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Phuket Gazette



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Streets of fear

'PARENTS TERRIFIED THEIR CHILD IS NEXT'

Big car bomb discovered by Phuket police

A PICKUP truck owned by a man shot dead in the restive Deep South was rigged as a bomb and discovered at Phuket City Police Station last Saturday.

The bomb was set to explode on August 1 – the same day that an explosion detonated in the car park at Provincial Hall. However, it never went off.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit successfully disarmed the 180kg device.

Full story on Page 3

Seawater test raw data to be kept secret

THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) has released its ratings of water quality for Phuket.

However, the Director refused to release the raw data used to compile the final evaluation, which rated the water only in general terms.

Full story on Page 4

Cops ready to take tuk-tuk parking spots

THE deadline for tuk-tuk's and taxis to vacate prime parking in Patong looms, and the police say they are ready to clear the streets.

Full story on Page 5

Relatives find skull fragments, clothes believed to be those of missing 7-year-old

By **Saran Mitrat**

THE disappearance of 7-year-old Natthapa "Nong Dear" Papkaew has sent a shiver through the community living in Soi Koktanode, Chalong. "This has affected all the residents in the neighborhood. The parents of young children are frightened. They fear their children may be next,"

village chief Koksai Saeueng said. "Nong Dear is the first child to disappear from our community," he added.

At least 10 local residents have volunteered to assist police with patrols in the area and local residents have formed a "neighborhood watch".

"They will keep an eye out for any strangers who come down our streets and will notify me directly if they see any strangers in the neighborhood acting suspiciously," Mr Koksai assured.

"There is no official curfew, but parents have agreed that children will no longer be out alone after dark. Even during daylight hours, they are to be accompanied by an adult," he said.

Nong Dear was last seen on December 6, on her way home from playing with friends on the small residential street. After she failed to return home by 7pm, her mother, Jaron Papkaew, went in search of her. Failing to find her daugh-

ter, Ms Jaron filed a missing person report with Chalong Police that night.

As police efforts continued to yield no leads, residents joined the search and scoured the jungle nearby. On December 19 and 20 they made the grisly discoveries of a child's skull and several dismembered body parts near Soi Palai, only a few hundred meters north of the Papkaew family home.

Among the bones, which experts say were likely disturbed by an animal, were a pair of children's shorts and children's footwear. Ms Jaron initially identified the shorts as those of her missing daughter, but later said she was no longer sure. The footwear, she said last Thursday, looked like it belonged to Nong Dear.

Police are struggling for clues as to where Nong Dear may be or who might have...

Continued on Page 3

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This Week



Property
Boat Avenue, new Villa Market opens in Cherng Talay. **Page 13**



Business
Rawai shop selling and renting out electric bikes, scooters. **Page 17**



Arts
Artist Richard Skene displaying his work in Phuket. **Page 36**



History
More on Thalang's buried, golden Buddha legend. **Page 39**



Community
Phuket hotels meet to endorse water safety initiative. **Page 42**



Sport
Kiteboarders from all over the globe race in Chalong bay. **Page 49**

Saturday



33 - 23

Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Four injured in Patong Graceland Resort fire

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

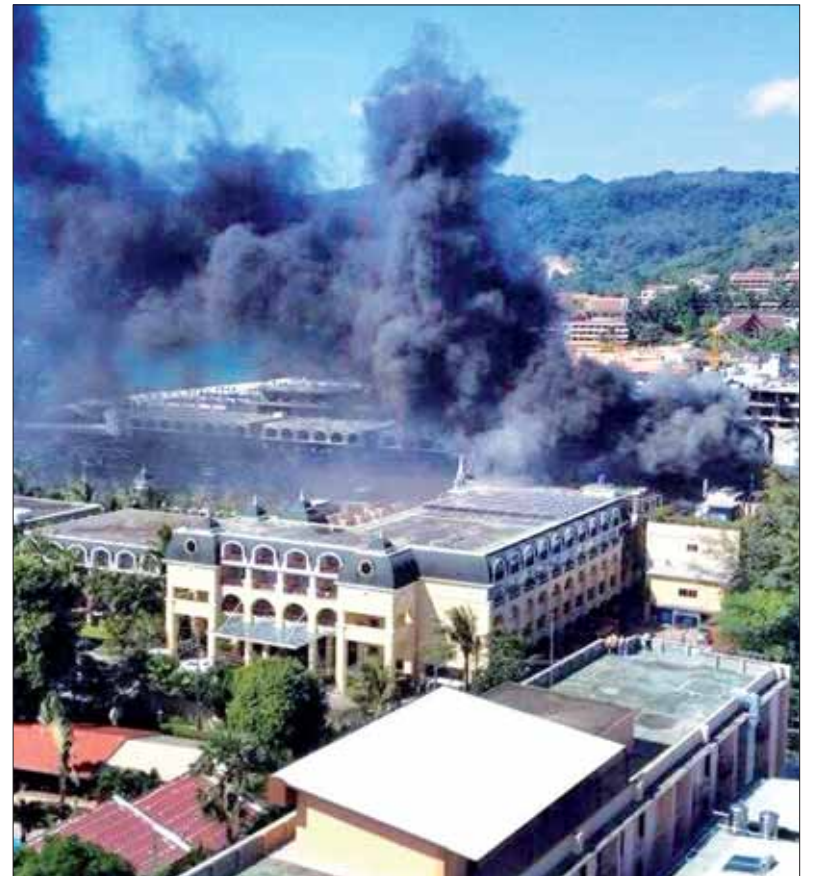
THREE staffers and a carpenter were injured in a fire that broke out on December 19 in the laundry facilities at the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong.

"When I realized there was a fire, I order hotel staffers to notify guests to evacuate the hotel. We were at about 70 to 80 per cent occupancy, but got all our guests out safely," Managing Director of Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa Suchart Hirankanokkul told the *Gazette*.

All four of the people injured in the fire were taken to Patong Hospital for treatment. Chokchai Aiwsakul, 34, and Jakkrapong Jaysa, 31, were both treated for burns on their arms; Sunas Phanphet, 32, was treated for smoke inhalation, said Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

Col Chiraphat was unable to provide the name of the carpenter who was treated for serious burns across his body.

"At this stage, we believe that the fire started from oil leaking from the laundry machine. However, we are waiting for Forensic Police to confirm the cause of the



Smoke billows from the laundry facilities of the popular Patong resort.

fire for our report," Col Chiraphat said.

"It took 10 fire trucks and their teams to put out the fire," he said. "They had the blaze under con-

trol in about 20 minutes," he explained.

Mr Suchart, at this point, was unable to estimate the cost of the damage.

Helmetless teen killed by water truck near new Rawai Makro

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl was killed by a water truck at the yet-to-open Makro store in Rawai on December 17.

The 48-year-old driver, Utai Suwannachoti, fled the scene, but surrendered to police the next morning.

"When we arrived at the scene, we found a water truck stopped in the middle of the road with a lot of onlookers surrounding it," Capt Wuttiwat Liang-boonjinda of the Chalong Police said.

Student Janejira Pasompet, 15, was lying in a pool of blood with a fractured skull. Police did not find a helmet at the scene.



Rescue workers cover the body of Janejira Pasompet, 15.

"The Honda Click motorbike she was driving was stuck beneath the truck," said Capt Wuttiwat.

Witnesses told police that the truck took a sharp, sudden u-turn after dropping water off at the

Makro construction site, located opposite Muang Phuket School.

Mr Utai was charged with reckless driving causing death, Capt Wuttiwat said.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Police find Deep South car bomb

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE pickup truck rigged with a bomb that was found parked at Phuket City Police Station last weekend belonged to a man who was shot dead in Pattani on May 9, police have confirmed.

The truck, found last Saturday, was loaded with 180kg of explosive material.

"The registered owner was Withan Yachumnan, 34, from Songkhla," Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong said on Monday.

"He was shot dead in Pattani on May 9, when his pickup truck was stolen," he said.

The pickup truck was fitted with license plates stolen from a vehicle registered in Nonthaburi, so officers had to confirm the owner by cross-matching the engine number, Col Sermphan explained.

"While checking his name with police records, we learned that Pattani Provincial Police had a report that Mr Withan was shot dead during what seemed to be a car heist," he said.

Mr Withan was living in Pattani

at the time, Col Sermphan added.

While dismantling the bomb in a remote quarry on Monday morning, experts from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit found that it was set to explode at 2:02pm on August 1 – the same day that an explosion detonated in the parking lot at Phuket Provincial Hall.

"We spent one hour removing the two gas cylinders from the truck and placed them in a crater as a protective measure while inspecting them," Col Sermphan explained.

"The total weight of the tanks was 180kg, even though they were labelled as having a capacity of only 16kg each," he said.

Officers also found a Casio F-200 watch connected to the tanks.

"EOD officers from Pattani will return to their base in the South with the dismantled bomb to examine it more closely," Col Sermphan noted.

"At this stage I have yet to be informed of what explosive material was used. Nonetheless, it looks like it was a time bomb," he said. "The person who made it could well be a professional."

Col Sermphan explained that



The car bomb found at Phuket City Police Station was moved to an isolated quarry for EOD to safely examine.

his officers first noticed the pickup parked in front of the police station in October.

"We thought it belonged to a resident in the area," he explained.

"We are now checking footage from a variety of CCTV to iden-

tify who parked it there," he said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiwruangnont, the top-ranking policeman on the island, ordered officers to be more vigilant in checking seemingly abandoned vehicles.

"Officers have been ordered to check any vehicle that has been parked in the same place for a long time," he said.

"This is for the safety of tourists and local residents," Maj Gen Ong-art said.



MISSING: Nong Dear, 7.

Fear settles over locals

From page 1

...taken her. They, too, are unsure whether the remains belong to Nong Dear.

Lt Col Kittisak Npuang, who heads the Phuket Forensic Police office, said the condition of the remains and where the body was found have made the case particularly challenging.

"At this stage we are not even sure of the cause of death. We will try to determine that and search for signs of sexual assault," he said on Monday.

Specimen samples of the skull and the few bones found have been sent to experts in Bangkok for DNA tests to confirm whether or not they are Nong Dear's.

Meanwhile, Ms Jaroon continues to pray that Nong Dear is still alive.

"I still see her every time I close my eyes. I can't sleep without checking the neighborhood one more time," she said, pausing to gasp for breath as tears ran down her face.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin

'Evil man of Krabi' given 20-year term

A TOUR guide was sentenced to 20 years in jail earlier this month for the rape and assault of a Dutch tourist in Krabi last year.

However, Chumpol Khanonuag, 27, can appeal the case in the Appeals Court, said Krabi Provincial Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan.

"Chumpol's bail has been set at 700,000 baht," he added.

It was bail that earned Mr Chumpol the moniker "Evil Man of Krabi" after the father of the 19-year-old victim, furious that Mr Chumpol had been released on bail, made a music video mocking the justice system in Krabi and uploaded it to YouTube.

Mr Chumpol told police that he had consensual sex with the victim, who had deep bruising to the



Chumpol Khanonuag

right side of her face and a split lip when she registered her complaint with the police.

When contacted for a statement, an officer at the Krabi Provincial Court responded that the court "could not reveal the sentence or give a copy to people who are not involved in the case."

"This high season and upcoming new year, we expect to receive a lot of visitors in Krabi," the officer continued. "Police have launched a new safety campaign to ensure tourists have a safe and enjoyable time here (see page 8)."

Gen Nantadech added his own cautionary word to visitors, "Take care when drinking alcohol, as situations can become more dangerous due to the effects of it."

– Wichai Mangkala

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Pollution readings to remain secret

By Irfan Jamdukor

THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) will not post the pollution readings of its seawater quality tests online, the *Gazette* has confirmed.

Instead, the center will publish only its self-determined star rating system, PMBC Director Ukkrit Satapoomin said.

The PMBC issued a press release last week announcing that the reports were now available online in English. However, the star ratings only reveal whether the PMBC considers the water at Phuket's famous beaches as very good, good, fair, poor or very poor.

In its most recent report, labelled "Marine water quality along the coastline of Phuket in 2013", the PMBC declared that the seawater at Patong Beach was in "good condition".

However, Dr Ukkrit explained that the improvement in the water quality was due to "seasonal variations".

"The improvement in the wa-

ter quality is due to the fact there is less rain, which means fewer pollutants are being washed into the bay," he said.

The water in the northern and central areas of Patong Bay were declared to be in "fair" condition.

However, Dr Ukkrit declined to explain why the water quality was different in these areas.

The public posting of the PMBC's water-quality ratings follows an order by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut in August this year.

– PMBC Director Ukkrit Satapoomin

'The improvement in the water quality is due to the fact there is less rain...'

That order came on the heels of ambassadors from 17 European nations travelling to Phuket to raise awareness of beach safety issues.

Dr Ukkrit clarified that the water quality tests conducted by the PMBC were independent of the now defunct "beach star ratings" developed by the Pollution Control Department.

"We have been collecting seawater samples from along the Andaman coast and testing it for quality for many years now," he said.

Dr Ukkrit did not elaborate why



PMBC Director Ukkrit says water quality in the sea around Phuket has improved with the change of seasons.

the work he was doing was not brought to Governor Maitri's attention or that of Phuket-based Regional Environmental Office 15 Chief Pornsri Suthanaruk, who were both present to observe the

"launch" of the water-quality tests at Patong Beach on August 23. The tests are to be carried once every two months.

Dr Ukkrit did explain that the most recent ratings posted online

were from October, as some of the equipment required to test sea water quality had recently broken.

"It's fixed now and we should have the latest ratings online soon," he said.

Moonlighting electrician sleeps, kills taxi driver

A MOONLIGHTING electrician fell asleep at the wheel on his way home from work on December 19, striking and dragging a motorbike taxi driver to his death on Thepkrasattri – Nai Yang Road.

Police called to the scene at 6:30am found a pickup truck with a badly damaged hood in a ditch alongside the road. The taxi driver vest and broken motorbike of Narong Janeprai, 60, were in front of the truck. In the ditch behind the truck was Mr Narong's body.

"There were signs on the road that he had been dragged for about 100 meters," said Capt Santi Prakobkarn of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

"We found his helmet – broken – but we don't know if he was wearing it or not," he added.

The pickup driver, Nikom Poomchai, 21, told police that his day job was transferring tourist luggage from Phuket International Airport to hotels. At night, he worked as an electrician.

"I was going from Baan Lipon to my house in Nai Yang after my second job," Mr Nikom told police. "I fell asleep while I was



Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers took Mr Narong's body to Thalung Hospital.

driving and crossed into the other lane and hit the motorbike."

Mr Nikom, who was not injured in the accident, was charged with reckless driving causing death.

Mr Narong's body was taken by Kusoldharm Rescue workers to Thalung Hospital.

– Thawit Bilabdullar



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New Year's presents for all

Patong Police ready to turn over prime tuk-tuk, taxi parking to visitors in 2014

By Saran Mitrarat

PATONG Police are looking forward to giving the people of Phuket a gift for the New Year – public parking spaces along the Patong beach road that are free of taxi and tuk-tuk thugs.

Lt Col Akanit Danpitaksat, Deputy Superintendent of the Patong Police, said his team was ready to enforce the new regulation to reduce the number of taxis occupying parking places throughout Patong and elsewhere across Phuket.

The regulation was signed into effect by a Phuket Provincial Government proclamation issued on November 18.

“Efforts will initially focus on the beach road, but we will later target the taxi ranks along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road and Phang Mueang Sai Kor Road,” Col Akanit said.

“Taxis and tuk-tuks will be limited to five vehicles – not 16 as they have now – at each of the seven taxi ranks from Prachanukroh Road to Soi Bangla,” he explained.



Patong officers are prepared to clear tuk-tuks and taxis to make room for other locals, expats and tourists.

“With the new limit, we are looking to reclaim about 87 per cent of the 932 meters along that stretch of road,” Col Akanit said.

Anyone who encounters unruly or threatening behavior by taxi or tuk-tuk drivers is urged to call the

Patong Police immediately.

“Call 191 at anytime if you have been deceived, threatened, attacked, overcharged, dumped somewhere that is not your agreed destination, blocked from entering another taxi or tuk-tuk or

forced to use a particular taxi or tuk-tuk,” Col Akanit said.

“If your case is not an emergency but you want to file a complaint, call us at 076-342719-20,” he added.

However, he warned, “Do not

file a false complaint. We take this seriously, and you may well be charged with intentionally reporting false information.”

Col Akanit urged all revelers heading to Patong to celebrate the new year to exercise caution while having a good time.

“We will have officers from all across the island assisting us on New Year’s Eve, as we are expecting about 100,000 extra people in town for the celebrations,” he said.

“Do not drink and drive, and please be careful where you go and who you are with. Stay in public places with friends and beware thieves wanting to steal your handbags or other belongings,” Col Akanit advised.

“If you do take a friend back to your hotel room, make sure they leave a copy of their ID card at the front desk. It makes it much easier to find them if anything is stolen from your room while you’re asleep,” he added.

“We wish one and all a Happy New Year in Patong” Col Akanit beamed.

Island prepares to usher in New Year with color



A large firework display will light the night sky. Photo: Joey Gannon

“COLORFUL Countdown Phuket 2014” is set to usher in the new year with light shows and live concerts at Sanam Chai Park from December 29 to 31.

This year’s theme for the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) event is “The Charm Wonderland of Light”, explained PPAO President Paiboon Upatising, also known as “the pink panther” for his tendency to use the color pink in public projects.

“We will turn Sanam Chai Park into a magical landscape of colorful lights and lanterns,” Mr Paiboon said.

The event grounds will be arranged into three zones. Each zone will be a different entertainment venue.

Zone 1: 25-meter light tunnel

Zone 2: Information area that will provide greeting cards, event schedules and the opportunity for visitors to have their picture taken with a horse, the Chinese astrological animal of 2014

Zone 3: ASEAN and underwater creatures themed area

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December 29: Thai rock bands Rang orchestra, Jeab Pisut, Pong Hin Lek Fai and Pae Hi Rock

December 30: Thai country singers Alice R-Siam, Kluay R-Siam and Yim R-Siam

December 31: Thai pop-musicians Funky Burger, Play Ground, Peck Palitchoke and Rose Sirintip; count down to the New Year

– Saran Mitrarat

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New Year  new feasts.



Slowing traffic on deadly road

Speed limit part of push to see zero fatalities during New Year festivities

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AS THIS issue went to print, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut had vowed to deliver to motorists a special Christmas gift – the announcement by December 25 of the speed limit on the notorious bypass road, officially known as Chalermprakiat Ror IX Road.

The move will be the first of many measures taken in the hope of achieving zero fatalities over the New Year holidays.

“The usual ‘Seven Days of Danger’ road-safety campaign will be over 10 days this new year,” Governor Maitri told a meeting at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket (DDPM-Phuket) headquarters in Phuket Town last week.

“This is because many Thais will be on holiday and Phuket will be in its peak high season, with

many tourists on the island,” he explained.

Road accidents usually increase over the New Year holidays, sometimes by as much as three times, Governor Maitri pointed out.

“During the Seven Days of Danger campaign last new year, there were 27 accidents, in which nine people died and 24 people were injured,” he said.

“This year, I would like to see ‘zero’ listed as the number of fatalities, and if possible I’d like to see ‘zero’ as the number of accidents.”

The governor called on police to step up efforts to keep motorists and tourists in Phuket safe.

“Officers must be strict on catching drunk drivers, people riding motorbikes without helmets, driving against the traffic-flow [ghost riding] and committing other traffic viola-



By January 1, the bypass road will have both speed limits and speed cameras. Photo: Ifarn Jamdukor

tions,” he explained.

“In total, there will be 24 checkpoints across the island,”

Governor Maitri noted.

“Speed limits will also be strictly enforced with the use of speed

cameras installed on the bypass road, in Thalang and at Tah Chat Chai,” he added.

Freed in merit ceremony, cows go north



The cows receive a send off for their new life on farms in Prachuap Khiri Khan.

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut led a ceremony at Saphan Hin last Sunday to free 22 cows and over a million marine animals in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s 86th birthday on December 5.

“Making merit by releasing life is a wonderful activity, as it feels so good to give something so special,” Gov Maitri said. “It makes you cheerful and healthy because your mind is delighted by doing something good.”

This was the second animal-release ceremony the governor hosted this month to honor HM The King’s birthday.

And this is the sixth annual Phuket “freeing of the cows”. The animals are destined for Thap Sakae, a sub-district of Prachuap Khiri Khan.

“We will give the cows to farmers who can’t make enough money to provide for their families,” Thap Sakae Sub-district Administration Organization President (OrBorTor) Samniang Pukkingmuang announced.

“Many farmers are struggling in the current economy because of uncertainties concerning the prices of their products,” Ms Samniang said.

“Most of them do not have their own cows to help them in their fields,” she added.

Ms Samniang thanked everyone involved, including the Phuket Patinitsakko (dharma) center, for contributing the cattle to poor farmers in her sub-district.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Runaway truck rolls 70m, bumps house, no fatalities

AN EMPTY holiday home narrowly avoided heavy damage when a truck loaded with pallets of cement bags plunged down Kata Hill on December 20.

The six-wheeled truck rolled down the steep slope, spilling its load of cement bags as it tumbled. It came to rest after bumping into the front of the vacant house.

“We arrived at about 1:45pm to discover that the truck had burst through a steel guardrail and was resting on its side about 70 meters downhill,” said Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Chalong Police.

The truck, registered to Supamas Khehaphan Limited Partnership, was en route from Rawai to a construction site in Karon when the accident occurred.

“The driver said he missed

changing gears while climbing the hill, which led to the truck rolling backward and off the road,” Lt Kraisorn explained.

Police declined to name the driver.

“He sustained minor injuries and


was taken to Provincial Hospital in Phuket Town,” Lt Kraisorn said.

“The driver was charged with reckless driving. We have yet to assess the cost of the damage to the house,” he added.


– Kritsada Mueanhawong




The truck driver said he lost control after failing to change gears.



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Facebook group to keep visa runs safe

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A NEW Phuket Facebook group was born on November 19 with the goal of protecting the lives of resident expats during visa runs.

The group "Phuket Visa Run Ride Share Network" was started by long-term expat Joe Blazy to unite residents who travel to the popular visa destinations of Ranong and Penang, Malaysia.

"Some friends and I had been discussing creating some kind of space on the net where resident expats could network in order to carpool during visa runs," Mr Blazy told the Phuket Gazette.

Members of the group, who are not allowed to charge fees, are encouraged to settle on a date of travel and then split the price of fuel and cost of renting a vehicle.

"For years we have been reading reports of visa run accidents resulting in injury or death. This is coupled with the unanimous reports from expats that drivers drive insanely fast and take huge risks on the roads, such as following too closely, overtaking on a blind curve and so on," Mr Blazy said when explaining why such an online community was necessary.

The general reaction to the group has been positive so far, Mr Blazy said.

"Most people wonder why there hasn't been something like this sooner. The legality of foreigners driving foreigners has been brought up, but I do not see



Though many visa run companies have outstanding safety records, frequent border bouncers are fearful of what they see as 'standard' dangerous driving practices among some behind the wheel. Photo: Gazette file

that as a realistic concern. No one is making money on this," he explained.

The creation of the group came 10 days after a visa van from Phuket crashed in Malaysia.

However, it was the death of Filipina singer Renita Dequina Polido on October 21 that sent the biggest shock waves through the Phuket visa-running community.

The Facebook group will exist only as long as necessary, Mr Blazy said.

"If I hear that visa run companies have all taken measures to

improve safety and people stop complaining about dangerous drivers, I will take down the group," Mr Blazy said.

"At the moment it appears there is no concern for safety, a problem not limited to visa run buses. Personally I think the drivers compete with each other to see who can do the route the quickest."

Some visa-run companies have expressed a concern for safety. One explained to the Gazette earlier this year that it had several safety precautions in place to ensure the well-being of customers.

The owner escorts drivers on their first visa runs to make sure their driving practices meet company standards, two drivers are provided for the long drive to Penang, and GPS is used to track how fast vans are going. If a driver is going too fast, he receives a call telling him to slow down.

"GPS systems to monitor speed is a great start, but GPS doesn't tell the whole story. It doesn't account for rain or any other dangerous driving habits other than speed," Mr Blazy said.

Community feedback

WELL done for forming this group.

Please feel free to join and post on Phuket Professionals.

