

Phuket Gazette

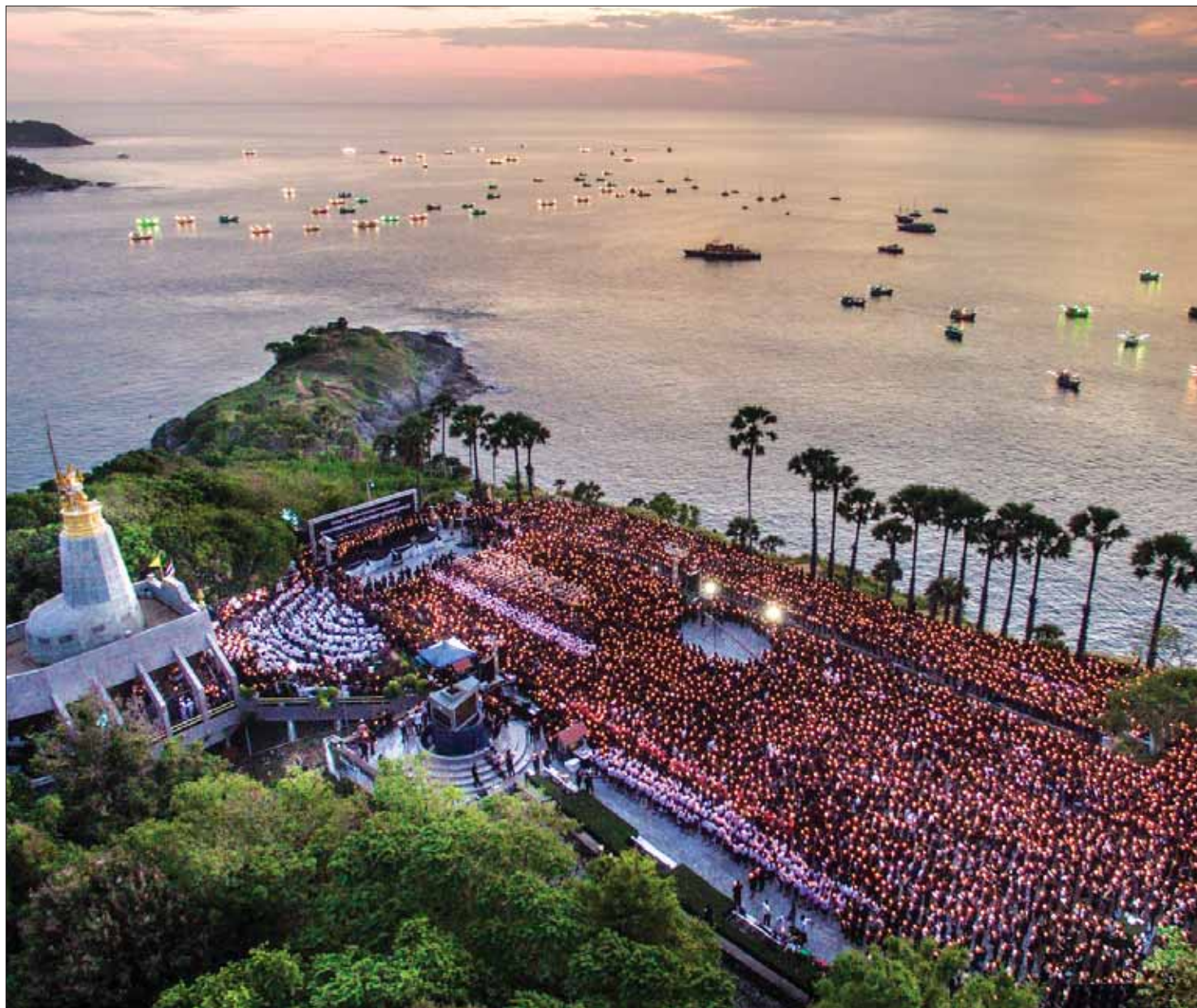
November 19 - 25, 2016

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20,000 IN CANDLE-LIT CEREMONY TO MARK 30TH DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING

LOVING LIGHT



An aerial view of the scene at Promthep Cape snapped by one of the 20 camera drones covering the historic event. Photo: Phuket Best Events

By Sukawin Tanthavanich

MORE than 20,000 people are estimated to have taken part in the historic candle-lit ceremony atop Promthep Cape on November 12 to commemorate the 30th day of

national mourning since the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, which was announced on October 13.

At 6pm, Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and local dignitaries led the public in singing the Royal Anthem along-

side the 200-strong Phuket Symphonic Band as a flotilla of more than 50 Royal Thai Navy ships and other vessels decorated with lights and the Thai tricolor floated off the cape.

