor on Tuesday ordered the island's leading water authority to prepare for drought, despite the agency's assurances that local water reserves would be plentiful until the annual rains return in May.

"This dry season, we must manage our water resources so that any restrictions in the supply affects as few people as possible," said Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

"Although we currently have enough water, we need to start a water-saving campaign to help prevent any shortages."

Phuket Water Authority Manager Pisak Chonlayut assured the governor that the island's reserves were full enough to supply residents and tourists throughout the dry season. – *Voratuss Intasee*

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The bombed area. Photo: The Nation

Police identify Narathiwat car bomb suspects

A CAR bomb rocked Narathiwat's downtown area on February 20, damaging dozens of homes and injuring 13 people, four of them seriously.

Police have since identified two out of the five or six militants behind the huge car bomb, even though information from 22 eye-witnesses was sketchy and of little use for investigators.

Deputy police chief General Jakthip Chaijinda said police would be in a position to seek court-issued arrest warrants for the suspects in a few weeks, reported *The Nation*.

The forensics team had collected evidence from the scene and linked that with some intelligence to get a bigger picture of the attack, leading to a group of five or six suspects, he said.

Gen Jakthip did not reveal any clear information about the suspects, but a police officer in Narathiwat said the suspects were operatives under Abdullah Urae's unit, which stole the pick-up truck from Songkhla that was used to make the car bomb.

The bomb was hidden in the pick-up truck, which was parked in front of a karaoke bar, not far from a Chinese shrine. The blast was detonated early in the afternoon, and left four people seriously injured and nine others with moderate wounds.

The car bomb and attempted attacks occurred despite an earlier warning based on intelligence reports. A source said the assailants exploited a lunch break when security forces switched shifts.

The blast set fire to the pick-up but the blaze was put out by a local fire crew. More than 20 homes and shophouses in the district were damaged.

Guard of honor for pilot killed in F-16 crash in Lop Buri

THE body of the Royal Thai Air Force F-16 pilot who was killed when his jet crashed in Lop Buri province on February 20 was taken to Bangkok on Monday, Air Force spokesman Montol Sutchukorn said.

The Air Force will also organize a guard of honor – presided over by Air Force chief ACM Tritos Sonjaeng – to receive the body of Flight Lt Noppanont Niwasanont of Nakhon Ratchasima's Wing 1, reported *The Nation*.

His funeral services were held at Wat Phra Si Mahathat in Bang Khen district and evening prayers were sponsored by the Air Force until. His royally sponsored cremation will be held on March 1.

Lt Noppanont will be promoted posthumously to the post of Group Captain and entitled to a special seven-step pension, while his family will also be granted 2.4 million baht in aid money, Mr Montol added.



The pilot died in Lop Buri. Photo: The Nation

Theater actors imprisoned over lese majeste charges

TWO theater actors, one of whom is a university student, were sentenced to two and a half years in prison for staging a play in 2013 that was deemed defamatory to the monarchy.

The Criminal Court verdict was met by swift condemnation from rights groups, with Human Rights Watch (HRW) calling it "a serious blow to freedom of expression in Thailand" and Amnesty International calling it "an assault on freedom of expression".

Patiwat Saraiyaem, 24, a fourth year student at Khon Kaen University, and Pornthip Munkong, 27, former coordinator of Prakai Fai Theatre Troupe, were found guilty of lese majeste for performing in the play *A Wolf's Bride*. The play was staged at Thammasat University to mark the 40th anniversary of the October 14, 1973 uprising.

The pair was arrested last year on lese majeste charges, and for widely distributing the play via the internet. With both pleading guilty, their sentence was reduced from



Thammasat University built a memorial for the 1973 uprising. Photo: Xiangyod

five to two and half years.

The judges said the sentence would not be suspended even though the defendants pleaded guilty and had no criminal records, because their action was clearly defamatory to the monarchy, which is revered by the Thai people.

After the verdict was an-

nounced, Mr Patiwat said he "did not wish to file an appeal".

Pawinee Chumsri, a pro bono lawyer from the Thai Lawyers for Human Rights Group, said they would respect the defendants' decision to not appeal the verdict. Her clients had already spent seven months in prison. She added that

as bail had been rejected for a fifth time, the only hope for them was a royal pardon, she added.

The lawyer said that the sentence was expected and she was "satisfied", though they would have to wait and see if the prosecutor would bring more charges against the two.

Meanwhile, HRW Asia's director Brad Adams issued a statement saying the verdict was a "serious blow to freedom of expression in Thailand" and "another dark mark on Thailand's already battered international reputation."

Rupert Abbott, Amnesty International's research director for Southeast Asia, said in a statement, "This is an assault on freedom of expression – it is appalling that Mr Patiwat and Ms Pornthip are now facing jail time just for staging a play. Since taking power last year, Thailand's military authorities have made unprecedented use of the lese majeste law to silence and target critics who are simply peacefully exercising their human rights."

Chilean round-the-world cyclist killed in accident in Korat

A CHILEAN man has become the latest intercontinental cyclist to lose his life on Thai roads, on the final leg of a five-year, round-the-world cycling journey that was to finish in November.

Two years ago, two British cyclists died after being struck by a pick-up truck in Thailand.

Juan Frangiso, 48, was killed at about 2:30pm on February 21 while cycling his rickshaw on Mittraphap Road in Nakhon Ratchasima (also known as Korat), reported *The Nation*.

The accident injured his two passengers – his 39-year-old Singaporean wife and their 14-month-old son.

Lt Bantoon Sri-tiang of the Bua Lai Police, said that a pick-up smashed into the rickshaw, instantly killing Mr Frangiso.

The truck driver, Tiwarat Chaipidej, 64, was unscathed.

He admitted he was at fault and



said that he would take responsibility for the accident.

Police have charged Mr Tiwarat with reckless driving

causing death and injuries.

Mr Frangiso began his journey in November 2010 on a cycling trip that would take him 250,000 kilometers across five continents with the goal of reaching Australia in November.

His wife said that she had planned to fulfill one of her late husband's last wishes – to have his funeral held at Wat Pa Thamma Uthayan School in Khon Kaen.

"We stayed at the temple for about a week before we moved on to Nakhon Ratchasima. He was so impressed with the temple's atmosphere that he told me that if he died, to conduct religious rituals for his funeral there," she said.

Officials proffered 300,000 baht compensation and promised to pay up part of the medical bills.

Prosecutors indict Yingluck, file charges over B600bn losses to state

PUBLIC prosecutors indicted ex-PM Yingluck Shinawatra on February 19 for negligence and filed criminal charges at the Supreme Court, in a case that could result in a jail term of up to 10 years.

The charges stem from the Yingluck government's rice-pledging scheme, which caused 600-billion-baht losses to the state, reported *The Nation*.

"We have indicted former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra for dereliction of duty," said Chutichai Sakhakorn, director-general of the Office of the Attorney-General's Special Litigation Department.

In filing the case, public prosecutors

submitted 20 boxes of documents relating to the case, said Kosonwat Intujanyong, deputy spokesman for the Office.

The Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions will decide on March 19 whether to accept this case for trial, court secretary Theerathai Charoenwong said.

The court's general meeting will be held within 14 days to vote on the selection of nine judges to hear the case, according to the court secretary.

The secretary also said that according to the Penal Code, dereliction of duty carried a jail term of between one and 10 years, and a

fine of between 2,000 and 20,000 baht.

Under anti-corruption law, the same offense carried a jail term of one to 10 years, and a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 baht.

Mr Kosonwat said Yingluck's legal team would discuss this week what to do in response to the expected filing of a civil case against Ms Yingluck by the Finance Ministry in which 600bn baht in damages would be sought as a result of the rice scheme.

The Finance Ministry was to discuss with legal experts from the Office of the Attorney-General and Council of State about pursuing a civil case against Ms Yingluck and other members of her government who

are considered responsible for damages stemming from the rice scheme, permanent secretary Rungson Sriworasat said on February 19.

The meeting will discuss this matter in detail, such as whether the Finance Ministry should be considered a damaged party, he said.

A source close to Ms Yingluck said she felt she was being treated unfairly, and that she had implemented the rice scheme with good intentions.

"She has accepted her fate, but is determined to fight the case to the end. She will not escape," the source said.

Making roads safe one step at a time

FIRST PERSON

THAILAND is renowned for its dangerous roads, and has consistently been ranked in the top five for having the highest number of fatal road accidents in the world.

Just last week, a Chilean man was killed in Thailand while on the final leg of a five-year, round-the-world cycling journey he was set to complete in November. Two years ago, two world-famous British cyclists died after being struck by a pick-up truck in the Kingdom. These are just two fatal, high-profile examples of accidents that happen on Thailand's roads every day.

I would like to pass my condolences to all friends and families who have lost loved ones in road accidents here. It is especially sad when these things happen, as accidents can be prevented.

There are three main problems that contribute to the high number of road accidents in Thailand: poor road and traffic engineering, a lack of traffic law enforcement and motorists' behavior.

These problems combine to make the situation even more dangerous. Many of Phuket's main highways are built through local communities. This quickly becomes a very dangerous situation when motorists are driving full speed through these areas while locals are driving slowly. Then, there is the added element of pedestrians and cyclists trying to use the roads as well.

These speed discrepancies on Phuket's roads increase the chances of road accidents. We need to separate high-speed highways from lower-speed roads.

If a road has to be built through a community, medians must be installed to prevent people from cutting through heavy main road



Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch, 57, from Yala, has been living in Phuket since 1987. He worked as director of Thalang Hospital for 17 years, followed by 10 years as deputy director for the Phuket Provincial Health Office. Now retired, Dr Wiwat has been working on road safety campaigns for the past six

years, as well as running a clinic in Thalang. He is now the vice president of the Road Safety Network Group under the Thai Health Promotion Foundation.

Here, he talks about what should be done to make Phuket's roads safer for all who use them.

traffic to get to the other side. These medians must also provide plenty of places where motorists can make u-turns. Sometimes, the next u-turn is more than a kilometer away, and people choose to ride against traffic instead of driving down to the u-turn.

In the end, many of Thailand's road problems and accidents could be prevented with a stronger police presence on the streets. This would help stamp out some dangerous driving behaviors.

I am aware that we do not have enough police officers and that we lack proper road equipment, such as cameras to catch speeders and people who run red lights. However, police can take charge.

Motorists who break the law should receive the maximum penalty. If someone is caught drinking and driving, he or she should face the maximum penalty of three to six months in jail – no excuses.

If someone is caught running a red light, not wearing a helmet or not fastening their seat belt, he or she should face the music for it. People who repeatedly commit these crimes should also have their licences suspended

or even revoked.

About 80 per cent of motorists who die in road accidents in Kathu are found to have been drinking. That is a shocking figure. These are mostly those who are driving under the influence in Patong. In Muang and Thalang districts, about 50 per cent of road deaths involve alcohol. This must be stopped.

Phuket authorities must be tough when it comes to traffic offences. They need to scare motorists and make them realize that heavy fines and possible jail time is not worth breaking the law.

We work very hard to promote road safety through our public relations campaigns. It would be a success if we could get police on board with enforcing the rules, and motorists with taking more care when operating a vehicle.

It will not be an easy change to make, as many believe that fate controls whether or not we die in a road accident. This is not true. Road accidents can be prevented.

Environment can change behaviors. If we have a police presence on the roads, people will start to follow the rules and, eventually, their bad driving habits will change.



This translation error made its way into the hands of tourists.

Ban blunders

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THE issue isn't the beach management plan. It's the lack of a plan or, at the very least, the lack of communicating the plan clearly and concisely.

Phuket can junk up or freshen up its beaches as much as the government wants, but it won't really matter – there are tourists suitable for each kind of beach. Of course, a decision needs to be made about which kinds of tourists the island wants to attract and what sacrifices it wants to make as lower spending tourists (per capita) pick up registered keys at hotels that are now slashing their room rates to keep them occupied.

If we set factors such as environmental impacts and stresses on infrastructure aside for the government – working in conjunction with local stakeholders – to sort out, then the issue boils down to the apparent inability to communicate a well thought-out plan.

I believe the *Gazette's* editorial last week, titled "Opinion: Beach bums blue after latest Phuket ban", touched on the communication subject before focusing on government officials' lack of foresight. A change in this respect, however, might be asking too much in a country where officials are unable to coordinate the next thing that comes out of their mouths.

The failure to think through a problem beyond a surface statement and eliminate all the shades of gray, in which corruption and misunderstanding so often lay, is baffling. This issue reared its ugly head when the government banned beach chairs. The translation of

"chair" – also known as "Summer dream" – doesn't appear to have been clarified for the officials who were ordered to enforce it, or to the media who set out to explain it to the world. This resulted in multiple re-writes of stories and rules as everyone scrambled to understand exactly what was allowed: sun loungers, tall chairs, tiny chairs, fold-up chairs and so on.

The most recent example of a communication failure came with the ban on food. (Let's set the cigarette ban aside, as technically this is nothing new.)

"What kind of food?" the public asks. "All food?"

What then finds its way to ink and pixels is a haphazard banning of some food items, without a logical explanation of why these certain items are banned. Clearly, a list of what is to be banned wasn't drawn up before the ban was implemented.

Ban chairs, ban food – ban tourists from the beach, if you really want to – but please do so with clarity. If only Russian tourists are banned, or French tourists, then say so at the start, instead of causing a tidal wave of headlines, which keep booking agencies and tour operators up all night calming clients in cold lands far, far away and convincing them that, yes, Phuket is still a wonderful place to holiday.

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

Is there a standard for making bridge repairs on the island?

BESIDE the Escape de Phuket hotel on Pracha Uthit Soi 5 is a bridge. One side collapsed a few months ago, forcing the authorities to close it to traffic.

But it was repaired poorly, and now a portion of the same side has subsided.

Is there a "standard" for bridge repair?

MF,
Rassada

Narong Hanukul, director of the Civil Engineering Division at Rassada Municipality, replies:

The bridge is on private property, so we are not permitted to repair it ourselves.

However, we have already consulted with the owner of the property to repair the bridge as soon as possible.

The owner of the bridge, Boat Pattana Co Ltd, has agreed to repair the bridge as soon as it can.

We will be on the lookout to ensure the company complies with the standards, as set out in the compendium called "Bridge Standards", issued by the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning.

Motorboats, dinghies and swimmers – oh my!

At Nai Harn Beach, sometimes a motorboat arrives from one of the many sailboats anchored in the bay. These boats land directly on the beach and often arrive at high speed in the middle of the swimmers, jeopardizing the safety of tourists with their propellers.

What laws are in place regarding motorboats near the shore? Are such boats forbidden within a certain distance from the shore? Or do the people driving these boats have the right to do as they wish with the engine and propellers on?

Federico,
Rawai

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, chief

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

Submit your issue at

www.P PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

of the Phuket Marine Office, replies:

There are no laws prohibiting motorboats – including dinghies, if that is what you mean – from landing on public beaches.