I am quite sure that I went with the driver that crashed in Malaysia a few weeks ago on my last visa run and man, I prayed all the way back. He was on another planet and driving in those storms at near 140kph and telling everyone to keep quiet.

Thankfully my prayers were answered and he got done in Malaysia by the police there.

- Kevin Meehan Facebook

A GOOD idea but what makes you believe that there will be less accidents?

Here for 10 years, visa runs for six, always use the services of Eve travel and tour, kind drivers, polite ...

- Runing Ronin Facebook

WELL done. Hopefully visa-run companies will now start to offer "slow run" services.

- Pekka Oilinki Facebook

WELL done. We have been talking about getting a page like this up for a while now. Hopefully this will put some bad businesses out of business.

- Jay Chance Facebook

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QUEER news

Inmates call with a hero inside them

A MOBILE phone is a precious – though highly prohibited – piece of contraband in Thai prisons, and convicts resort to all sorts of desperate measures to smuggle them in.

It seems, however, that smuggling phones inside food, throwing them over the walls or even stashing them inside the rectum are now all pass.

Prison officers at the Lampang Drugs Correctional Institution, one of the largest facilities of its kind in Thailand's North, have caught more than 10 prisoners attempting to smuggle in mobile phones through a new method: swallowing them.

Apparently, prisoners tend to favor the Samsung Hero model phone because it is small and very durable.

The convicts swallow them, then allow the them to pass all the way through their digestive systems before defecating them out.

But the method isn't foolproof – and is highly dangerous. The human body attempting to digest a mobile phone can produce serious angina, and can even result in death, according to officers at the facility.

If an inmate is suspected of digesting a phone, there is only one way for officers to proceed: the detainees must be taken to hospital and the phones surgically removed by doctors.

As officers believe that visiting relatives are handing the phones to inmates, they recently increased security in visiting rooms to make sure cellphones are not passed from relatives to "hungry" prisoners. – *Sanook*

Security boosted in Ao Nang just in time for high season

By Irfan Jamdukor

POLICE in the tourist area of Ao Nang, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket, have beefed up patrols and launched a tourist-friendly campaign to heighten security ahead of the huge influx of visitors expected during the tourism high season.

The move to boost safety comes as the public prosecutor prepares to bring to trial three musicians for the stabbing murder of American tourist Bobby Ray Carter Jr and the assault of his 27-year-old son at the Little Longhorn Saloon bar in July.

Police have ramped up their efforts to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

"Following what happened, we ordered entertainment venue owners and other business operators along the beach to call the police if their staff are in altercations with tourists," Krabi Town Police Superintendent Thaksin Pochakorn explained.

"There is no excuse for bar staff attacking tourists," he said.

Officers have also boosted the number of patrols in the area, set up checkpoints to search for weapons and drugs, and assigned plainclothes police to mingle with patrons at venues to keep an eye on any developments, he added.



Police are at the ready to ensure the safety of tourists in Ao Nang.

"We also have our own tuk-tuk roaming the streets. This helps us keep in contact with tourists,

assist them with advice and explain to them what to be wary of in the area," Col Thaksin ex-

plained.

"This makes tourists feel close to police officers and feel safe while on holiday here," he said.

"We urge tourists to be aware of potentially dangerous behaviors when they get drunk. Swearing and being rude could anger some people and result in a physical attack," Col Thaksin warned.

The deadly brawl which was the catalyst for the security boost left Bobby Ray Carter Jr with fatal stab wounds and his son, Adam, 27, with serious head injuries and a stab wound to the arm. Both were rushed to Krabi Hospital, where Bobby Carter was pronounced dead soon after arrival.

The three band members – Ratikorn Romin, 27, from Phang Nga; Nopanan Yoddecha, 26, from Krabi; and Sathid Somsa, 40, from Bangkok – did not flee the scene and were immediately arrested.

Hours later at Krabi Town Police Station, all three accepted charges related to brawling, but denied any intent to kill.

An officer at the Krabi Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed to the *Phuket Gazette* last Friday that the trial date had yet to be set.

Col Thaksin told the *Gazette* that police handed the case over to the public prosecutor on October 13.

Bad egg arrested for drug smuggling at Phuket Prison

A WOMAN delivering an omelet to an inmate at Phuket Prison was arrested last Friday when guards discovered that the food concealed anti-anxiety pills.

When Thitiporn Janerop, 20, was in the prison visiting room, officers conducted a routine search of the food that she had brought. Inside the omelet they found 40 pills of Alprazolam – popularly known as Xanax – stuffed into 10 plastic straws.

They called Phuket City Police, who took her into custody and charged her with possession of a Category 2 drug and trying to

smuggle drugs into a prison.

Ms Thitiporn denied the charges, said Lt Watchasak Julordung.

"She told us that she went to visit her boyfriend in the prison, but was not taking the omelet to him," Lt Watchasak said.

She was taking it to another man, the incarcerated boyfriend of a friend.

"Ms Thitiporn said that the friend asked her to deliver the omelet.

"She said she did not know what was in it," Lt Watchasak said.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Drugs were hidden inside the omelet.

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Police raids uncover drug dens in 'Soi Ya Bah'

POLICE arrested two men on December 20 after separate raids on the same small street in Samkong, Phuket Town, resulted in the seizure of 1,818 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and 4.99 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Acting on a tip-off, officers arrived at the house of Worasak Bamrung, 30, in Soi Prayoon 3/1 at 3am.

A search of the premises uncovered five blue ziplock bags each containing 200 *ya bah* pills, a clear plastic bag with 18 more *ya bah* pills, and two more plastic bags, one containing 3.89 grams of *ya ice* and the other 1.10 grams of the drug.

Officers also seized as evidence a Nokia mobile phone, drug paraphernalia and an orange Mazda



BUSTED: Worasak Bamrung

pickup truck.

During questioning by police, Mr Worasak named Withawat Ardharn as his supplier, said Col Jaroon Bangprasit of the Phuket Provincial Police.

"We raided Withawat's rental house in the same street at 2pm [that day]," Col Jaroon said.



BUSTED: Withawat Ardharn

"A search of the house uncovered four plastic bags each containing 200 *ya bah* pills. The bags matched those seized in the arrest of Mr Worasak," he said.

Both men were charged with possession of Category 1 drug with intent to sell, Col Jaroon said. – *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Tourists rescued from sinking boat

A SPEEDBOAT carrying Chinese tourists from Koh Lone to Chalong Pier took on water last Sunday morning and sank about 500 meters from the pier.

A passing longtail boat safely transferred the 16 passengers and three boat.

The speedboat *Alisa 2* was nearing Chalong at about 8am when the boat crew noticed that they were taking on water at the back of the boat.

"They shouted to inform everyone on the boat about what was happening and also shouted to a man in a longtail boat nearby for help," said Capt Wichan Sripat, 32, who immediately notified Marine Police of the crisis.

The 60-year-old longtail boat driver, Areed Yuenyong, said he was heading to Chalong Pier with his brother when he heard the shouts for help.

"When I arrived at the boat, I saw the tourists panicking," he said. "All the tourists and boat crew got into my boat and we took them to the pier."

By the time Marine Police arrived, Mr Areed had everyone safely on board, said Marine



There was almost nothing above the water's surface by the time Marine Police arrived.



Chinese tourists safe on Chalong Pier.



Marine safety continues to be a priority in Phuket.

Police Inspector Chatchai Sakdee. "The speedboat was almost completely submerged in the water by that time. We could see only the front of the boat."

Marine Police are investigating the cause of the sinking, Col Chatchai said.

"We are stern in telling boat drivers to check their boats before going out. It's necessary in order to prevent marine accidents," he said.

The speedboat's so far unexplained sinking comes just a month after Phuket Governor

Maitri Inthasut launched a marine safety blitz. That campaign came in the wake of a heavily overloaded ferry from Pattaya capsizing off Koh Lan, injuring many passengers and causing the deaths of six people.

"Phuket has a lot of boats that

take tourists from Phuket to other islands along the Andaman coast. That is why safety must come first - to prevent accidents," Governor Maitri explained during his inspection of boats in November.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



The suspects denied the charges, saying the drugs belonged to others.

Record drug bust in Krabi

POLICE in Krabi have arrested three suspects and seized more than 48,000 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) in what is being hailed as the largest drug bust in Southern Thailand.

The arrests were announced at a press conference last Saturday, when Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon presented Bancha Janchamroen, 36; Sompot Janchamroen, 30; and Pattara Dechaporn, 27.

Lt Col Boonprasert Tongnuey, Commander of Border Patrol Police Unit 426, explained that the arrests followed a deep undercover operation by police.

"We learned that a shipment of drugs was to be buried at a predetermined location near a large tree in Sai Thai Subdistrict, near Krabi Town," Col Boonprasert said.

"We set up a surveillance unit, and when the suspects arrived we moved in to arrest them. The suspects fled, but we discovered where they were staying... So we quickly organized a raid on the house," he said.

In the house, officers seized 48,738 pills of *ya bah* and a range of items valued at a total of 17

million baht. They also found a fully loaded semi-automatic handgun and extra ammunition.

"All three suspects were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell and with illegal possession of a firearm," Col Boonprasert said.

However, all three denied the charges.

"They claim the *ya bah* belonged to Juthimas Hitagae from Surat Thani and Suriya Monchatin from Nakhon Sri Thammarat," Col Boonprasert said. "They said they were paid 20,000 baht to keep the drugs in their house."

Police are now searching for Ms Juthimas and Mr Suriya, he added.

Sophon Suannakarat, chief administrative officer of Krabi Town District, said the drug haul was the largest in the South of Thailand.

"Undercover operatives reported that the suspects regularly received shipments of 200,000 pills at a time from a supplier in Pathum Thani," he said.

"The suspects then distributed the drugs throughout Southern Thailand through their own drug network," he added.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Three blasts rocked Songkhla, injuring 24 people. Photo: The Nation

Violence flares in South as political conflict rumbles

THAILAND'S troubled Deep South has witnessed an uptick in violence as insurgents step up pressure while authorities are busy dealing with political strife in Bangkok.

Three bombs exploded simultaneously in Songkhla's Sadao District on December 22, injuring 24 people including two Malaysian tourists, *The Nation* reported.

The bombs went off simultaneously in front of the Padang Besar Police Station, near the Sadao Besar Police Station and by the Oliver Hotel.

Most of the wounded were at the hotel where a crowd of Thai and foreign tourists had gathered.

Four days earlier, a pipe bomb injured two rangers in Pattani's Mai Kaen District.

The front of the victims' pickup truck was severely damaged by the bomb and its rear wheels were stuck in a bomb crater.

Police collected the remains of a bomb in a 25kg cooking gas cylinder and found it had been detonated by battery from behind a roadside bush.

Earlier this month, five soldiers were killed in a single attack in Kapho District in Pattani, while a police officer was gunned down in Yala's Muang District on the same day.

Bangkok grinds to halt as PM holds firm against protesters

PROTESTERS brought much of Bangkok to a standstill last Sunday and have vowed to do so again for as long as seven days at a time if Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra fails to step down.

The protesters, led by irascible former deputy premier Suthep Thaugsuban, have also vowed to disrupt the coming election, scheduled for February 2.

The protesters are demanding that Ms Yingluck resign her post so that a new prime minister can be appointed who will lead a process of "reform", which they say is necessary to end Thailand's culture of "money politics".

The new premier would then appoint a "People's Government". A 400-member "People's Assembly" would also be chosen from professional groups to draft legislation aimed at making elections "fairer".

The protesters claim that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra - Ms Yingluck's older brother, who lives in self-exile in Dubai - is buying elections with votes-for-cash and short-sighted populist policies.

The movement's critics, which include the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, claim the process of reform touted by the PDRC is merely aimed at disenfranchising voters in Thailand's North and Northeast - voters who back Ms Yingluck.

The PDRC has held several large rallies aimed at finally pushing Ms Yingluck out, though the prime minister has refused to leave, saying elections are the best way of determining Thailand's future.

During the latest rally last Sunday, the group rallied in 15 different locales around the city, bringing sev-



Protesters remove barbed wire before a group of them briefly entered Government House. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE nation

eral key roads to a standstill. The protesters claimed as many as 12 million people came out onto the streets, a claim that was ridiculed by government supporters. *The Nation* reported the numbers as being in the tens of thousands.

Women and transsexuals - many of them members of the Miss Tiffany's dance troupe - joined a rally around Ms Yingluck's home which they dubbed the "flower protest", even though the PM was away touring constituencies in the Northeast at the time.

On Monday, registration for the February 2 election began, *The Nation* reported.

Mr Suthep urged his followers to blockade the Thai-Japanese Stadium, where registration was taking place, in order to prevent

candidates from entering.

"If someone hopes to apply as an MP candidate, he or she will have to pass through our rally. We will block it for half a day, but on election day on February 2, we will block every location," Mr Suthep announced at the Rajdamnoen rally site the day before registration began.

Even if candidate registration were to be completed, Mr Suthep said he had other measures planned to prevent voting in the general election.

Singha heiress under attack

POLICE investigators are probing a firebomb attack on the home of Chitpas Bhirompakdi, an heiress to the Singha Beer fortune and leader of the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC).

Officers say the attack "may have been politically motivated", *The Nation* reported.

The attack took place on December 19 at Ms Chitpas' home on Ramkhamhaeng Road in Bang Kapi District.

Witnesses said Ms Chitpas returned home from a protest at about 1 am. A couple of hours later four assailants on two motorcycles hurled four firebombs toward the fence of her residence. All the bombs hit a van parked inside the compound.

At the time, the people in the house were asleep and nobody was injured. Security guards put out the fire within 15 minutes.

Ms Chitpas is the niece of Santi Bhirompakdi, the owner of



Police say the attack may have been politically motivated. Photo: The Nation

Boonrawd Brewery, which makes Singha beer.

In a letter to his brother Chutinant, who is also a member of Boonrawd's executive board, Mr Santhi said Ms Chitpas' actions were leading to a negative perception of his company.

Mr Santhi warned his brother

that Ms Chitpas was tying the company to the protests in the public mind, and that he had "warned and advised" him of this several times.

Some government supporters are reported to be boycotting the company's products, which include Singha Beer and Leo.



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Manila airport gunmen attack leaves four dead

AROUND THE region

By Carla P. Gomez

THE three-year-old girl who was hit in the head by a stray bullet in a gun attack at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last Friday, is now in stable condition after undergoing surgery last Saturday morning.

Diane Uy was shot as her family waited at the airport arrival area when gunmen assassinated Mayor Ocol Talumpa of Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur, in the southern Philippines.

Mayor Talumpa's wife, Lea, and their nephew Salipudin Talumpa, 25, were also killed in the attack.

Diane underwent a two-hour operation at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City for removal of debris from the bullet that went through her head. Her



Manila Police officers at the airport after the shooting in which an 18-month-old baby was killed. Photo: Reuters

father, Danny Uy, said she was out of danger but needed close monitoring for possible infection.

The two gunmen, one in police uniform, pulled up on a motorcycle and showered Mayor Talumpa and people standing nearby with a hail of bullets.

A bullet pierced the head of Diane's 18-month-old cousin, Phil Tomas Lirazan, killing him instantly. The boy's mother and grandmother were also injured by stray bullets.

At the time of going to press, police had yet to make any arrests

in connection with the killings.

The airport is named after prominent politician Benigno Aquino, who was shot dead there in 1983 as he arrived home from self exile. His son, also Benigno Aquino, is now president.

- *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

In brief...

UN starts counting Bengalis who live in Rakhine State

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is compiling a list of Bengalis living in Rakhine State, Myanmar, to determine who among them are eligible to become citizens.

According to local sources, an official from the UN's refugee agency announced the news at a formal meeting held in Maungdaw Township, in Rakhine state, on December 18.

- *Eleven Media Group*

US\$ 300k believed paid for release of Taiwanese tourist

A RANSOM of US\$ 300,000 is believed to have been paid to secure the release of Taiwanese hostage Evelyn Chang An-wei, 58.

Though officials in the Philippines and Taiwan have maintained that An-wei, 58 - who was snatched by Filipino gunmen from Pom Pom island in Semporna on November 15 - was rescued, the ransom amount was widely reported in the Taiwanese media.

- *The Star*

Hun Sen hounded for fresh elections

CAMBODIAN opposition leader Sam Rainsy on Monday vowed to continue to lead mass protests to demand Prime Minister Hun Sen resign and pave the way for fresh elections.

The vow came a day after Hun Sen warned that the government may use force to crack down on protesters if they block main roads to Phnom Penh.

- *The Cambodia Herald*

Singapore deports 57 workers over riot

FOUR Indian nationals involved in the Little India riot on December 8 were deported from Singapore last Friday, bringing the number of workers deported over the incident to 57.

The four men were initially charged in court with rioting. Those charges were dropped on December 17, but the men's involvement in the mayhem was deemed serious enough for repatriation, said the police.

The other 53, whose actions ranged from

obstructing the police to failing to obey police orders to disperse during the riot, were never charged. However, they too were deemed to have posed a threat to the safety and security of Singapore - conditions that allow the authorities to deport and ban them from entering the country again under the Immigration Act.

The 57 - all Indian nationals except for one Bangladeshi - were served with immigration removal orders and deported in groups start-

ing on Thursday. This was done after they were issued stern police warnings.

The unrest, sparked by the death of an Indian alien laborer who was run over by a commuter bus, was the city-state's worst riot in more than 40 years.

The riots evoked intense discussion over Singapore's policy on foreign labor, which now makes up a fifth of a population of nearly 5.4 million.

- *The Straits Times*

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In brief...

African immigrants
sew mouths shut
to demand release

NINE illegal immigrants detained in Italy have stitched their lips together with thread from their bedsheets in a protest to demand their release from what they say are intolerable living conditions.

The protest, which started near Rome last Saturday, came days after a video emerged of immigrants at another camp standing naked in the cold to be sprayed for scabies. It drew new calls for the closure of detention centers.

Mozambique plane
went down with
autopilot running

A MOZAMBIKAN airliner that crashed in Namibia last month, killing all 33 people on board, descended with its automatic pilot on and its altitude selector set to below ground level, according to a preliminary report released this weekend. Mozambique's Civil Aviation Institute said that having the autopilot set below ground level denoted a "clear intention".

China concerned
about Japan's
military spending

CHINA'S Defence Ministry called Japan's plans to raise its military spending for the first time in 10 years deeply worrying for Asia and the world, saying that it strongly opposes its neighbor's policy.

China's satellite navigation
system stems from Galileo

By David Lague

CHINESE leader Xi Jinping has exhorted the People's Liberation Army (PLA) "to get ready to fight and win wars" and "to win regional warfare under information technology-oriented conditions".

For now, China's sprawling defense industries and research laboratories are relying on a high-tech shortcut. In a vast and carefully coordinated effort, China is scouring the globe for know-how that can be coupled with domestic innovation to produce strategic weapons and equipment.

A year ago this month, technicians at a maker of satellite navigation gear in the Belgian town of Leuven worked over the year-end holidays to test one such breakthrough. The Belgians loaded their receivers with a technical code for a new satellite-navigation system called Beidou, or Big Dipper.

The signal from the new Chinese system provided a surprisingly accurate position fix. "It was certainly better than you would expect from somebody doing this for the first time," says Jan Van Hees, sales manager for privately owned Septentrio.

It wasn't beginner's luck, though. China had help – and it came from European Union headquarters in Brussels, just down the road from Leuven.

Know-how for the Beidou Navigation System, according to interviews with European research-



A rocket lifts off with the first two satellites for Galileo. Photo: Reuters

ers, a review of diplomatic cables and articles from military and technical journals, came from a technology partnership between Beijing and the European Union. The Chinese essentially piggybacked on a European satellite-navigation initiative, called Galileo, that was meant to rival two existing networks: the dominant Global Positioning System of the United States, or GPS, and

Russia's Glonass.

Sixteen Beidou satellites are now in orbit, with the network scheduled to expand to 30 when fully deployed by 2020. Europe's Galileo is expected to become operational only next year with 18 satellites. When fully deployed by 2020, the EU constellation will also have 30 satellites.

Senior Chinese military officers

have said Beidou is more important to China than manned space flight or the Chinese lunar probes now under way, according to reports in the state-run media. The successful deployment of Beidou means the increasingly potent Chinese armed forces will have an accurate, independent navigation system – vital technology for guiding the missiles, warships and attack aircraft that allow Beijing to claim great power status.

Beidou is one of the most striking examples of China's global quest to buy, copy or steal the technology it needs to close the gap with the United States and other leading military powers. Highly accurate satellite navigation is fundamental to modern warfare. Aerospace experts say European and US know-how and equipment have been indispensable for China to design, build, launch, position, test and operate its navigation network and other satellites.

The Beidou Navigation System is now playing a crucial role in China's military exercises, including the Mission Action 2013 military exercise that kicked off on September 10, China's Xinhua news agency reported this month. The system demonstrated a capability of covering PLA units fighting on multiple fronts simultaneously.

"The era of China relying on a foreign satellite navigation system is in the past," Xinhua said. "The era of China's Beidou has arrived."

– Reuters

USA virgin birth test results
released in time for holidays

NEARLY one per cent of young women in a US study who have become pregnant claim to have done so as virgins, according to a report in the Christmas edition of Britain's *BMJ* medical journal.

The authors of "Like a virgin (mother)" – whose prose is devoid of irony – say such scientifically impossible claims show researchers must use care in interpreting self-reported behavior. Fallible memory, beliefs and wishes can cause people to err in what they tell scientists.

Based on interviews with 7,870 women and girls of ages 15 to 28, 45 of the 5,340 pregnancies in this group through the years – 0.8 per cent – occurred in women who reported that they conceived independent of men. The figure does not include pregnancies that result from in vitro fertilization or other assisted reproductive technology.

Each year, the *BMJ* Christmas edition publishes nontraditional science papers.

For the study of putative virgin pregnancies, researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill analyzed data from the thousands of teenage girls and young women who took part in the long-running National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

The girls were 12 to 18 years old when they entered the study in the 1994-95 school year and were interviewed periodically about their health and behav-

ior over 14 years, including via computer as a way to encourage them to be candid when answering questions about their sexual history.

The 45 women and girls who became pregnant despite, according to what they told interviewers, being virgins at the time of conception

differed in several ways from peers who acknowledged that men had a role in their procreation.

Of those who said they became pregnant as virgins, 31 per cent also said they had signed chastity pledges; 15 per cent of nonvirgins who became pregnant said they had signed such pledges, in which a girl vows not to have sex until she marries.

The 45 self-described virgins who reported having become pregnant and the 36 who gave birth were also more likely than nonvirgins to say their parents never or rarely talked to them about sex and birth control. About 28 per cent of the "virgin" mothers' parents (who were also interviewed) indicated they didn't have enough knowledge to discuss sex and contraception with their daughters, compared to 5 per cent of the parents of girls who became pregnant and said they had intercourse.

The ostensibly chaste mothers were also less likely to know how to use condoms, according to the report. UNC biostatistician Amy Herring and public health expert Carolyn Halpern led the group.

– Reuters



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Cherng Talay's changing face

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT'S been too long – residents of Phuket Laguna, Cherng Talay and Bang Tao, who have been traveling all the way to Tesco Thalang to do most of their shopping, were forced to undertake expeditions to the well-stocked markets in the south of the island to buy hard-to-find imported goods. But with the grand opening of the Boat Avenue outdoor shopping center last Friday (December 20), those days are officially over.

The opening featured a suitably large, family-style gathering with music and dance performances, an abundance of food, fireworks and a lucky draw. And the



fact that the central attraction of the new shopping district – Villa Supermarket, was already full of shoppers on the very day of the grand opening, proves it to be a much needed addition to the local shopping scene. Christmas shopping will be easy this year for residents of the neighborhoods in the vicinity of Bang Tao and Laguna beaches. Villa tends to be one of the best stocked supermarkets in Thai-

land, making the preparation of all these dishes we love and miss, a much easier task.

But Villa Market isn't the only thing that will attract locals and tourists to the new shopping venue. Located in a prime spot on the Cherng Talay T-junction, a few hundred meters away from the gates of Phuket Laguna, the colorful container mall surrounding the market is pleasing to the eye and offers a vast choice to shoppers looking for fashion items, sports equipment, furniture and souvenirs. There is no lack of parking spots and what's arguably even more important – safe walking space. To make the experience of shopping at Boat

Avenue even more pleasant, there are cafes and a beauty clinic waiting for those in need of relaxation. And there's more to come. A bank, a Chinese restaurant – these and more will find their new home in Boat Avenue in the next few months. "This is just the beginning" announced Boon Yongsakul, Deputy Managing Director of the Boat Development Company, from the stage during the grand opening event.