Continued on Page 5

Plot twist in shooting of Patong police officer's son

BOTH parties involved in the altercation regarding a 500 baht debt give varying accounts of what happened on the night of November 13.

Full Story Page 3

BUSINESS



Phuket's premium 1,500 baht pineapples all sold out within an hour.

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AVIATION



Malindo Air commences flights between Kuala Lumpur and Phuket.

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LIFE&STYLE



Athletes warm up for the Foremost Ironman 70.3 triathlon.

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LOCAL NEWS

Briefly

Rotting body found afloat at Rassada Pier

THE rotting body of an unidentified man was found floating at the Rassada Pier on the morning of November 13.

Lt Surachat Thongyai of Phuket City Police received reports from near the Fish Marketing Organization at about 7:10am.

“The body was faceless and could not be identified as only the skull remained. There was a tattoo on the left side of his neck. He was wearing blue-red sport shorts and a black long-sleeved shirt. We believe he may be of Burmese descent and part of a fishing boat crew,” said Lt Surachat.

“The body is, give or take, 15 days old, and has been sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further examination.”

“We asked around and no one seems to know him. It’s possible that this was a crime, and he was killed and thrown into the sea to hide the evidence. It’s also possible that he fell off a boat on his own and died. We can’t say at this time,” said Lt Surachat.

Police told the *Gazette* that they intend to investigate the case further by collecting more evidence and questioning more people.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Man crushed to death by graveyard gate

A THAI man was crushed to death at a Phuket graveyard on the morning of November 12.

Lt Kwansirinath Thairat of Wichit Police arrived at the scene with a doctor from Phuket International Hospital and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers, after passersby saw him lying there and notified authorities about 8am.

He was believed to have been dead for at least 30 minutes when officials arrived.

“Relatives of the 63-year-old victim, Virat Saelim, told us that he rode his motorbike into the ‘Catholic Phuket Grave-

Pick-up truck takes a dip in Kamala Bay



Photos of a pickup truck partially submerged at Kamala Beach surfaced on November 12. Lt Col Pramuan Jaikratok of Kamala Police solved the mystery later – a foreigner had decided to tow his boat into the sea. He also confirmed the truck as well as the driver were safe and in good health. Photo: Gazette file

yard’ behind Darasamuth Phuket School to pay his respects to his mother who was buried there,” Lt Kwansirinath told the *Gazette*.

“We believe he was closing the gate on his way out when one of the wheels broke, causing the gate to fall on him.”

His body was moved to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Doctors confirmed the cause of death as a broken spine due to the weight of the gate.

Police said that there will be no further investigation as his relatives have no doubt about the incident being an accident.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Corrupt lottery vendors run out of luck

OVER a dozen people suspected of selling overpriced lottery tickets were arrested all over Phuket yesterday.

Col Akkanit Danpitaksat of the Phuket Provincial Police led the investigation team, which arrested 17 vendors alleged to be selling lottery tickets for a higher price than they are worth.

“We patrolled 21 venues that locals had complained about,” said Col Akkanit. “They will either spend a month in prison or be fined 10,000 baht, or both.

Lottery tickets are priced at

80 baht each, but the police say these vendors were selling them at 100 baht.

Col Akkanit added that the police will continue the raids, and urged the public to inform them of anyone else suspected of selling the tickets at an inflated price. Phuket Provincial Police: Tel: 076-212 046.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Third arrest for Tuk Tuk head’s murder

A THIRD suspect involved in the shooting of the President of the Patong Tuk Tuk Drivers’ Club was apprehended by police on November 11.

A total of six suspects are believed to have been involved in the shooting death of Sakol Srisompoch, of which 3 have been arrested. On October 31, two suspects, a father and son, were also arrested.

“About 2pm, we captured 28-year-old Eakkawach Polprasit from Trang Province, in Pai District, Mae Hong Son Province,” said Col Worapong Kamleu of the Crime Investigation Division of Police Region 5.

“Mr Eakkawach has been handed over to Kathu Police who have charged him with murder, illegal possession of arms and ammunition, and also with ‘unnecessarily firing shots in a town,

village or anywhere else there is a congregation of people.’”

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Task force nabs tonne of illegal meat

OVER a tonne of illegally imported meat from India was seized in Rassada on November 15.

A joint task force comprising about 30 officers from the Animal Quarantine Station 8 (AQS) and Army 41 was led by the Head of AQS, Pornchai Inkhamdee, to raid two locations in the area.

The 1,342 kilograms of what officials believe to be buffalo meat was seized at about 1pm, along with two men named as Barorkat Thorthip and Chaiyong Kongchamnan.

“The Department of Livestock policy states that local authorities keep tabs on imported products,” said Mr Pornchai. “We were eyeing two locations that seemed to be suspicious and decided to make our move.”