This includes tourist beaches where there are many swimmers,

and even "safe swimming zones" as marked by the red-and-yellow flags posted by beach guards. There are no laws to prevent boats from coming ashore at a beach.

It is common sense for boat operators to avoid areas where there are many swimmers and we work with local administration officials and beach guards to make sure that boats stay clear of swimmers.

Beach guards are on duty at the beach all day, and among their responsibilities is to keep boats clear of swimmers.

If any swimmer or tourist has any problem on the beach, please inform the beach guard or the nearest municipal officer.

Balls of fire

AMONG the many recent edicts that have been issued by the government to bring some order to Phuket's beach tourism industry, one that the *Gazette* hopes can be comprehensively enforced is the ban on the sale of *khom loi*, or sky lanterns, at public beaches such as Patong (see page 2).

The *Gazette* concedes that the sight of *khom loi* slowly rising after twilight in the night sky can have a definite visual appeal and that their ritual release, thought to have originated in China, are also spiritually significant to a certain segment of the local population, as well as some of our foreign guests.

Unfortunately, their proliferation over the past decade as a result of mass tourism poses definite safety and environmental risks because, as the saying goes: "What goes up must come down."

Typically the lanterns eventually fall harmlessly to the ground or into the sea, resulting in another annoying increment to an island already reeling under a huge solid-waste disposal crisis and damage to its coastal marine ecosystems.

Reports of *khom loi* causing major fires and property damage in Phuket have yet to be reported, but the risks are evident.

An inferno at a plastics recycling plant in the West Midlands of England in June 2013, presumed to have been set off by a sky lantern, caused an estimated £6 million in damages, put three firefighters in hospital and caused local authorities there to overhaul codes relating to their commercial sale.

Phuket has had no lack of major fires over the years, including the SuperCheap inferno in Rassada in October 2013, which occurred on an unusually calm and clear night during the monsoon season.

However, the frequency of release of *khom loi* locally is at its highest during the high season for tourism, which generally tends to coincide with the driest time of the year on the island, when the threat of forest fires and property blazes is at its highest.

It is probably safe to say that Phuket has been lucky not to have had any major fires caused by descending sky lanterns and that we should "quit while we are ahead" on this matter.

Khom loi also pose serious risks to commercial aviation, which is why their release into the Air Safety Zone surrounding Phuket International Airport could result in charges carrying a sentence of up to 20 years of imprisonment, or even death under Section 6(3) Thailand Air Navigation Act of 1954.

These lanterns pose a risk to Phuket's growing community of private flyers, who are also excluded from the Air Safety Zone. Fortunately, this risk is minimized by the fact that most recreational flights over the island take place during the day.

Unlike many other recent edicts – such as the ban on smoking at public beaches – we hope and expect that this measure can and will be comprehensively enforced by police, with the support of local authorities.



Phuket has scared away a large income stream

Re: Gazette online, Experts question long-term tourism policy: Quality vs Quantity, February 23

It's a bit late now to be having this discussion, as the horse has well and truly bolted.

Thailand's strongest tourist population was made up from returning tourists – some of whom have vowed not to return.

The "quantity" tourist, as you term it, would be the Chinese – who prepay their holidays to include all meals within their respective hotels.

This does not assist the thousands of business owners in Thailand.

The returning tourists who have left were actually the ones who spend up big time in bars, restaurants and buying clothes and souvenirs.

That very large income stream has now gone.

Robert Simeon
Facebook

Time to prioritize

Re: Gazette online, Packaged snacks approved as Phuket beach eats, February 20

Meanwhile, another clapped out bus hauling Chinese tourists over Patong Hill has crashed.

Good to see the governor and the police are not being distracted by petty things instead of concentrating on serious things like road safety.

Oh, hang on, tourist harassment is more important than tourist safety.

Tough on beach food, and tough on the causes of beach food!

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Thepkrasattri roulette

Re: Gazette online, Phuket airport taxi flips, Chinese tourist family escape serious injury, February 23

Letters to the Editor

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

Travelling on Thepkrasattri Road is similar to playing Russian roulette with your life, with the number of motorcycles you have to avoid and 'green plate' taxis who are willing to take you out to overtake you.

Why can't the traffic police patrol on some of these roads?

Amara Forster
Facebook

Cancerous corruption

Re: Gazette online, Irish teen pleads for justice following alleged Phuket corruption, death threats, kidnapping, February 24

Corruption in Phuket is like a cancer with no cure that is out of control.

There are too many fat cats in places of power that let it fester to fatten their bank balances.

If anyone in a position of power with a backbone ever tried to do anything to expose it, or, God forbid, tried to put a end to it, they would be transferred to some back office position some where in Thailand no one has ever heard of.

Phil Phelan
Facebook

Slow down, save lives

Re: Gazette online, Motorcyclist dies in collision on 'shortcut' to Phuket Airport, February 23

In the United States, we would call Ms Patcharanutch's actions vehicular manslaughter.

In such a big hurry for no reason, and in her haste, she killed a man – probably someone's father or a husband.

For a car wheel to get ripped clean off had to require the

vehicle to be moving at high speed.

Also in the US, police know how to read the crime scene to determine what happened. Here, if there's no CCTV, they have no idea. Blame it on the biker.

Pathetic
Gazette forum

Easier to say goodbye

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach ban rules in handouts, on signs within weeks, February 22

Given that Phuket promotes itself as a beach destination, perhaps they need to advertise the regulations more widely than on the island itself.

After all is said and done, the choice of whether to go there or not is becoming easier as the regulations increase.

You could ask the question: When is a beach resort not a beach resort? Answer: When you can't use it!

Terrance
Gazette forum

Lack of confrontation causing confusion

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Beach bums blue after latest Phuket ban, February 22

I am certain most of us have experienced an episode at a Thai restaurant where one has had a misunderstanding with the wait staff about the food order.

At a point during the course of discussion, the waiter or waitress becomes agitated and unresponsive and refuses further service or communication. The root cause of this phenomenon is the non-confrontational nature of Thai people.

As a result of this I have learned to eat what I am given, right or wrong, and just say *sawasdee krap*.

Beach Bum
Gazette forum

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Generation hospitality

Academy races to develop skilled employees needed by industry

By Maciek Klimowicz

THE hospitality industry in Thailand is struggling. Not because there aren't enough guests, quite the opposite – the number of rooms on the island is multiplying to accommodate year-on-year increases in the number of tourist arrivals. The problem is the lack of skilled workers, explains Patteera Maneesri, Trisara Group director of human resources and a Trisara Academy director.

"We are struggling to get skilled personnel in the hospitality industry. The number of hotels is growing very quickly and each of them requires a lot of qualified staff," says Patteera. "We need to face the truth and take it as a challenge."

To do just that, Trisara Academy, a training facility operated by Montara Hospitality Group, will launch a three-month internship program beginning on March 2. The program consists of two separate courses: food and beverage operations and culinary preparation.

"We launched the Trisara Academy in July 2014 with a 'Career Development Program' for our internal managers. Having developed the program, we are now ready to launch it to the public," says Patteera.

"We expect around 10 students in each class; we will screen the candidates based on attitude, after personal interviews."

The Academy will accept Thai applicants between 18 and 28 years old, holding a college degree and with average English skills.

"However, the key is the attitude, the service mind. We believe we can help the person with the



Patteera Maneesri, a Trisara Academy director, says that the hospitality industry needs more skilled workers in order to grow.

right attitude grow," says Patteera.

Once they complete the internship, the young professionals will receive support from Trisara in finding employment. "I will be contacting luxury hotels personally and presenting our candidates. Some of them will be hired by Trisara as well," says Patteera, who believes that the Trisara Academy internship is perfect for young people who want to enter the hospitality industry and are looking for the right place to start

or are seeking a career change.

Each internship program costs 38,400 baht, which includes uniforms, daily meals and course materials. While most candidates will have to cover the costs of the training themselves, Trisara will offer sponsorship to one student per class.

"We are working with Prince of Songkla University and Rajabhat University, to find the right candidates to enter our internship," explains Patteera.

The course curriculum focuses on practical skills, comprising up to 90 per cent of the program. The students will learn cooking skills, as well as marketing, product management and other elements of culinary preparation.

With three rounds of the internship planned for this year, 60 new, skilled hospitality professionals are expected to enter the market through the doors of Trisara Academy by the end of 2015.

"We want to support the mar-

ket with this career development program," says Patteera who also points to Asean integration as one more reason for increasing efforts in education and professional development. "We need to develop and improve the skills of our staff to reach the Asean standard. Our initial goal is to reach Thailand's luxury resort service standards," she explains.

For more information go to trisaraacademy.com

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A very good year for stocks

US economy is showing positive signs of steady recovery, says Don



Finance

By Don Freeman

EACH year, I head back to the US to see my mother and meet with clients. It also allows me to see how things are going. I need to do this to see if there's any truth to the headlines I read. You know the ones I'm talking about – stocks in a bubble, economic slowdown, unemployment and so on.

Well, from what I saw, things are humming along quite nicely. One day, I took my mother and bought her a new car at AutoNation Toyota. Across the street was a CarMax dealership, where we were able to sell her old car for cash. We did this all in one day and the process was so quick and convenient. I asked the salesmen at both places how business was, and the response was that it's never been better. This was evident when I looked at the shares of AutoNation and CarMax. CarMax shares have risen more than 40% in the past year and AutoNation's have risen by more than 20%.

One factor driving automobile sales is lower gas prices. Lower gas prices are an instant pay raise for the US consumer. That's why both AutoNation and CarMax are busy. Analysts expect automobile sales to rise 2.6% next year to 17 million vehicles. The average transaction price is expected to increase 2.4% to US\$32,589.

Both companies are outperforming their competitors. They have sought to take the haggling aspect out of buying a new or used car. Their focus is on rock-



With gas prices falling in the US, car sales in many states are on the rise. Photo: John Lloyd

bottom prices and moving inventory. They're not like the typical car dealer where you spend all day at the dealership trying to get the price down. By having a limited markup, they sell more cars and make their money in the service department. It's a sound business model and it works.

What I like about both companies is that there's plenty of room for growth. AutoNation operates in only 15 states. CarMax has just 131 used-car lot locations and aims to open 10 to 15 new ones each year. I don't know about you, but I like the idea of owning a company expanding by 10% a year.

It's not just the consumer driving the US economy, but businesses as well. US corporations have made record profits. A lot of this money is going on improving their IT backbone and infrastructure. Two companies that are really benefiting from this trend are Oracle and Red Hat.

Of the two, I like Oracle. Oracle was founded by Larry Ellison, who is now the third richest man in America with a net worth of over US\$55 billion. He serves as the company's chief visionary, while Co-CEOs Safra Catz and Mark Hurd run the day-to-day operations. Mark Hurd was the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard

and is considered one of the sharpest managers in tech. Safra Catz has worked with Larry Ellison since 1999.

You know, many investors fail to look at management when it comes to investing. Warren Buffett has famously said that he would rather own a poor business with good management than a great business with bad management. Oracle has one of the best management teams in the world and the results speak for themselves.

Last month, shares of Oracle jumped more than 10% after a strong earnings report. Oracle expects revenues to come in strong for the next quarter and

shares look to be setting up for another bull run. This optimism has traders, investors and big institutions looking for a sure thing. A business making consistent profits, like Oracle is, will keep making new highs.

It's not just investors buying shares of Oracle, but also Oracle itself. Every three months, Oracle is spending about US\$2bn buying back its own shares. This takes shares out of the market and helps drive earnings per share.

This is why I like CarMax and Oracle. They have strong businesses and make plenty of money. As a result, their share prices keep going higher. As I tell my clients, it's much easier to buy a stock that's going up versus a stock that's going down. It may sound simple, but you'll be amazed at how many don't follow this advice and instead buy companies at 52-week lows. What most fail to realize is that the reason those stocks are at new lows is because their business is broken. Margins have been squeezed and competitors have eaten their profits.

Don't make these classic mistakes. The trend is your friend, so don't fight it. Instead, give me a call and let's talk about how you can profit in 2015.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, an independent US Registered Investment Advisor. He has over 20 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.

Chinese New Year pushes hotel occupancies to 99%

CHINESE New Year saw occupancy at registered Phuket hotels hit 99%, despite a projected year-on-year decrease in occupancy in the first quarter, said Krisada Tansakul, vice president of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA).

In anticipation of a slight downturn in Western markets, many hotels set aside rooms at prices designed to target the Chinese market, explained Mr Krisada.

"We have seen a 5-10% year-

on-year increase in Chinese tourists during the festival period," Mr Krisada said.

"However, we are expecting to see the amount of revenue generated to be less than in 2014, due to Chinese tourists spending less per capita than Western tourists."

The increase in Chinese tourists might also have been affected by the increase in the number of direct flights from China, Mr Krisada added.

– **Kongleapy Keam**

Lighthouse a boon for traders

MORE than 100 local businesses put their products on display at the second Lighthouse Market at Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew last weekend, giving many of Phuket's home-grown brands a chance to reach out to new customers.

Kanittha Prasopsirikul, organizer of the monthly market, estimated that the weekend of trade along the boardwalk generated a total revenue of about 1 million baht for local participating businesses from about 5,000 visitors over the two days.

The response from stall holders has been overwhelmingly positive. Many of them are booking ahead for the next three months or so, at least until the onset of the rainy season, Kanittha said.

"Having a stall at the market is an inexpensive way to reach out to more customers. The festive, laid-back atmosphere means customers hang around longer and are generally more willing to buy something special or treat themselves," she said.



A customer buys chips at Boat Lagoon's Sunday Lighthouse market.

In addition to the outlets at Boat Lagoon which joined the market, many other family-run local traders and small businesses have jumped at the opportunity to expand their customer base.

"This win-win situation for vendors and customers is a significant factor in the resounding success of the first two Lighthouse markets in January and February," said Ms Kanittha.

More markets are planned for the last weekends of the next three months: March 28-29; April 25-26; and May 30-31.

– **Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today', the island's only nationally broadcast television show – aired daily on True Visions and leading local cable networks – are proud to sponsor this event.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

February 26-28. Phuket Old Town Festival

The 16th annual Phuket Old Town Festival celebrates Phuket's unique culture and traditions.

Events will be taking place from 4pm on Thursday on four roads in the heart of Phuket Town: Thalang Road, Soi Rommanee, Krabi Road and Phang Nga Road.

February 27, 7:30pm to 10:00pm. FIVERA – Ayara Hilltops at Surin Beach

Ayara Hilltops at Surin Beach is thrilled to feature FIVERA – Thailand's hottest pop opera group in an evening of entertainment with a cocktail reception and buffet dinner at Spice Poolside Restaurant.

Close on the heels of the group's recent performances in Shanghai and Singapore to wide acclaim, FIVERA returns to Phuket for one performance only.

March 1, 5pm until late. Laguna Market on First

Come join the "Laguna Market on First" and shop for the best Phuket has to offer!

On the first of every month, Laguna Phuket invites you to experience "Laguna Market on First", in the park at Laguna Grove by the beautiful lagoon.