Family-themed entertainment set the tone of the opening event. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Mr Boon Yongsakul, Deputy Managing Director of the Boat Development Company and Mr Kanit Yongsakul, Chairman and CEO of Boat Lagoon.



Local residents gave the new supermarket a warm welcome.

Makro's Rawai branch open for business

SIAM Makro PCL, the Thai subsidiary of Dutch "cash and carry" chain Makro, on December 20 opened its third store in Phuket, on Wiset Road in Rawai.

The new branch is Makro's second "Food Service" format store in Phuket, following the opening of its first branch in Patong earlier this year.

Speaking at the grand opening ceremony, Jantima Goiphol, General Manager of Makro Food Service, Rawai branch, remarked: "Makro appreciates the potential growth of the restaurant business in Rawai, which is one of Phuket's most important and longest beach areas, second only to Patong... It's a point for tourists to board boats to/from various islands and is also a popular dining area with a lot of restaurants. For this reason, we've opened the new Makro Rawai branch to provide more convenience to local food service operators to be able to swiftly source supplies for their businesses and continue to serve the growing tourism industry."

Thailand's first Makro opened in 1989 in Bangkok. Today, Siam Makro operates more than 50 Makro branches across the Kingdom.



The new 1,700 square meter Makro in Rawai. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

In addition to Thai Makro stores, SHV Holdings owns stores in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

The store carries more than 5,000 food items and daily necessities including chilled, frozen and dried foods; herbs, spices and condiments; meats, vegetables, dairy and bakery items; as well as food-safe containers, imported

beef and common food service beverage selections – stocked and displayed on a total of 1,700 square meters of retail space. The lot also offers parking for more than 20 vehicles.

– Phuket Gazette

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Enjoy the fruit of Thai land

An alternative to ownership and leasing

IN the last *Property Legal* column (published in print on November 30 and online December 3), Phuket's International Law Office (ILO) touched on the topic of usufruct agreements, a lesser known form of property contract that could be a considerable option for those looking to secure interests in Thai property; particularly foreigners who cannot outright, legally own land in Thailand. To shed some more light on this topic, the *Phuket Gazette* queried ILO:

Property Legal
By International Law Office

What is the difference between such an agreement and general property lease agreements?

In a context of using the property, leasehold and usufruct are almost the same. They are known as the occupancy right. In a context of legal obligations between the property owner (the right giver) and the usufructuary (the right receiver) leasehold and usufruct are quite different. For example, the lessee can't enjoy the fruits of property unless the landlord agrees to grant him this privilege, while the usufructuary can enjoy the fruits of the land even when the landlord doesn't agree to it. The usufructuary has to pay for property taxes, while the lessee is not obliged to. Things get more complicated when you put such rights in the context of taxes or foreigner-owned land restrictions.

PG: What exactly is a usufruct agreement and who is a usufructuary?

ILO: The law is silent on the definition of usufruct but to the layman it is known as a right to use land and enjoy its fruits. A usufruct agreement is a legal paper which records the terms and conditions of the parties which would otherwise be governed by the general provisions of the law. A usufructuary is a person/company who holds the right to use land and enjoy its fruits.

In what context is a usufruct more advantageous than general lease agreement?

It depends on the need of the parties, interests one wants to secure, and the nature of business. No one size fits all. For example,



The law is clear about who can own land, but not about who can benefit from it. Photo: kudumomo

usufruct allows one to hold the property for a lifetime, while the maximum lease period is 30 years. The costs of registration of usufruct can be cheaper than the registration of leasehold and could be free of charge. Tax rates and tax assessment apply differently between these two rights.

What's the position of officials considering usufruct?

Given that foreigners are not allowed to own land in Thailand, every land transaction with a foreigner involved causes a land officer to have doubt about the genuineness of the land deal. The ultimate purpose of land purchases, usufructs and leases is to secure a foreigner's interest over the land. The vast power of land officers, coupled with unclear internal regulations, results in a situation where the land officer often prefers to deny the registration of the usufruct or leasehold, rather than approving the deal and allowing a foreigner to secure interest over the land.

How long does such a registration typically take?

A simple case may take from one day and upwards. Sometimes a registration might

be delayed to allow the parties to supply additional documents and evidence. A typical land registration requires the parties to provide documents to support the officer's view that this deal isn't a land purchase. A form of this proof might be how wealthy the Thai party is – the richer they are the less land office will question the genuineness of the land deal.

For example, a land lady, who shows a nine digit sum in her bank statement is more probable to buy the land for herself then for the foreigner, and she' ll be the genuine lessor who will lease her land out to the foreigner. If the land lady is poor, then it's more probable that she holds land on foreigner's behalf and leases the land out to foreigner to circumvent the laws.

- *Phuket Gazette*

The above answers were provided by ILO's Thai solicitor: Mr Mongkol Ruengwutchanapuech (Master of Laws, University of New South Wales Australia - LLB Honors Barrister at Law Thailand and Notary Public). For inquiries, contact the International Law Office Patong Beach Co, Ltd. Email: sam@ilo-phuket.com or call ILO's offices at 076 222 191-5.



REGISTRATION FRUSTRATIONS: Be prepared to sign and submit a lot of paperwork and records to clarify and verify your underlying interests in a Thai property. Photo: Ellywa

BUY SELL RENT PROPERTIES

<p>CHARMING HOUSE NEAR BEACH Set on a private estate, just 15 minutes to Rawai Beach</p> <p>Location : Chalong Property Type : Single House Useable area : 350 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : 3/4 Rental price : 70,000 THB / month</p> <p>(PH013-11-12)</p>		<p>D CONDOMINE Located on one of the most beautiful locations of Phuket where the lake view can be taken from the project</p> <p>Location : Kathu Property Type : Condominium Useable Area : 29 - 60 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : Studio & 2 Beds Selling Price : Start from 1.1 MB*</p>	
<p>A HOUSE WITH LUSH GARDEN Beautiful house comes with an easily maintained garden</p> <p>Location : Chermatlay Property Type : Single House Useable area : 180 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : 3/3 Selling price : 6.65 MB</p> <p>(SH003-10-12)</p>		<p>SEA VIEW CONDOMINIUM IN PHUKET TOWN Sea view condominium located near Royal Phuket Marina</p> <p>Location : Koh Kaew Property Type : Condominium Useable area : 79 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : 2/2 Rental price : 6.7 MB</p>	
<p>HOUSE FOR RENT IN A PRIVATE ESTATE Providing with large community pool and security service, surrounded by nature</p> <p>Location : Thalang Property Type : Single House Useable area : 200 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : 2/1 Rental price : 30,000 THB / month</p> <p>(PH0291-07-12)</p>		<p>THE BASE DOWNTOWN Opposite to Central Festival Phuket and Head Start International School</p> <p>Location : Phuket Town Property Type : Condominium Useable area : 33.5-58.5 Sq.m. Bed/Bath : 1 & 2 Beds Selling price : Start from 2.3 MB*</p>	

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Property contracts comparison

	Usufruct	Habitation	Superficies	Charge on immovable property	Lease
Enforceability	Property right: can be use it against to those who are not the contracting party	Property right: can be use it against to those who are not the contracting party	Property right: can be use it against to those who are not the contracting party	Property right: can be use it against to those who are not the contracting party	Property right: can be use it against to those who are not the contracting party
Validity	Must be made in writing and register with competent officer	Must be made in writing and register with competent officer	Must be made in writing and register with competent officer	Must be made in writing and register with competent officer	Must be made in writing and register with competent officer
Period	Life time or the maximum period of 30 years. (renewal allowed)	Life time or the maximum period of 30 years. (renewal allowed)	Life time or the maximum period of 30 years. (renewal allowed)	Life time or the maximum period of 30 years. (renewal allowed)	The maximum period of 30 years. (renewal allowed)
What is given to the grantee	Occupancy's right in structure and land	Structure only - land excluded. Member of the family of the grantee is included unless state otherwise.	Ownership of the structure which sited on a land; and utilisation of surface and underneath of the land.	Benefits derived from immovable property including utilisation of immovable property	Leasehold
Major duties of the grantee	Return the premises after the expiry of right	Return the premises after the expiry of right	Return the premises after the expiry of right		Return the premises after the expiry of right
	Pay for minor maintenance				Pay for minor maintenance
	Pay taxes incurred on the premises and interest on any debts related to the premises		Grantee is the owner of structure, so normal rules applies.		
	Pay insurance premium upon requested by the owner				
	Be liable for damage on the premises unless wear and tear				
Major duties of the grantor	Pay for major maintenance	Pay for major maintenance			Pay for major maintenance
		Pay for minor maintenance			
Transferability	Transferable to third party. Non-transferable to heir	Non-transferable to third party Non-transferable to heir	Transferable to third party Transferable to heir	Non-transferable to third party Non-transferable to heir	Transferable to third party Non-transferable to heir

Notes

- Information is extracted from the civil commercial code
- What isn't stated herein, it means that the civil code is silent on it, and left to parties to agree on terms and conditions.



This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.



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Walking in the shadows of dinosaurs

AS NEW Year's lurks right around the corner, the question everyone has is what's in store for fourteen? My biggest challenge each and every successive drum roll of another 365 (or 366 in the case of leap years) is to remember to change the date on whatever I'm writing at the time. Typically things settle down by February but I've been known to stretch the numbers up to Songkran.

Once we manage to pass the Chinese New Year version as well, the Horse is set to take center stage. Given the gyrations this year, one can easily assume that a temperamental stallion will dominate the horizon versus the sedate posing of a show pony. With the year ending on a wild ride, it's hard to imagine things will dramatically change and the rock become more of a roll.

What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger is one of the self-obsessed's mantras but lets take a moment to take a peek around the corner to the dark side that threatens our rather pleasant lives in Phuket Paradise Incorporated.

Let's start off with CPR and in this instance does not mean pulling an ailing swimmer out of the Kamala surf and performing some mouth to mouth. No, it

is of course the double whammy – currency and political risk. This year we have seen Asian currencies slide which have been triggered in many cases by speculation of the US Federal Reserve tapping the quantitative easing measures which prop up the consumption-mad Home of the Brave and Land of the Free. That's assuming they carry multiple credit cards.

The Fed is at it again and newbie Janet Yellen is here to show us the way. Once the green light is given for the floodgates of capital to open, inflows to Asia are at risk, and bingo exchange rates falter. While Asia is, with little doubt, a section of a bigger world, there is absolutely no doubt that what happens in Washington filters down to our little island in Southern Thailand.

Next comes politics, and all over the region, key elections are again another



Who or what will be the dark horse in the race of 2014? Photo: Alice-astro

indicator of how rapid things can change. Here in Thailand, February 2 has been established as D Day, but this, as we all know, remains work in progress. Other major regional countries such as Indonesia and India will also tally up the popularity ratings. Thank goodness China doesn't have to deal with such trivial things as democratic processes.

We also have geopolitical risks, the nut job in North Korea (no not Dennis Rodman), the oil-grab island dispute between Japan and China, together with some smaller countries thrown in as bit players. But let's face it, as in all things catesphrophic and doomed, the things that may tear you apart often aren't those you are afraid of, but the ones that come out of nowhere.

On the bright side, there are the Winter Olympics coming up from February 7 to

23 in Sochi, Russia. I've not met anyone who actually knows where Sochi could be, like some sort of Borat sequel, a fabrication of the sporting community's imagination. Let's face it, Tiger remains tamed, Man United have been relegated to the amnesia brigade and sad, bad Lance broke all of our hearts.

And yet there does remain one bright and shining hope for the world in 2014 with the 2014 FIFA World Cup (except if you are English and for those of you reading this please go immediately to the pub and for God's sake don't bother watching, as the tears are already filling up in the giant reservoir in the sky).

In my case, I remain optimistic for the year to come. I of course, am not English, so have no fear of the World Cup, nor any interest in going to North Korea. Will we be headed for places we've already been in 2014 or find new stranger territory that even the Coen Brothers haven't arcanelly imagined? There is only one way to find out, turn the next page please.

Bill Barnett is the Managing director of C9Hotelworks. he can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com

The lowdown on common ETF investments

Island Investor

By Don Freeman

GIVEN that so few managed funds are able to consistently beat important market benchmarks, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) are great investments, because they track and replicate the performance of key market indices at a minimal cost. However, the popularity of ETFs has led to their proliferation with some being better investments than others. So what are the best ETFs to own and which ones should you avoid?

Without naming individual ETFs, here are some general rules of thumb for selecting the right ones for your portfolio:

Buy ETFs that track important indices

ETFs tracking big name indices or markets like the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq should form the bulk of your ETF portfolio, but don't overlook those that track

other big indices like the Russell 2000 (small company stocks), those that track important sector indices (for example, the Dow Jones Utilities Average) and those that track important foreign stock indices like London's FTSE, Tokyo's Nikkei or the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. Moreover, don't forget about bond ETFs which, like bonds, tend to do well in recessions or bear markets.

Avoid ETFs tracking obscure sectors or indices

ETFs have proliferated to such an extent that Vanguard's founder John Bogle once sarcastically wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed: "Can you believe we now have an Emerging Cancer ETF?" That ETF, among others, has since closed after either failing to attract enough assets or after delivering poor returns to investors. You should also be aware that Bogle has said that individual sector and country ETFs are probably "too narrow for most" investors, but there might be times when such investments make sense.



Exchange-Traded Funds are a great way to diversify, lower expenses and grow your money. Photo: Rafael Matsunaga

Stick with plain vanilla ETFs

There could also be times where having a small position in so-called "inverse" ETFs (which short the market), leveraged ETFs (which use leverage in an attempt to generate outsized returns) or those tracking non-traditional assets (commodities) can make sense. However, you need to understand these ETF investments come with added and potentially significant risks while Vanguard's Bogle has gone so far as to say that inverse and leveraged ETFs are where the "fruitcakes, nut cases and lunatic fringe" can be found.

Avoid illiquid ETFs

A major problem with ETFs tracking obscure sectors or markets along with some inverse or leveraged ETFs is their lack of liquidity because not many investors or traders are buying or selling them. This lack of liquidity could lead you to pay too much to buy and sell them.

Read the prospectus

The good thing about most plain

vanilla ETFs is that they are fairly straightforward investments – meaning even less experienced investors should be able to read the prospectus and understand what they are doing. However, if reading the prospectus leaves you confused or if the prospectus is not well explained in plain simple English, you should find another ETF to invest in.

Be very careful when investing in commodity ETFs

There are two types of commodity ETFs – one type owning the physical commodity (say, gold bars) and the other type owning commodity futures contracts – meaning you need to read the prospectus carefully to understand the risks involved. Moreover, be aware that since commodity ETFs do not invest in securities, they tend to be regulated differently or are less regulated than other investments.

Avoid high fee ETFs

Most big ETFs on the market today will charge fees as low as the 0.04% to 0.25% range but there are

some ETFs out there, usually "managed" ones or those with more exotic investment strategies (e.g. they invest in commodities, short the market or use leverage) which might charge fees as much as 1% or 2% (or even more). However and given the wide selection of low cost ETFs available, there is little reason to invest in one that comes with such high fees.

In conclusion, EFTs are a great way to diversify, lower expenses and grow your money. If you are unsure of which ETFs to put in your investment portfolio and how to buy them, call me for a free consultation and get your portfolio invested in the most efficient way possible.

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



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Go green, go electric

Phuket Green Bike opens in Nai Harn specializing in earth-friendly electric bicycles and scooters for sale and rent

By Jeremie Schatz

A NEW transportation option recently made a debut in Phuket. You don't have to fill it up out of old whiskey bottles on the side of the road or break a sweat pedaling up the island's steep hills. All you have to do is plug it in before you go to sleep at night.

Electric bikes have undoubtedly been around for quite a while, since the late 1800's in fact. However, an appreciable selection has not been widely available in Phuket, that is until the recent opening of Phuket Green Bike in Nai Harn.

Owner of Phuket Green Bike, Josef Memmel said, "In China there are more motorbikes and scooters on the road than in Thailand but it's 95% electric." Inspired by the proliferation of electric bikes in China, Memmel was compelled to promote them here in Phuket where he believes them to be a practical alternative to gasoline powered scooters and motorbikes.

Phuket Green Bike is currently stocking seven different models of electric bikes including a more conventional looking hybrid bike and a smaller scooter-like bike that could be marketed towards the "Hello Kitty" contingent. "The big difference is weight, the lithium batteries are much less weight [than lead-acid]", says Memmel.

Battery choice is an important consideration as lead-acid batteries are generally heavier, cheaper and have a shorter useable life compared to lithium ion batteries.

The cost of the bicycles themselves is fairly affordable but because they are categorized as a motorized vehicle rather than a bicycle by Thai customs, they are subject to higher import tariffs – a matter which

Memmel is attempting to tend to. The more inexpensive versions start at 24,000 baht which is less than most gasoline scooters.

Caring for the bikes is easy says Memmel, "The only maintenance you need is tyres, brakes and lights. There is no gear box, no motor and no chain drive." The life of the batteries is finite but they do come with a warranty; details of which are outlined on the Phuket Green Bike website (see below).

For those interested in a more conventional size and design like a gasoline scooter, Phuket Green Bike will soon have one in stock. Looking very much like a Honda PCX and sharing a similar price tag, Memmel reports that, "It has the ability to go 100km per hour and you can go 100 to 120km before recharging... It will take five to six hours to recharge."

Electric vehicles are known for their smooth operation with little vibration which is definitely a plus. However, the silent operation of a scooter can be seen from two standpoints: one being the "loud pipes save lives" philosophy, and the other embracing the sounds of nature and the rushing wind.

Another distinct advantage of electric vehicles is the absence of on-the-road emissions. Large power-plants are far more efficient than small vehicles at producing energy and centralizing the point of pollution rather than spewing it throughout cities and towns.

Phuket Green Bikes offers up the option of buying or renting and discounts are given to long-term rentals.

To learn more about electric bikes visit phuketgreenbike.webs.com or call 091 647-6216



Owner, Josef Memmel, is sharing his passion for electric bicycles with the Phuket community. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

Electric bikes at a glance

Distance

- 40-120km per charge
- Depends on model of bike, weight of rider, terrain

Speed

- Maximum speed from 35-100km per hour
- Smaller models of bike can be slow on steep hills

Recharging

- Average charge time of 5 hours
- One full charge costs about 4.5 baht (direct utility rate)
- Average cost of less than 10 baht per 100km
- Compared to 100 baht per 100km with gasoline scooter

Price

- 24,000-65,000 baht



One of the less expensive options.



Seven models to choose from.

A beacon of light

LOCATED right on Chalong Bay near the Kan Eang pier, the Lighthouse restaurant and bar has earned near historical status among expats, tourists, and yachties alike. After being built in 1988 and managed by American Jimmy Lighthouse himself, Jimmy's Lighthouse Bar and Grill enjoyed years of operation until recently when the doors shut and only a defunct restaurant and memories remained.

"When I first saw it, I thought – would there be a lower lighthouse anywhere in the world," said new owner Dickie Bell. Bell and business partner Steven Edwards recently took on the project of revamping the bar and restaurant as well as adding a coffee shop.

Following a host of renovations, on December 7, after lying dormant for 10 months, the legendary establishment has reopened under new ownership.

Bell had been interested in part ownership of a friend's bar and when

that fell through, he started looking elsewhere. "I started looking around and came across this; it was out of commission at that stage".

It turned out to be good timing, "It was put on the market only two days prior," said Bell.

Bell explained how year after year of heavy use had taken its toll and what it took to give the restaurant a new life. The wood floors have been stripped of paint and refinished, the rosewood bar has regained its warm luster and the furniture that hasn't been replaced altogether has freshly burnished brass and new wicker threaded in.

The building also boasts five rooms for rent located on the second floor, all with commanding views of Chalong Bay and its turquoise waters and emerald islands.

The new menu will offer the best of both the Thai and western culinary worlds. New items will be cycled through every couple of months but keep an eye out for the fresh catch of the day (you are a



The renovated Lighthouse Restaurant on Chalong Bay. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

literal stone's throw from the water after all) as well as t-bone steaks and a Sunday afternoon roast.

A full bar is available with many classic libations on hand and a special hard-to-find (at least in Phuket) treat – a singular traditional Irish Stout on tap. Surely one could find worse things to do with their time than watch the sky burst into blazing orange at sunset over the Andaman sea with a cold stout in hand.

Regardless of where the sun

may be, there will always be the option of accompanying that stout with some Aussie Rules football or other sports that will be playing on one of the five big-screen TVs peppered throughout the restaurant.

Even though the Lighthouse was never actually a real functioning lighthouse, it is bound to continue on as a favorite place for sailors and yachties to kick back with some food and drink while watching their boats bob in the sea.

– Jeremie Schatz

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Resolving not to fail

WITH the New Year rapidly approaching, we wait to see just how effective efforts mandated by the Phuket Provincial Police are in ridding the island of illegal actions by numerous, unregistered taxi and tuk-tuk ranks by its specified "D-Day" of January 1.

Any long-term resident of Phuket can only hold hope that the promised effort will bear some fruit in reclaiming the streets from these disparate groups of self-entitled thugs, but the reasons to expect otherwise are many.

For a start, the timing could not be worse: New Year's Day, when all involved in the annual storm of drunken revelry are recovering from the night before. This sad reality is proven by the fact that police in some locales do not even try to close down nightlife spots at the mandatory closing hours on that night, regardless of the law.

In fact, the announcement of "deadlines" as they pertain to law enforcement in Thailand seldom bode well for success, as we have seen here in Phuket many times in the past. More often than not, they pass with little or no result, emboldening violators in the same way spoiled children respond to empty threats by parents: actually worsening the situation.

There is a long tradition in Thailand of authorities and elected officials promising that "this project will open" or "that initiative will take effect" with the arrival of January 1 "as a New Year's gift to the public" (see page 5).

This attitude is yet another insult to the intelligence of the tax-paying public who are always the ones stuck footing the bill for the gross incompetence of smarmy and corrupt politicians and the officials who collude with them. In what realm other than Thai politics could people get away with calling "a gift" something that people paid for with their own hard-earned baht? Given the past track record, April 1 would seem a more appropriate deadline for most of these pronouncements. In the case of the so-called tuk-tuk deadline it would also be a far more practical date, coming at the beginning of the low season rather than the height of the high season.

As is clearly seen from recent street protests, there is a huge, pent-up hostility against the social inequalities and status quo in this country, but thus far the next generation of would-be oligarchs seem to be successfully turning the masses against one another and diverting their attention from the root causes of our current woes: wide-scale corruption at every level of society.

We would love nothing more than to see 2014 start off with a massive crackdown against illegal taxi and tuk-tuk operators as promised, but years of experience tell us there is little likelihood of this. Nothing would make us happier than to be proved wrong.



Solving a problem the low-tech way

Re: Gazette online, Cement truck juggernaut demolishes small car, driver safe [Video], December 21

While we're on the subject of cement trucks... every hilly road on this island has cement dumped on it by these behemoths because they are overfilled.

While in Malaysia, I never saw this condition. I noticed the trucks there were fitted with an elaborate, well-engineered "catchment device" at the end of the cement delivery chute while in transit. I thought, how clever, but could the Thais develop and employ such a device for their trucks in Thailand? And where would they acquire such a device?

Answer: a hardware store; it's called a bucket!

World traveler
Gazette forum

Letters

to the Editor

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

Targetting foreigners is bad for business...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police to target foreigners at night, December 17

If a foreigner has committed a crime, no problem, but I see a gross misuse of power.

They must keep in mind, no farang equals no money. Tourism makes the bucks and if you start harassing innocent tourists the bucks will leave the country.

I love Thailand and the Thai people, but these regulations need to be re-examined by lawmakers.

Charl Havemann
Facebook

what is normal, and who knows? Their presence on the roads will hopefully help them catch a few people driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and those speeding.

If you have nothing to hide, why worry?

Irishkev 24
Gazette forum

Treat the big cheese and small fry alike

Re: Gazette online, Phuket land grab suspect arrested, December 17

Let him go like all the high-powered land grabbers. He's entitled to be treated no differently than the rich ones.