“During our first raid we found Mr Chaiyong in a house with 300kg of the meat, while the second raid was of a company named Andaman Meat Supply Co Ltd, where Mr Barorkat and the additional 1,042kg of meat were found.”

Mr Pornchai confirmed that

all of the meat will be destroyed.

Both suspects were taken to Phuket City Police Station for legal processing, and were charged with importing meat without permission and transporting meat without permission.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

German found dead in Kamala hotel room

POLICE are investigating the death of a German man whose body was found on November 14 in a Kamala hotel room, where police also found almost a dozen empty packets of the sedative Quetiapine.

Kamala Police responded to a call from staff at Kamala Beach Resort about 2pm to find the body of German national Mr Herrmann, 48, lying face-up on the bed dressed in shorts and a T-shirt.

The *Gazette* is withholding the full name of the deceased until it can be confirmed that his next of kin have been notified.

Investigating officer Lt Somnuek Damkaew said there were no signs of struggle in the room and it is believed the man died about 4 hours before his body was discovered.

On a desk in the hotel room, police found eleven used 10-pill strips of Quetiapine, which is an anti-depressant prescribed as a sleep aid for the treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

They also found various identification cards, 270 euro, 2,840 baht, spectacles, keys, a mobile phone as well as air tickets indicating that Mr Herrmann had entered Thailand on November 3 and was due to check out of the hotel and fly to Frankfurt on November 16.

A housekeeper at the hotel told police she had cleaned Mr Herrmann’s room daily and he had always let her in when she visited around 9.30 each morning. However, this time when she knocked on his door, he shouted something in German and didn’t open the door.

“The maid later found Mr Herrmann’s body after letting herself into the room about 12.30pm when she returned and received no response after knocking,” said Col Somnuek.

“The body was taken to Patong Hospital for further examination and the German Embassy has been informed of the death,” the colonel confirmed.

Man shot dead Angry driver charged, fined for kicking gas attendant



Police collect evidence at the scene of the fatal shooting near BISP. No bullet casings were found. Photo: Gazette file

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE son of a Patong Police officer was fatally shot near the British International School Phuket (BISP) in Koh Kaew at 7:30pm on November 13.

Thanapol Choosawat, 21, was pronounced dead at Mission Hospital.

"The scene was littered with remnants of a car's side mirror, one Buddha amulet and two amulet cases. No bullet casings were found at the scene," said Phuket City Police Maj Nattaya Suwanpong.

"According to the victim's friend and witness to the shooting, Yuranan Jitjaroen, 21, the deceased had arranged to meet 'someone' near the school about a 500-baht payment. He said a white Toyota Vios pulled up near them. Mr Thanapol reportedly went over to talk to the driver but they began arguing.

"Mr Yuranan claims that the driver shot Mr Thanapol once in the chest and shot again at the pair as they fled, but that the second shot hit the car's side mirror instead. The Vios driver then reportedly drove off down Soi Hanfarang.

On November 14, the two men in the car, Padermchai Chaichana, 35, and Kan Phothalang, 22, surrendered at Phuket City Police Station at 4pm. They were preliminarily charged with premeditated murder, attempted murder, illegal possession of a firearm and carrying a firearm in public without permission.

Investigating officer Lt Col

Naruebadin Pangleesen of Phuket City Police said Mr Kan, who runs a tattoo parlor, claimed that a friend of Mr Thanapol, known only as 'Lip', had gone to get inked at his parlor and had agreed to pay 500 baht for the tattoo.

"Mr Kan claims that when he had nearly finished the tattoo, Mr Lip told him it was too painful and asked him to stop, then left the shop without paying for it," said Col Naruebadin.

Mr Lip reportedly telephoned Mr Kan later on and told him if he wanted the 500 baht they should meet near BISP to settle the matter.

The two suspects went on to explain that they went to meet Mr Lip as arranged but could not come to an agreement.

They claimed that Mr Thanapol and his friend Yuranan Jitjaroen drove toward the car out of the darkness and shot into the vehicle, injuring a third in their car.

They claim in their statements that Mr Padermchai slapped the gun out of Mr Thanapol's hands and, in defense, took out his own gun – at which point Mr Thanapol tried to grab the gun and accidentally shot himself, said Col Naruebadin.

Col Naruebadin told the *Gazette* that as both sides told differing accounts of the incident more evidence was required to get to the bottom of the case.

Mr Kan and Mr Padermchai reportedly plan to file a complaint against Mr Thanapol and his accomplices.

By Kongleaphy Keam and Winai Sarot

A DRIVER who assaulted a gas station employee in Tah Chat Chai on November 10 was charged for the altercation the next afternoon.