Enjoy a variety of goods from food stalls, clothing, home decor,

ตลาดนัดลากูน่า
LAGUNA MARKET ON FIRST
1 March 2015
FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • ART & CRAFTS • ENTERTAINMENT

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Koh Mr. Saxman

Pui Duangpon

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arts and crafts, plus music and performances, a dining area and much, much more!

There will be local shows and

mini-concerts by Koh Mr Saxman and Pui The Voice!

March 4. Makha Bucha Day

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250

monks who arrived unannounced from afar, only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the ruling Chakri dynasty, founded by King Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

May 1. Labor Day

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

May 5. Coronation Day

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

June 1. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June.

The day commemorates three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of Buddha.

July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to five disciples after he attained enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Evening candlelight processions will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.



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YOUR Phuket

PREA show



Governor Nisit Jansomwong (L) attends the opening ceremony at Central Festival Phuket.

Wine tasting at Banyan Tree



IN A GLASS: Sriram Kailasam, GM for Banyan Tree Phuket, welcomes Benjawan Wisootsat (center), managing director for Fin, and Gerhard Kracher, director and head winemaker for Weingut Kracher.

Coca-Cola pours success into Southern Thailand

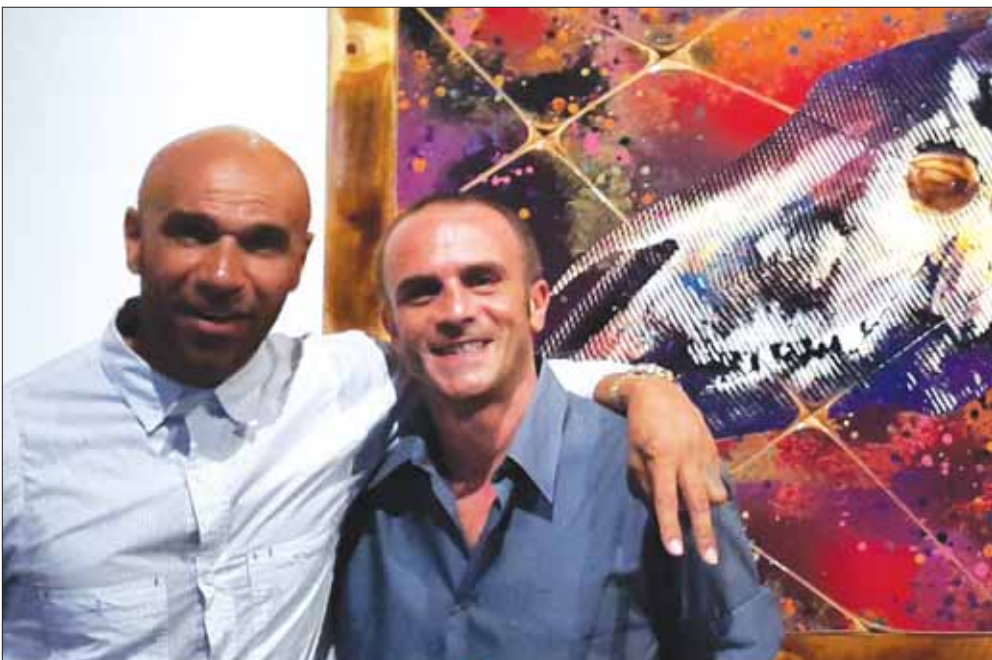


DRINK UP: Antonio Del Rosario (L), general manager of Coca-Cola Thailand, and Maj Gen Patchara Rattakul, chief operating officer of Haad Thip Plc promote Coke in the beautiful South.



People in the South party on Coke's dime at Nipa Garden Hotel in Sura Thani province at the end of last month.

Art of 'Goldie' at Drift Beacon of light shines



PURE GOLDIE: Famous graffiti artist, actor and British electronic music artist Clifford Price (L), better known as Goldie, stands with local photographer Adriano Trapani at an art opening at Drift Gallery. Photo: Eka Savchenko



MARKET SUCCESS: Kanittha Prasopsirikul, of 'By Kanittha', and Boon Yongsakul, deputy managing director of Boat Lagoon, enjoy the festivities at the Lighthouse Market, which is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

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

PROPERTY of the week

THE ANDABUREE PHUKET



See page 17

JOB of the week

PARADISE KOH YAO

Unique Opportunity In Paradise

See page 20

INVESTMENT of the week



GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

See page 22

BOAT & MARINE of the week



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Properties For Sale

STUDIO FOR SALE

In Phuket Town. 5 min to Central, Big C. 2nd floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassa rabee@gmail.com

OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views, in-house management & rental program available, investment. Ready move in. 3.98 million baht ONO. Email: lamscondo@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT CONDO

New fully furnished with amenities, 2-bed 2-bath. Great location. Must see. Only 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

1-BED APT SALE / RENT

Fully furnished apt in Chalong. Sale 1.95 million baht, rent 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

SUPER MODERN

This super modern Phuket house just came for sale in Rawai. The house is insulated in European style. For more info contact soi.saliga@gmail.com. Price 13 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880 (English). Email: soi.saliga@gmail.com

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400Sq. furnished 3 bed, 2 bath, euro kitchen, 4 aircon, pool, jacuzzi. Sale 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873 (English & Thai).

BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE

Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community, Chanote title, 1,100sqm, flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Spectacular sea view condo located on the 12th floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living/dining room, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 081-691 1580 (English & Thai). Email: Es therandi@gmail.com

AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 beds, 3 baths, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Not for long price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: Vodorod12@mail.ru

BUNGALOW FOR SALE

Bungalow converted into 3 self-contained apartments. In good condition. Very quiet area in Khumsap/Village in Phuket Town. Not far from Big C and Super Cheap. Reduced price of 2.1 million Baht. Please contact 061-221 3778. Email: nick.eastwood@btinternet.com

SEA VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Ao Yon. 13.5 rai. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

3 BED FOR SALE / RENT

Furnished house in Chalong. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

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Email: pee_bang56@hotmail.com

KARON BEACH CONDO

This 1-bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net, www.phuketcondo.net

KATA HOUSE SALE

4-bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-4659 939.

2-BEDROOM BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

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

URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED

Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountain side, panoramic sea view of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (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.

THE DECK CONDO FOR SALE

2 units condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project Studio unit no.0103309 Floor 3 Building A 31 Sqm. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 Sqm. Price 4.5 Million THB. Full-furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: omholland@hotmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT PALACE

Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view. 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

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At Cape Panwa - 4 bedroom suites, large pool, dining sala/bar, jacuzzi and much more. A true luxury villa estate in a fabulous location occupying a prime site of 3,500 square meters. Reduced to sell quickly to 85 million baht. Tel 089-873 7075.

CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER

Chanote title. 412sqm. 2 bed, 2 bath, in- and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

KARON HOUSE SALE OF OWNER

2 bed, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet, furnished. 4 mn baht. Tel: 087-886 7029 (English & Thai). Email: svein.arild.johansen@gmail.com

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.

LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

400sqm, seaview, Karon: 3.9 million baht. Also, house and land (120sqm, 400sqm): 7 million baht. Tel: 091-040 2471. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

KARON BEACH CONDO

This 1-bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net, www.phuketcondo.net

LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: Vodorod12@mail.ru

AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 beds, 3 baths, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Not for long price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8 pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MACRO. Start 9mn THB. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bumrungs15@gmail.com

KAMALA

Large 4-bed house, 3 bath, guest Water Close, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

PANORAMA SEA VIEW LAND

For sale 5.5 rai, Ao Makham, Chanote title, 12 million baht / rai call 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

3-BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584 sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. For sale by owner. Contact for more photos and info. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai). Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

Properties For Rent

SURIN BEACH CONDO

1-2 bedroom, pool, 300m to beach. Furnished. Call mobile 088-823 4128 (English). Email: rapaljes@yahoo.com

LUXURY 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

Fully furnished, serviced apartment, 65sqm, central Patong, short or long-term rent. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

GOLF VIEW 7-BEDROOM 4 RENT

Large house with private swimming pool, fully furnished, close to all international schools and shopping mall. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

2 bedrooms, furnished, 24,000 baht / month. Long-term tenant wanted. Pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV. 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: neiln5nh6@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT LUXURY KATA APT

5 star, pools, gym, quiet area. 30,000 baht long term. Available now. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com www.katasala.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

PATONG QUIET HOUSE

32-bedroom, 1-bathroom house, large pool and enclosed yard, great for pets or kids, furnished, very nice. Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

TONSAI HOUSE FOR RENT

European standard. Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, private pool, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, European kitchen, two-car parking. Garden. WiFi and True vision. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com www.rentphuketpoolhouse.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Serviced apartment: 66sqm, 2nd floor, 1 living room with pull-out sofa, 1 bedroom. Fully equipped European kitchen, WiFi internet access, cable LCD TV, DVD, stereo system. Maid cleaning, shuttle service to Nai Ham beach, fitness center, spa, poolside restaurant and bar, children's playground. Price: 3,200 baht per night. Contact: 081-550 7379.

CONDO FOR RENT

Condo for rent long or short-term, Karon, sea view, Soi Patak 12, safe and 10 mins to the beach. PLS contact K Dallas. Tel: 085-392 6666, 086-471 5226. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

PATONG CONDO FOR RENT

From 8,900 baht long-term. Tel: 062-206 6899.

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully Furnished, Good & Safe Location. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: www.Baan PhitakTaweeep.com

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Bang Tao Surin, CCTV, safe long-term parking. 2,900 baht per month (1-year contract). Tel: 084-734 2711. Email: seidl_michael@hotmail.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

CHALONG PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3 Beds & Baths. 4 A/C. Furnished. Large pool. Tel: 089-729 1968 (English & Thai). Email: jae.apc@gmail.com, www.villaprana.com

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HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

For long-term rent. Fully furnished. Ms Fon. Tel: 084-629 3244. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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2-BEDROOM HOUSE: THB 14,000/M

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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

BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND

Approx 2 rai, Chalong Bay. Contact 081-826 9390.

3 BEDROOM HOUSE - 25,000 BAHT/M

2 bedrooms, 6 aircons, fully fitted IKEA kitchen, electric gate, double carport. 25,000 baht per month. One-year contract. Tel: 087-882 2982 (English & Thai), 084-130 3234 (English). Email: kel_tattoo@hotmail.com

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

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340 sqm house for rent in strategic Kathu, near shopping malls, schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, superb kitchen, garden of 690 sqm. Advanced security systems. 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-494 4987 (English & Thai). Email: anda.graf@gmail.com, www.phuket101.net/2012/10/house-for-rent-in-phuket-kathu.html

2-BEDROOM HOUSE: THB 14,000/M

Fully furnished townhouse: fully furnished, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet area. Available from Mar 1, 2015, 1 year contract, To visit. Tel: 090-493 4750 (English & Thai). Email: lacour.g88@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 or 2 bedroom corner condo 76 sqm. 270 degree beach & mountain view, living room, kitchen, 2 balconies, Long term rent 42,000. or sale 9.5 mil baht. Tel: 081-080 8831. Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

TOWNHOUSE - SUPALAI CITY HILL

Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000Bt/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3BR, 2Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 ACs. Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: ste.phenfein@gmail.com

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Luxury villas and apartment for rent, modern style, big garden, jacuzzi, swimming pool, WiFi, 600 mt. from the beach with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Special price start from 3,000 baht per day. Email: francescobonta@gmail.com. For more info call Francesco 085-790 7816. www.villacheloni.com

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- ☐ Commercial Social Media and SEO experience a plus

Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

SWIMMING COACH

REQUIRED. Current SAT Babies & Toddlers Learn to Swim Qualification or equivalent. Minimum of 2 years' experience teaching babies & toddlers. Bachelor Degree. Enthusiastic, dynamic and energetic. Must be in good health – non smoker is a must. Punctual and reliable. Native English speaker. PACKAGE DETAILS: Salary (Negotiable for the right candidate). Accommodation allowance. Health Insurance. Work Permit. Minimum contract period: 2 years. Tel: 086-687 0224.

CHINESE STAFF NEEDED

A Chinese person with reasonable English skills for marketing department of a yacht charter company. Tel: 087-384 2743.

DATABASE UPDATER

Looking for a Thai national with basic English skills and computer knowledge. Own computer required. Full time job. Email if interested. Email: info @dive-the-world.com

PARADISE Koh Yao

BACK TO NATURE IN TOTAL COMFORT

Unique Opportunity In Paradise

Paradise @ Koh Yao, a contemporary 72 room boutique resort & spa is located on Koh Yao Noi, an island, just a 60 minute boat trip from Phuket in the spectacular Phang Nga bay.

Our shabby-chic design integrates seamlessly with the surrounding beauty of the natural environment. The resort's 'barefoot luxury' philosophy is complimented with a fully equipped yoga sala & an Activity center to cater to a wide range of water-based & land-based activities, as well as day-trips & excursions around the island itself, & the surrounding bay areas.

We are currently looking for a highly motivated **social media expert** to join our dynamic marketing team within our head office located on the vibrant tourist island of Phuket.

Social Media/Web-Marketing Executive

Duties:

Review, monitor & consistently update our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, Pinterest, Trip Advisor & more) as well as our newly updated web-site. In association with on-site management & our marketing team, manage PR for the resort & guest feed-back - both internal & external.

Key responsibilities:

- Initiate & co-ordinate relevant & brand aligned content
- Co-ordinate social media positing & marketing
- Benchmark competitor analysis
- Support marketing activities both online & offline
- Track & Manage online guest reviews
- Plan, co-ordinate & attend PR activities

Your background:

- At least a Bachelor's Degree, marketing or equivalent
- 25-30 years of age, 1-2 years experience in similar assignment
- Native English speaker or high level English proficiency
- Independent, self driven, creative, result oriented personality
- Locally assimilated foreigner or Thai National

Comprehensive remuneration will be offered in line with experience

We are looking for a high powered, self-confident go-getter. If this sounds like you – send your resume with picture to joeraess@paradise-kohyao.com www.paradise-kohyao.com

Executive Sales Manager Phuket

Vanazure Ltd is a young dynamic company dealing in ecommerce around the world. We are creating a new exciting Executive Sales Manager position for Phuket. We intend to be a leader and the No1 "Go to" website for visitors to Phuket. You would be joining a small, relaxed but dynamic team whose mission statement is "Whatever it takes" to be in the No1 position. If you are seeking a fresh challenge away from the corporate structure, sales driven, and have 2-5 proven sales experience in business to business then we would like to hear from you.

Outline Qualifications needed

- Male/Female, age 25-40 years.
- Based in Phuket
- Thai Nationality.
- Ability to communicate at all levels, from CEOs, Business owners, large hotel chains to small businesses.
- Excellent communication and presentation skill
- Professional "get it done" attitude and work ethic

Benefits will include

- 30,000 to 35,000 THB basic monthly
- Plus High commission
- Flexible working hours
- 3 week holiday plus public holidays
- Medical Insurance
- Transportation Allowance
- Working with a young dynamic team

If you feel you have the necessary skill set to match our requirements then we would like to hear from you. This would be an immediate start position if possible. Full training will be given.