The white fella
Gazette forum

Open schools for visa van drivers

Re: Gazette online, Facebook group aims to keep Phuket visa runners safe, December 22

Yes, if [the tour companies] were really bothered they would create a driver training school and have some sort of standards.

They could even turn a profit from the training schools.

Mathew Balcombe
Facebook

Don't condemn us all because of him

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Hold the icy judgments of police volunteers, December 22

One rotten apple should not taint the whole orchard.

The rest of us volunteers are disgusted by Halpin's actions and hope that the judicial system metes out due punishment.

Alistair Why
Facebook

Fishy kite story

Re: Gazette online, Danish tourist mugged for kiteboard on Phuket beach, December 18

We have a competition on here at Friendship Beach right now KTA Thailand - Christmas Race Special. This was in the middle of it and we didn't hear or see anything.

The tide was pretty high also so there was not much beach and not so many areas on the beach this could happen at 10am on that day... sounds fishy to me.

Will Kerr
Facebook

Devastating news

Re: Gazette online, Skull fragment found in Phuket believed to be of missing 7-year-old, December 20

This rips my heart out... I wanted so badly for them to find her alive! I still maintain hope that she is safe.

I feel such rage. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Steve in Phuket
Facebook

...and not warranted by the statistics...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police to target foreigners at night, December 17

Well, let's look at some figures: If we assume 9 million tourist arrivals per year, 247 'bad ones' equates to less than 0.003% of the total.

The (official) population of Phuket currently stands at 503,000 - of which 2,400 Thais are locked up behind bars in Phuket prison. Or in other words, almost half a percent!

Agogohome
Gazette forum

...but why worry if you're law-abiding?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police to target foreigners at night, December 17

I think that the police are doing

Phuket Gazette

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Caring every season

FIRST PERSON

PHUKET is one of Thailand's top tourism destinations. Many people move here to work because they believe the vibrant economy will make it easy to get a job here and earn more money than elsewhere in the country.

But the more people come, the more problems we have. Bigger cities have more social problems. There are a lot of people in need out there: homeless people, people with social problems, stateless people and people who came here from other provinces but failed to find a job.

By law, people who do not have a place to live and who are unable to earn enough money for basic amenities have the right to seek help from the government. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security understands this is very important.

There are nine people working at Ban Mit Maitri, including myself. We offer a temporary home where such people can stay for up to 45 days. Besides offering a place to stay, we provide food and medicine as needed.

We also provide basic job training so people can learn skills to make a living. Sometimes we can find placement for work and even arrange for people to stay with foster families.

We can even organize for people to return to their home province and take up temporary shelter at a Ministry of Social Development and Human Security home there.

However, there are some conditions for acceptance at our shelter. Those we take in must be Thai nationals, at least 18 years of age and without a family home to go to. They must be physically capable of taking care of themselves and carrying out



Naovanit Intarasakul, 53, is the director of a government-run shelter for the needy, Ban Mit Maitri, a position she has held for the past three years. A Yala native, Ms Naovanit has degrees in social development from Rajabhat University in Yala and in management from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University.

Here, she explains what her shelter can provide and suggests what ordinary people can do to help.

day-to-day tasks.

Also, they must be free from contagious disease, of sound mind, and not addicted to drugs. If medical or mental care is required, we will make arrangements to ensure that care is given at an appropriate facility.

The biggest problem we face is that people do not know that the government offers this form of care. Also, accepting help is not for everyone some people don't want our help or anyone else's.

We can only help those who truly want help, and respect the decision of those who don't.

What I am worried about in Phuket is human trafficking, prostitution and drug addiction. We have very limited access to these groups. In two recent cases, we provided care to women who suffered psychological trauma. They were human-trafficking victims who were dumped as they were no longer wanted by their captors.

We received the women via Phuket Immigration as they were deported to Thailand. I do not know what they had been through. I do not even know if they were in Phuket before they went abroad.

Another group that worries me

is the homeless. They are often unhealthy and have some form of illness. Most of them are living at temples or by the roadside.

When we make contact with homeless people who are willing to receive help, we send them to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment. When they are in better physical condition, the hospital staff contact us so we can find a place for them to live or even a job, depending on what the homeless person would like.

What we need is for people to keep an open mind about such victims of society. They have the same rights as everyone else, so we should accept them as part of our society.

If you know of any people in dire personal circumstances, please contact us and let that person know they have not been abandoned. We will send our staff to talk to them. We all have the right to a decent life.

Ban Mit Maitri is located at 100/1 Phuket Gate way Moo 5, Mai Khao, Thalang. Email: banmitphuket@hotmail.com Tel (24hrs): 076-348073.

One Stop Crisis Center Hotline: 1300 (operated by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security).



What makes the day: food and family. Image: Christmas Eve by Carl Larsson

People, not tinsel or music or gifts

Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

CHRISTMAS has always been a somewhat schizophrenic event for me. Coming from a non-religious family, it was always celebrated as a time for the extended family to get together, share food and catch up on developments over the past year and had absolutely nothing to do with celebrating the birth of Christ.

Nevertheless, my mother is religious in her yearly purchase of a fresh Christmas tree and a liberal supply of presents for our family's nephews, nieces, cousins and sundry other relatives. The smell of pine wafting through the family home is inextricably linked with Christmas in my mind, and in its absence this year, as I couldn't make it back home to celebrate, it seems as though Christmas didn't really happen.

Here in Thailand, while you can note the odd decoration or Christmas-themed webpage, we are blissfully free of the annual juggernaut of Christmas commercialism that permeates all facets of public life in Australia for up to two months before the actual day. If you are like me, the absence of piped Christmas carols, Santa decorations, advertisements in shops and so on is to be cherished as a respite.

It also highlights what I actually do miss about Christmas. In a word, family. In many words, watching the young kids open their presents with eager anticipation; scoffing slabs of delicious glazed ham and all manner of foods that only ever seem to feature in my family's diet at this time of year; sitting on the couch chatting with cousins I haven't seen since last year, a game of backyard cricket or footy, and more often than not, a healthy amount of wine and beer to encourage the Christmas cheer.

It occurs to me that families celebrating Christmas here in Phuket really have it good. They can have all the benefits of spending time with family, sharing gifts, food and conversation, without the attendant commercialism that tends to either exploit or somehow cheapen the long-held social meaning of Christmas. So to all of you out there who celebrated a tropical yuletide, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everybody here at the *Gazette*.

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

Nai Harn dotted lines add peril to junction

At the northeast corner of Nai Harn Lake, Route 4233 has a 90-degree bend. Dashed white lines painted on the outside of the bend – across the road that goes along the north side of the lake – infer that traffic staying on Route 4233 has the right of way. But there is a stop sign on 4233.

Meanwhile, vehicles travelling on the north-side road don't have a stop sign, implying that they have the right of way.

Someone will be killed here, as I nearly was.

Edward Atkinson
Phuket

Weerasak Rukleng, an officer at the Highways Department Phuket office, replies:

Thank you for notifying us. We went to inspect the intersection as

soon as we received your letter.

The lines were painted recently by a private contractor and we had yet to check their work.

Route 4233 has always been the major road and the smaller road around the lagoon has always been the minor road.

We plan to remove the stop sign from Route 4233 and install it on the other road on the north side of the lake to inform motorists to give way.

Dangers on major roads can be reported to us at 076-212719.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

Why the multicolored license plates?

I see a lot of different colored license plates. Can you explain what all the colors mean?

Not color blind,
Phuket



Private van Photo: Love Krittaya

Titima Yukuntorn, Vehicle Registration Chief at the Phuket Land Transport Office, replies:

We use different colors to make it easy to identify how different kinds of vehicles are registered. Please keep in mind that the color of the license plate will signify not only what kind of vehicle it is, but

also how the vehicle is to be used.

White plates are issued to privately owned vehicles with text in the following colors:

Black text – Trucks, buses and cars with fewer than 7 seats

Blue text – Passenger vans (7-12 seats)

Green text – Pickup trucks



Private pickup Photo: Love Krittaya

Yellow plates with black writing are issued to vehicles that can be hired, including taxis, trucks and buses.



Vehicle for hire Photo: A Dwarf

Tuk-tuks also have yellow plates, but a variety of text colors. The newest plates have black text. Old plates for four-wheeled tuk-tuks have green text; old plates for three-wheeled tuk-tuks have blue text.

Green plates with white writing are used for tourism vehicles such as airport and hotel taxis.

Red plates are used on new vehicles before permanent plates are issued. The text is black if the vehicle is less than 1,600kg, white if it weighs more than that.

YOUR Phuket

WARM WELCOME AT REGENT PHUKET



Brice Borin, General Manager, Regent Phuket Cape Panwa (left) extends a warm welcome to Sonia Couling (middle) and Paul Dominique Vacharasinthu (right) during their stay at the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, as they enjoyed a pleasurable spell of relaxation at Phuket's most authentic hospitality destination.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thanyapura Phuket management paid a visit to the Phuket Governor to wish him a Happy New Year



From left: CEO of Thanyapura Phuket, Michael Gilliam; Executive Chairman of Thanyapura Phuket, Chris McCormack; Phuket Governor, Maitri Inthusut; Marketing Communications Manager, Kaye Nathaphat Asavathanachart; HR Director, Sudanong Samantararat.

"DAUGHTER OF EVE" GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 23

JOB of the week



See page 26

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT of the week



HIGH-QUALITY CAFE EQUIPMENT SALE

See page 28

BOAT of the week



See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

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Properties For Sale

SEAVIEW
PROPERTY

Layan 3.2 rai land. Please call 081-968 3549 (Thai), 081-787 4383 (English).

BEAUTIFUL, CLASSY
VILLA KARON

This very beautiful modern villa has it all – sparkling saltwater pool, 3 huge bedrooms, 4 baths, maid quarters. Fully furnished, secure estate close to the beach. G4S alarm system. Relax and enjoy all the hard work that has been done. A must see. Tel: 081-719 4688, 085-237 1366 (English). Email: elbej@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN
BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. A good place to stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

LAND AT
CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. For more information, please call 089-472 9118.

LAND IN LAYAN



Sale 18-2-61 rai. Chanote or subdivide in smaller plot, road, electricity, lake. Please call 081-787 4383 (English), 081-968 3549 (Thai).

QUIET NAI HARN
POOL VILLA

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai style pool villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in small community of 4 homes, is very private and serene. In a desirable location with a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Don't wait; it will definitely go this high season 2013. 5.9 million baht. Contact Luke Remmers. Tel: 081-270 5145. Email: rgartland@comcast.net For further details, please see our website at www.phuket realestate.com

HABITOWN,
KOH KAEW

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

HOTEL 1KM FROM
BEACH PATONG

24 rooms, nice, 500sqm land, pool, sea view, Chanote, freehold, 49million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

THIDA HOUSE
SALE 27 MILLION

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee_cho74@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE
FOR SALE/RENT

In Thanapa Park View Village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana.1225@gmail.com

CONDO IN
SUPALAI PARK

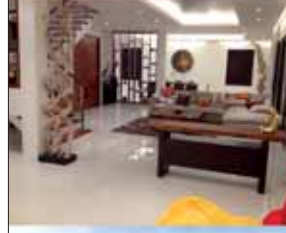
For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

PRIVATE SALE OF
HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Please call 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

LAND NEAR KATA
CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 minutes to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

2 POOL VILLAS
NEXT TO PIA

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruke Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

HOUSE IN
VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

OCEANFRONT
VILLA

Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

A Luxury Villa REDUCED to 42 MB. from 48 MB.



This villa sits on 1.8 rai in Kathu, comprising 1 main villa, 1 detached apartment, 1 leisure building, fitted kitchen, 5 ensuite bedrooms, 9 bathrooms. Separate office/maids quarters. A large swimming pool and much more. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Secured by CCTV alarm system and electronically controlled gates. This villa has to be viewed to be appreciated. View online www.youtube.com: type in "big house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



Private home in Kathu on 650sqm. 2 storeys, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 1 office, 4 bathrooms. Spacious living/dining area with access to a large pool and Jacuzzi. The kitchen is fully fitted, the house is 85% furnished. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Security 24hrs. View online www.youtube.com: type in "pool house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

NAI HARN - UNIQUE
THAI STYLE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - 1km to Nai Harn Beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-081 9875 (English & Thai). Email: soundofmusic999@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our drop box at www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn53lu67und4e/uEaXCFm_l5

LAND & HOUSE
FOR SALE

Location: Amphur Phanom, Suratthani, near Khao Sok National Park.

- Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



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

LAND CHANOTE
PHUKET

1 to 5 rai, Sa Koo, 10 minutes south from airport. 5 minutes to beach. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016. Email: kanchanajit09@gmail.com

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87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for 1 month, 35K baht/month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for 1 year contract.

CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

2 RAI LAND MAI KHAO
350m to beach, situated 70m off Soi Mai Khao 7, flat coconut land, fully developed. 6.25 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-954 7517 (English). Email: wickiphuket@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE
1 rai + 81sq wah, 192sqm, Rawai, Soi Salika. Ready to build. Tel: 089-645 5049.

DOUBLE UNIT TOWNHOUSE
Two adjoining 2-storey Town Houses with total land area 240sqm. Currently 4 double bedrooms, 6 bathrooms and large living space. Only 2 kms from Tesco Lotus on Praphuket Road to Patong, and very close to Kajongkiet International School. For sale as a double unit or as 2 single houses. 6.9 million baht or very near offer. Private sale, no agents. Tel: 076-612836, 081-970 3526 (English), 081-676 2629 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612836. Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

ANANDA LAKE VIEW SEMI
Ananda Lake View, semi, end plot, freehold. Please email: blake1304@hotmail.co.uk for details.

SEAVIEW CONDO IN PATONG
Fully furnished with all furniture, aircon, ready to sale and rent on short / long term. Please call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786.

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

LAND 1KM FROM BEACH KAMALA
Nice, 700sqm Chanote, electricity and water supply, foreign neighbors. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

PRICE DROP
3 bedrooms, Pa Khlok house 4.2 million baht. For sale: 3.5 million baht, 400sqm. Please call 086-836 7292 for photos and details.

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NEW HOUSE IN ESTATE 4.7 MB
Near Central, quiet place, common pool, 24hr security, fully furnished, modern. Ready to move in. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thai-evagroup.com

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

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PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY

- Award-winning design
- Luxurious lifestyle facilities
- Secure residential and investment opportunity

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



HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

CONDOMINIUM PATONG LOFT
58sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Aircon, balcony, pool. 3rd floor, lift. Includes car (Ford Laser Tierra) and motorbike (Yamaha Nouvo). Leasehold 3x30 years. Price: 3.9 million baht approx. Tel: 081-893 2566 (English). Email: martin6@loxinfo.co.th

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



The land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tumbon Bornok, Prachuap Kirikhan, 20km from Prachuap Kirikhan town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 085-894 6118, 086-6159719 or send email to nana1225@gmail.com, lamkookaiiz@yahoo.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE
Bang Tao, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

TOWNHOUSE CHALONG
3-ensuite bedrooms, western kitchen, furnished. 5.8 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-593 7386.

30 RAI IN TOWN
Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA



For sale or rent. 1 rai area, 3 bedrooms. Contact Siripom. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

CHERNG TALAY LAND PLOTS
3,750 baht per square meter. Tel: 086-950 2707, +32-49-329 7948 (English & Thai). Email: datacenter50@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.zoutdesk.nl/

NICE KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE
Kamala freehold house with land. Only 1.2km to beach. This house has very nice 560sqm land, good for swimming pool or another apartment for rental. 6.9 million baht. Negotiable. Contact Mr. Lewis. Call for viewing now. Tel: 089-497 4445 (English), 089-394 2981 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at www.thailandsold.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE



50sq wah, 3 storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, balcony. Convenient for restaurants with too many car parking. Sale by owner. Price 13 million baht. Tel: 087-2709093.

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Please note that ads are now being accepted for the January 11 issue onwards. The deadline for placing ads in the Jan 4 issue has already closed.

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Four storey townhouse on a small hillside 5 minute walk to the beach at the northern edge of Patong. City on one side, Jungle on the other, Patong Beach down the street, & walking distance to all Patong's delights

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Properties For Rent

LUXURY POOL VILLA - RAWAI

3/4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3-storey, fully furnished luxury pool villa in Rawai/Nai Ham. Available in January for long-term rental: 52,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-267 1282 (English). Email: david_rosamond@yahoo.com

ONE ROOM FOR RENT KATA BEACH

In a 2-bedroom apartment, large terrace, 5 minutes from Beach, restaurants, fully furnished, cable TV, internet included, parking, quiet location. Tel: 094-375 9102. Email: yveshamel12@hotmail.ca

CHEAP RENT KOH KAEW

1-bedroom house on Boat Lagoon canal. 3,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

PARADISE FOR RENT



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, very quiet, western standard, aircon, WiFi. Tel: 083-395 5330 (English), +41-07-9661 4061. Email: c.spleiss@robert-spleiss.ch Please visit our website at www.naiham-villa.com

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract and common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

APARTMENT & HOUSE AVAILABLE

Studio, 1-bed, 2-bed apartment and houses for short & long-term rent. Kata-Karon, Patong, Kathu area. Tel: 086-940 5187 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-333077. Email: nirvanaphuket@hotmail.it For further details, please see our website at www.phuketislandrealestate.com

HOUSE AT SAI YUAN



Fully furnished. 60,000 baht per month. 3-month deposit. Tel: 081-6930935. Email: phuketaccount@hotmail.com

4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA, BANG TAO

4 bedrooms, villa with pool and at Bang Tao. From 200,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms for vacation or long-term rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai), 089-724 6026 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindproperties.net

3BR VILLA WITH POOL BANG TAO

3-bedroom villa with pool for rent at Bang Tao. From 180,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

STYLISH HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished 3-bedroom house for long-term rent in a gated community. Internal 230sqm & covered external 60sqm. Must see. Tel: 076-219892, 089-472 5834 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-219893. Email: charupan@yahoo.com

CHALONG POOL VILLA



2 bedrooms, fully furnished, shared pool, landscaped gardens, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, water supply. 12-month contract, 30,000 baht. Sorry, no pets or kids. Tel: 083-102 0876 (English & Thai). Email: info@saisabaavilla.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

HOUSE IN KARON FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2-bedroom house with everything in the heart of Karon. Long-term rental, 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Walking distance to shops, beach & restaurants. 300m from Hilton Hotel. Call 080-690 5248 or send email to lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

BANGKOK SHORT TERM APT RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 130sqm apt on Suk Soi 7. 3 months @30,000 baht + deposit. BTS. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big living area. No furnished, build-in kitchen and car park. Locate behind Kajonkiet School on Chao Fa West Road, just only 5 minutes to Central Festival. Available in January 2014. For short or long term rent. Call to see 087-270 9093.

HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, 46sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

LUXURY 4-BEDROOM VILLA BANG TAO

4-bedroom luxury villa for rent at Bang Tao. From 280,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

HOUSE FOR RENT

Bang Tao area, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

NEW HOUSE 140SQM FOR RENT



2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious downstairs, tiled floor, Soi Laem Hin, Sapam. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-689 3289.

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Network property office



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE
สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ จำกัด

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd.

OPEN POSITION

• **Accountant**

Qualifications:

- Thai Nationality
- Good accounting knowledge and skills
- Knowledge of Accounting Program Quick book 2008
- 5 years of work experience in accounting
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)
- Computer skills

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
17/6 Chaofa Road, Taladnuea sub-district, Muang Phuket district, Phuket province
Tel: 66-76-222191 to 5
Fax: 66-76-222196

Location Phuket Town, Thailand

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has experienced over 35 years as professional in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, which co-operate with our business partnership company as a headquarter in Europe.

Text & Content Editor

Job Description:

- Command of German language
- Work with editing text program
- Creative with art and design
- Team worker and cooperate with other related department

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai Nationality
- Fluent German Language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work both with team and independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Work Permit, Incentive, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
email: info@vsdma.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-4138122 (English). Email: phkrealstate@aol.com

CALL CENTER
Newly established. Call Center (outbound) in Chiang Mai looking for Dutch, French, German speaking Agents WP+ Visa provided after trial period for relocations. Room provided in first month. Interested applicant, please apply with CV at jobs@cmmd-intl.com

THAI TEACHER NEEDED
Qualified Thai teacher wanted for small kindergarten. Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED
Resort looking for receptionist. Smart, good spoken English 15,000 baht per month + commissions on sales. Tel: 076-398422, 080-698 8335 (English & Thai), 081-797 8650 (English & Thai). Email: info.resort@manohra.net

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP
Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com

GUEST RELATION
Good English+Thai nation. Salary: 15,000 - 22,000 baht. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: recruit@chamberofsecrets.com

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST
Thai for Hotel at Nanai Road, must speak English and use computer, good wages and commissions, paid for holidays. Please call for details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

WEBMASTER/ GRAPHIC/IT WORKER
Knowledge in photo and video and good English skills required. Thai national only. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please contact rico@princessyachts-thailand.com

THAI COOK WANTED
Thai food+European snacks. To work cafe bar Karon Beach, must be able to speak reasonable English. Tel: 081-891 9461.

3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT
Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai nationals Only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

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

GERMAN TEACHER URGENTLY
German teacher at The Genius Language School, Patong, Phuket. 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

SENIOR & JUNIOR COOK
To assist Head Cook in maintaining a successful and profitable F&B Department - Degree in F&B Management or related degree, trained in traditional Thai and Western foods. Thai national, fluent in English. Starting salary 14,000 to 17,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Tel: 086-6041 333 (English). Please send CV to gm@ccshideaway.com

MARKETING ASSISTANT WANTED
English-speaking Marketing Assistant with good computer and internet knowledge wanted. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please send CV to rico@princessyachtsthailand.com

ENGLISH TEACHER URGENTLY NEEDED
At The Genius Language School in Patong. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

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

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

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: 076-613173

KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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!

RESTAURANT SURIN
Needs staff, one bar person, one waitress, second chef. Must speak English. Tel: 083-033 3562.

THAI EMPLOYEE - OFFICE JOB

Want an interesting job? New internet firm needs an employee, 20-35 years old, very good English and PC. CV in English only. Tel: 076-322663, 090-0709633 (English & Thai). Email: massi.mo.reve@gmail.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Chalong International School is looking for two experienced teachers for our nursery and preschool to start January 6, Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Please send resume to phuketteacher@yahoo.com

SALES ASSISTANT (RETAIL)

To assist customers in finding items, provide excellent customer service at all times and build good guest relations. Good spoken English and pleasant personality is a must. Base salary 20,000 baht + commissions. Please send your resume to nina@tiger muaythai.com

PA / OFFICE MANAGER

Required to start January/February 2014. Successful applicant will be Thai national, computer literate, responsible for setup and running of Yacht Sales office. They will have excellent spoken and written English, be able to work without direct supervision and able to handle basic accounting and data entry. Please send CV and salary expectation. Tel: 081-894 1530. Email: andrew@multihullsolutions.asia

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking

▶ Russian Guest Relations Officer

Requirements:

Male/ Female. Minimum 2 years similar experience, fluent in Russian + English and experience working in Thailand.

Please email your English resume to:

hrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net or call +66 76 314 263 ext. 7732.

ACCOUNTANT & ADMINISTRATION

TLI is looking for honest and hardworking Thai, qualified accountant and 2 admin assistants, Thai national, fluent English. Tel: 083-1022910. Email: belinda@tropical-landscaping.com

DANISH STAFF WANTED

Danish speaking, 20-30 years old, Send your CV and photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

RUSSIAN SALES LADY WANTED

Needed for real estate. English spoken and writing. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bay shoreprojects.com

CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person for our call center in Phuket to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. Tel: 089-8739123. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Email: info@intercall service.com

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate urgently require an experienced English Speaking copywriter to write property listings. Can work from home in own time. Training given. Average listings: 60 per month. Good commissions paid. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siam realestate.com

EUROPEAN CHEF HIRE

Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa is looking for chef, sous chefs, bartenders, and service staff. We want both full time and part time. Good salary with work permit. Tel: 081-905 8353. Please call or send email to hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB GRAPHIC / CSS DESIGNER 1 POSITION

- ▶ Thai Nationality
- ▶ Minimum one year experience in web design
- ▶ Working knowledge of standard graphics tools, e.g. Photoshop, Illustrator
- ▶ Excellence in web design, CSS, web layout, HTML, template design and JavaScript
- ▶ Experience in creating pages for portable devices (iPhone, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, etc) would be a plus
- ▶ Excellence in web/mobile user experiences
- ▶ Knowledge of HTML5 would be a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of responsive web design a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of JQuery a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of SEO a plus
- ▶ Good communication skills including ability to convey creative concepts and rationale to other team members
- ▶ Able to work efficiently under pressure with careful attention to detail

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Big (IT Manager), by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 705 Fax: 076-615240
Email: Big@phuketgazette.net

Live in Town?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **iTree Complete Printing Service**

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Nan: (076-255425)**

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!