The driver, named as Pariwat Polsamak, 29, appeared on CCTV footage that went viral on Facebook.

The footage showed the driver pulling up to a Shell gas station in Tah Chat Chai about 6pm. After talking to the attendant on duty, Mr Pariwat drove off without getting his tank filled.

After some time, he returned to the station, got out of his car and kicked the staffer down to the ground.

The attack was reportedly prompted by the attendant's refusal to fill up the driver's tank as he did not agree to turn off his car engine.

Earlier this year on May 29, the Department of Energy Business (DOEB) announced that gas station attendants are legally responsible for ensuring that drivers turn off their engines and put away their cell phones at the pump.

Disobeying regulations carries a maximum penalty of 100,000 baht, a year in prison, or both. However, despite the importance of this safety measure, DOEB officials have said that strict enforcement will not take place until 2018.

A Facebook user named Siri Kwanmongkol, believed to be



The driver sped off, only to return to kick Mr Usaman down to the ground. Photo: Traffic Line Group

the owner of the car, posted an apology online. His Facebook post read:

"I would like to apologize to everyone, especially the gas station attendant involved. I parked my car to get my tank filled, but I didn't hear him say anything as I was listening to music and the volume was very high. I kept waiting for him to fill the tank, but when he didn't, I rolled down the window to ask him why. He said it was because I didn't turn off the engine. He looked angry so I told him to remove the nozzle from my car and left. What happened afterward is my fault and I went back to personally apologize for it."

Police summoned the employee, Usaman Satapor, 31, and the car owner, Mr Pariwat for questioning. Earlier, Police had only the names of both parties and called them in for a 'negotiation'. "We weren't able to get in touch with the employee, Mr Usaman, at first," Lt Col Watcharin Jirattikarnwiwat of the Tah Chat Chai Police told the *Gazette*.

"Mr Usaman's treatment at Thalang Hospital cost him 300 baht," Col Watcharin said.

"He asked Mr Pariwat for 3,000 baht in compensation, which he received. We have charged Mr Pariwat with assault and fined him 1,000 baht."



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Memories of HM King at Saphan Hin

By Sukawin Tanthavanich

IMAGES of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej were projected onto the Mining Monument at Saphan Hin on the night of November 12, to mark the 30th day of mourning for the late King.

Led by Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana, about 10,000 people gathered at Wong Wian Hoy (Shell Roundabout) at 8pm for a candle-lit ceremony and to sing the Royal Anthem with live musical accompaniment performed by the Yamaha Music School of Phuket.

Local student Yada Sajakiul sang a song dedicated to His Majesty King Bhumibol titled 'Nai Luang Kong Pen Din', while 3D images of HM the King carrying out his Royal duties were projected onto the monument during the ceremony.



The Saphan Hin Shell Monument was lit up with 3D projections of HM King Bhumibol performing his royal duties. Photo: Phuket Reporter Club

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Belarusian ‘possessed’ after Koh Samui trip



Locals used Buddha amulets to exorcise evil spirits from the confused Belarusian. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A HALLUCINATING Belarusian man ran amok in Thalang on November 8, shouting that he could see dead people as he stripped off naked and ran, shouting, into a rubber plantation near the Shell gas station on Thepkrasattri Road, where he and a friend had pulled up on a motorcycle.

He was later found and subdued by locals, who, believing the man had been possessed by evil spirits, performed impromptu rituals with Buddha image amulets.

Police arrived at the gas station at 7pm and questioned Starheyu Aliaksandr, 34, who said his friend, Kirill Belov, 34, had been acting strangely and was confused about his own state of mind

since a recent trip to Koh Samui.

Police and volunteers spent about half an hour looking for Mr Belov, before finding him about 500 meters from the gas station in the company of local villagers, who had performed exorcism rituals on the naked man.

“The exorcism spells seemed to have worked,” said Thalang Police Lt Nirot Boonsiri. “Mr Belov appeared to have calmed down. We tested him for drug use. The results were negative.

“The friends plan to go to Malaysia on a visa run but we’d still like to have Mr Belov looked at by a psychologist,” said Lt Nirot.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

20,000 gather at Promthep Cape



From Page 1

At 6pm on November 12, Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and local dignitaries led the public in a candle-lit ceremony to sing the Royal Anthem as a mark of remembrance on the 30th day of national mourning for HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Photo: Phuket Best Events

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Samui remembers Rama IX



Thousands of people form the number '9' in Thai script and the word 'Samui' in English to mark the 30th day of mourning for HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on November 13. Photo: Suchat Hankij

By Suchat Hankij

THOUSANDS of people attended a candle-lit ceremony on Koh Samui on November 13 to commemorate the 30th day of national mourning for His Majesty King Bhumibol

Adulyadej.