Your full CV with picture to info@vanazure.com

MAID WANTED FOR HOUSE

Looking for full time maid for private house in Nai Harn. Tel: 081-970 7633 (English). Email: roberto.omini@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR MAID

Household in Layan Beach is looking for a maid. Should be dog friendly and speak English. Tel: 084-007 7553 (English). Email: liz22gap@yahoo.de

REAL ESTATE MARKETING

Phuket's fastest growing real-estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at our new Patong Beach Road office. A high salary and commissions will be given to the right person. Thai nationals only. Please send your CV to jj@sunprophuket.com, or call us for an interview. Tel: 086-267 0177 (English), 086-271 6175. Email: terry@taro hotel.com

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 (Nuch). For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

FOOD / BEVERAGE MANAGER

Position available now. Salary range: 40 to 45,000 baht per month plus monthly SC. Work schedule: 8 hrs per day, 6 days a week. Minimum 2-year degree in Food Service or Restaurant Management. Thai Nationals only. Must speak English. Minimum 2 years in managing a high-volume restaurant. Experience in developing, planning and implementing innovative & exciting menu items. Thai & Western experience in controlling F/B costs. Knowledgeable in F/B sales. Email: gm@ccshideaway.com

CHINESE PROPERTY AGENT

Phuket's leading Real Estate agency is now looking for a Chinese Real Estate Agent to join our successful team. You need to be able to write and speak Chinese fluently. Main job description is to introduce Phuket properties to our Chinese investors and buyers. High earnings are expected for the right candidate. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@propertyinphuket.com, www.propertyinphuket.com

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

NEW RESTAURANT IN LAGUNA

Now hiring: Chefs – all levels; Servers – all levels; Bar staff; Back of house staff; and a Personal Assistant. Basic English necessary, previous experience preferred. Must be under 35 years of age. For the right candidates, we offer an excellent salary, benefits, holidays and structured professional development. Please forward CVs and a current picture to Jamie@bam.pot.co or call 092-130 3114.

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. Savoei 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

SECRETARY

Female, Thai nationality, good command of written and spoken English, good computer knowledge (Word and Excel programs), good attitude and positive person. Benefit: salary 12,000-15,000 baht per month + commission 10-20%, social fee, public holiday, vacation. Tel: 086-940 5187, 081-415 7774.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales rep at a holiday ownership company, based in Phuket. Tremendous potential for huge earnings. Legal working status will be arranged. Please send your resume to: rbv@royalperspective.com

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, work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call center customer service. Basic 15,000 baht per month. Fluent English speakers needed. Five-day working week. Great prospects, beautiful office in seafront villa environment. Tel: 083-1737 292 (English). Email: dennisbond44@yahoo.com

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: maid, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com

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.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

SALES MANAGER NEEDED

Sales staff needed for real estate business. Contact by email only. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

RESTAURANT NEEDS URGENTLY

Looking for female Assistant Manager with bubbly personality. Up to 20,000 baht per month. Bar Manager needed for up to 15k. Waitresses needed for up to 12k. All plus service charge and benefits. Call for details. Tel: 076-211775, 086-509 7510 (English), 087-884 8271 (English & Thai).

Employee Termination Announcement

Please be informed that Mrs. Pennapa Seangrocha (Khun Ae) (นางพนัสนิศา แสงโรชา) as a manager of Business Group Ordinary Partnership and Richhome & Décor Shop (Kathu), was terminated as an employee on February 4th, 2015.

Company shall not be responsible for any related activities that cause damage or misrepresentation, if the indicated person arrogated company name. Our company reserves the right to file a claim under the law to above indicated person.

The actions of any group of people, the company will not be liable in any way. If you have any inquiries please contact Mr. Somchai Lertworrattanakul. Tel: 081-892 1775.

QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 (Nuch). For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

DATABASE UPDATER

Looking for a Thai national with basic English skills and computer knowledge. Own computer required. Full time job. Email if interested. Email: info@divethe-world.com

CRUISE LINE CHEFS

To double as a ship manager in Myanmar on the Pandaw River Cruises. Tel: 087-096 9625.

SWEDISH STAFF

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

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

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. Email: aey@princessyacht.ssea.com

TEACHER WANTED

Native English speaker, female, age 25+, for 4 children 6-8 years old. Mon-Fri, 9:00-14:00, Starting salary 40,000 Baht. Tel: 081- 343 0777. Email: montha_Phuket@yahoo.com

Employment Wanted**HEAD CHEF**

Hi, I'm 32 years old with more than 10 years' experience as a chef. I am looking for employment. I am very hard working, experienced, reliable, easy-going, motivated and enthusiastic. Tel: 094-803 7306 (English). Email: m.dominici@email.cz

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Karon?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors



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

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

Contact pauljames@expathotel.com

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

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

Business Products & Services



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

SEX THERAPY MASSAGE (NO SEX)
Gents, ladies. Prem. ejac.? Important? Satisfy high libido? And much more! Natural. No drugs. Dr Dave (20 yrs' experience). Tel: 094-652 2029.

THAI HERBAL SAUNA AND SWIMMING



Clean and perfect place for chilling. Sauna and swimming only 100 baht. Tel: 076-264676, Tel: 083-590 5069.

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

Pool Tables

STYLISH POOL TABLES

Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak. White 'Tokyo' model pool table. Tel: 085-797 0005. www.thailandpooltables.com/index.php/tokyo-white-billiard-table.html.

Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

Life membership at Phuket Country Club Kathu. 470,000 baht, including transfer fee. Call 088-382 7166.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AT PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

For sale 450,000 baht. Includes transfer. Tel: 061-227 0743.

THAILAND ELITE CARD
Buy. Tel: 085-781 9167, 082-8040 049.

Cameras & Equipment

EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW

Rawai. Canon EOS 7D (2010), very good condition, + EF-S 18-135 (new). 24,000 baht. Tel: 080-717 9071. Email: otto.nothe@yahoo.de.

Fitness Equipment

ASHTANGA YOGA SHALA

Mysore style, lead and beginner's classes. Tel: 080-698 0813.

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIPS

Blue Canyon memberships for sale for 800,000 baht with transfer fee. Tel: 081-883 9983. Email: jakrapopw@yahoo.com

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

Family membership. 9 years. 285,000 baht. Email: lagunamembership@gmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Golf membership 400,000 baht. Tel: 081-089 1407. Must sell.

BLUE CANYON

Blue Canyon golf membership for sale. 600,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7701 (English). Email: hemalegdr@hotmail.com

Lost & Found

HELP ME FIND MY DOG

Please help me find my dog Clio. She is a white pitbull terrier with brown spots on her rear and side and a bald shave mark on her head from a recent treatment. She went missing in Chalong on Thursday at around midday. I offer a good reward for her return. Tel: 081-891 9656.

Building Products & Services

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Thai company, with western management, offering you a full range of construction services, from simple renovations to full builds, at affordable prices. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Tel: 085-576 6812 (English) Tel: 089-166 8090 (Thai). Email: ajb@thaiworldproperty.com. For further details, please see our website at www.thaiworldconstruction.com

Miscellaneous Wanted

A/C NEEDED 35SQM ROOM

Only very good or better used air-conditioner for 35sqm office. Tel: 090-165 8266 (English & Thai).

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English).

OUR SERVICE

Engineering structural design service- Steel structural design service-retaining wall structural design service-infrastructure design service-renovation engineering service. Tel: 076-283549, 081-255 7003 (English & Thai), 089-652 0768 Fax: 076-283549. Email: 2homerestort@gmail.com

Pets

MISSING DOG



We miss our dog Quincy. An Airedale terrier, male, black and brown coat. He got lost on December 31 in Patong. 3,000 baht reward. Tel: 087-091 2798 (English & Thai). E mail: rudi.grimm1@web.de

CHIHUAHUA DOG FOR SALE

Male, 4 months old. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

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

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week
Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.
Channel 1, with 28 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.
Channel 4, with 21 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

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

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

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: kookai@phuketgazette.net

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

Rentals

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

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)

The owner has spent a fortune on her. New teak decks, B&G instruments, leisure furl in boom furling, upholstery and head linings, new stove, battery charger and inverter, a 42" flat screen TV and much, much more. A great boat and good value at US\$ 260,000 FIRM. Tel: 084-842 6146 alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M

Brand-new, UV cover, storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 110,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

KETTERING JE29 TRIMARAN (2007)

Carbon fiber, deck-stepped, rotating mast. Genoa & Genaker both on furlers. Yamaha 8 Hp Hi Trust Outboard. Reduced to only US\$64,950 OBO Contact Alan Giles at Boatshed phuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

21M CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE

Charming 21m motor-sail Gulet yacht, ideal for charter, 55 people. US\$150,000 ONO. Tel: 085-666 5504 (English). Email: info@jabudays.com www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/423591747727674

POWER CATAMARAN

Austhai 6200. Cabcat. Full specs. Electric toilet, winch, etc. Galvanized trailer, boat cover. 2 Honda 90s with only 118 hours! Great boat. 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

NEW YACHTSMAN TENDERS

Aluminium hull RIBs and "Air Floor" inflatables. Welded PVC and Hypalon options. Good quality at very competitive prices. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: bo at andamanboatsales.com

3.5 METER R/B

Aluminium bottom hypalon 1 week in water like new THB. 85,000. Tel: 087-145 9428.

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE

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

VESSEL "SANITY"

1989 Princess Riviera 36. Direct sale by owner 2 million baht only. Roger: 089-871 2940. Email: Info@villea.com

10% DISCOUNT

On Hypalon Yachtsman Tenders Light weight Aluminium hull RIB's Good quality at very competitive prices. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

URGENT SALE

Fiberglass 35ft ocean sailboat. Price: 200,000 baht. Call to see now at Khao Khad beach. Tel: 061-230 5902 (English). Email: 3dnav@3dnav.eu

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With high season upon us now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for competitively priced, quality boats. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

BENETEAU EVASION 34

1981 50 HP Perkins Motor Sailer, many extras, best state. 1,290,000 baht. Nihat Gunduz. Tel: 086-274 6272. Email: nihat_gunduz@hotmail.com

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS

SELLING YOUR BOAT?
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non-exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

Boat of the moment
Dean 440 (2002)
Only 159,950 US\$
www.boatshedphuket.com

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boats@boatshedphuket.com

www.boatshedphuket.com
Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE**Schionning Wilderness 1620 (2007)**

Asking \$699,000 AUD

Built light and strong with top speeds of up to 20 knots under sail, *Thor* offers comprehensive electronics and the latest technologies, along with air-conditioning and luxurious accommodations.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact our team at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:

P +66 (0) 76 238 117

M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530

E info@multihullsolutions.asia

www.multihullsolutions.asia



SALE | POWER | NEW | PRE-OWNED

Lagoon 500 (2007)

Asking 485,000 EURO

Educat is the popular Lagoon 500 in the five cabin version, including crew quarters. Her flybridge helm station and foredeck lounging areas are perfect for entertaining.
Lying: Langkawi, Malaysia

Leopard 46 (2009)

Asking 420,000 USD

Double Fantasia is a very comfortable blue-water catamaran, featuring four air-conditioned cabins each with en-suites. Thai registered and ready for charter use or private cruising.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**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. SCHOLARLY: *slychoral* 10. SKIPPABLE: *lappsbike* 12. OGLE: O.G.-le 13. SMILER: *milers* 14. HECTARE: *therace* 15. PRAGMATIC: *magicpart* 17. BUCCANEER: *careencub* 18. DEMONIC: *micenod* 19. SADDLE: *ledsad* 20. NORN: nor-N 23. INNKEEPER: *innerpeek* 25. GASSINESS: *gasis-ness* 26. PICK: the best 27. TRIFLE: toy 29. THROWER: *worth[rev]-E-R* 32. SUPPOSING: *sopigspun* 34. ROUNDNESS: *sonunder* 35. TONSILS: *sonlist* 36. INCITE: *itnice* 37. EMIR: *sodeemiruler* 38. O-V.-pair-O-us 39. PENITENCE: *pen-entice*

Down:

1. ESTOPPED: E-S-topped 2. PHILHARMONIC: Phil-harmonic 3. DRAMATIC: *cartmaid* 4. CYCLIC: C-Y-CL-I-C 5. ASCRIBED: *casebird* 6. FISHSCALES: fish-scales 7. SPECIAL: *plaiaces* 8. DETERRENTS: *Trendsetter* 11. BLAME: *mabel* 16. MANNER: *menran* 19. SIR: is[up]-R 21. OVERWHELMING: *revwhomingleS* 22. MITRED: *mitred* 23. IMPOSITION: *ispotionim* 24. PERMISSION: *ispersonim* 25. e.g.[up]-E 28. FOGGIEST: *giftgoes* 29. TRUSTING: *strungit* 30. RESORTED: *restored* 31. NOMINAL: *lionman* 33. *pain(Y)* 34. RECIPE: R-piece

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

**Built: 1976**

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

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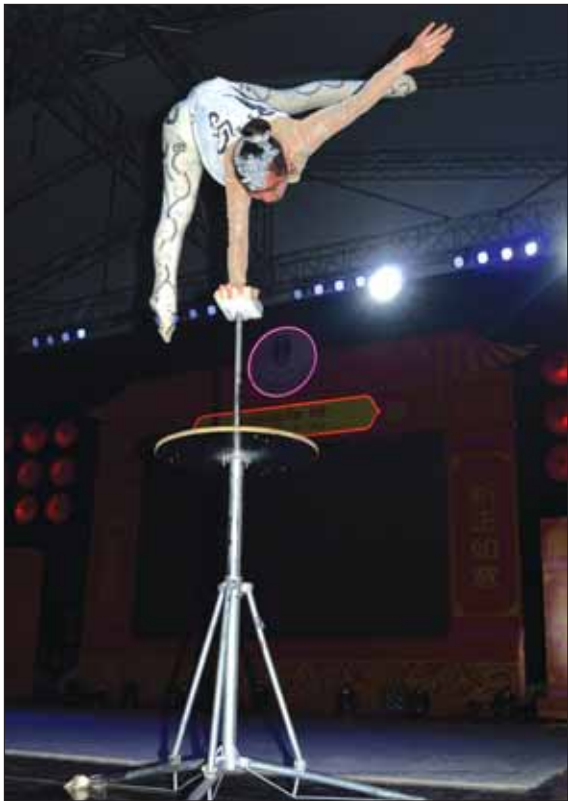
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Happy Chinese New Year

Enter Year of the Goat



More than 50 performers from the legendary Chinese National Acrobatic Troupe performed on February 19.



Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon 'The Pink Panther' Upatising, stands with the host of the celebrations, Thai-Chinese actress Kanya 'Ying' Raiwin.



More than 50 performers from the legendary Chinese National Acrobatic Troupe performed on February 19.