Business Products & Services

COWBOY SHOW

The art of the western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257 or send email to mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

40FT SEA CONTAINER

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

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. For more information, please call 081-476 5808.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Train model. 1:22.5 scale, steam locomotive with sound, 2 passenger cars, 100ft of tracks. Please call 091-040 8869.

LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Russian, Chinese, English and Thai. Four-week courses of 40 hours cost 10,000 baht per person at The Genius Language School Patong, Phuket. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270. Email: aood16@hotmail.com

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

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

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. Tel: 083-362 4144.

TRANSLATION CENTER PHUKET

We translate all documents from and into English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Thai. For more information, please call 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

BUDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-10. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Please call 076-384638, 080-624 7060 (English), 087-278 5511 (Thai).

NEW CARDIO TENNIS

Ditch the gym, grab your racket. Non stop 60-minute fun workout with music. Only 300 baht per person. Lessons hitups also available. Tel: 090-706 6674, 090-071 7163. Your court or ours. Please visit our website at www.tennisjuniorpro.com

HOTEL BOOKING LIST SERVICE

Hotel registration and monitoring on Agoda, Sawadee and Booking.com For more information, please call 083-394 5863. Email: tperke@googlemail.com

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE

Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Call for reservations. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 8471.

Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Keyboard: Casio. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.
- Camera: Asabipenix. Price: 20,000 baht.

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

SOLAR PANELS

Good condition. Used, 30 baht per watt. Assorted from 900 baht. Email: catcha123@gmail.com

MINI LATHE

35,000 baht. Please call 080-718 1686. Email: maxphuket@hotmail.de

Pets



At Doggie Heaven we have several rescue dogs who are looking for loving homes. All are healthy, well behaved and groomed. For more photos view at www.doggieheaven.net or contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com All vaccinated & sterilised

Television Sets

SATELLITE TV

Satellite TV Thailand. We provide all sorts of satellite TV, including HD satellite service. You can order on line. We ship cash on delivery anywhere in Thailand. We also accept Paypal for international orders. Tel: 080-694 0663 (English & Thai), 089-821 3772. Email: sales@thailandpropertys.com

Club Memberships Available

LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP 23 YEARS

Rarely available - 730,000 baht. In Phuket from December 20 - January 1. Tel: 076-362150, 081-083 4935 (English). Hong Kong: +85 20 9460 0660. Fax: +85 20 3015 0806. Email: gperchthold@gmail.com

BLUE CANYON G.C.C.

Family golf share for sale: 780,000 baht. Free transfer. For more information, please call 076-284428, 081-787 9495 (English). Email: klaus@wefix.nu

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

350,000 baht + transfer, expires 2024. Please call 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

BLUE CANYON

Family for 820,000 baht. Includes transfer. For more information, please call 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

BLUE CANYON CORPORATE MEMBER

One third of lifetime corporate membership for sale. 720,000 baht. Tel: 085-782 5197 (English). Email: webbjo10@bigpond.com

BLUE CANYON GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime membership. Good savings. 850,000 baht. Please call 084-052 2277 (Thai). Email: samverow@gmail.com

Phuket Memorial

Professional Wedding Photographer

Family Beach Wedding Pre-weddings portraits and Events Phuket Samui Phi Phi Krabi Lanta Thailand

Email: nid@phuketmemorial.com | Mobile Phone: +66 (0)8 1691 5617
www.phuketmemorial.com

Live in Chalong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Deli Supermarket

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong: (076-342275)**

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!

Saloon Cars

CHEVROLET AVEO 2012 BLACK

1.4L automatic, leather, clean, full service book, 45,600km, taxed and insured. For sale: 299,000 baht. Tel: 092-893 0652. Email: aveo9971@hotmail.com

SILVER PROTON SAGA 1.3



Year 2011, automatic, 1 owner, 15,000km with insurance. Sale: 300,000 baht. Tel: 086-476 9612.

TOYOTA VIOS SPORTIVO 2012

Vios Sportivo, 1.5 VVTI auto. Black. Sattelite navigator, spoiler, rear sensors, 4,900km. One owner. For sale: 575,000 baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 080-718 1226 (English), 082-286 5171 (English & Thai). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

TOYOTA VIOS 1.5 2005

Silver, 67,000km. For sale: 275,000 baht o.n.o. Please call 081-086 9921 (English).

RARE CLASSIC

Mercedes 280 CE Coupe. Regularly serviced, all good. Bodywork needs attention. Offers around 200,000 baht. Tel: 095-530 4214 (English). Email: robbiecorbo@gmail.com

YARIS E LTD 2009



Great condition, silver color with black leather, 67,000km by lady driver, new tyres, tax and insurance until mid 2014. Price: 360,000 baht. Tel: 081-893 5146.

COROLLA ALTIS

Black, 1.6G, 2010. 36,000km, Excellent condition. 580,000 baht. Tel: 084-745 5546.

SALE YARIS S 2006

Full options, Toyota service. 320,000 baht. Negotiable! Please call 081-968 3549.

HONDA ACCORD QUICK SALE

1990, black Honda Accord, runs well, new tyres, manual, power windows, aircon is cold. Need to sell: 75,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 084-446 8965 (English), 085-917 1046 (Thai). Email: harold mccarthy@gmail.com

JEEP CJ7 2,000CC 2WD



Restored 1 year ago, new 20-inch alloys, new brakes, exhaust carbon, interior, towbar, full tax insurance, Blue book, great looking Jeep. Sale: 285,000 baht. Please call 089-035 4461 (English).

Motorbikes

YAMAHA YZ 250F



2007, excellent condition, full Moto X Gear included. Price: 100,000 baht. Tel: 084-840 4317.

HONDA STEED 600CC

Modified bike, newly overhauled. Green book. 139,000 baht. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

SUZUKI KATANA MOTORBIKE

Farang owned Suzuki Katana, restored and in nice condition, new tyres, Green book. Sale only 190,000 baht! For more information, please call 090-763 5672. Email: t-b otma@online.no

KAWASAKI ER6N FOR SALE

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Phuket Governor Maitree Inthusut accepted a refrigerator from Mission Hospital Phuket to use for Red Cross projects in 2014.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR SIRIPATTRA KUSUWAN AND PAWIN SUTBAPONG



Phuket Governor, Maitri Inthusut (3rd from left) was an honorary guest for the wedding of Dr Siripattra Kusuwan and Pawin Sutbapong.

CENTARA GRAND WEST SANDS RESORT & VILLAS PHUKET



Andreas Korf (left), general manager and Dechanont Wangthong (right), executive assistant manager of Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket welcome Taya Rogers (center), actress and host of the TV show Beyond Destinations, broadcast on True Vision channel 90, during her filming trip at the resort's Splash Jungle Water Park and her stay at the resort.

SIZZLER PATONG BOSSA BEACH PARTY GRAND OPENING



From left to right: Mr Narubodin Wanitpattanakul, Managing Director of Alfresco Phuket Hotel; Mr Kanchit Chattrakul, Product Specialist Manager; Ms Wisansaya Ponsin of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO); Ms Nongchanok Stananonth – Sizzler Assistant Vice President Group Marketing; Mr Peerapong Polpramul – President of Phuket Reporter Club and Ms Ardhawadee Jiramaneeikul – Minor Food Group Public Relations Manager.

THANK YOU PURA

The Phuket Today team visited Pura Organic for a bit of Christmas shopping last week. Thanks to Martin Smetsers for helping the team live a little healthier in the New Year.



Fight for your right

By Frank Anderson

NOT long ago, a close associate phoned to get a heavy burden off his chest. His parents in the UK were in need of help in moving to another state, but no other family members would help. "John" as we'll call him, complained to me that he really wanted to go back but that his Thai wife had spent everything he ever had so he couldn't afford to travel.

It's a very common scenario – foreigner comes to Thailand with money, falls in love/lust, stays, loses money, then either grins and bears it, becomes horribly miserable, commits suicide or somehow makes his way back home with bitter story to tell all who will listen.

After his money is gone, the foreigner is rightfully angry and worried, but to date has historically been of the mind that if it's over, then it's over, and nothing can be done. He thinks no money can be recovered, stolen property is lost forever, and there is absolutely no place to begin to set things right.

There are generally two types of personalities that find themselves dealing with this situation. The first is a passive, sometimes defeatist one that won't even try to do what it takes to recover what he is entitled to. He feels that it can't be done so trying would be useless.

The second type of personality is the one that decides to take action, come what may, to see how to make the best out of a bad situation. It is very easy to be defeatist because of what happened was bad enough, but

add on top of that being a foreigner in a seemingly unfriendly or unsympathetic environment... you have prime ingredients for failure, even before success is considered.

Not everything in these situations need be lost forever – in many cases. While some things like documented evidence of fund transfers may not be easy to locate, or you never got a receipt from your wife for the money you gave her, or you can't even think about getting anything back because you have no place to live... don't give up.

Although most people, including Thais close at hand, may agree that nothing can be done, saying so doesn't make it so. Reward comes to those who seek it, and if you don't try then nothing will come to pass. If you have been ripped off by your (ex) Thai wife and want to get satisfaction, any money back, possession of at least some stolen property, the time to begin is now. Here's one tact to follow – with the caveat that this is not nor should it be considered legal advice:

1. Despite depression and possible other hardships, sit down and put together what you had, what she has, and where she got it – according to you.

2. Write down a brief but detailed account of your story – when and how you met your wife, the various dates and amounts of money transferred to Thailand from where, and dates your wife bought which items with the



Broken marriage? Don't give in to depression – recover what's left of your money and pride. Photo: Skley

money you provided; marriage date and place; date major items, like car or house that was "bought" by her, and just how you provided the money for it.

3. In cases where the wife is an inveterate gambler and the big money has been lost through gambling, you are obviously not going to get any back. But you may be able to sue in civil court to recoup some property and whatever money may still be around or coming in as personal income.

4. To get organized on the road to meaningful action, it's best to talk with an attorney about your situation and show him whatever kind of evidence – record of events and documents, like bank transfer receipts that you have showing when, how and where you provided the money. You will probably be able to get some free legal advice up front as a lawyer who handles these cases will want you as a paying client and may be willing to try to solicit your interest by providing minimum guidance.

5. Because using someone else's money for wrongful reasons may also be a breach of the law, the aggrieved party may also consider

filing a criminal complaint, first with the police, and then using a copy of that, with other documents and statements, working with a lawyer, to file a case with the public prosecutor's office.

6. In filing a formal civil case, several legal statutes are possibly applicable to the case of a foreigner faced with a common rip-off by a Thai wife (or even girlfriend). The client and lawyer should discuss which, but possible statutes including some of those in the contacts and family law sections of the Civil and Commercial Code. Property of Husband and Wife is covered under Statutes 1465-1493. In the Civil and Commercial Code, other sections may or may not apply. Chapter 1 under Title 6, Ownership-Acquisition of Ownership, beginning with statute number 1308, is instructive. Lawyers won't always identify which statutes apply for various reasons. Thais usually want to "get it over with" and don't like multiple filings.

The above is provided only for information and to illustrate that while you may be having hard times, and are rightfully depressed, doing something about it is possible, and frankly, can be another way of tiger-balming a sensitive wound. To

what extent you will be successful depends on your individual case and the circumstances. In my experience, Thais have proven highly inventive in being unable to be found if hiding from someone trying to collect money from them. As well, police, when criminal charges are filed, are far from helpful in working with you to pursue locating the defendant. You will have to do a lot of the footwork yourself, go to various government agencies to obtain documents or complete filings. It takes a great deal of time, and results are seldom immediate.

For foreigners who have not yet run into the unfortunate circumstances described in this article but are certainly not immune from them, take heed and keep records.

Frank G Anderson is the Thailand representative of American Citizens Abroad. He was a US Peace Corps volunteer to Thailand from 1965-67, working in community development. A freelance writer and founder of Northeast Thailand's first local English language newspaper, the Korat Post (thekoratpost.com) he has spent over eight years in Thailand "embedded" with the local media. He has an MBA in Information Management and an Associate Degree in Construction Technology.



Getting married is costly, getting divorced even more so. Photo: Peter Hellber

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**WHAT'S ON
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Now until Jan 5, 12-10:30pm. Contemporary Art Exhibition by Richard Skene at Breeze
Contemporary Art Exhibition by Richard Skene, titled "The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom". The exhibition will be held at Breeze at Cape Yamu in Phuket from December 21, 2013 to January 5, 2014. Please visit breezcapeyamu.com and richardskene.com for more information.

Dec 31 6pm-5am, Coyote's New Year's Eve Party and Buffet Dinner.

Celebrate NYE on the Coyote Terrace over looking Patong Beach. The best view in Patong. Also enjoy our all you can eat spicy Mexican and Tex Mex buffet from 7pm. Only 795 Baht+ vat per person. We have over 75 different margaritas to choose from. We are located at the Baan Thai Resort & Spa on the second floor above Starbucks. Merry Xmas and see you on New Years Eve. For reservations contact: info@coyotep Phuket.com

Dec 31, 6-11pm. New Year's Eve at Two Chefs

At all our Two Chefs Bar & Grill branches, we will be serving a four course set menu at only 1,595 baht (as well as our la carte menu). At our Karon restaurant, well known local band Pitch Control will entertain you with some great tunes until the late hours. For more information, please visit our website or follow us online: facebook.com/twochefsthailand. For reservations, email or give us a call on 076-284155.

New Year's Eve Party and Dinner at Friendship Beach Resort 7pm-1am



Dec 31, 7-11pm. New Year's Eve buffet @ Xana Beach Club

This exclusive buffet includes free flow of drinks and a delicious menu including starters: rock lobster and prawn bisque, a pate and terrine station, a fresh seafood bar with oysters, ceviche, sushi and sashimi and carpaccio, as well as a flamb corner with foie gras. Mains include lobster, lamb chops, tiger prawns, chorizo, scallops, all followed by twelve sumptuous deserts. The price is 7,000 baht ++ per person, and includes free entry to the NYE party with international DJ Jeremy Healy (normally 1,000 baht). For more information, contact Annabel at 076-324101 or email info@xanabeachclub.com

Dec 31, 8pm-12am. New Year's Eve Gala Dinner

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort invites you to experience a very special evening to celebrate the last day of the year with the

wonderful sounds of our live band and DJ. A gala buffet featuring fresh seafood on ice, live cooking stations and an array of Thai and international favorites will culminate in a spectacular fireworks show as the new year begins. Adults: 7,000++ baht per person; 3,500++ baht per child aged 4-12. Space is limited. For reservations, call 076-360600, ext 2470. Prices are subject to a 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

Dec 31, 9pm-2am. The New Year's Eve Party at XANA Beach Club,

NYE will see XANA finish the year in style, with international DJ Jeremy Healy performing a spectacular set from Bangtao Beach. DJ and producer Healy has performed headline DJ sets in almost every country in the world and has been the music event director for fashion brands including Christian Dior and Emilio Pucci. The party starts at 9pm and is 1,000 baht, includ-

ing two drinks (free for those who book the NYE Dinner Buffet). The event will include a spectacular fireworks display. Contact Annabel Fox on 076-324101 or visit the website at: xanabeachclub.com

Dec 31, 7pm-1am. New Year's Eve Party and Dinner at Friendship Beach Resort

Another great year is coming to an end; come and celebrate with us in ushering in an even greater 2014. With music, dancing, a

Thai dance show, a live fire show, a breathtaking fireworks display and a fantastic buffet Contact Chef Charly on 089-728-5304 or visit the website at: friendshipbeach.com

Jan 1, 2014. New Year's Day
New Years Day is a public holiday in Thailand

Jan 3, 7-11pm. Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

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

January's lunch will be held at the Dusit Laguna Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For bookings: info@phuketiw.com. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711

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<p>True Freeview Channel 59 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <p>Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm</p>	<p>Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon.</p> <p>Channel 1 - 28 shows a week Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.</p> <p>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm</p>

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Richard Skene on the art scene

'The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom'

By Bruce Stanley

RICHARD Skene is no stranger to art nor to Phuket. While his professional training is in the management of property, he has maintained a lifelong interest in how art can reflect the struggle to find happiness.

"I've observed that the path to happiness can lead either to the pursuit of pleasure or the pursuit of restraint as practiced by followers of the Buddhist path. Thailand is a remarkable country where a person can travel in both directions with freedom of choice and opportunity."

Richard is a self-trained artist. He has extensive knowledge of what is happening in the world of modern art and ideas. He follows the style of such iconic installation artists as Damian Hirst and Jeff Koons, whereby he creates a concept, designs the look, chooses the materials and then uses technicians to create the final product. This is a method used in the Italian Renaissance when well known artists would have studio assistants complete their ideas to a canvas or a wall.

"The Road of Excess Leads to the Palace of Wisdom" is the concept for Richard's show at Breeze restaurant where owner Peter Hamilton displays his modern sculptures by Chinese artists.

"At Breeze, we want to provide the best things in life, including contemporary cuisine and interesting art. I'm happy to give Richard's work some exposure on Phuket as it meets a high international standard," explains Peter.

Richard recently qualified as a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS) and spent a couple years working with the Banyan Tree Resorts launching their luxury villas. Currently, he has his own sales and marketing consultancy and represents the residences of the W retreat on Koh Samui.

But creating art fills his spare time. He is not a painter but works with photography, screen prints, light installations and sculptures.

For his Phuket show, he is presenting images of what he sees as the "second most beautiful woman in the world." *Foxy Lady* combines both positive and negative photographic images to heighten the erotic appeal of his ideal woman.

He likes to work with themes that



ALLURING: Artist Richard Skene with his piece *Foxy Lady* and *the Divine States of Buddhism* on the left. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

combine and contrast Thai life with American culture.

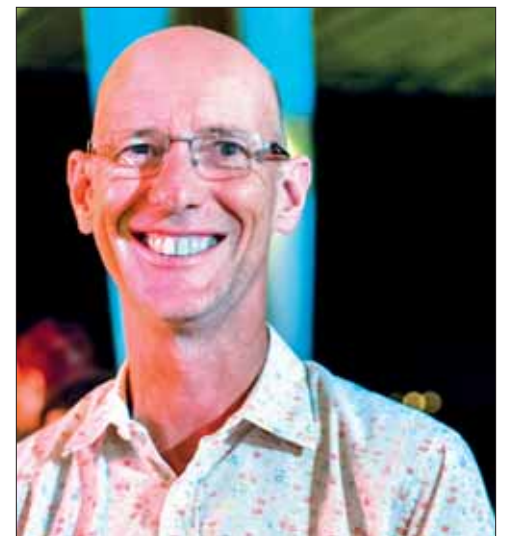
"The United States is the dominant power in the world. The country's founding philosophy is man's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness not unlike the Thai Buddhist philosophy of pursuing happiness through meditation and non-attachment to all states of desire. While the Western model promotes consumption and the pursuit of physical pleasures, I'm interested in which path actually gets a person to the greater sense of happiness."

His clever use of cultural imagery makes his work engaging. He designed an American flag using gold leaf for the stripes and the symbol of Buddhism, the *darmachakra*, for the stars. He's created his own version of the Thai flag using a

light box with red, blue and white light bulbs. And he's taken magical symbols used in religious tattoos and imposed his own ideas on an innovative design. All of Richard's art shows a lively mind engaged in exploring new interpretations of universal themes on the pursuit of pleasure.

He speaks with great enthusiasm about his work celebrating the beauty of women. As much of his art is too graphic for publication, Phuket's art lovers will have to visit Breeze restaurant at the entrance to Cape Yamu before January 5, 2014 to catch this stimulating show.

For more information on Richard Skene and his show at BREEZE, please email: breezcapeyamu.com or richardskene.com or contact Khun Ong 086 334 3333.



Breeze owner Peter Hamilton.



Art enthusiasts came to admire Richard Skene's exhibition at Breeze restaurant.



Skene likes to work with themes that combine and contrast Thai life with American culture.

Meet the marine sultan of decor

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

WE ALL have the DIY home decorator friends – and many of them should be banned from such activities. Now, there are plenty of people outside of the interior design industry that have taste in curtains, carpets and congenial decor.

However, there are many more individuals who stroll through a variety of unrelated shops quickly making purchases ranging from kitsch pop-art pink flamingo statues, to Renoir impressionist pieces, tacked together somewhere in Patong. These people are the decorator crabs of the terrestrial world.

Yet, at least the logic behind the phenomenal and creative decorator crab can be figured out. What base instinct drives our imbalanced friends to home decoration remains a mystery.

The vast majority of decorator crabs, of which there are many species within the *majoid* family, do the vast amount of their work at night,

like insomniacs moving furniture around the living room at 3am.

With the sun down and small waves crashing into Koh Doc Mai, these creative critters begin to work as divers slip into the water for their night dives.

At first glance, it isn't alive – it's an amorphous jumble of bits of yellow sponge and other marine debris. Then it moves.

The creature moves! And despite this shifting in life, a diver seeing one of these camouflage geniuses for the first time won't get it. Their mind jumps through hoops of logic, maybe a bit of current pushed the broken bits of sponge around.

Sadly, many divers move on, unaware that they have fallen victim to a master of disguise.

But hold the torch steady and the sponge will move again. Little front claws, *chelipeds*, reach out and pick at a piece of marine debris and bring it to the crabs mouth.

It is a night-dive blessing that the decorator crabs in Phuket put as much effort into their costumes as the ladyboys on

Soi Bangla, because not all decorator crabs work so hard. There is significant variation from individual to individual and from species to species.

Those in the Andaman align with Gregory Jensen's description in *Pacific Coast Crabs and Shrimps* of those that "thoroughly, fastidiously attaching material over their entire carapace and along each of their legs". They are not the "others", who might only place a single sprig of algae on their rostrum".

These crabs have four basic ways of predator avoidance: background matching (see: sad, fat old man, sipping a beer at 11am in Patong); matching specific objects (see: ladyboy breast augmentations on Soi Dragon); breaking up outline of crab body (see: well it's hard to see them); use noxious plants or animals (see: drink spiking).

In Phuket's waters, our crabs have found their niche – sponges.

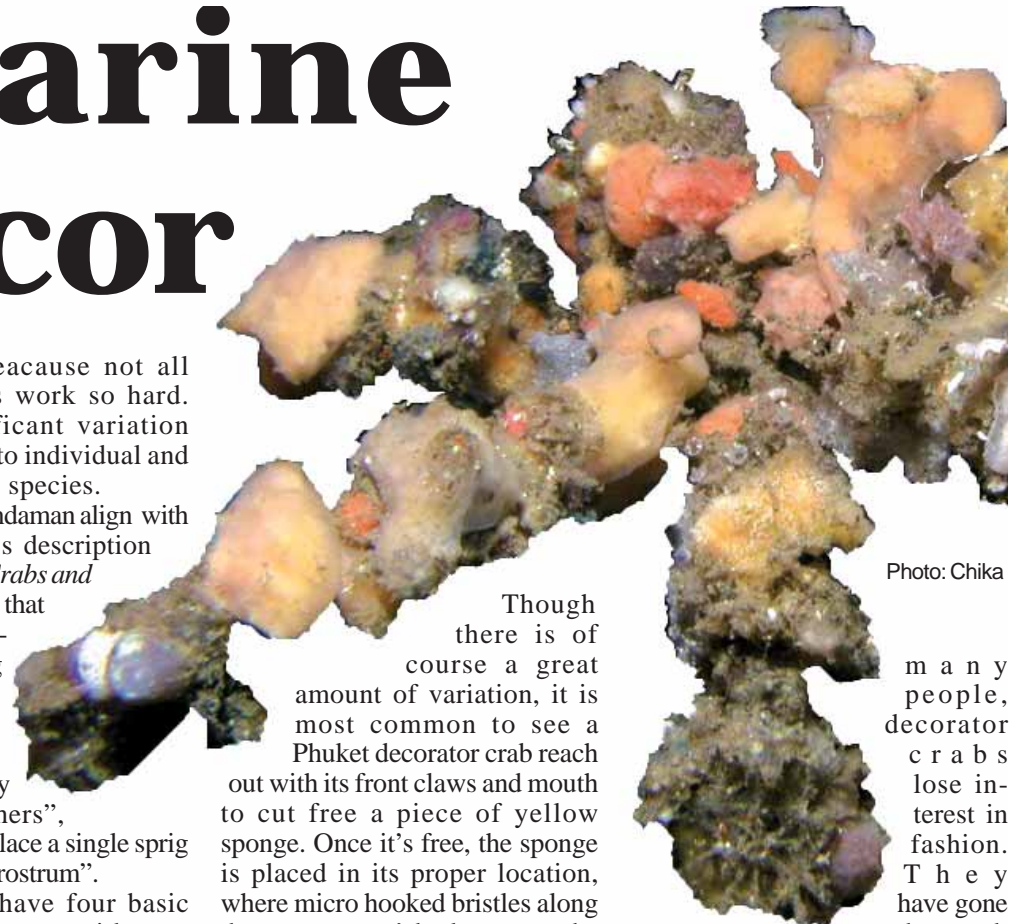


Photo: Chika

Though there is of course a great amount of variation, it is most common to see a Phuket decorator crab reach out with its front claws and mouth to cut free a piece of yellow sponge. Once it's free, the sponge is placed in its proper location, where micro hooked bristles along the crustaceans' body secure the animals' new apparel.