Koh Samui District Chief Paiboon Omak led the ceremony, which began at 6pm with attendees singing the Royal Anthem and forming the number 9 as written in the Thai language. The word 'Samui'

was also formed in English.

"Locals and a large number of expats and tourists joined the ceremony," said Mr Paiboon, who reminisced about a visit to the island by the late King on April 24, 1962, saying locals fondly remembered the visit.

'100% Helmet' campaign launched on Koh Samui in honor of His Majesty



About 550 motorcyclists showed their support for the road safety campaign. Photo: Suchat Hankij

HUNDREDS of motorcyclists turned out at Nathorn Pier on Koh Samui on November 13 to promote the launch of a '100% Helmet' campaign.

Led by Koh Samui Public Health Office in collaboration with the local police force, the campaign aimed to encourage all motorcyclists to wear crash helmets – and to do so to honor the memory of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"Public support was encouraging," said Koh Samui police superintendent Col Thewet Pluemsut, who confirmed that there were at least 550 motorcycles present at the launch event.

"Crash helmets save lives," said the colonel. "The purpose of this campaign is to urge both locals and tourists to always wear crash helmets whenever out riding."

– Suchat Hankij

International passengers must now pay new B15 surcharge per flight

AIR passengers travelling in and out of Thailand now have to pay a surcharge of 15 baht per person per flight segment.

The funds raised from the surcharge will be primarily used for improvements to the country's aviation system as overseen by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), such as upgraded safety standards. However, the move has angered the head of the travel agents association.

The CAAT and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) agreed on November 1 to implement the new charge but it did not go into full effect until November 14.

The extra fee is being added to air-ticket prices by IATA members. The global aviation authority will also get a cut of the proceeds.

Currently, IATA oversees and supervises 265 aviation authorities representing 85 per cent of global aviation.

According to the Tourism Association of Thailand, the country is expected to receive more than 32 million international tourists this year, while



Passengers flying in and out of Thailand must now pay a 15 baht surcharge for each flight, amounting to 1.1 billion baht per year generated for the IATA. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

more than six million Thais will travel overseas.

Based on the total passenger numbers from two flights per trip per person, the new surcharge should generate 1.1 billion baht per year.

Charoen Wanganant, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA), expressed doubts about the new

surcharge. He also wondered why foreign organizations such as the IATA have the right to intervene in Thailand's aviation system on such a big decision, saying it was not fair to make travellers going in and out of the country pay a fee that the IATA benefits from.

"If the government wants to solve aviation problems or de-

velop further projects, it should grant a special budget and let the Thai authorities do it, not ask for money from passengers. Also the IATA should not be involved in this issue," Mr Charoen said.

He said aviation experts working at the CAAT should be paid by the Thai government, not by passengers.

In the third quarter, 8.2 million foreigners travelled to Thailand. China continued to be the main source market with 2.4 million visitors during the three-month period. Arrivals from Europe came in at around 1.2 million, up 12 per cent from the third quarter last year, while there were 2.2 million visitors from Asean countries; up 14 per cent.

IATA representatives said last week that global passenger traffic in September grew 7 per cent compared with the same month in 2015. This was the strongest year-over-year increase in seven months. Capacity climbed 6.6 per cent.

European carriers saw September demand rise 5.2 per cent over September 2015.

Asia-Pacific airlines' traffic rose 8.6 per cent in September compared with the year-ago period, although there are still signs of Asian travellers being put off by terrorism in Europe.

Middle East carriers had an 11.5 per cent rise in demand in September compared to a year ago.

– The Nation

Rice farmers get help from entrepreneurs

ENTREPRENEURS have already ordered 220 tonnes of rice directly from farmers, cutting out middlemen, through a Labour Ministry initiative aimed at easing growers' woes over falling rice prices.

The initiative seeks to help farmers bypass traders who often demand high margins.

"We have asked entrepreneurs that provide food to their workers as part of their welfare to consider buying rice directly from farmers," Labour Protection and Welfare Department director-general Sumet Mahosot said November 13.

He said purchase orders for rice via the Labour Ministry had already exceeded 220 tonnes as a result.

Farmers in Phayao and Si Sa Ket provinces will hand over the first batch of 45.4 tonnes of rice for distribution to various enterprises in Rayong, Chon Buri, Ayutthaya and Samut Prakan provinces. Mr Sumet added that upon a request from his department, many entrepreneurs had agreed to allow the sale of rice to workers at their facilities.



"We can already set up 15 such points of sale," he said.

The programs have been made under Labour Minister General Sirichai Dithakul's "From Farmers to Workers" project, Sumet said.