Governor Nisit Jansomwong takes part in Chinese New Year celebrations at Chai Field in Phuket Town.



GOAT YEAR: L to R: Pimporn Tongpua, e-commerce and marketing communications manager for Millennium Resort Patong; Esther Wai, general manager; and Jamal Sidik, executive assistant manager, welcome in the New Year with their management staff.



Chinese Honorary Consul to Phuket Wang Hui Juan speaks at the ceremony. Photos: Mauri Grant



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Words from the wise

"The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."
— Socrates

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."
— George Bernard Shaw

Medium

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

Hard

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

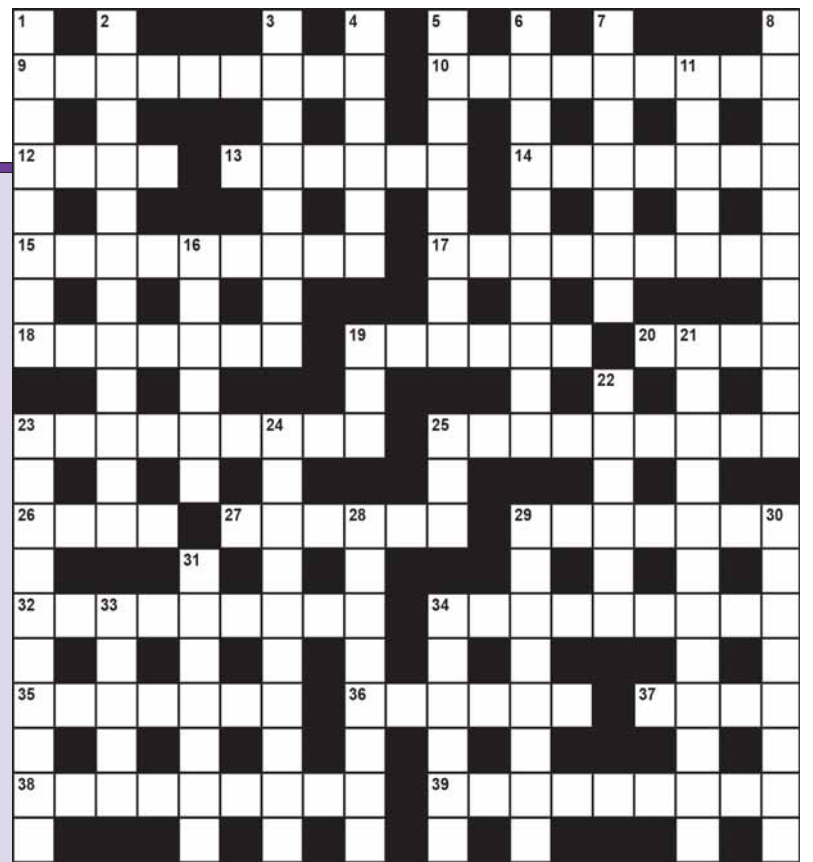
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Sly choral arrangement is academic (9)
10. Lapps bike around, can be overlooked (9)
12. Own goal the French leer at (4)
13. Grinning person disturbs milers (6)
14. The race messed up a measure of ground (7)
15. Magic part could be down-to-earth (9)
17. Corsair to possibly careen cub (9)
18. Diabolical mice nod madly (7)
19. Led sad movement burden with responsibility (6)
20. And not new to sleep in Thailand (4)
23. Arrange inner peek for landlord (9)
25. Gas is working on head producing flatulence (9)
26. Choose the best (4)
27. Toy with a dish (6)
29. Worth a change, note right for pitcher (7)
32. Presuming, so pig spun around (9)
34. Son's under change to roughly circular shape (9)
35. Son, list different mouth organs (7)
36. Stir up, make it nice! (6)
37. So deem I, ruler at heart an Arab prince (4)
38. Nothing against odd pair round us being egg laying (9)
39. Confine, oddly entice to repentance (9)



Down

1. Note Son got to the highest position and was legally barred (8)
2. Little Philip, sweet sounding in a sort of orchestra (12)
3. Theatrical to cart maid off (8)
4. Almost unknown class one caught regularly recurring (6)
5. Case bird possibly considered as belonging (8)
6. Angle extents of cover for cold-blooded aquatic creatures (4,6)
7. The cooked plaice's exceptional! (7)
8. Trendsetter maybe has no time for restraints (10)
11. Hold responsible crazy Mabel (5)
16. Way men ran about (6)
19. Respectful address is upright! (3)
21. Too much for Rev. who

- mingles carefully with no Saint! (12)
22. Like a Bishop, made joints! (6)
23. Is potion I'm mixing a burden? (10)
24. Is person I'm confusing in consent (10)
25. For example, turn up, note expression of surprise (3)
28. Most obscure gift goes out (8)
29. Unsuspecting, strung it out (8)
30. Turned to, is carefully restored (8)
31. Lion man, could be in name only (7)
33. Strange pain about unknown sea village in Phang Nga Bay (5)
34. Right piece rewritten for prescription (6)

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



The quarter moon may get you started thinking more about home, where you might need to sacrifice a plan to meet a family need. Later though, a Neptune link can bring a romantic opportunity along or enhance the sweetness in a current relationship. Even so, avoid overspending as you'd be better to use the money on any overdue bills.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Not only are you filled with inspiration and creative ideas, but you have the get-up-and-go to realize one of them. Yet, don't be too quick off the mark, as it helps to focus on the details and think things through before you make a move. Later, the weekend brings a sociable line-up with a surprise to look forward to.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



An idea that shows up may be ripe for exploration and could be a winner. With your practical flare and know-how you can be

quickly aware of its potential. However, avoid discussing it with your friends or associates until you're well along the path to accomplishment, as they could so easily dampen your enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



It's a week to be receptive to people and ideas, as this might open the door to new possibilities, as

well as the chance to have some fun with family or friends. You'll also have opportunities to liaise with key folk to bring a project to fruition which could greatly benefit others. Even so, focusing on this can mean sacrificing more personal plans.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



The Sun's link with Saturn early on might be a sign to pace yourself, even though you may be keen to follow up a lead or explore a subject of interest. For now it seems you're best to conserve your energy for key plans and work objectives that need attending to urgently. Avoid too many unnecessary activities if possible.

YOUR
horoscope
By Patrick Arundell

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



You'll be drawn by fun ideas and light pursuits, which could include a touch of romance, especially if you're visiting new places or moving in other circles. This week's lively blend of energies encourages you to explore ideas and opportunities that are close to your heart and that can enhance the more creative side of your character.

especially if you're visiting new places or moving in other circles. This week's lively blend of energies encourages you to explore ideas and opportunities that are close to your heart and that can enhance the more creative side of your character.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



A focus on your money zone suggests you'll get a lot from bright ideas picked up via the Internet, reading or chatting with knowledgeable folk. Benefits may come in the form of savings, or even extra cash from selling items no longer in use. This week clearing out your home or office might have a deeply revitalizing effect.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



This week's alignment suggests you handle relationships and creative projects in a light-hearted, carefree and playful manner. Doing so can brighten your love life and enhance your productivity overall. It might also help to make a daily to-do list to clarify your intentions, keep you on track and achieve the kind of positive results you're looking for.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



As the Sun connects with Neptune, you'll likely have two choices, that of ignoring your inspiration or acting on it. Give yourself scope to harness your imagination and improvise where necessary. Plus, whether you're hoping for success in romance or other areas this week, being proactive could bring satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Though family or household responsibilities could hold you back from pleasure that options you'd like to pursue, a willing

attitude will enable you to tackle tedious tasks, leaving you time to enjoy life. Meanwhile, the weekend brings opportunities for a potential romantic encounter that might greatly boost your spirits.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



The continued activity in your home and family sector keeps things lively, with opportuni-

ties to redecorate, entertain or perhaps to buy or sell. While you're in the process of coming up with a plan, though, don't discount your best and brightest ideas, as one of them could be the game-changer you're hoping for.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The week improves as it progresses if you can get out socially and mix with fun and upbeat folk, while avoiding those who might put a damper on your plans. Brainstorming and generally hanging out with others can help you thrash out the details of an idea that may be one of your best yet – and potentially lucrative too.

Experience modern tropical life

Charn Issara launches new luxury developments in Phuket, Phang Nga

PROPERTY Gazette

By Chutharat Plerin

THE family powerhouse behind Charn Issara Development Public Co Ltd is launching new developments at Phuket's breathtaking Cape Panwa and another just over the bridge on Natai Beach in Phang Nga.

The two projects are part of a series of 11 new developments throughout Thailand, announced CEO Songkran Issara, along with his sons Vorasit and Ditawat, on February 7 at Sri Panwa Phuket Hotel in Cape Panwa.

The second phase of Sri Panwa Phuket Hotel – costing 800 million baht – will be complete in November.

“We are targeting both Thai and foreign markets. Our aim is to be the leading contemporary tropical retreat in Asia. About 40 per cent of our customers last year were return guests,” explained Mr Vorasit.

The second phase, with 20 pool-suite units and 30 penthouse units, will be situated facing westward, offering unadulterated views of Cape Panwa as the sun falls behind the hills below Big Buddha every night, explained Mr Vorasit, Sri Panwa's managing director.

“Each unit has its own infinity swimming pool and offers all the comforts of modern luxury living,” said Mr Vorasit.

“The suites are located just steps away from the new Baba restaurant and Cool Spa.”

The going rates for a 70sqm pool suite in the second phase of Sri Panwa will be 21,000 to 28,000 baht per night, and 32,000 to 46,800 baht per night for a penthouse.

“There will not be many difference between the two phases, but we have chosen



Take in beautiful views of Cape Panwa from a pool villa at Sri Panwa Phuket Hotel.

a brighter color palate for the second phase. It has been designed in the same signature Sri Panwa contemporary tropical theme,” said Mr Vorasit.

“The new pool suites and penthouses offer accommodation of the highest quality, maximum privacy and superior service.”

About 20 minutes north of Phuket International Airport – just far enough for a weekend away from Phuket – will be Baba Beach Club, on a 180-meter-long beachfront at Phang Nga's Natai Beach.

“The 3.02-billion-baht development, set

to open next year, has a modern tropical design which is unique, luxurious and comfortable. The private villas will be situated in the jungle of Phang Nga with brilliant views of the Andaman Sea,” Mr Vorasit said.

The Baba Beach Club has 16 beach-club-style hotel rooms; six five-bedroom beachfront villas; 36 two-bedroom pool villas; 28 one-bedroom pool suites; 68 1-bedroom suites; and eight two-bedroom penthouses.

The project will offer facilities including a beach club, community mall, bar and res-

taurant, fitness center, swimming pools, parking, 24-hour reception services, security and house-keeping services.

“Besides the private villas and on-site facilities, we will also offer guests a wide variety of additional activities, such as yacht charters, golfing, shopping, boat trips to nearby islands, safari adventures, canoeing, elephant trekking, horseback riding and hiking,” explained Mr Vorasit.

“Baba Beach Club is designed so that our customers – both buyers and renters – can experience the best of Phang Nga, both jungle and sea.”

SC Asset expects 10% annual revenue growth through 2019

SC ASSET Corporation, the property arm of the Shinawatra clan, is targeting average annual growth of 10 per cent in revenue to 20 billion baht by 2019.

“We also expect our net profit margin will increase from 12-13 per cent last year to 15 per cent by 2019 under a policy to drive sustainable growth,” chief operating officer Nuttaphong Kunakornwong told a press conference on February 17.

The developer plans to invest 13bn baht this year: 5.2bn baht for buying vacant land to develop residential projects from 2016-17; 6.8bn baht for constructing infrastructure at its residential projects; and 1bn baht for building its new office building, Shinawatra 4, on Phahonyothin Road, which will be completed next year and opened in 2017.



Mr Nuttaphong. Photo: The Nation

More than half of its capital expenditure budget will come from internal cash flow and the rest from issuing debentures worth 3bn baht this year.

The company's revenue last year was about 20 per cent higher than its estimate of 12bn baht, while its net profit margin will be more than 12 per cent. It will disclose its 2014 results to the Stock

Exchange of Thailand at the end of this month.



However, the company expects revenue to grow at less than 10 per cent this year.

It has continued to concentrate on the middle-to-upper-income market as it sees strong demand and lower competition there.

“Our customers facing loan rejections amounted to only 5 per cent of our total portfolio. That means our customer target – middle and upper income – is the right way to do business during a time when household debt is rising,” Mr Nuttaphong said.



Demand for luxury residences – both low-rise and condos – will continue expanding by 15-20 per cent and help the overall property market to grow 5-10 per cent this year, as the economy recovers, he added.

– The Nation





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Luxury villa shortage in south

Rawai area prime market for upscale 2-3 bedroom villas... So, get them while you can.

THE south of the island is facing a shortage of new upmarket villa developments. There are two main reasons for this: higher land and material costs, and more buyer demand for mid-range priced two- to three-bedroom villas on smaller plot sizes.

However, a home is up for grabs in one of the first upmarket luxury villa developments in the south, Rawai Villas, which was built many years ago. The development still remains one of the best on the island after the outstanding Baan Bua development, which also continues to grow.

Rawai is very popular among those in Phuket's expat community, and has an abundance of restaurants, shops, boat charters and bakeries. Rawai is also very close to the famous Nai Ham Beach, just voted as one of the top five beaches in Asia by Trip Advisor.

The large and spacious, four-bedroom home in Rawai Villas offers 450 square meters of interior space spread over two storeys, and sits on a full rai of land in Rawai just off the southern end on Rawai's beachfront road. It is in an exclusive, secure estate and could offer sea views with some tree trimming – the

current owner prefers the absolute privacy of this ideal location.

On the upper level, you'll find the main living areas, two bedrooms (including the master) and an office. At the center of the U-shaped design is an impressive 85sqm swimming pool and extensive outdoor entertaining areas, including a covered dining area, sala and bar. At 240sqm, the terraces increase the living area by almost 50 per cent.

The interior is beautifully fitted and furnished, with extensive full-length windows for enjoying the tropical atmosphere. The lounge enjoys views of the swimming pool and the lily pond, which is at the back of the property. The dining area also looks over the pool and has a secondary lounging area. The kitchen is fully outfitted with all of the latest amenities, including an oven and a dishwasher.

The master bedroom is on the upper level and opens out onto a pool terrace. The master bath features a jacuzzi tub with a private rock garden view. The second bedroom on the upper level is currently outfitted as a children's room. Both of the bedrooms downstairs feature balconies and garden access, and all of the bed-



Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted



Rawai Villa was one of the first upmarket villa developments in the south.

rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

Best of all, this villa is in excellent condition and was designed to be lived in and enjoyed, rather than photographed. Just stroll through this extraordinary prop-

erty and you're almost guaranteed to fall in love. The land has a Chanote title deed and is offered as a leasehold through BVI Company.