But as anyone who follows fashion can tell you, no look is forever. In this case, it's due to molting.

However, it is not uncommon for a crab to pluck some favorite bits of seaweed, sponge, noxious plant or animal from its old shell and add it to the new one.

Yet, there is a point that, like

many people, decorator crabs lose interest in fashion. They have gone through their anxious teen years, their self-promoting 20s and 30s and now they simply don't care, or perhaps they are big enough not to fret over the majority of predators. Now, if only our DIY friends would follow this evolutionary example of sensibly molting such erratic decorating and free their beautiful island homes of kitsch Patong clutter.

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An unkempt piece of paradise

IT IS a truism that your garden is an expression of yourself. In a literal sense, this is obvious: you are the person responsible

for its design, its maintenance, and for the plants you put in or leave out. When I was an undergraduate long ago, the Professor of Biology, an acknowledged authority on botany, spoke on a weekly BBC radio program called *Gardener's Question Time*.

Ironically, his own garden was a neglected wilderness of weeds. So when the "Beeb" wanted to interview him in his own back-yard, he did a deal with his neighbor, the Philosophy Professor, who happened to have a splendid garden. So, in blissful ignorance, the BBC

did the outside broadcast in the wrong place. No doubt they said very flattering things about his horticultural prowess.

Your garden, however, reflects your personality in more subtle ways. For instance, my father adored roses and cultivated more than a hundred varieties of hybrid tea rose. He also loved the sheer opulence of closely mown grass. In fact, our lawn occupied



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

about half the total area of the plot. On the other hand, the kitchen garden was relegated to the back yard, hidden behind a

trellis of rambler roses. Looked after by the odd-job man, he always complained he didn't have enough space to grow what was needed in the "Dig for victory". Dad certainly loved fresh vegetables, but he found them short on aesthetic appeal.

What does that say about him? That he loved beautiful things, but lacked any practical sense whatsoever. For him opera, books and flowers were prime pleasures; certainly not anything as mindless as sport. Cricket and football were for "flannelled fools and muddled oafs". Talk of fox-

hunting brought forth a dismissive quotation from Oscar Wilde: "the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable". Horse racing, the "sport of kings" left him as cold as a cucumber in its winter frame. As for mending things: when his brother asked where the tool box was, my mother replied he might as well search for the crown jewels.

So what I wonder does my garden say



Veggies: Practical but not pretty. Photo: Srl



It can be all too easy to let nature take its course in a tropical garden. Photo: Brewbooks

about "yours truly"? Well, for a start, I would find little favor with most Thais who love order: neatly pruned hedges of ixora or duranta, maybe some elegant topiary, carefully arranged flower beds, color-coded borders where all the vibrant colors complement each other. There's Nothing wrong with any of these ideas. What they all reflect is the desire to bring the human element more into play, to manage and keep in check what could so easily become in tropical conditions a rioting mass of springing vegetation.

By this token I am not a proper gardener. For a start, my garden is far too lush – though overgrown might be a better word. In part, this stems from my dislike of controlling Mother Nature: too much of that goes on already in Phuket and I prefer to let plants go their own way. Of course there is a downside to this. Already some trees have grown too unruly: already I have had to cull a mango and a fiddlewood. My solitary

avocado has exceeded all my expectation in terms of growth – though not yet in terms of fruit. The alstonia supports a beautiful climbing purple bignonia, currently in full flower, but it is only a matter of time

before its all too solid trunk and rampant roots will begin to undermine the adjacent wall. Both yellow palms and peruvianas have been cut back.

The other quirk of my garden is that it contains too many different foliage and flowering plants. I did this for a reason: namely so I could write in these columns about each and every species from personal experience.

A laudable aim I hope, but one which has meant a rash of varieties crowded together without enough concern for color-coding or coherent planning.

Personally I don't mind this profusion, but I know I'm in a minority – probably of one.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



The author's father preferred roses over vegetables in his garden. Photo: Stan Shebs



Is your garden neat or full of weeds? Photo: Dok1



Tea roses have scores of hybrids and are a favorite of gardeners the world over. Photo: Jebulon

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Tip of the week

Pot plants again

A RECENT visit to a garden consisting almost entirely of pot plants has prompted another stab at the topic. What the visit made clear was that *most* shrubs can be grown in containers, and not just the usual culprits. While front yards and patios in Phuket tend to be inhabited by euphorbias, adeniums, bougainvilleas, palms and wrightias, this garden had gardenias, dracaenas, gingers and



Photo: Liz West

lots more. Try foliage plants such as crotons, *graphiophylums* and *acalyphas*.

Container plants can be deployed to create an interesting focal point, to define an area, or to decorate difficult patches, such as a dry or

an excessively wet corner. Pots are an effective means of controlling a plant's environment, as the amount of moisture required can be monitored and specific nutrient or pH requirements catered for. And they can, if necessary, be brought indoors. *Short* spells in the house are recommended, since few plants can adapt permanently to the relative lack of sun and humidity.

More myths of the Emerging Buddha

AS I mentioned in my previous *Looking Back* column, the *Phra Phood*, or the Emerging Buddha of Thalang, may have been discovered sometime in the mid 18th century by local villagers living near the town of Thalang, in the northern part of Phuket. The large golden Buddha image got its name from the fact that when it was uncovered, the lower half of the statue was buried deep underground. When the governor of Thalang first heard of the discovery, he ordered the villagers to dig up the statue from the ground so that it may be taken to a temple to be properly worshiped. But when the villagers tried to dig up the statue, it is said that swarms of locusts and wasps began to emerge from the disturbed ground to attack the villagers that were trying to recover the statue.

For generations, the people of Thalang have believed in the divine powers of the Emerging Buddha. Many stories that have emerged about the Golden Buddha statue are shrouded in legend. In the year 1809, towards the end of King Rama I's reign, the Burmese attacked the South of Thailand once again. They reached Thalang and sacked the town. When they conquered Thalang, the Burmese looted everything of significant value and burned the rest. They soon came across the revered Emerging Buddha outside of the town. Seeing that it was made of gold, the Burmese were determined to take the statue back with them. But as the soldiers dug around the statue to uncover the lower half, again massive numbers of wasps, locusts and red ants began emerging from the disturbed ground and attacked the diggers. Many hundreds of Burmese soldiers were stung by the insects and were forced to abandon the digging. It is said that the soldiers

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

that were stung later became critically ill and many died of fever.

Determined to take the statue home with them, the Burmese began using fire to smoke out the ants and wasps from around the statue. However they were not able to recover the Buddha statue since a few weeks later, a Thai army from Nakhon Sri Thammarat arrived in Phuket drove the invading Burmese out of the island.

Many years later, a monk from Sukhothai called Luang Por Singha travelled to Thalang and came across this peculiar half buried Buddha statue. Because it was made of gold, the monk was afraid that thieves might be able to saw off the Buddha's head easily. He urged the locals to build a temple at the site where the Buddha was located. The locals of Thalang heeded his advice and built the "Temple of the Golden Buddha" at the site. They built a chapel around the Emerging Buddha and declared it the principal Buddha image of the temple. Luang Por Singha was appointed the temple's first abbot.

Many years later during his tenure as abbot, it is said that Luang Por Singha sculpted an eerie riddle on a scroll, which translates roughly as follows.

"Shrugging three or four times, bearers bring ghosts to burn. The ghosts that have not yet decomposed, their fragrance can be smelled from afar".

When he died, he passed on the riddle scroll to his successor, with a condition that the new abbot must unlock the meaning of the riddle. If he cannot do so, he will not be able to stay at the Temple of the Emerging Buddha for long. As

time went by, Luang Por Singha's successor was not able to crack the riddle. True to his prophecy, he did not remain the abbot of the temple much longer. Each successive abbot that followed him was not able to crack the riddle either, and they too were not able to stay at the temple for long. In time the temple's eerie reputation began to spread as a temple that "ate its abbots" and no monk was willing to take up residence there. The temple began to fall into disrepair and became abandoned.

In the year 1897, a monk named Phra Kru Jitthasomanwat of Phra Nang Sang Temple in Thalang was able to crack the infamous riddle. He then asked for the Temple of the Golden Buddha to be renovated and volunteered to become its 15th abbot. He remained the temple's abbot for 61 years, proving that his solution to the riddle was indeed correct.

Phra Kru Jitthasomanwat explained that Luang Por Singha's riddle was referring to the tradition of cremating deceased Chinese monks using scented wood, such as Sandalwood. The "shrugging bearers" referred to the bearers of a palanquin, as they moved a few steps forward and a few steps backwards. The "ghosts" in this case were the scented woods inside the palanquin that would have to be burned with the deceased. "The ghosts that have not yet decomposed" referred to the scented woods that were not yet burned. "Their fragrance can be smelled from afar", referred to the fact that when such palanquins carrying scented woods passed by, the strong scent of the wood inside would diffuse across a great distance.

After the riddle of Luang Por Singha was solved, the Temple of the Emerging Buddha was restored and became a thriving center of worship for the people of Thalang

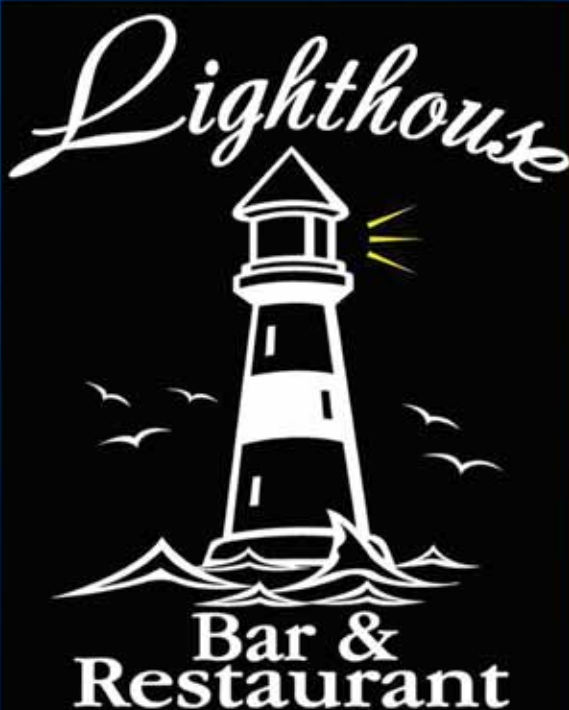


Legend has it that no monk was able to stay abbot at the Temple of the Golden Buddha unless they solved an enigmatic riddle set by Luang Por Singha, the first abbot of the temple. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

once again. In the year 1909, King Rama VI, at that time still the Crown Prince of Siam came on a state visit to Phuket Island. During the trip, he visited the Emerging Buddha statue and royally bestowed the temple its existing name, "Temple of the Golden Buddha".

Despite its long history, no one knows for sure where the Emerging Buddha originated from or who sculpted it. But one of prevailing theories among many Chinese people is that the Emerging Buddha was actually sculpted in China many centuries ago. Known in Chinese as Kim-in-jor, it is said to have resided in a temple in Shanghai. During one of the wars between the Tibetan Empire and the Chinese Tang Empire in the 7th century AD,

Shanghai was attacked and captured by the Tibetans. The Tibetans found the golden Buddha statue and decided to load it onto a ship and transport it elsewhere. During the journey, a storm broke out and sank the ship. The golden Buddha image was never recovered, but many Phuket locals of Chinese origin believe it was washed ashore in Thalang and sank in mud, never to be found again until centuries later. Till today, many Chinese locals in Phuket highly revere the Emerging Buddha image and every year, during important Chinese festivals like Chinese New Year, Chinese locals of Phuket would flock to the Temple of the Golden Buddha to worship the sacred golden image.



Dickie's Light House restaurant and bar, formerly known as Jimmy's Lighthouse, opened December 7 following an extensive refurbishment.

Featuring a new kitchen, great new deck and dining area and bar overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay, the decor is simple and complete with heavy teak tables and highly polished wooden floors.

Dickie's Light House hosts an extensive range of both Thai and Western foods and all-day breakfasts – all at prices that will astound you; the average meal is around 250 baht with all Thai dishes at or under 150 baht; steaks 350-400 baht – all very generous portions. Sunday roasts as well.

Dickie's Lighthouse also offers five accommodations, all with air-conditioning and queen-sized beds. All rooms have large windows overlooking the yachts, long-tail and motor boats moored in beautiful Chalong Bay. The sunrises are spectacular from all five rooms, which are newly furnished and very tastefully decorated.

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Jetstar Asia CEO on Phuket, region market strategy

By Somchai Huasaikul

POSITIONED to meet swelling demand for one of Phuket's top-three tourism source markets in the post-GFC era, leading low-cost carrier Jetstar Asia celebrated its first direct flight from Melbourne to Phuket on December 14; As reported earlier this month by the *Phuket Gazette*, the Singapore-based off-shoot of the Melbourne-headquartered airline also plans to connect the island directly with Australia's largest city, Sydney in February next year. Here, the *Gazette's* aviation correspondent Somchai Huasaikul speaks with Jetstar Asia Chief Executive Officer Barathan "Bara" Pasupathi about the new flights, the stress of being an airline CEO, safety issues and more.

What factors led Jetstar to decide to launch the first-ever direct flight linking Melbourne and Phuket?

That's an easy question, but before I answer you have to understand a little bit about the Jetstar organization. I am the CEO of Jetstar Asia, which operates out of the Singapore hub. The flights coming into Phuket directly from Australia are part of the Jetstar Australia and New Zealand business, but we collaborate as a group, so the question is quite relevant.

It was quite an easy decision to make, as Phuket is naturally one of the favorite destinations among Australians. Whether they are from Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane or Darwin areas, they always include trips to Phuket for family holidays, couples, honeymooners, or free independent travellers, so it's quite a natural choice to offer them direct services so that they don't have to travel through Bangkok or Singapore.

Phuket is a very popular destination for Singaporean tourists as well. I took my wife and two kids there recently, staying at the Indochine resort. They loved it, especially the elephant rides. Just as an example, at the Singapore Zoo they have elephant rides, but they only last two minutes. In Phuket they last an hour.



Is the Melbourne-Phuket route intended as a long-term, year-round service, or is it just to take advantage of a seasonal demand?

These flights are intended to run permanently, because there is a year round demand for Phuket in Australia. We know this because we have also had to increase the number of flights through our Singapore hub to meet [increased] demand [for Phuket flights] last year, so this is just another option for passengers.

I know you started taking reservations a few months ago. Is it too early to say anything about response to the service? Can you say anything about load factor at this point?

I am generally only hearing good things about this service out of Australia. It has helped that the service was launched at an optimal time, because it is the annual Australian travel season at the moment. The Australians love Bali and they love Phuket, but to many degrees certain destinations closer to Australia are getting congested. I think Phuket is one destination that is huge, has good infrastructure, a good pedigree of hotels, has transport readily available and is generally available. So it ticks all the boxes for maintaining good, year-round demand.

I know there are a lot of Thais that live, work, visit or study in Australia. Do they comprise a significant part of the target market for these flights?

Generally our Bangkok services see a lot of Thais heading to Australia. In terms of the Phuket services, it is predominantly leisure-based. We do see some percentages from the Thai market, but it is mostly serving inbound passengers from the Australian and Singapore markets, or even beyond Singapore and hubbing there to Phuket... We may see some Thais travelling outbound out of Phuket, but it is much thinner than with the metro destinations like Bangkok. I do think that kind of demand can build over time, however.

Thai AirAsia has publicized Phuket International Airport as one of its hubs in recent years. Can you comment on competition with AirAsia, especially in terms of the Phuket market?

Jetstar Asia has its hub in Singapore to serve the Phuket market, but as a group we have 31 branded airlines that we work with, both Jetstar branded airlines and other carriers under code share



Jetstar's new Melbourne-Phuket direct flight is intended to be permanent, with demand expected to be steady year-round.

agreements. We work with these carriers to bring traffic into markets. Some of the partners we work with, on the back of our Qantas relationship, include Lufthansa, Emirates, China Southern, China Eastern and Japan Airlines, to name just a few. Our partner airlines feed our hubs into Phuket, as well as from Phuket into Singapore. Benefits to the customers include not having to travel



Jetstar Asia CEO Barathan Pasupathi (2nd right), along with cabin crew and ground staff are committed to upholding safety standards. Photos: Supplied



under separate itineraries and the ability to check baggage all the way through to their final destinations. For Jetstar Asia, Phuket is an important market that is predominantly Asia driven, with a significant component of people travelling there for MICE [meeting, incentive, convention, exhibition] events. We do not claim Phuket as a hub, but it is an important market for us from Singapore as well as for Jetstar in Australia. In the future I would not be surprised to see other branded airlines look at direct flights to Phuket through Australian cities like Melbourne and Sydney, which serve the entire outer core of the Australian market, as well as other source markets in third countries, such as Japan.

With so many factors involved, it must be difficult for you to process all of the information that you need to determine the optimal route system. Do you have a computer program that you use? How do you figure it all out?

We have various analytical tools and data sets where we can draw down traffic data at airports in detail... We have to grow in a managed and controlled manner, feeling confident we can fill the aircraft going into a new market so that we have consistent product and schedule delivery for our customers. We have been in the business for 10 years now, so we have both in-

house tools and third party tools that we use to study markets. Besides demand, there are also other primary considerations to consider before entering a new market. These include such issues as safety and operational performance at the airport, runway specifications and environmental factors.

It seems that before your promotion to CEO most of your experience was in finance and logistics. How do you deal with the underlying stress of being the person that would be held ultimately accountable if there were some sort of disaster?

Well, the aviation industry is a very sophisticated business; it always has been and it is even more sophisticated today with all of the advanced technology... Safety is our primary focus, and we play the safety card in a big way at Qantas and the Jetstar group in general. We exchange information on a daily basis to enhance the safety of the aircraft and training of personnel.

We are the only low-cost carrier in this region that has signed up for IOSA [IATA Operational Safety Audit] certification. IOSA is an accredited certification, usually acquired only by full-service carriers, where we put ourselves under the most stringent safety standards and protocols...

We do this because we want to give comfort and communicate our degree of safety to all our passengers, not just our own passengers but also those flying with us under interline, code share agreements. This is a business in which complacency is simply not an option.

A memoir of schmaltz and jokes

Books

By James Eckardt

"I'VE always felt that the key to good sex is variety. That's why God gave us two hands."

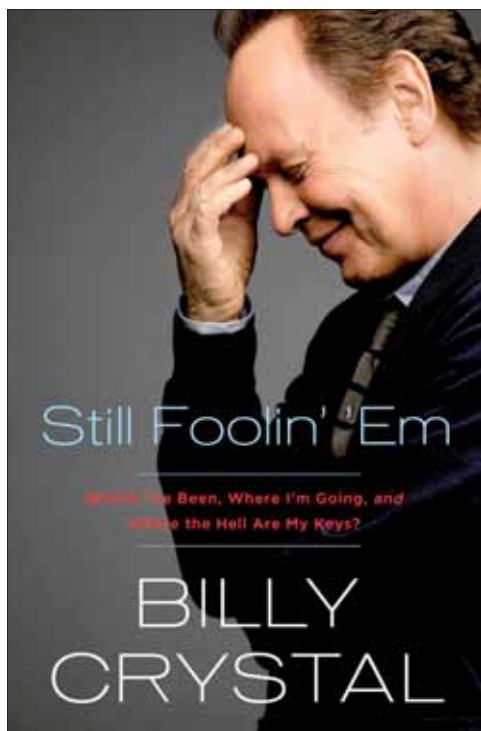
"Babies are the toughest take-home exam of your life."

"And I'm really annoyed at teachers who have * * * with students. It seems like once a week you hear of a thirty-five-year-old math teacher who had * * * in her car with some sixteen-year-old. I am furious. Where was she when I was growing up?"

"Granddads and grandsons are a great combination because they both think that a fart is the funniest thing in the world, and the average grandfather produces more natural gas than the state of Oklahoma."

Billy Crystal's memoir *Still Foolin' 'Em* (Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2013, 272pp) is choc-full of good jokes. Subtitled *Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell are My Keys?*, this is Billy Crystal looking back on his comic career from the vantage point of 65 years. Unlike some of his stand-up peers, he has never been an angry, obscene comedian. He has starred in three classic genial comedies – *When Harry Met Sally*, *City Slickers* and *Analyze This* – hosted the Oscar Awards nine times and launched a long-running Broadway show about his late father, *700 Sundays*. He does not get bleeped on late night talk shows.

He's an odd duck in Hollywood. He has only one wife, his high school sweetheart Janice, and has never been in rehab. He grew up short and Jewish in Long Beach, Long Island, where his heroes were the New York Yankees and Mickey Mantle in



particular. His reflections on being Jewish include:

"With the Chinese New Year, there are dragons, parades, firecrackers. With New Year in America, there are big parties, the ball drops in Times Square, you get drunk, tell someone you love them, and throw up on their shoes. With the Jewish New Year, we fast, we can't turn on the lights, we confess our sins. Happy New Year! What a party! A bunch of guilty, hungry people sitting in the dark."

After hardscrabble years as a standup comic, he scored his first success on TV by doing an imitation of Muhammad Ali being interviewed by sports-caster Howard Cosell. After his success, both Muhammad Ali and Mickey Mantle became his close friends.

Everyone, it seems, has befriended Billy Crystal. This leads to his book's big flaw: lavish, schmaltzy praise for every showbiz notable in Hollywood and New York. This becomes awfully tiresome.

So it is most refreshing when he unloads on someone. When he was casting about for an actor to play Curly, the crusty old cowboy hero in *City Slickers*, he offered the part to

Charles Bronson who roundly dumped F-bombs on Crystal because Curly dies early in the movie. The part instead went to Jack Palance who went on to win an Academy Award. At the Cannes film festival, Crystal made eye contact with Bronson and wanted to inquire: "F* * * who?"

Crystal concludes his book with a meditation on his last act: death. He has this advice about dealing with heirs: "Never tell them how much money you're leaving them in the will. That's just an incentive for them to write the words DO NOT RESUSCITATE on your chest when you're napping."

Crystal is not religious but narrates a



Katz's Delicatessen in New York City where Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan filmed the famous fake orgasm scene for the movie *'When Harry Met Sally'*. Photo: Star5112

spooky tale about the death of his beloved Uncle Berns. When his uncle was on his deathbed, Crystal's father, who died when he was 14, appeared to him in a dream, dressed in a long black coat and cowl, and said: "Let him go. It's time."

After Uncle Berns died, Alma, his long-time Jamaican nurse, confided to Crystal that his uncle had told her that his brother had come to him in the middle of the night,

dressed in a black coat and cowl, and told him, "It's time, let go, you'll be all right."

Alma's reaction?

"So I said to Berns, tell your brother not to come around here no more."

Crystal's memoir is hugely entertaining. If he doesn't dish dirt on all the sleazy Hollywood types he's met in his long career, it's probably because he's just not that type of guy.



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Hotels support coastal water safety

SEVERAL Phuket hotel general managers and marine industry stakeholders met recently to discuss coastal waters safety, agreeing that there will be a renewed push to move the island's safety standards to the next level – and that they would give their full-hearted support to the recently launched Safer Phuket campaign.