He also urged employers to contact his department or its branches if they are interested

NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

Volunteers abuse authority in BKK

SOME volunteers were removed from queue-management duties at Sanam Luang

following complaints from mourners that they had "lost their temper" and abused their authority.

First Army Area's deputy commander Maj General Pongsawat Pannajit said on November 11, in his capacity as the deputy head of the joint safety operation center: "We have received complaints that some volunteers have lost their temper and acted inappropriately."

He said his center had heard that some volunteers had abused their authority and tried to force people out of the lines because of their clothing. "We have already made it clear that people must not be forced out of the lines," he said.

While there is a dress code for mourners who can go inside, Royal Household Bureau officials have been lenient where possible as not all Thais can afford new black clothes. Many good Samaritans have also made suitable black clothes that mourners can borrow and wear.

Gen Pongsawat said that the volunteers who had been removed from queue management operation had already been assigned tasks that did not require direct contact with mourners. "We have recruited 50 more volunteers from the Interior Ministry to help with queue management."

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Phuket Gazette

Fill 'em up

The *Phuket Gazette* wishes the Department of Energy Business (DoEB) the best of luck in its bid to get all motorists to put away their mobile phones while filling up at service stations – it will certainly need it.

In May this year, officials of the DoEB confirmed that service station personnel would play a key role in ensuring two safety procedures are enforced throughout the re-fuelling process: first, that all engines must be turned off; and second, that motorists are required to 'put away' their cell phones throughout the process.

Service station attendants who fail to comply will face stiff penalties when the existing measures become strictly enforced starting in 2018, DoEB officials said. [See page 3]

The requirement to turn off the engine is reasonable enough. Even if the risk of a conflagration at the pump due to a running engine may be tiny, it is not negligible. Faulty ignition coils and other electrical components can generate sparks when these systems short circuit, creating the potential for catastrophe if gasoline vapors are ignited.

Gas station attendants can easily tell if an engine is still running and deny service until it is shut off. Modern cars are marvels of safety engineering and many new models are sensibly designed to prevent the filler cap from being removed if the engine is still running.

While the first measure seems reasonable enough, the requirement for motorists to put away their precious cell phones during re-fuelling will no doubt prove far more difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. For a start, cell phone 'addiction' is widespread. Far too many among us are simply incapable of not pecking away on these devices whenever an opportunity arises.

To put things in perspective, let us remember that it is already illegal for motorists to talk or text on their devices while operating them, yet this is an all-too-common practice in our country. If the police are not inclined to arrest motorcyclists who nonchalantly ride past them while fully engaged in a telephone call, how can we ever expect them to enforce the same restriction against stationary car drivers hidden from view behind black-tinted windows?

The DoEB should study the actual risks posed by cell phones at service stations and then start any enforcement effort by forbidding gas station attendants themselves from using their devices at the pumps. It might not have a significant impact on overall safety, but it would certainly improve service standards.



Put police resources to better use

Re: Luck runs out for Phuket's lottery vendors, Nov 15

What a terrible crime! And worth a photo opportunity, it seems.

Does the average person care if a lottery ticket seller makes an extra 20 baht to support his family?

Surely the police can find something more important to do, plenty of real criminals around to catch.

*Peter rawai
Gazette forum*

Almost all the natural beauty gone

Re: Opinion: The environmental cost of development, Nov 13

"Phuket can no longer rely on its natural beauty as the sole means of attracting tourists."

But the natural beauty of Phuket is almost unique and is being destroyed, while conference and exhibition centers, shopping malls and dolphin shows can be built anywhere in the world.

*FedericoP
Gazette forum*

Don't mind paying for good service

Re: International passengers must pay new B15 surcharge per flight, Nov 15

I wondered how long before the rest of us would be paying a levy.

Like anything else, if the service is there I don't mind

Letters to the Editor

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

paying, but from what I've read there is none.

Now there are big backlogs, and if my memory serves me, a few weeks ago the Prime Minister said he wanted to see all service desks manned at the airport, which is not happening.

So, dear Immigration Officers, the rest is up to you.

*Bazza
Gazette forum*

My 'favorite' one is the extra 200 baht that the immigration police charge at Hat Yai, just to let you back in to the Kingdom.

Multiply that by the 3000 people every day.

No receipt issued of course!

*Rick Menlove
Facebook*

Timing of renovations not suitable

Re: Aot launches detailed maps to help Phuket airport visitors, Nov 11

First of all, starting these renovations is completely stupid at this period of the year.

If he had started in the low season, we would not have the mess we have today. The map is a little late! Will be interesting to see the chaos halfway through December when many

more people arrive.

*Eric
Gazette forum*

Not a progressive approach by police

Re: Man crushed to death at Phuket graveyard, Nov 12

"Police said that there will be no further investigation as his relatives have no doubt about the incident being an accident." Anyone still believe that this is not a Third World country?