Price: 39,000,000 THB /

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For more information contact: Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSIL7433: 076-288908 www.siamrealestate.com

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AP budgets record B20bn

AP (THAILAND) has set aside an investment budget of 20 billion baht to develop 24 new residential projects worth 41.98bn baht this year.

A total of 8bn baht will be used to buy land, and the remaining 12bn baht for construction of the projects' infrastructure.

This investment budget will come from internal cash flow, bank loans and a debenture issue worth 3.5bn baht. Most of this debenture will be used to replace an earlier one that will expire this year, worth 3bn baht, with the remaining 500 million baht going toward the investment budget.

Chief Executive Officer Anuphong Assavabhokhin told a group interview earlier this month that the value of new project launches this year would be the highest since the firm was established in 1991.

"We are confident that the market will recover, especially the demand for condominiums," Mr Anuphong said.

This year's pre-sales are targeted at 28.3bn baht, up 24% from 2014, and revenue is put at 24.3bn baht billion, up 10%.

Last year, AP recorded pre-



AP (Thailand) celebrates the Chinese New Year.

sales worth 22.67bn baht, up 49.3% from the 2013 pre-sales value of 15.18bn baht. In the first nine months of 2014, it reported revenue of 17.12bn baht and net profit of 2bn baht.

"We are confident that the economy will do better than it did last year, and normally that would boost the property market. We cannot estimate how much the overall market will grow, but we are confident that our own business will achieve its targets. We have a backlog worth 21bn baht:

6.1bn baht in detached houses and townhouses, and 15.3bn baht in condominiums. Up to 11bn baht of that total will be transferred [to customers] and booked as revenue this year," Mr Anuphong said.

Ten of AP's 24 new projects this year will be condominiums, one of them to be developed by a joint-venture firm it set up with Japanese partner Mitsubishi Estate Group. Nine are townhouse projects and five will be detached-housing projects.

– The Nation

Teeing up new menu

By Maciek Klimowicz

IF YOU'RE looking for a change from all the sea-view dining on the island, head for Banyan Tree in Laguna Phuket and grab a table at the Banyan Cafe. A meal with a lush-green golf-course view will surely provide a break from the norm.

Even if you are one of the many returning customers of the Banyan Cafe, there is a new reason to pay the Laguna golfers' favorite meeting place another visit. About one month ago, the menu underwent major changes, though maybe not as radical as the golf course itself, which was recently re-designed.

"We have many returning customers, Club members and such, and we wanted to offer them something new," explains chef Worapon "Gai" Paenchoo.

Some of the additions to the cafe's menu include a pomelo salad and a Greek salad, while some classics, like the obligatory Caesar salad.

"Whatever we kept from the old menu, we improved the presentation of to achieve a 'wow effect'," says Chef Gai.

It doesn't end with the salads, though. New pizzas, curries and seafood dishes were all overhauled to keep up with the radical change the adjacent golf course underwent.



Banyan Cafe's chef Gai.

The cafe's menu is packed with Thai and Western options. This international feel is now being taken even further: the flavors of Asia and the West are now meeting and mingling on a single plate, giving birth to the delicious *tom yum* pizza. But if there is one common characteristic true for the entire menu, it's lightness. After all, Banyan Cafe is a meet-



The flavors of the East and West meet in the delicious Tom Yum Pizza. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

ing place of sportsmen and sportswomen.

"Most golfers end up here after a game. Many reward themselves with a good meal after a round or two," explains the chef, adding that it's the winners who are the best for his business.

"Winners like to celebrate, treat themselves and their friends to some food and drink. I always keep my fingers crossed

for the players."

Even if golf is not your cup of tea, a visit to the cafe still is a good idea. If not for the food, then for the upscale, yet relaxed atmosphere of the venue. The service is worthy of the nearby luxury resort and the cafe itself is open, airy and spacious, though an air-conditioned indoors dining option is also available.

Dining among the gods at La Versace in Patong

THE journey to Le Versace began with an exciting climb up an impressive hill. It felt like we were ascending to a restaurant for the gods. Our anticipation of what was to come heightened with the trek.

On arrival, we were ushered to the balcony, where we were treated to a spectacular view of Patong Beach – a much more peaceful-looking place from our perch.

The decor as you walk out onto the balcony is both bizarre and fascinating. A mish-mash of unrelated statues and objects surrounds you – for instance, a winged, golden lion sits happily next to a giant Buddha head image and a white grand piano – making this a unique

and quirky experience.

My favorite feature of the balcony was its well-stocked bar – always a welcoming sight as one enters a restaurant.

The wine list was not overly extensive, but this appeared to have been a conscious decision to ensure that every meal had the perfect accompaniment.

The various geographic wine options were well covered with some choice labels, and there was a selection of regional wines as well as an inviting cocktail list.

Once we settled in, Georges Dufresne, the general manager, emerged to take our order. He was at pains to point out how well



Enjoy the view of Patong from above.

trained and helpful the staff is.

Indeed, he himself had an engaging answer for every question we had regarding the food, which lent an element of continental theatricality to the evening.

The French cuisine was exquisite. First came a delightful *amuse-bouche* comprising an adorable shot glass of delicious vegetable soup. This was accompanied by a mini ciabatta and an enchanting truffle paste.

For a starter, I had the ravioli of duck *foie gras* with white butter sauce. It was exceptional, and encompassed the very essence of fine dining.

The main was a lamb dish. This was not your average "meat and two veg", this was a delectable 12-hour slow-cooked lamb rack that literally fell off the bone; paired with gratin potatoes in a truffle oil, with a *petite bijoux* side of spring

vegetables. Perfection.

Finally, for dessert was a *crème caramel*. It was rich and crisp on the outside yet soft and sweet on the inside; a real work of art.

The food presentation, though extravagant at times, was certainly not a compensation for taste.

Very much appreciated was the option to choose each dish as either a starter or a main, which made the restaurant's *nouveau* style that much more enjoyable.

From the vertiginous ascent and stunning views, to the hospitality of the staff – and of course, the exquisite menu – dining at Le Versace truly feels like you're dining among the gods.

– Libby Daniel

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How to stay young forever



PHUKET is one of the globe's most desirable retirement havens, drawing thousands of retirees to its sandy shores. In addition, the demographics of the local Thai populace indicate that Thailand is a rapidly aging society, with 21 per cent of the population already over the age of 55.

While many of us think that the effects of aging are unavoidable, groundbreaking new research has found that the way and rate at which we age is largely mutable by the lifestyle and behavioral choices we make. In fact, if you want to slow down your aging, all you have to do is move more. It's as simple as that.

A newly released study of the effects of exercise on aging shows that active older people physiologically and mentally resemble much younger people. The findings suggest that many of our expectations about the inevitability of physical decline with advancing years may be incorrect, and that how we age is, to a large degree, up to us and the choices that we make.

Aging remains a surprisingly mysterious process. A wealth of past scientific research has shown that many bodily and cellular processes change in undesirable ways as we grow older. But science has not been able to establish definitively whether such changes result primarily from the passage of time – in which case they are inevitable for anyone who keeps on stubbornly celebrating birthdays – or result at least in part from lifestyle, meaning that they are mutable.

This conundrum is particularly



Regular exercise, especially cycling, can help the body stay young for much longer. Photo: Kathu Municipality

true in terms of inactivity. A morning bike ride around most parts of Phuket demonstrates that older people generally tend to be quite sedentary on the island, as they are all around the world. And it turns out that being sedentary certainly affects health, making it difficult to separate the effects of not moving from those of getting older.

In a recent study, scientists at King's College London and the University of Birmingham decided to use a different approach. They removed inactivity as a factor in their study of aging by looking at the health of a select group of older people who choose to move quite a bit.

"We wanted to understand what

happens to the functioning of our bodies as we get older if we take the best-case scenario," said Stephen Harridge, the senior author of the study and director of the Centre of Human and Aerospace Physiological Sciences at King's College London.

To accomplish that goal, the scientists recruited 85 men and 41 women aged between 55 and 79 who bicycled regularly. The volunteers were all serious recreational riders but not competitive athletes. The men had to be able to ride at least 100 kilometers in six and a half hours and the women 60 kilometers in five and a half hours, benchmarks typical of a high degree of fitness in older people, and certainly well below

the levels achieved by many retirees who cycle in Phuket.

The scientists then ran each volunteer through an array of physical and cognitive tests determining each cyclist's endurance capacity, muscular mass and strength, pedaling power, metabolic health, balance, memory function, bone density and reflexes.

The researchers compared the results of cyclists in the study against each other and also against standard benchmarks of supposedly normal aging. If a particular test's results were similar among the cyclists of all ages, then the researchers considered that measure to be more dependent on activity than on age.

As it turned out, the cyclists did not show their age. On almost all measures, their physical functioning remained fairly stable across the decades and was much closer to that of young adults than of people their age. As a group, even the oldest cyclists had younger people's levels of balance, reflexes, metabolic health and memory ability.

Some aspects of aging did, however, prove to be ineluctable. The oldest cyclists had less muscular power and mass than those in their 50s and early 60s and considerably lower overall aerobic capacities. Age does seem to reduce our endurance and strength to some extent, Dr Harridge said, even if we exercise. But even so, both of those measures were higher among the oldest cyclists than would be considered average among people aged 70 or above.

In all, the numbers strongly suggested that aging effects are simply different and less dramatic in those who choose to keep active.

"If you gave this data to a clinician and asked him to predict the age of one of the cyclists based on his or her test results," Dr Harridge said, "it would be impossible." In other words, they all look young on paper.

Dr Harridge, who is himself an avid cyclist, says, "being physically active makes your body function on the inside more like a young person's."

The evidence is clear and unequivocal: If you want to enjoy youthfulness with all its excellent mental and physical attributes for longer, simply get a bike and start pedaling around the highways and byways of Phuket. But always take every precaution to remain safe and sound in our crazy island cycling environment.

Kathu bike club takes off

ABOUT 100 members have joined the Kathu Bike Club, following its launch in November last year, inspiring the group to double-up on the number of rides the club holds each week.

The project was organized to promote healthy living and exercising in the community and is backed by the Kathu Municipality, which allocated funds for 40 bicycles to be bought.

"The rides are open to everyone. If you don't have a bike that's fine, because we can loan you one for the ride," Somjit Khumban from the Kathu Municipality told the *Gazette*.

Cyclists meet at 4:30pm and ride until 6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The ride starts at the Kathu Municipality Office, and travels through Prince of Songkla University (PSU), the area around Bang Wad Dam, Thung Thong Market and ends back at the municipality office.

"We've found that this project



The bike club takes off from Kathu Municipality. Photo: Kathu Municipality

has been very successful. The number of members in the club is gradually but steadily increasing, and, recently, the PSU Phuket Bike Club has also been joining

our rides," Ms Somjit said. "We hope to see the club continue to grow and promote healthy living in Kathu."

– Kongleaphy Keam

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Sustaining our coasts



Thinking Green

By Dr Peter W Harris

"WE LOVE love our coast and we love the water," proclaim the founders of the charity organization Sustainable Coastlines, established in New Zealand. "We want to support, protect and be challenged by the sea."

In the past, Phuket's coastline provided communities with a livelihood from fishing, but this has now moved on to tourism. As a result, today's great challenge is keeping the coastline clean – protecting the marine life from all the rubbish and waste that ends up in the waterways, and eventually in the sea.

The answer lies in creating an awareness of the benefits within local communities, and that's where Phuket's plans to launch a project for sustainable coastlines hopes to make some inroads.

Sustainable Coastlines says it is about having fun: Rolling up your sleeves, improving public awareness and education.

In Phuket, many green clubs have already been set up with the intention to make beaches a great place to enjoy – enabling businesses to thrive and turning them into real models of coastal protection.

A green club at Patong Beach

could be one way of supporting what the government has started.

The coastal sustainability project in Phuket will support the principals of SEEK – Society, Environment, Economy and Knowledge – along the coastline of the Andaman sea, which will lead to the betterment of environment practice and promote sustainable development.

The Marine Water Quality Index and the Beach Quality Index (five-star system) are also both excellent measures of "system conditions" of coastal environ-

ment quality and are directly linked to Coastal Management and to key factors that would affect a tourist's decision on whether to visit Phuket, rather than another island destination.

These indexes deal with such issues as the use of land in terms of planning, zoning and the enforcement of building construction regulations; the density of vendors; litter management; beach encroachment; pollution laws; solid waste management; environmental awareness; environmental education; sedimentation from construction; the rise in sea level; beach erosion; and waste discharge from hotels and businesses – all important policy matters.

Intervention by government and the engagement of local communities will ensure that the coastlines do not deteriorate and

Phuket's sustainable coastline program will also examine the impact on the sea, the coastline, the community, and the wider province. It will focus on simple grassroots action that has a sense of fun, but which is also offers positive long-term changes to local coastlines and community.



Phuket's coastline once provided locals with a livelihood from fishing, but now it has moved on to tourism.

lead to Phuket losing its status as a world-class tourism destination, especially now with the development of Cambodia's coastal areas, and the opening of Myanmar – both of which will provide competition for Phuket in the future.

Phuket's sustainable coastline program will also examine the

impact on the sea, the coastline, the community, and the wider province. It will focus on simple grassroots action that has a sense of fun, but which is also offers positive long-term changes to local coastlines and community.

In addition, the project aims to bring together commercial tourism, local government, the

Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, NGOs, local community groups such as Magic Eyes, the Phuket Green clubs, the Surf Riders Association, Green Fins, Service clubs and the Rotary Club of Patong Beach.

It is certainly worthy of our support.

Chilling by the Chao Phraya

LIKE other major Asian cities, Bangkok is facing the challenge of urban sprawl. People move from rural areas to find work in the city, but choose to live in the suburbs, while residents of the inner city are also moving out in search of a better life. This pattern has led to more abandoned space in the inner-city area, extensive suburban infrastructure development, less agricultural space around the city, higher air pollution and, of course, more traffic jams.

But perhaps the degeneration can be halted if a proposed project sees the light of day.

The Urban Design and Development Centre (UDDC), an agency under Chulalongkorn University's architecture faculty, has spent the last three years researching, planning and designing the Yannawa Riverfront Project. This urban renewal prototype combines the development of recreational land with a flood-prevention scheme along the Chao



A group of students checks out the park plans. Photo: The Nation

Phraya River so as to bring recreational activities, such as biking and walking, to the inner-city area.

The project stretches 1.2 kilometers from Taksin Bridge to Wat Yannawa, Wat Suthiwaram, the Bangkok Fishery Pier Organisation and the Bangkok Dock and takes in more than 100

privately owned-properties.

"Of the whole of the river's 72-kilometer path throughout Bangkok, this area is the most beautiful because the river bend here is magnificent. It is also an important landmark as it serves as the gateway to hospitals, business areas, parks and public transportation systems... This project will benefit the community and the economy," said Vanchai Thanomsak, director of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's City Planning Department.

"The government has long had a plan to build a cycle path along the river, but they haven't started anything. This project, on the other hand, has gone through every aspect of the development process, including public hearings. If this project could be built, then the government would understand that listening to the residents of the area and working together are key to success."