The meeting was held at Le Meridian Phuket Beach Resort in Karon and hosted by General Manager Rudolf Borgesius, a leader in building safer guest environments, who said the hotel was enthusiastic about the developments in water safety programs.

Jayne Macdougall, director of risk management and loss prevention at Le Meridian added: "Naturally we prioritise the safety of all our guests and we very much welcome this positive initiative that we can work alongside and support. It was a very positive and successful meeting and I am sure it will lead to progress," he said.

The meeting focused on the core safety areas covering lifeguards, beach management, training of skippers and crew on tourist boats, and a search and rescue service. The beach hotels in particular recognized their need to build links to their local beaches and to encourage their guests to be aware of the risks. It was clear during the meeting that educating guests and then providing safety support structures, such as lifeguards, was essential.

Jantra Julgiyanond, general manager at The Royal Phuket Yacht Club shared this point: "There is evidence from beaches all over the world that our guests feel secure and positive when they see lifeguard towers and safety guidance. I have no doubt that our guests will prefer to swim near lifeguard protected areas – particularly if they have children."

A point repeatedly highlighted during the meeting was the drive by the overseas travel industry for change in Phuket, with local

hotels and travel operators being actively encouraged to ensure that they use other companies that prioritize safety. Brice Borin, general manager at Regent Phuket, Cape Panwa, explained: "We are concerned for our guests' safety even when they leave our hotel for tours and exploring, and here there can be issues. So for example, if our guests use a tour boat, we can look to ensure that they only use one with a trained and certified skipper and crew."

Safer Phuket is a not for profit social enterprise that is facilitating improved coastal water safety and has, in its short existence, seen an overwhelming level of support for their vision. Duncan Stewart, the initiative's founder added: "There is a clear mandate for change from all sides, with a desire for Phuket to set a world standard in marine safety. Today is another step to Phuket building a brand that we can all be proud of. The support of the hotels is essential and we appreciate all they do."

Claude Sauter, general manager of Panwa Beach Resort endorsed this view: "This was a very constructive meeting and I can see that it helps us run a better hotel. Our view is that safety is about increased profitability, efficiency and brand enhancement as well as guest security and safety. Supporting and partnering with Safer Phuket enables us to do this."

The meeting introduced a number of constructive ideas for change, ranging from Annual Safety Awards to recognize people and companies who make the most difference, through to fun events such as weekly "JUMPS" for safety on local beaches.

"We have always pioneered and focused on the safety of our guests and we are encouraged by the changes that are now underway and that so many other people and organizations share our values and commitment. We will continue to support and promote a Safer Phuket," Mr Borgesius concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Phuket's coastlines attract millions of tourists annually, so water safety should be a top priority. Photo: Neitram



Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club is just one of the hardworking people ensuring tourist safety in the waters surrounding the island. Photo: Gazette file



Lifeguard training sessions like this one create the skills needed to save lives. Photo: Gazette file



The Phuket Gazette and PGTV are founding sponsors and proud media partners of Safer Phuket, which will be hosting a Coastal Water Safety Summit at the upcoming Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) from January 9-12 at the Royal Phuket Marina. For more information, visit see; saferphuket.org or facebook.com/saferphuket



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Audi A 1

Seller beware

The constantly evolving world of internet scams

IT SEEMS lately there has been a surge in the number of internet scams aimed at Phuket residents who advertise something for sale online. Because of this, I decided to write an article about just how these scams work, in the hope that it will help people avoid these sometimes very convincing scammers.

The scam that seems to be doing the rounds now is a pretty simple variant on the old 419 scam. (It's called "419" because that's the statute number in Nigeria - where most of the perpetrators work. See below). Here's how the hook works: this guy finds online advertising, typically for a high ticket item. He then claims to send payment through PayPal, and he can't understand why you didn't get the money. He'll give you all sorts of email addresses to "contact" PayPal, when in fact the email addresses go to his friends in Kazbukistan. Ultimately, if you play it long enough, you'll start getting notices from the "FBI" that tell you that you better send that thing to the scammer, or you're going to get arrested.

Here's how the sting works: the scammer says he'll send an agent to pick the thing up. But in order to pick it up, you - the person getting scammed - have to send a deposit to the shipping company. And of course you have to send the deposit via Western Union, or some other system where there's absolutely no confirmation of who picks up the money. You'll never see the money again.

I've traced back several similar scam messages sent to Phuket, and they almost always originate in Nigeria (although occasionally they come from Burkina Faso, and a handful of similarly enlightened countries). Here's the explanation:

Greetings,

I am writing this letter to you in good faith and I hope my contact with you will transpire into a mutual relationship now and forever. I am Mrs Omigod Mugambi, wife of the late General Rufus Mugambi, former Director of Mines for the Dufus Diamond Dust Co Ltd of Central Eastern Lower Leone... and so on.

I'm sure you're smart enough to pass over e-mail like that. At least, I



hope so. It's an obvious setup for the classic 419 ("four one nine") scam, a scam so common that it has a widely accepted name, which derives from Nigerian Criminal Code Chapter 38, Article 419.

Much more sophisticated versions of the 419 scam are making the rounds today. The basic approach is to convince you to send money to someone, usually via Western Union. If you send the money, you'll never see it again, no matter how hard the sell or dire the threatened consequences.

There's a reason why everybody gets so much 419 scam email. It's a huge business. Some people reckon it's the third to fifth largest revenue-generating business in Nigeria.'

There's a reason why everybody gets so much 419 scam email. It's a huge business. Some people reckon it's the third to fifth largest revenue-generating business in Nigeria. I have no way of verifying independently whether that's true, but certainly these folks are raking in an enormous amount of money. And they don't all work out of Nigeria: 419 scams are a significant source of foreign exchange in Benin, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Senegal, and Burkina Faso, plus just about anywhere else you can mention. Some even

originate in the US although, as you see shortly, there are big advantages to working out of small countries. Here's one of the new variations of the old 419. It all starts when you place an ad that appears online. It doesn't really matter what you're selling, as long as it's physically large and valuable. It doesn't matter where you advertise - I've seen reports of this scam being played on Craigslist advertisers and major online sites, tiny nickel and publishers, local newspapers, and anywhere else ads are placed.



Protecting yourself online is becoming increasingly important. Photo: IntelFreePress

originate in the US although, as you see shortly, there are big advantages to working out of small countries.

Here's one of the new variations of the old 419. It all starts when you place an ad that appears online. It doesn't really matter what you're selling, as long as it's physically large and valuable. It doesn't matter where you advertise - I've seen reports of this scam being played on Craigslist advertisers and major online sites, tiny nickel and publishers, local newspapers, and anywhere else ads are placed.

The scammer sends you an email from a Gmail address. I got one recently that said:

"I will like to know if this item is still available for sale?". I wrote back and said, yes, it is, and he'd be most welcome to come and take a look at it. He wrote back:

"Let me know the price in USD? I am OK with the item it looks like new in the photos I am from Liverpool UK, I am sorry I will not be able to come for the viewing, I will arrange for the pickup after payment has been made, all documentation will be done by the shipper, so you don't have to worry about that. Thanks"

Three key points: The scammer is using a Gmail address, which can't be traced with anything short of a court order; He claims to be out of the country, which makes pursuing him very difficult; He claims that he has a shipper who will pick up the item. The plot thickens.

Also, his grammar falls somewhere between atrocious and unintelligible. Unfortunately, that isn't a sure sign, but it's not bound to inspire confidence.

I wrote back and gave him a price, but I expressed concern about the shipper. He wrote that he would send the shipper from the UK for pickup and said, "I will be paying the PayPal charges from my account and I will be paying directly into your PayPal account without any delay, and I hope you have a PayPal account."

I gave him a dormant PayPal account, listing my address as that of the local police station. He wrote back quite quickly:

"I have just completed the Payment and I am sure you have received the confirmation from PayPal regarding the Payment. You can check your paypal e-mail for confirmation of payment a total of 25,982usd was sent, 24,728usd for the item and the extra 1,200usd for my shipper's charges, which you will be sending to the address below via western union."

Then he gave me the name of someone in Devon, UK:

"You should send them the money soon so that the pick up would be scheduled and you would know when the pick up would commence, make sure you're home. I advice you to check both your inbox or junk/spam folder for the payment confirmation message."

I then received a message that claimed to be from Service-Intl.PayPal.Com:

"The Transaction will appear as soon as the western union information is received from you, we have to follow this procedure due to some



Sending money through non-bank money transfer services leaves you with no record of who claimed the money. Photo: Usien



Internet fraud takes billions of dollars from unwary computer users every year and is getting more sophisticated every day. Photo: 2bgr8

*security reason... the Money was sent through the Service Option Secure Payment so that the transaction can be protected with adequate security measures for you to be able to receive your money. The Shipping Company only accept payment through Western Union You have nothing to doubt about, You are safe and secured doing this transaction and your account will be credited immediately the western union receipt of *1,200USD* is received from you."*

There's the hook. Of course, the message didn't come from PayPal - much less from www.paypal.com. I strung the scammer along for several days. Ultimately he threatened me with legal action, invoking PayPal and the FBI as antagonists.

In the end, the scammer and his cohorts were quite sloppy. Most of the time when scammers send email from "PayPal," they use a virtual private network to make it look like the mail came from the US, but on three separate occasions, the scammer I was conversing with forgot to turn on the VPN. Using a very simple technique, I traced all three messages back to one specific Internet service provider in Lagos, Nigeria.

So I had three scamming messages with identified IP

addresses; the name of a large internet service provider in Nigeria; and a compelling case for PayPal (to defend its name) and Western Union (which was being used as a drop) to follow up.

I sent copies of the messages to Western Union and PayPal. I got back form letters and it's unlikely that a human even read them. I wrote to the ISP, MTN Nigeria. They responded, but the upshot is disheartening: "All our 3G network subscribers now sit behind a small number of IP addresses. This is done via a technology called network address translation (NAT). In essence, it means that one million subscribers may appear to the outside world as one subscriber because they are all using the same IP address."

So now you know why Nigerians love to conduct their scams over the Nigerian 3G network. No doubt MTN Nigeria could sift through their NAT logs and find out who was connected at precisely the right time, but tracing a specific e-mail back to an individual would be difficult, if not impossible and it would certainly require a court order.

If you know anybody who posts ads online, you might want to warn them.

- Phuket Gazette

Skål International
PHUKET & SOUTH THAILAND



A big Thank you!

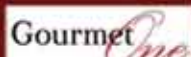
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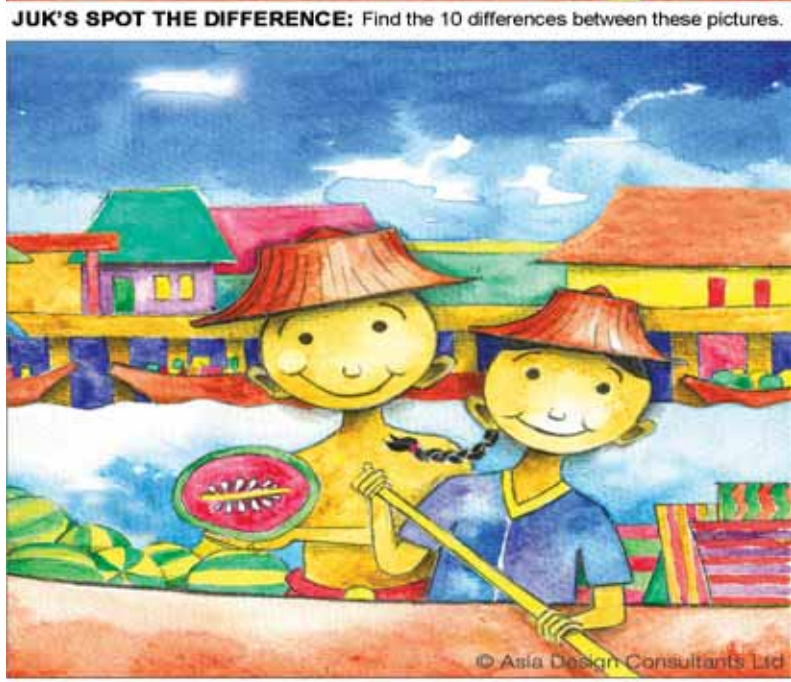


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Together we raised 450,000 baht for organizations helping children in need in Phuket and the region. Thank you!





JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

It would be wise not to set your plans in concrete at the start of 2014. The stars suggest that the first quarter of the year will be an unpredictable time and Capricorns who can go with the flow will fare best. During the summer months, romance is auspicious and those who are single and seeking are likely to meet their match. Money matters are most auspicious as 2014 draws to a close, with focus on losses being recuperated. Your lucky number this week is seven.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Hard work is the path to success for Aquarians during 2014, although a lucky break in the second quarter of the year gives you chance to regroup and enjoy some of the rewards you have earned. Conflicts can be resolved during the middle months and this will influence your business in a positive way. Romance for those who are single is best started in the last quarter of the year when the stars indicate that commitments will be made. The number three is fortunate this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Relationships with family and friends are auspicious for most of 2014. Some problems in the world of work are forecast during the first quarter of the year, but support from those close to Pisceans will make this tricky period less stressful. The stars advise that it would be wise

to keep a low profile until the middle of the year when the astral atmosphere can encourage promotion. Your financial outlook is best during the last quarter. Number one is predicted to attract good luck this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Most months of 2014 will be favorable for those born under the sign of Aries, but the stars show that a prickly patch can occur in your personal life halfway through the year. If this relates to romance, there are hints that overcoming obstacles will strengthen a long term relationship. However, starting something too quickly is forecast to come to an abrupt end and could be costly. Otherwise, finances are not affected by any dramatic gains or losses in 2014. Your lucky number this week is two.

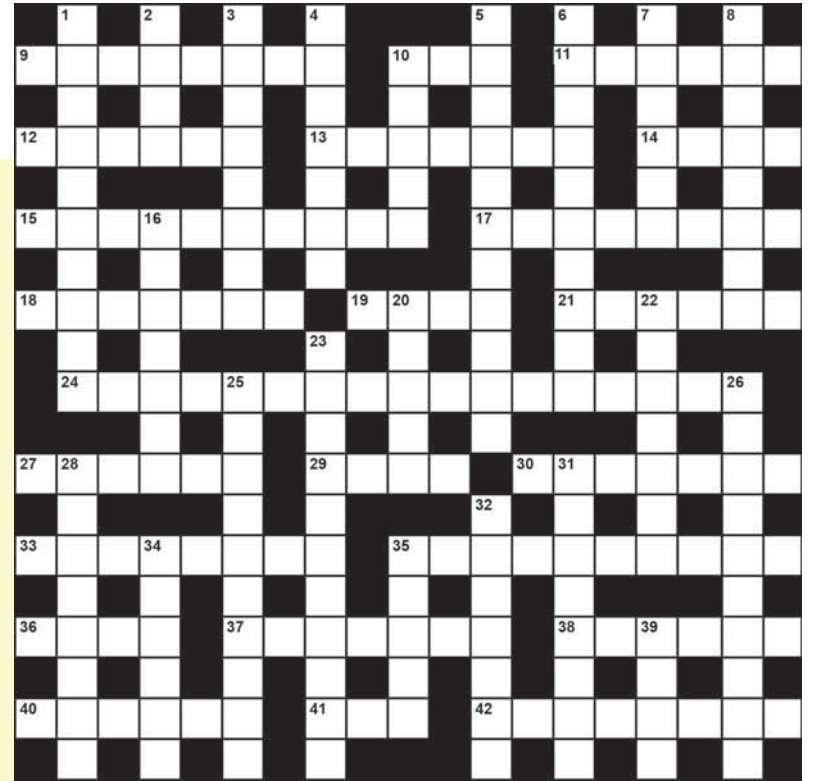
TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

The first three quarters of 2014 are forecast to be most auspicious for those born under the sign of Taurus. This particularly relates to work and finances and you are advised to put something on one side for rainy days which can occur during the last quarter of the year. Romance for Taureans already committed can bring surprises during the summer months and for those who are single, love is likely when it's the last thing on your mind. The number seven is forecast to be important this week.

COFFEE break

Across:

- 9. British Prince backs old record of Belgian King (8)
- 10. Teacher Italian? Yes, right (3)
- 11. Answer back about legal wrongdoing (6)
- 12. Ray set out to be a tenacious person (6)
- 13. A missive note I spelt out (7)
- 14. Time to take action in diplomacy (4)
- 15. Spread out, lying on rat without being aware (10)
- 17. Robe nigh destroyed by man next door (8)
- 18. Bit past new sect practising immersion (7)
- 19. Likely ain' t agin (4)
- 21. Note married chief, make so as stands out (6)
- 24. Hotel moving main Malaysian out of the highest range! (8,9)
- 27. Her time maybe out East as a recluse (6)
- 29. Expel us to make a change (4)
- 30. Akin to a different beach in Phuket (4,3)
- 33. Swing the lead re laming, perhaps (8)
- 35. If woken I be upset by long pointed knife (5,5)
- 36. Device for fixing a number of racehorses (4)
- 37. Possible filter round in the plant (7)
- 38. Fashionable suit may be positioned (2,4)
- 40. Lo, mope about for a shaddock (6)
- 41. The vehicle in front (3)
- 42. Sent out, made neat change (8)



Down:

- 1. Out East, hope got harp displayed in film image (10)
- 2. Peel off, fly around article (4)
- 3. Parson' s change right in Scottish purses (8)
- 4. The bean, cooked, is inferior (7)
- 5. Potent, sure, I could be affected (11)
- 6. Organize me, enter P.I.N. first of all (10)
- 7. Holy man has irritation, a sharp pain (6)
- 8. Area of land round railway South of haulage engines (8)
- 10. I' m sly about being too obsequious (5)
- 16. Choose one mother - the best (7)
- 20. Identifies as men perhaps (5)
- 22. Born badly I train in part of the U.K. (7)

- 23. Bravo! you' ve early arranged permission (2,4,5)
- 25. I got Latin, I worked out to take the case to court! (10)
- 26. Maybe for this pet a worker finishing stores (10)
- 28. Establishing by law, one can, it emerges (8)
- 31. A crime, an arrangement for a States' citizen (8)
- 32. Well, son, she could be distended (7)
- 34. I' d need moving to be sure (6)
- 35. Squandered, bachelor learner, admit (5)
- 39. Say about socially acceptable pretty in Thailand (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

YOUR horoscope
By Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

New interests are forecast to capture your attention in 2014, but it may be hard to balance this with established commitments. The stars suggest that Geminis will have to juggle their time carefully during the first quarter of the year. Business and work colleagues will be keen to keep to their own agenda and you are advised to be more flexible. Romantic relationships remain stable this year, but finding new love can be tricky. Your lucky number this week is six.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The year 2014 is predicted to be a stable time for Cancerians, but boredom can be an issue in the world of work. Those who have been considering a change of career will have the stars' support to do so towards the end of the first quarter. If you are not yet romantically committed, there are signs that this will happen around the middle of the year. Finances are forecast to be boosted by a windfall in the third quarter. The number two can be fortunate this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Dreams stand good a chance of coming true during the first quarter of the coming year and this can make 2014 a year to remember for Leos. Travel figures strongly during the second quarter, with family celebrations overseas highlighted. Spending will need to be controlled during the third quarter as finances are not well starred towards the end of the year. In the realm of romance, compromising can be difficult during the summer months when choices will have to be made. Leos' lucky number this week is nine.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Success can be a keyword for Virgoans during 2014, but this depends on whether you start out as you mean to go on. Problems relating to finance that carry over from 2013 should be tackled sooner rather than later. Those considering starting a new business are advised that doing so without the support of their romantic partner can cause friction on the home front. If you are single and seeking, Cupid encourages you to meet the right person around the middle of the year. Number eight appears special this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

The stars suggest that Librans can turn situations to their advantage in the first quarter of 2014. This should give you a head start in the world of work. There are signs that you

will need to pay more attention to your significant other during the second quarter. Disagreements with family members can be laid to rest as summer progresses. Harmony at home is forecast in the last quarter, but this may not be the best time for you physically. The number five comes alive this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

A quiet start to 2014 is forecast to suit Scorpios well. The stars advise that the first quarter is an ideal time to take an extended break as there will be many more demands on your time and energy as spring gives way to summer. Younger family members are likely to need more support and guidance than usual in the third quarter of the year. Work and business will be most lucrative during the last quarter. Scorpios can see that number eight is special this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The stars give backing to Sagittarians who are determined to make serious changes this year. This astral energy will be strongest during the second quarter and you are advised to start planning before then. Relocation is auspicious during the middle months of 2014 and this could be to a place that you have never before considered. Those who are single should find that they are luckiest in love during the second half of the year. Your lucky number this week is four.

International Sport

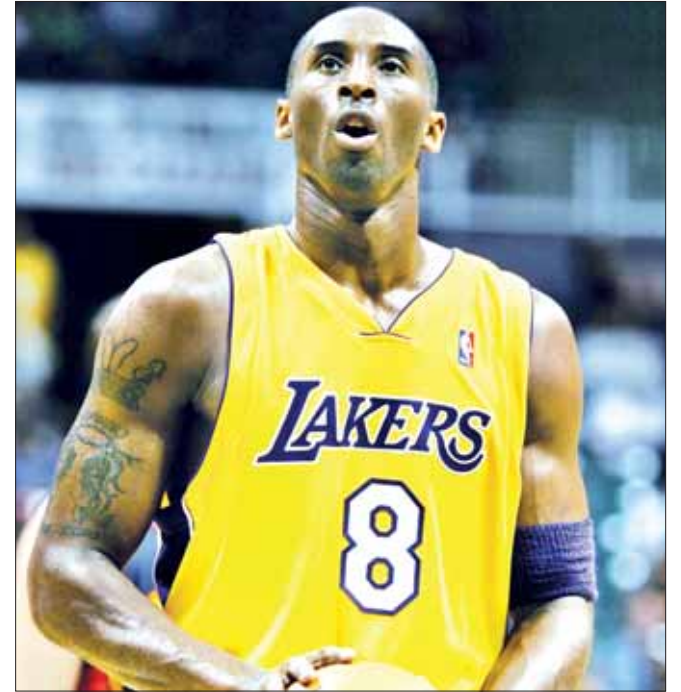
Top 10 sport earners of 2013



Roger Federer earned US\$72 million. Photo: Esther Lim



Tiger Woods tops the list with \$78 million. Photo: Keith Allison



Bryant makes top three with \$61 million. Photo: Joseph Lee

By Toby Davis

THE following is a list of the 10 biggest sports earners in the past year, all earnings (figures in US\$) were estimated by the *Forbes* annual sporting survey in June 2013 and are listed in the order of: total salary, winnings, endorsements and sport.

1. Tiger Woods \$78 million, \$13m, \$65m, Golf

Tiger rediscovered his killer instinct in 2013, surging back to the top of the world rankings after a blistering start to the season when he won five of his first 11 events.

Although he failed to add to his haul of 14 major victories his off-course income perked up, according to the *Forbes* annual sporting survey, thanks to sponsorship bonuses with Nike and Rolex tied to success.

He also collected sizable appearance fees for competing in Abu Dhabi, China, Malaysia and Turkey.

2. Roger Federer \$72m, \$7m, \$65m, Tennis

He slipped down the rankings and suffered his leanest season since 2001 but when it comes to endorsements Federer remains one of sport's most bankable assets.

The 17-times grand slam winner's reflexes may have slowed and the picture-

perfect backhand has lost its bite but he retains an impressive portfolio of sponsors including deals with Nike and Rolex.

3. Kobe Bryant \$62m, \$28m, \$34m, Basketball

A 15-times All-Star, Bryant's \$28 million salary made him the highest-paid player in the NBA in the 2012-13 season and the future Hall of Famer signed a two-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Lakers in November.

4. LeBron James \$60m, \$18m, \$42m, Basketball

The man nicknamed 'King James' crowned a memorable 2013 with his second NBA title, putting in a regal 37-point performance in the decisive game of the finals to sink the San Antonio Spurs.

Having scooped a fourth Most Valuable Player award, it comes as no surprise that he is the sport's biggest endorsement attraction, according to *Forbes*, thanks to deals with Nike, McDonald's and Coca-Cola among others.