*Chas
Gazette forum*

Some people need a reality check

Re: Angry driver assaults Phuket gas station employee, Nov 11

Seems like another arrogant, self-important person treating people like dirt – too much of this 'do you know who I am' stuff going on at the moment. Some people need a reality check.

*Mister Ree
Gazette forum*

Avoid 'cheap stuff'

Re: Belarusian 'possessed by evil spirits' after trip to Samui Nov 11

I'm thinking he went for the cheap stuff that is cut with gasoline. Had a friend do that stuff years ago. Now he swats at imaginary butterflies.

*Adam Stokesbary
Facebook*

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Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
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Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
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General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) **Fax** 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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Love of His Majesty

“Glad to have a chance to get involved”

FIRST PERSON

FROM the very beginning, we were aware that this event would cause some inconvenience to people on the island, as so many people gathering in one place usually does. There is always some degree of chaos and confusion in these things and I am willing to admit that much. We were prepared for the worst, and equipped to handle any foreseeable problems.

However, it was all for the love of His Majesty. Nobody was forced to attend – everyone did it out of sheer love and respect. Every single one of us came together for our beloved King with true devotion in our hearts, keeping the main purpose in mind, which was to pay respect to His Majesty.

It was the greatest spectacle I have ever seen; all the civil servants and officials dressed in black, other officials in their uniforms and the public in black mourning attire. It was an honor to organize this in my hometown at Promthep Cape, a famous landmark of Phuket.

We prepared thousands of white candles for the public, just in case they could not get them on their own. We also prepared parking spots for



Aroon Solos, 50, has been the Mayor of Rawai for 16 years. He was born and raised in Rawai, and was involved in social work even before he became the mayor. Mr Aroon graduated in Industrial Engineering from Kasem Bundit University.

Here, he talks about preparing for the greatest event of his life, which is the ceremony held at Laem Prom Thep on November 12 to commemorate 30 days since His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's passing.

thousands of vehicles because we could not let the vehicles go up to the top. This was a combined effort by government and private sector service providers, who joined hands to offer free services to transport people to the top and back down. They provided vans, local buses (Po Thong) and motorcycles to transport people there and back. I am thankful to everyone who supported this event.

— Mayor of Rawai
Aroon Solos

We also installed signs leading people to the right place to make sure they would not get lost on the alternative route leading to the cape.

Nobody was forced to attend – everyone did it out of sheer love and respect. Every single one of us came together for our beloved King with true devotion in our hearts, keeping the main purpose in mind, which was to pay respect

We held meetings every day ahead to make sure everything was covered in the best possible way. It required a lot of hard work and cooperation from all parties involved, including the military and police. Everyone put in their best efforts into making this a success. I did not need to say much about this, as you can already see from the turnout of the event and how well organized it was.

I am so glad to have had a chance to get involved in such a great event. I am grateful to Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan, who put me in charge of the planning and organization. I did my best and so did everyone else involved. Our late King worked very hard his entire life for us and the country. You can see how proud Phuketians and Thais are to show the world what a great King he was and how we are grieving his loss.

The nation grieves



School children sing along to His Majesty's compositions while onlookers enjoy the scene. Photo: Sahar Aftab Paliwala

IT IS as many of us had feared; Donald Trump is soon to be the man in the White House and signs of chaos have already begun to erupt in many parts of the United States and even other parts of the world. Markets are tumbling, people are calling for a re-count, others have taken to the streets in protest and yet others are still in shock.

It is a different story altogether in Phuket. While the world wonders what to expect at the culmination of this bizarre election season, Phuketians, and indeed all Thais, are absorbed in mourning the loss of the nation's father.

While government and public sector officials are directed to wear mourning garb for a whole year, many Thais are voluntarily dressed in black, although the 30-day period is now past. One recent outpouring of love and devotion took place at Laem Promthep on November 12, when approximately 20,000 people gathered to commemorate the loss of their beloved Monarch.

Even as a foreigner, I could feel the overwhelming emotion and sense of loss that hung in the air. Women, children, young

Island View

By Sahar Aftab Paliwala

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

and old alike hiked up to the top of the cape, some in wheelchairs, others with children in tow, but none complaining. If there is one thing you could immediately see, it was everybody's eagerness to be there and show their love. From posing with His Majesty's picture to lighting a candle and saying a prayer for him, all were eager to make their prayer heard and their blessing count.

However, another emotion, perhaps not as glaringly obvious as the expression of sorrow, was a sense of pride in the country and the Monarch they had so recently lost. School children played His Majesty's compositions and everyone listened in raptures to each tune, which then received enthusiastic applause. It was as if Thais were telling the world that this loss was more than just Thailand's loss – the world had lost a great leader as well. And in that moment, joined by thousands of Thais mourning their King, I felt like this was my loss as well.