– The Nation

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Fresh air needed for boutique hotels



Island Fever

By Bill Barnett

HERE in Asia, which continues to often live in the shadows of big brother western-hotel design, hotel owners and designers continue to create derivative products. The East is often transfixed on Western products, in the case of luxury concepts, not so much, but certainly in the boutique spaces. When you look outside the “sandbox”, the new buzz-word in the industry these days – especially in Europe and the UK – is “lifestyle” (I hate this word, but I’m still in search of a better descriptor).

Certainly in Europe, there is something for everyone: The CitizenM Hotels brand started by Rattan Chadha and Michael Levie back in 2008, is now headed to Asia under a partnership with Artyzen Hotels. Size does matter,

and these products can push people into new social conforms.

I was sitting in a hotel conference listening to Levie not long ago. He discussed how if you examine a simple household, people don’t typically relegate themselves to their bedrooms – they congregate and interact in the living room and kitchen. And yet hoteliers and developers primarily obsess on

investing in guest room designs and amenities.

Looking at Europe and beyond, there are other great concepts rolling out from brands such as BLOC Hotels, Think, Chic&Basic, Grupo Habita and more.

One of my own favorites is the 25Hours hotels led by their smart 25Hours Hotel Bikini Berlin property.

Chains are rapidly taking more chances with their “lifestyle” approaches: take the Marriott Moxy brand with IKEA furniture, or Philippe Starck’s Mama Shelter, which has attracted

He discussed how if you examine a simple household, people don’t typically relegate themselves to their bedrooms – they congregate and interact in the living room and kitchen. And yet hoteliers and developers primarily obsess on investing in guest room designs and amenities. /



It's time for hotel owners and designers to close their eyes and dream beyond pool villas. Photo: AsiaCamera

the attention of Accor.

Can these brands be institutionalized, or should they be?

There is even more movement in upscale flashpacking accommodation with brands like Generator Hotels creating a whole new vibe for travellers, with a strong entertainment component.

Again, the West is a flurry of innovation, while here in the East the focus remains on either recreating western models, or those luxury pool villas with that bikini-

clad girl staring into space.

So my conundrum is this: as we live in Asia, where the economic reality continues to enjoy its day in the sun, why not tap into the region’s potential and see if we can release a new hotel concept that can take the global center stage? Yes, we have luxury, but what about the bigger picture? Why not harness all this creative talent and innovation instead of shadowing concepts from elsewhere?

Looking throughout Phuket, I

can count on one hand the number of “lifestyle” offerings I’d rate on par with the broader marketplace.

Gladly, there are a few, but given the onslaught of “sameness”, why can’t Asian hotel owners and designers push the envelope and capture just a small part of the excitement that is happening on the European front?

Christmas has come and gone, but my wish list has still not been fulfilled.



Koh Mr. Saxman



Pui Duangpon

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Expats missing home

When closing your eyes and tapping your heels three times isn't enough, there is counselling

WHEN I first arrived in Thailand more than 20 years ago, I was filled with excitement and a sense of adventure. I was eager to learn the language and immerse myself in a new culture. I did just that. I explored every crevice of this amazing country and its dramatic landscapes by train, bus and motorbike. I filled myself with every exotic plate of street food available, learned to communicate on a pretty reasonable level and worked alongside my host community.

But after the honeymoon phase was over, thoughts of my friends and my family back in the UK slowly but increasingly occupied my mind. "Why?" I asked myself. After all, wasn't I the one who wanted to get away from the dark, cold, grey winter nights, dreary soap operas and reality TV, the obligation of visiting family members on the weekends, the loud mob youths and swearing customers in the pub? What was it that I was hankering for? What was causing these pangs of homesickness?

For me, it all began when my first son was born. I started to miss my friends and family back home in Blighty. I craved the support of my family in raising my son and desperately wanted them to be more involved in his upbringing.

I felt that we were missing out on important celebrations: birthdays, Christmas, weddings and the birth of my niece and nephews. So, I figured that I had two choices: stop complaining and go home; or stop complaining, take on the challenge and make it work here. I decided to make it work here.

I invested time in organizing baby groups, I met a new circle of friends – and I am grateful that most of them are still in the country. I set up a small business to keep myself busy (as if raising a child was not enough). I gave myself time to adjust.

Homesickness affects us when

we move to a new location and experience new people, situations and demands to which we are not accustomed. Homesickness comes from our innate need for love, protection and security. We don't always get these feelings and qualities in a new environment, and are left feeling a sense of loss, almost like grief, with real physical and emotional symptoms. It's quite normal and most people bounce back from it over time. Others find this loss quite intense and may need to seek support.

Here are a few tips for battling homesickness:

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Get out and make new friends. Join a social group such as Internations, make friends on Chicky Net, or if you are feeling really homesick go and hang out with your kindred spirits at one of the numerous expat bars or pubs on the island.

Sports clubs such as Thanyapura or Royal Phuket Marina offer numerous classes and social events, which enable you to both get fit and make new friends. Join a local boxing club, the Ao Chalong Yacht Club or create a new club and promote it on Meetup or LinkedIn.

Business associations like AMCHAM or The International Business Association of Phuket are great avenues for connecting with people for both work and social purposes.

Ladies can become involved in the Phuket International Women's Club and I believe there is a Grumpy Old Men's Society to boot. Check out volunteer opportunities. Become more involved in your children's school.

By staying social and meeting new people with similar interests, we can ward off our feelings of loneliness. Sharing your feelings with people who understand or who are going through the same situation can be helpful.



Balance Matters

Rita Dobson

I craved the support of my family in raising my son and desperately wanted them to be more involved in his upbringing. I felt that we were missing out on important celebrations... So, I figured that I had two choices. Stop complaining and go home or stop complaining, take on the challenge and make it work here. /



When the feeling of homesickness comes crushing down from the sky – don't stress. Photo: Daniel Dudek-Corrigan

POSITIVE SELF TALK

It takes a bit of time to get over homesickness. Recognize this and give it time. Push away negative thoughts and replace them with more helpful messages. Instead of saying "Phuket is not right for me. I need to go home," you might try saying "Phuket has some challenges. I need some more time to adjust. These feelings are normal". By embracing new ways of thinking, you are likely to decrease your feelings of homesickness.

STAY BUSY

Take the bull by the horns. Learn a new hobby. Learn to sail, golf or box. Volunteer to work at one of the island's numerous charities. Getting your work completed, completing chores around the house, doing anything that keeps you productive and focused will help you ward off feelings of isolation and loneliness.

REALIZE THAT IT'S NORMAL

All of us have had times when we have felt lonely. Stay on top of it. Try and look forward to all the new opportunities Phuket has for you.

So, the takeaway is, yes, we all miss certain aspects of being

away from home. We miss it because there are some things that we love and are attached to. What we can do is try and reduce the intensity to which we feel homesick. Learning new skills can help

us deal with our emotions and other people. Look forward to what is ahead of you. Focus on breathtaking new experiences. Remember that you only have one life, so make the most of it.

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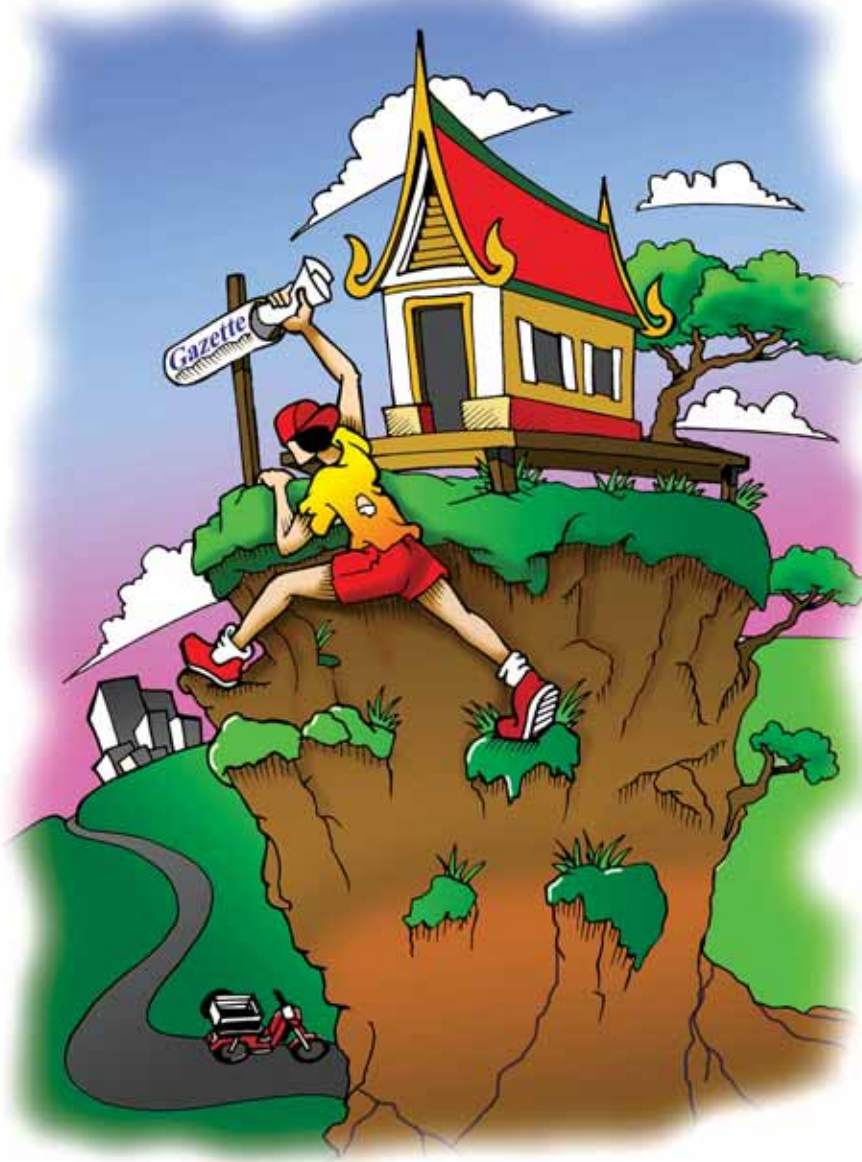
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Dealing with pesky pests



IN THE natural world, things lurch from hero to zero or rescuer to rogue in no time at all. Only last week, I was singing the praises of a crafty coucal, which had rid my tabernaemontanas of a plague of caterpillars. In fact, most birds are superstars, consuming aphids, grasshoppers and scale insects, as well as caterpillars.

But in a similar stripping operation, another bird, an egret, visited my garden for a very different purpose – to spear and gobble up all the fish – maybe a thousand – from my pond and all the adjacent terracotta pots.

True, it spared a few newly spawned guppies and swordtails, but all the mature fish vanished down its ample maw.

So my first preventative tip this week is to suggest that you protect your fish by putting nets over the surface of the water. You can construct a simple wooden frame



If you are unlucky enough to get an infestation of caterpillars, try to pick them off by hand. Photo: Richerman

that covers the pool, or in the case of round containers, use weighted string attached to the net's corners to hold it firmly in place. Fine meshed black or green netting from your local hardware shop will fit the bill admirably.

Of course most garden pests are easier to control. As I now know, to my cost, prevention is always better than a cure, so the first rule is to raise healthy plants.

As with humans, plants are far more resistant to attack when they are healthy, especially from fungi or bacteria. However, if you are unlucky enough to get a severe infestation of caterpillars, try to pick them off by hand. There will probably be tell-tale signs of black fecal pellets below the affected plant, but often the first sign is extensive defoliation.

Remember, most butterfly and

moth larvae are not only voracious feeders, but they attack the undersides of leaves where they are less likely to be seen. Members of the apocynaceae family, including adeniums, oleanders and periwinkles, are particularly at risk.

In the case of slugs and snails, which all hide away during the day, trap them in overturned clay pots containing any kind of fermenting liquid. In the case of tiny

insects such as thrips, spider mites and aphids, a powerful spray with water may help kill or at least dislodge the creatures. It may help to control powdery mildew.

If physical control is too time-consuming, consider fostering and encouraging biological aids. Birds, toads, skinks, lizards, small snakes and frogs all prey on insects. Regard them as allies in your garden.

Among the fraternity of insects, ladybirds (a disappearing species), mantids, lacewings, dragonflies and spiders all feed on pest insects.

At present, attempts are being made to save the nation's coconut palms by introducing a parasitic wasp that feeds on the larvae of the hispine beetle, an insect already responsible for the demise of millions of trees.

Predators can be controlled with a chemical solution, but remember to spray the underside of affected foliage.

Catch Patrick online at PhuketGazette.net Sunday morning next week, when he reveals more of his gardening expertise.



Trap snails in overturned pots with a fermenting liquid. Photo: Danielle dk

Tip of the Week

Pruning principles

IN THE case of small ornamental trees or shrubs, pruning is usually required at some stage. The process will generally help to maintain plant health (removal of diseased or dead branches); to control growth (pruning out wayward branches); to increase flowers or fruit; or to encourage denser growth to create hedges or topiary.


Remember to always cut back to a part of the plant that will continue to grow – in the case of a tree, normally to a main branch. In the case of plants that send up stems from the roots (*cannas*, ginger, *heliconias*), cut right back to the root stock after flowering.

With shrubs or trees that need lighter pruning, make a diagonal cut 1-2 centimeters above an alternate single bud. But if the plant




Be sure to prune your cannas. Photo: Claines Canna

has balanced pairs of shoots or buds on either side of the stem, make a straight cut across and above the two growing points.



PHUKET PROVINCE



HEROINES' MEMORIAL FESTIVAL 2015

MARCH 7-15, THALANG HISTORICAL PARK

Enjoy a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang
on March 13 – 15, starting at 8.30pm each night

March 7
A group ordination of Buddhist monks will take place at Ketho Temple in Kathu, starting at 7.30am.

March 8-11
Each day, there will be a historical tour in Thalang starting at 9am that includes:
1. Thalang National Museum
2. Wat Phra Nang Sang
3. Wat Phra Thong
4. Baan Thao Thep
5. Wat Muang Komaraphat
6. Thalang Victory Memorial, and other places

March 8
At Thalang historical park will be a mini-marathon starting at 6am, and bicycle races starting at 11am.

March 12
A worship gathering to pay respect to the ancestors of Thalang will be held at Wat Muang Komaraphat, starting at 9am.

March 13
There will be a ceremony to honor Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn and praise the bravery of the two sisters at Heroines' Monument at 9.09am.

March 13-15
Each night at Thalang historical park, vendors will sell local foods and One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods from 5pm, traditional performances will be on stage from 7pm until midnight, and a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang beginning at 8:30pm.

Scores join Phuket International Hospital run for health

MORE than 100 athletes turned out for the Phuket International Hospital's annual "Run for Health, Run for Charity Mini Marathon" on February 22, with the winners receiving trophies presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

"This is the third year that Phuket International Hospital has organized this event. It will be a great honor to have HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn taking part by presenting trophies to the male and female winners of both the fun run and

the mini marathon," said Suchart Areemit, director of Phuket International Hospital.