5. Drew Brees \$51m, \$40m, \$11m, NFL

With six Pro Bowl selections and a Super Bowl title to his credit since joining the New Orleans Saints in 2006, the quarterback commands a salary befitting his status as

one of the NFL's most successful players.

Gifted with a strong arm and outstanding vision, Brees has endorsement deals with companies including Nike, Procter & Gamble and Verizon Wireless.

6. Aaron Rodgers \$49m, \$43m, \$6m, NFL

The three-times Pro Bowler and Super Bowl Most Valuable Player in 2011 signed a five-year, \$110 million deal in April that made him the highest-paid player in the NFL.

A broken collarbone in November, however, meant he suffered a painful end to 2013.

7. Phil Mickelson \$49m, \$5m, \$44m, Golf

Nicknamed 'Phil the Thrill', Mickelson clinched his fifth major title in commanding fashion in 2013, winning the British Open with a scintillating five-under 66 in the final round.

One of the biggest drawcards in the game, capable of driving up television ratings almost single-handedly, he earns more than \$40 million annually from endorsement partners.

8. David Beckham \$47m, \$5m, \$42m, Soccer

The world's most marketable footballer called time on a career that combined glitz and glamor with some sparkling silverware

in 2013, signing off with a league title at Paris St Germain.

Endorsements make up the bulk of his earnings and his bankability is reflected in the *Forbes* rich list as he tops shining lights like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

9. Cristiano Ronaldo \$44m, \$23m, \$21m, Soccer

This could be the year that Ronaldo finally steps out of the shadows of Lionel Messi after a stunning hat-trick performance helped send Portugal to the World Cup finals and made him favorite to win the World Player of the Year title.

Four years of playing second fiddle to the Argentine for the coveted Ballon D'Or has not constrained his earning power, however, with nearly half of his \$44 million earnings coming from endorsements.

10. Lionel Messi \$41m, \$20m, \$21m, Soccer

Having won the accolade for the best soccer player on the planet since 2009, Messi has already guaranteed his place among the sport's pantheon of greats.

After smashing several goalscoring records in 2012, this year has rung alarm bells as he has suffered significant injury problems for the first time in his career.

- Reuters

Staying fit over the holidays

AS THE holiday season approaches, people tend to consume more calories than they actually burn during the course of the day. This can bring about very detrimental health effects. All the work you have done in the weeks and months prior to the holiday season could be wasted if you do not try and at least maintain your fitness levels.

One of the biggest issues with the holiday break is overeating. Usually during the holidays events or gatherings are centered around food consumption with an unlimited supply of food. Because of this, people will sometimes feel too tired to be physically active so now they are compounding the problem. A recent study in the UK showed that people who engaged in a short period of overeating and reduced physical activity led to very

profound negative changes in a variety of physiological systems. That same study also showed that a daily bout of exercise during the overeating period stopped most of those negative changes from taking place.

Another trick to try and remember when it comes to eating is you never want to eat to be full but rather to be satisfied. I am sure most of you have had a point where you thought, 'I am stuffed, I can't eat another bite'. This leads to a period of being very tired and lethargic.

I am definitely not saying to not enjoy the holidays, but don't forget about all the hard work you put into getting your body into shape, it would be a shame to throw it all away! Happy Holidays from all of us here at Thanyapura!

- Brian Finnis

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Top 10 sporting moments of 2013

By Peter Rutherford

1. Lance Armstrong comes clean over doping - January 17

"Yes." With one word, Lance Armstrong finally confessed to a cycling career built on performance-enhancing drugs, putting himself on a par with Canadian athlete Ben Johnson as the world's most notorious drugs cheat. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey in January, Armstrong ended his years of denials about systematic doping and said it would have been impossible to win one of his seven Tour de France titles without the drugs. "I am flawed," the American said. "Deeply flawed."

2. Oscar Pistorius accused of murder - February 14

Stunned disbelief greeted the news that Oscar Pistorius, who triumphed over disability to compete with able-bodied athletes at the Olympics, had shot dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day. South Africa's "Blade Runner", a double amputee who uses carbon-fibre prosthetic blades to compete, will be tried for murder next year. Pistorius told a Pretoria bail hearing: "I am absolutely mortified by the events and the devastating loss of my beloved Reeva."

3. Andy Murray wins Wimbledon - July 7

Andy Murray ended Britain's 77-year wait for a Wimbledon men's champion by vanquishing Novak Djokovic in an electric final at the All England Club in July. Willed on by thousands of Union Jack-waving fans on Centre Court and millions across Britain, the Scot won



Olympic and Paralympic runner Oscar Pistorius reacts ahead of court proceedings. Photo: Sipiwe Sibeko/ Reuters

tennis' s most prestigious title in straight sets. Murray told Reuters. "I know what it feels like to lose in finals, in a Wimbledon final, but now I know what it feels like to win and that's certainly a lot better."

4. Oracle comeback secures America's Cup - September 25

Larry Ellison's Oracle Team USA capped an incredible comeback to retain the America's Cup in San Francisco after a winner-takes-all showdown with Emirates Team New Zealand. Hit with a pre-match penalty that required Oracle to win 11 races on the water, the American boat appeared to be down and out at 8-1 behind. But helped by speed improvements and installing Britain's multi Olympic champion Ben Ainslie as team tactician, Oracle reeled off race after race to win sailing's biggest trophy.

5. Alex Ferguson announces his retirement - May 8

The news was not entirely unexpected but it still stunned British football. Alex Ferguson, the country's longest-serving and most decorated football manager, announced he was retiring after more than 26 years and 1,500 matches at the helm of Manchester United. The 71-year-old Scot's era at Old Trafford brought the northern English club 13 league titles, two European Cups, five FA Cups and four League Cups.

6. Mariano Rivera retires - September 26

Baseball's greatest closer was reduced to tears on the mound as he brought the curtain down on a stellar 19 years in Major League Baseball. The New York crowd rose to their feet, chanting Rivera's nickname "Mo". "It definitely was a magic moment," said Rivera, who rose from poverty in Panama to be one of the most revered players in America's favourite pastime. He recorded 652 saves and served as the Yankees' closer for 17 seasons.

7. Yelena Isinbayeva thrills home crowd at worlds - August 13

Russian Yelena Isinbayeva pulled off a winning leap when it mattered most to claim her third world title in front of a partisan home crowd in Moscow. The double Olympic champion was the only vaulter to jump 4.89 metres. "I'm the pole vault queen, the crowd is mine," said the 31-year-old who then



Lance Armstrong confessed in an interview with Oprah Winfrey to using performance-enhancing drugs in January, putting an end to his years of denial. Photo: Lucas Jackson/ Reuters

sparked controversy with comments on Russia's anti-gay laws. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt won three titles at the championships.

8. Gareth Bale joins Real Madrid - September 1

Ending months of speculation, Tottenham Hotspur forward Gareth Bale finally put pen to paper and joined Real Madrid for a world-record transfer fee of 100 million euros (US\$ 132 million). The fee eclipsed the previous record of 94 million euros that Real paid for Cristiano Ronaldo from Manchester United in 2009. The Welshman said Spurs would "always be in my heart" before jetting off to Madrid to take his place among the Galacticos.

9. Red Sox win World Series for wounded Boston - October 30

Boston closer Koji Uehara struck out Matt Carpenter for the final out as the Red Sox clinched their first World Series at Fenway Park since the 1918 championship. The win came six months after the city was shocked by the deadly marathon bombings, and the Red Sox had emerged as a beacon of hope for Boston. Red Sox slugger David Ortiz, who won the Most Valuable Player award, said of Boston:

"We stick together. It's a family, and we fight against the world."

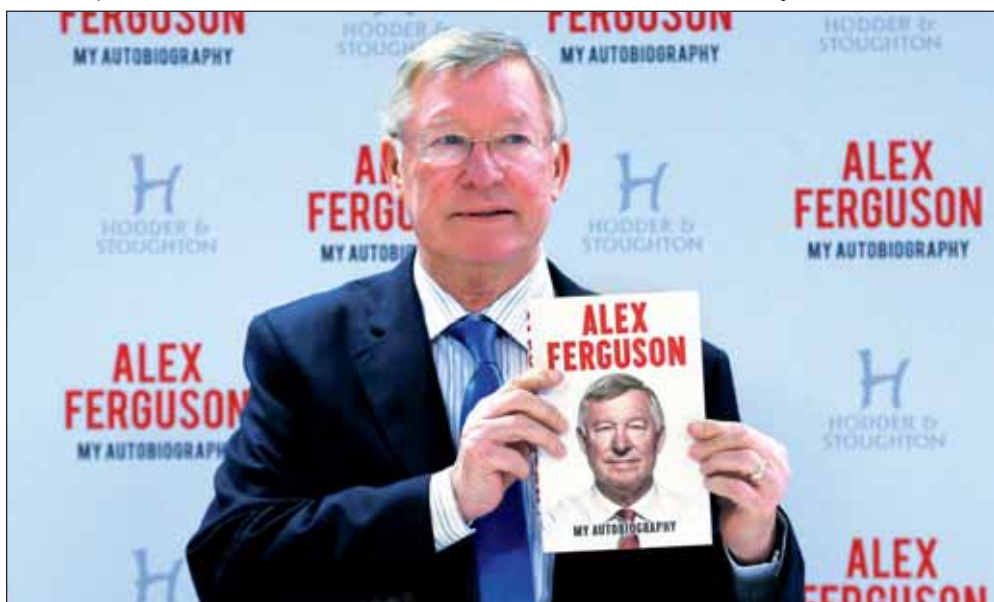
10. Sachin Tendulkar's last test - November 16

Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar struggled to hold back the tears after calling time on a 24-year cricket career in Mumbai, his birthplace. The "Little Master" finished his career as the sport's most prolific international run-scorer but was unable to sign off with a century against West Indies in his 200th and final test. "My life's been 22 yards for 24 years," said Tendulkar who scored 15,921 test and 18,426 ODI runs.

ALTERNATES

Wrestling dropped from Olympics - February 12 Wrestling fans were shocked when the IOC announced it was dropping the sport from the Olympic program because of its failure to modernise after decades of waning interest. Wrestling responded by overhauling its rules, administration and gender equality policy and was reinstated for the 2020 Games. The sport featured in the ancient Olympics as well as every modern Games, apart from 1900.

- Reuters



Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson poses with his new autobiography before a book signing at a supermarket in Manchester. Photo: Phil Noble/ Reuters



Oracle Team USA (left) overtakes Emirates Team New Zealand during Race 19 of the 34th America's Cup yacht sailing race in San Francisco, California. Photo: Stephen Lam/ Reuters

International Sport



Racers prepare a kite for launching during the KTA Christmas Race Special. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Korean kiteboard racer Bitna Kim prepares her raceboard for the day's race. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Phuket first stop on Kiteboard Tour Asia

TIGHT racing on day two of the Kite Tour Asia (KTA) Christmas Race Special last week in Phuket cemented overall leaders' positions, though not without upsets.

Thai rider Narapichit "Yo" Pudla put in an almost faultless day's work, blowing away the opposition in the raceboard class by convincingly winning all five races.

But in the twin tip racing division, which has just achieved International Sailing Federation (ISAF) class recognition earning competitors the chance for International Kiteboarding Association (IKA) world ranking points, it was not such plain sailing for Pudla.

The 23-year-old had to share the honors with Doque Delos Santos from the Philippines, the reigning KTA Asian twin tip racing champion, splitting two bullets and two second places in each of the four races run on the track in Chalong Bay in fresh winds that topped 16 knots early on before dropping to around 11kts.

Kathrin Borgwardt from Germany was equally dominant on her raceboard in the three-day event, winning all five of the women's races, which were staged with the men in a fleet totalling up to 16 riders.

For Borgwardt, based in

Boracay, Philippines, the story of her day on the twin tip all but mirrored that of Pudla. The German scored one bullet by virtue of a starting sequence infringement by Lisa Nikitina from the Ukraine, who crossed the finish line first, only to find she had been disqualified.

Borgwardt took three other second places in a total of four races, giving up bullets to Nikitina, 23, and Benyapa "Fon" Jantawan from Thailand in the breezy conditions that moderated as the tide dropped and water grew shallow.

Like many of the 33 registered riders from 12 nations taking

part, Jantawan chose to compete in both the twin tip and raceboard classes, in contests run alternately back-to-back. After nine consecutive races she was feeling the strain.

Austrian student Adrian Geislinger has been learning a different lesson. He has been giving Pudla and Chanon "Jack" Phrakew from Thailand a run for their money in the men's formula raceboard class but hoped the final day of competition will bring stronger conditions that he believes favor him over the lighter Thai riders.

But Geislinger, a 21-year-old

from Vienna who has been in Thailand testing next season's race kites for Gaastra, could still be satisfied with his haul of three second places, a third and a fourth over the day.

"I hope we definitely have some more strong winds for the last day," he said. "I think that would help me keep my overall second place. The fact of the matter is that 'Yo' and 'Jack' are better in lighter winds."

— *Phuket Gazette*

See next week's Gazette for an interview with KTA Founding Director Neil Godbold. For more info and race results visit kiteboardtour.asia

Bojana Jovanovski: Don't stop on the way to the top

BOJANA Jovanovski, a 21-year-old rising star of international tennis from Serbia, recently stopped on her way to the top to train at Phuket's Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. With an intensive training schedule, diversified by occasional yoga classes, acupuncture treatment and island hopping, Bojana is getting ready for next year's Australian Open — where she reached the fourth round this year.

"We wake up everyday at 7:30am, we have a small warmup, light running or exercises, then we have breakfast and head straight to the court for a three-hour ten-

nis practice session," explains Bojana when asked about her daily schedule at Thanyapura.

"After that we have a three hour break, we eat lunch and go back for another tennis session from three to five hours followed by a one hour gym session. I play tennis five to six hours a day."

But it's thanks to Thanyapura's excellent facilities that she still has some time for relaxation.

"You have all things in one place here. In other places, I use a lot of time moving from one place to another but here you are left with more time for rest. Everything is within walking distance, you can

go to the gym any time, you can have a lunch on the spot," she said.

"We really like it here, next year we will come here for sure as well," she added. By "we" she means her team — the physical coach, sparring partner, sister, boyfriend and also her father, who is Bojana's coach.

"It was my father who introduced me to tennis. He was a soccer

player and he wanted me to try some sports so we started tennis just for fun. I started showing good results, playing tournaments and my father started to coach me because he understands sports very well and he made a player of me."

Bojana claims that she wasn't even that talented and it's the hard work that helped her reach the 36th place in the world

tennis rankings.

"Talent means nothing, it's not even five per cent of success, hard work is the key. Being positive, believing in yourself. Not just in sports but in life too. You have to be tough and not quit," she explained, adding: "You should never give up. Even if results don't show in the beginning — they will come later".

— *Maciek Klimowicz*



Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Bojana hopes for a successful new year without injury.

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Phuket year in review

A WINDING year of the snake, 2013 had its ups and downs – but mostly ups. Following are several editors' picks for this year's top local sporting events, moments and milestones.

Top-5 finish for Phuket United's inaugural season

The island's pro futsal team Phuket United ended their first season in Thailand's professional five-a-side footy league in fine form, beating lowly Highways Department 4-2 in Bangkok on March 23 to secure a top-five league finish.

Phuket's result of the GMM Sport Thailand Futsal Premier League (TFPL) 2012-2013

season closer was in contrast to their season debut in which they were defeated by the same team on the same pitch – the victory was the Andaman Pearl's seventh in a row, and ensured that they met their initial season goal of being one of the top five teams of the league.

A hat-trick by Phuket's top scorer Jackson Santos brought the Brazilian winger's season tally to 36 goals, making him the runner up for golden boot, which was won by Si Saket's star Brazilian Ramualdo Namorato (39 goals).

Despite his stellar performance for the club, the young Brazilian did not re-sign with Phuket for the 2014 season which will commence in January, 2014.

Aussie Oi! wins Phuket Raceweek

Winds gusting to 20 knots made for a perfect end to what was perhaps the best Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek regatta



The Phuket Raceweek 2013 featured gusting winds.

yet. The weather conditions delivered fast and exciting racing throughout the event, leaving the sailors of more than 15 nationalities tired but happy.

Wan Ma Rang in IRC Racing I, improved throughout, had their best racing on the final day closing out the regatta with two second places. However, it wasn't enough to overhaul Katsu, who sailed consistently well to hold onto second place by three points.

Class honors went to Australian Peter Ahern and his all-star crew on *Oi!*, who with seven wins from eight races, were untouchable.

Formerly Team Premier, Peter Ahern, Scott Bailey and Fergus Wilmer recently bought the boat, renamed her *Oi!* and Phuket Raceweek was their first competitive event.

IRC Racing II was dominated by fellow Australian Peter Sorensen and his crew on *Fujian*, and that domination continued through to the final race. Eight wins from eight races speaks for itself and as sailing star Steve McConaghy, who was racing onboard the former *Ichi Ban*, said, "You could sail this thing backwards and still win."

The battle, however, was for second and third in the class, between Stuart Williamson's *Skandia Endeavour* of Whitby and Neils Degenkolw's *Phoenix*. Despite struggling with their starts and being called OCS on more than one occasion, a good performance on the final day for Williamson and his crew (a 2,3 scoreline), saw them secure second overall and relegate *Phoenix* to third.

While the Aussies took home a lot of silverware at this year's regatta, what was noticeable is the large number of top boats from Ao Chalong Yacht Club, both winners and high scoring performers.

At the event's closing, Media Business Services (MBS), led by Byron and Kanyarat Jones, were announced as the new owners and rights hold-



SPIKE: Some of the action from the Phuket FIVB Open. Photo: Maciej Kllimowicz

ers of the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

Founder and now former rights holder Grenville Fordham of Image Asia Events made the handover official in front of 500 sailors, VIPs, guests and the media attending the final Gala Dinner.

For full results in all classes, visit phuketraceweek.com

China reigns supreme in Phuket FIVB Open

It took just two sets for the Chinese team, Chen Xue and Xinyi Xia to beat the American pair Emily Day and Summer Ross and win the gold medal in the FIVB Phuket Thailand Open Powered By PTT 2013.

The Americans failed to crack the great Chinese wall despite numerous attempts and the high flying, petite Xinyi Xia's precise blows earned her team precious points and loud applause from the audience.

In the match for third place, the Salgado sisters (Maria-Clara/Carolina) beat their fellow Brazilians, - Maria Antonelli and Agatha Bednarczuk.

Missed expectations for Phuket FC

Playing in their third consecutive year in Thailand's second-tier pro football league – Yamaha League One (YL1) – the Phuket FC "Islanders" ended the 2013 season on a low note, falling to their final position of 12th place following a 3-0 away loss in Thailand's Northeast to Nakhon Ratchasima FC on November 2.

In other YL1 season finales, Singtharua FC secured their ticket back to the Thai Premier League with a final tally of 65 points following a 2-1 win over Airforce AVA

FC, who had already secured promotion as league champions with 69 points.

The third team earning their place in the elite league next season was PTT Rayong with 63 points following their 2-2 draw to Bangkok FC who just missed out, finishing fourth with 61 points.

The other two Rayong-based teams competing in YL1 2013 – Rayong FC and Rayong United – also bid farewell to the YL1 after they were relegated as the two bottom-of-the-table teams. Since the number of teams to compete in both the TPL and YL1 next season will increase to 20 per league, only one team got relegated from the TPL to the YL1 – Pattaya United.

Meanwhile, four more teams were promoted up to the YL1 from the AIS League Division 2 champions

league playoffs which

concluded earlier this month; namely, Chiangmai FC, Phitsanulok FC, Roi Et United and Ang Thong FC.

Phuket FC got new Brazilian coach

The Islanders endured yet another mid-season trajectory change when Thai ex-Head Coach Paniphon "Tu" Kerdyae posted his resignation on Facebook on August 4.

The announcement followed a close yet disappointing 1-1 home draw with lower ranked

Thai Tobacco Monopoly (TTM) FC – representing Phuket's 11th draw in 20 matches up to that point.

Having joined the club at the start of the season, Coach Tu's record of six wins, 11 draws and three losses, coupled with a cup record of two wins and two losses was relatively decent when compared to the combined record of the previous handful of coaches that have passed through the last two seasons.

Under the leadership of at least five coaches in the 2011 and 2012 seasons in the YL1, Phuket FC had an average win rate of 30.8%, a draw rate of 32.3% and loss rate of 36.7%. Under Coach Tu's leadership in the first 20 of 34 league matches this season, the club's win rate was 30%, followed by a 55% draw rate and only 15% loss rate.

Although Coach Tu's successor – Brazilian, Stefano "Teco" Cugurra – started off his tenure with a 2-0 home victory over Nakhon Pathom on August 11, he would not see victory again until October 6 (1-0 over Saraburi FC).

In his 14 matches in charge so far, the 39-year-old coach has won two, drawn four and lost eight. Despite this unimpressive record, he still has his job and was given a clean-slate to prove his skills.

Club Chairman Pamuke Achiriyachai justified his decision: "Teco joined midway through the

season and had to work with what the old coaching team left him, so it's not fair to measure him on this alone. We want to give him a chance to show what he can do... He'll have the first three games to prove himself."

As part of his 2014 strategy, the coach has al-

located four of his roster's six quota spots for foreign players to his own countrymen; three of the Brazilians – midfielder Cristian Alex (returning from last season), defender Tales Dos Santos and midfielder Eber Henrique – were introduced to media last week, while the fourth one has yet to be confirmed. The other two spots are for Japanese defender Yusuke Sato and an as-of-yet unconfirmed Myanmar national.

All in, Phuket FC retained only nine players from last season, having let go of 22 and looking to sign as many as 17 new players to bring the team this coming season to 26.

Laguna Trifest

Ruedi Wild of Switzerland and Melissa Hauschildt of Australia won



Coach Teco joined the club in August. Photo: S Layne



Geoffrey Doumeng
Photo: Steven Layne

local sports highlights

this year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) – the event's 20th edition.

Mr Wild won the men's class with a time of 02:34:41, while Ms Hauschildt was the top women's finisher in 02:45:24.

A week later, Rasmus Petreus of Denmark and Melissa Hauschildt of Australia became the respective men's and women's champions of the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket, having crossed the finish line with times of 4:05:06 and 4:30:29, respectively.



Hauschildt (right) celebrates her LPT win. Photo: Shela Riva

Mr Petreus was followed closely by Alberto Casadeli of Italy who clocked in at 4:07:13, and his Italian compatriot Alberto Alessandrini in 4:07:52.

In distant 2nd and 3rd of the CLP, Hauschildt was followed by Radka Vodikova of the Czech Republic and Tansin Lewis of Great Britain – who crossed the line five minutes and 47 seconds, and 14 minutes and 20 seconds after Hauschildt, respectively

Aussies dominate 2013 Phuket King's Cup Regatta

Australian entries won four of the 14 scheduled classes, followed by Japan with three classes racked up, in the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, sailed off Kata Beach earlier this month.

As expected, in the Phuket Dinghy Series, raced as an integral part of the Regatta proper, Thai sailors – boys and girls – reigned supreme in the Optimists, the International Dinghy Class and the Windsurfing.

Aussie Ray Roberts racked up his fifth win in the fiercely-contested IRC Zero Class, Alan Carwadine won the Multihull Racing, Chris Mitchell won the Cruising and David Boekemann did likewise in the Bareboat Charters.

"Its been really exciting for me and the team, we sailed really well, very consistently and without a doubt its great to win, but



AHOY: Action from Day 1 of the 26th Phuket King's Cup Regatta. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

I just love to come sailing here," said a beaming Ray Roberts, surrounded by smiling crew members at the awards ceremony on Friday, December 6 at Kata Beach Resort.

"We haven't sailed for over a year and a half, we've come back with a vengeance and we're very happy to be winners."

Ray Roberts went on to speak about the challenging wind conditions during the week-long competition.

"Its been a whole week of very, very difficult wind conditions, and it typically is quite a tricky place to sail.

"So it's very challenging, but that also adds to the excitement, if you get it right you come out on top, if you don't get it right you loose – so its consistency over the week and I think from day one to day five it was just as hard."

He also made clear his intentions to return next year to battle for a possible sixth

King's Cup victory. "We'll always be back... so barring some unusual event, [we] love coming here, love racing here and we'll be back."

– *Phuket Gazette*

For full results: kingscup.com.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV are proud sponsors of the annual Phuket Raceweek, FIVB Phuket Open, Laguna Trifest and Phuket King's Cup Regatta

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