The mini-marathon was divided into two categories: 3.5 kilometer fun run and 12km mini marathon.

The winners in the mini-marathon age categories were: Mens – Under-19s) Cakb Sadler; 20-29) Sarayuth Lapmahk; 30-34) Daenchai Parnkong; 35-39) Diphichan Nopnorp; 40-44) Naethaphan Yotsathien-thanakul; 45-49) Kachaen Daengkanyalawan; 50-54) Pinit Doomluck; 55-59) Praphat Nuanjan; 64-65) Pinyawan

Janyaem; 65+) Alessander Prokopiuk.

Mini-marathon Womens – Under-19s) Benjawan Rithichoti; 20-29) Tiny Kivby; 30-39) Waleeporn Kongchana; 40-49) Prakaiwan Theptasl 50+) Walaya Lohatas.

The winners in the 3.5km fun run were: Boys Under-15) Sukrit Chuayoopakarn; Girls Under-15) Thanaporn Klaewkla; Mens Open) Thawan Buathong; Womens Open) Michale Hossack; Mens 45+) Sombat Songnuannam; Womens 45+) Wandee Jumroenrak.

– Kongleaphy Keam



All athletes received a medal for taking part in the run. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

Peddles to the mettle

Tour de France cyclist Baden Cooke to join Thanyapura Gran Fondo

TOUR de France green jersey winner and former Australian national team "hard man" Baden Cooke will be joining the inaugural Thanyapura Gran Fondo bicycle road race on April 19.

Cooke, who retired in 2013, is a veteran of six Tour de France campaigns and competed in the 2004 Olympics. At the 2003 Tour de France, he won the sprinters points classification green jersey by two points in a tight finish on the final stage in Paris.

The Gran Fondo will see riders in 120km and 40km events individually chip-timed and have the right of way at all intersections.

To mark the milestone of the inaugural race, riders of all ability will have the chance to be mentored by former Olympian and Tour de France star Nick Gates at an innovative training camp ahead of the Gran Fondo.

Gates, an ex-national champion in cycling and triathlon, had an illustrious 14-



Former Australian sprint champion and Tour de France Green Jersey winner Baden Cooke will be riding to win at the inaugural Thanyapura Gran Fondo road race in Phuket in April.

year professional cycling career highlighted by 35 victories, three Tour de France rides and five world championship campaigns.

He is also a former director of renowned Danish outfit Team Saxo Bank, and now heads the Thanyapura Cycling Academy.

"I am very excited to be part of the Thanyapura family and also excited about the buzz that surrounds cycling in Thailand," Gates told the *Gazette* this week.

"Phuket has some of the best roads I have ever ridden over my 15-year career, and I certainly look forward to showcasing this as well as showcasing Thanyapura on April 19."

Thanyapura chief executive officer Philipp Graf von Hardenberg said appointing Mr Gates Director of the Cycling Academy meant it would deliver the highest possible quality for cyclists of all levels.

"To have someone like Baden competing in our first Gran Fondo is extremely exciting," Mr Graf von Hardenberg said.

"It instantly adds prestige to the event and along with the acquisition of Nick, shows how serious we are about our cycling program. This is a very strong foundation on which to build it."

– *Phuket Gazette*

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

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Phuket FC lose focus, lose lead

By Saroj Kueprasertkij

PHUKET FC threw away their chance to climb to the top of the Yamaha League One division with a 1-1 draw against top side BBCU at Surakul Stadium last Sunday night.

BBCU almost had a dream start to the match. In the third minute of play, Nakul Pinthong fired in a free kick from the left corner to the far post to meet a diving header by Wan Ji Si, forcing Phuket FC keeper Piyawat Intaphim to make the first save of the match.

The next clear opportunity came in the 19th minute, when a misplaced pass by BBCU landed at the feet of Phuket striker Pipat Tonkanya, who had only the BBCU goalkeeper, Kittipong Jansuwan, to beat.

Pipat tried rounding the keeper with a right-footed shot, but failed to get the ball past Kittipong.

Phuket FC took the lead in the 25th minute, with nice footwork from midfielder Suriya Pawarana, who intercepted a pass and quickly offloaded the ball to Pipat, who headed it on to Prathan Srinala, waiting in the box.

The scrambling BBCU defense brought down Prathan, and the referee quickly pointed to the penalty spot.



BBCU goalkeeper Kittipong Jansuwan (left) scrambled to keep Phuket FC from scoring. Photo Phuket FC

Phuket's defensive midfielder Yusake Sato stepped up to take the penalty, and neatly slotted the ball into the left corner after sending BBCU keeper Kittipong in the wrong direction.

Goal-scoring chances were few and far between in the second half, as both teams pressed well, stifling any real chances for clear shots on goal.

But BBCU found their equalizer in the 79th minute with a shot by

Teeracha Kampien from well outside the box.

Phuket FC's Songyot "Coach Dang" Klinsrisuk rued the squandered opportunity, but praised his team. "This is an important lesson, and we should learn from it," he said. "We lost focus in the last 10 minutes of the game and it cost us the full three points."

"But I am happy with the way we played. The boys played very well and kept to our game plan."

The draw cost BBCU, as well as Phuket FC, the chance to hold on to the top slot on the Yamaha League One division table.

That glory now belongs to Ang Thong with six points from two matches, while BBCU slips into second place on four points, along with Phuket FC and three other teams.

Phuket FC will continue their 2015 campaign with their away match to Sukhothai on March 1.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE 2015

LP	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Angthong	2	6
2	BBCU	2	4
3	Chiang Mai	2	4
4	Sukhothai	2	4
5	Phuket FC	2	4
6	Puean Tumruat	2	4
7	Pattaya Utd	2	3
8	Songkla Utd	2	3
9	Samut Songkram BTU	2	2
10	Thai Honda	2	2
11	Nakhon Pathom Utd	2	2
12	Phichit	2	2
13	Ayutthaya	2	2
14	Krabi FC	2	1
15	Trat FC	2	1
16	Ya-Soop	2	1
17	Bangkok Utd	2	1
18	Air Force Central	2	1
19	PTT Rayong	2	1
20	Prachuap	2	1

Thalang rue 'Wrath of Khan' in league showdown

LAGUNA opening batsman Ali Khan smashed seven 4s and eight 6s – including three in a row from Thalang bowler Gary Lane – to take Laguna to the top of the Phuket Cricket Group's (PCG) senior league at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang last Sunday.

Khan smashed balls back out of the ground as quickly as they were being retrieved, one spectator noted, as Khan amassed a tally of 109 runs from just 64 balls.

Less than one point separated second-placed Laguna and fourth-placed Thalang as they went into battle at the start of the second round of matches last Sunday.

Laguna, coming off the back of a loss against ICC the previous week with an understrength side, were looking to make amends with a full complement of players against Thalang.



Ali Khan smashed seven 4s and eight 6s on his way to scoring 109 runs from just 64 balls. Photo: Michael Way

Meanwhile, Thalang were looking to avenge their loss to Laguna in the first round, with the winning team guaranteed top of the table.

After winning the toss, Laguna took the unexpected choice of fielding first. Laguna

realized the key to their success was removing the opening pair of Andrew Macmillan and Justin Thomatos, who put on a record partnership of 209 runs against them last season.

Laguna managed to strike in the sixth over, removing Macmillan (10) with a sharp slips catch by Stuart Reading off the bowling of Iqbal Malik with the score on 27.

After a bowling change, just before the 10-over drinks break, Laguna also captured Simon Wetherell (3) who mistimed a square cut to hole out at point. This brought Carl Baxter (34) to the crease, who struggled with timing early in his innings against continued tight bowling.

The threat of Thomatos (34) remained, however, but this was quickly snuffed out when another bowling change was made and Sameer Khan clean bowled him on the very first ball of his spell in the 16th over.

Laguna then took the ascendancy, capturing the remaining Thalang wickets for a total of 168 runs in 38.1 overs.

Laguna took a chance on an unrecognized opening pair of Ali Khan and Nadeem Youseff (27) paid huge dividends.

The steady Youseff worked the ball around, while Khan launched an assault, smashing balls powerfully all over – and outside – the ground in his big-hitting unorthodox style.

Khan's innings was not without risk. He was dropped a few times by a uncharacteristically poor Thalang fielding, but Khan eventually was dismissed in the 29th over with the score on 206-4.

Laguna continued to accumulate runs to take their total for 293-10.

Pick of the bowlers for Thalang were Gary Lane (4 for 65) and Simon Wetherell (2 for 8).

Swedes' bowls cup runneth over

SWEDES continued to dominate the ongoing series of major competitions at the Kamala Lawn Bowl Club last Saturday as Uffe Egerstaad saw off a late challenge from South African Garry Anderson to win the Phuket Open Singles Championships.

Bowlers from seven countries competed in the tourney, and the high caliber of this year's field saw no clear favorite.

This was strongly emphasized as last year's winner Ulf Danielsson became an early casualty and joined other first-round



Uffe Egerstaad and Ulf Danielsson. losers relegated to the Plate competition.

Coming through to reach the final were Egerstaad and surprise late-entry package Anderson.

However, experience and local knowledge proved to be crucial as Egerstaad – also exploiting a possible element of fatigue from Anderson – was far too strong for the South African and ran out a comfortable and worthy winner.

In the Plate competition, Welshman Rich Tuck finally showed a return to form with a comprehensive win against "The Big Canuck" Gregg Layton.

The next major tourney at the Kamala Lawn Bowls Club is the Champions League Singles on March 21. – Robert Knight

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GROUND AND POUND

MUAYTHAI legend Jomhod Kiatadisak, at 44 years old, won his first foray into mixed martial arts (MMA) by defeating Cambodian Vorn "Kun Khmer" Viva at the Full Metal Dojo 4 fight event in Bangkok last Saturday.

Jomhod, a former Lumpinee and Rajadamnern muaythai champion who now trains at Tiger Muay Thai in Phuket, defeated Vorn by unanimous decision after three rounds.

The fight delivered a spectacular display of years of striking skills between two highly decorated fighters, reported Joanna Ash of Asia Sports Network.

"Jomhod Kiatadisak showed off some fancy spinning back kicks and flying front kicks. While he managed to deliver a few takedowns successfully, he was clearly more comfortable standing up, so he promptly took the fight off the ground as quickly as he could," she said.

Trainer George Hickman was impressed with the muaythai legend's first MMA display.

"I thought for sure he was going to win, I was very confident in that – but more than anything, I just wanted him to have a good performance and really do what he did," Hickman said.

"He executed the skills he had learned, such as wrestling and jujitsu, and I believe he got three takedowns. He won all aspects of the fight, and for him to be able to do that was great."

Looking forward, Hickman wants to improve on Jomhod's MMA-specific skills.

"Obviously – as he's a muaythai legend – his standup is fine, and he understands that MMA is a little bit faster than muaythai, but his ground game and wrestling we have to improve on, and that's only going to come with time," Hickman said.

"We only had six weeks with him before his first MMA fight ever and I think he had not done MMA before at all. For him to go out and do the things he did after only six weeks was great, and I look forward to working with him more and helping him to advance his game." – Chris Husted

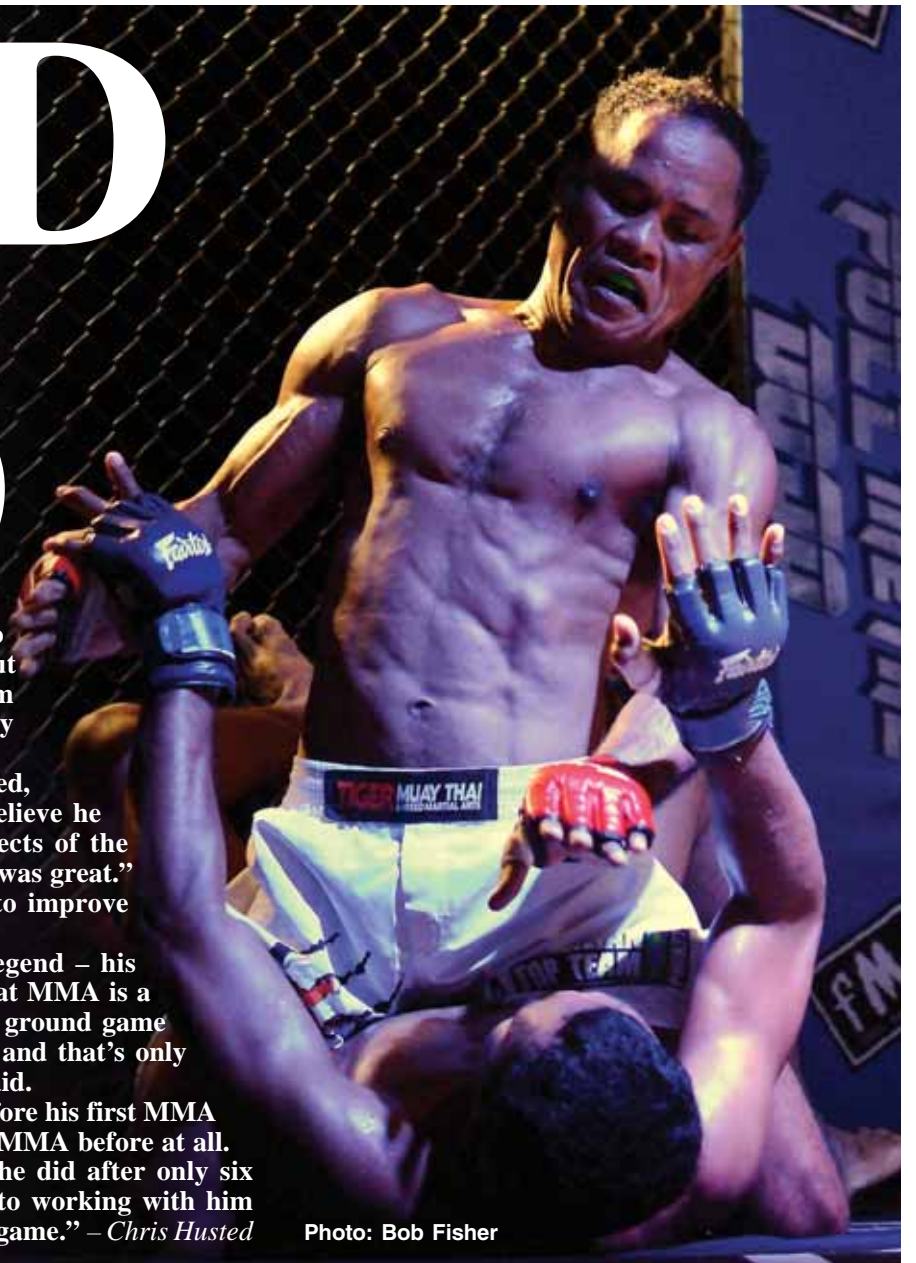


Photo: Bob Fisher

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