Words from the Wise

“Today's scientists have substituted mathematics for experiments, and they wander off through equation after equation, and eventually build a structure which has no relation to reality.”

— Nikola Tesla

“The chief function of the body is to carry the brain around.”

— Thomas A Edison

Issues & Answers

Where can I donate unwanted clothes?

I'm moving out of Phuket next month and I am wondering if any official organization accepts donations of clothes, shoes and some electrical items.

The items may not very expensive or worth much but I do not want to waste them by throwing away when they could be put to good use.

Were can I donate these?
Pollakit Rakthong Chief of maintenance section at

Kusoldharm Rescue Center replies: The Kusoldharm Center always welcomes donations of clothes and shoes, which can

be passed on to people in need such as local sea gypsies and poor children.

We advise you to donate electrical items to other public or private charitable organizations. However, Kusoldharm volunteers can take those electrical items and pass them on if you have nowhere else to donate them.

The Kusoldharm Center address is No. 34, Soi 9, Poonphol Road, Phuket town. Tel: 076-211 706, 076-246 216.

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

Submit your issue at:

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Reasons market will move higher



Finance

By Don Freeman

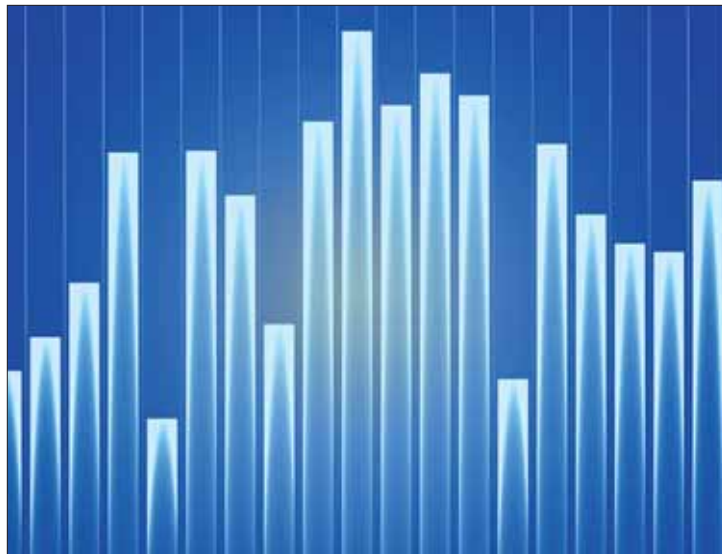
US and global markets continue to hold in a tight 2-3 month range near new highs after breaking out of a long 1.5 year consolidation just after Brexit. This is occurring despite all the pessimism out there surrounding the US elections, the Fed, terrorism, Brexit fallout, Deutsche Bank troubles and other concerns.

I have ten reasons to believe the market will continue to head higher until the end of the year:

1. Historically speaking, between May and October, the S&P 500 has rallied in 19 of the last 22 election years or 86 per cent of the time for an average gain of 6.2 per cent. Keep in mind that these results are skewed by significant volatility in a few election years (like 2008). As of early October, leading stocks and market indices are higher and continue to go up.

2. The price of oil has stabilized after spending the last few years plunging. This is not only good for energy stocks, but also for large-scale consumers of energy (airlines, utility companies) as they now have predictability.

3. Fundamentals and earn-



By looking at the current technical charts, we have a pretty good idea of just where the market will head, that is basically back down to recent lows or bottoms on the charts. Image: Dawn Hudson

ings have been coming in fine, but not particularly great. Then again, they have not been coming in all that great for several years now – meaning that nothing has really changed all that much. But expectations are low and now we see Netflix and Microsoft beating earnings estimates and moving higher 25 per cent and 5 per cent after release of earnings.

4. Index technical charts are generally looking good as they are either consolidating or already breaking out.

5. October-November tends to be the start of the strong seasonality period, which usually lasts until April. Investors and

fund managers will also begin their end of the year ‘window dressing’ of returns either for tax or performance purposes.

6. We need semiconductors to lead and the iShares PHLX Semiconductor ETF (NASDAQ : SOXX) has been doing that in recent months – something that has escaped most market pundits who only focus on negativity.

Technology index (QQQ) is at a higher level than the 2000 technology top. This is a positive sign and I will be writing more on that in the upcoming next article.

7. The iShares North American Tech-Software ETF (NYSEARCA: IGV) and the

First Trust DJ Internet Index Fund ETF (NYSEARCA: FDN) are also strongly melting upward.

8. The iShares Transportation Average ETF (NYSEARCA: IYT) is showing a huge bottoming formation which indicates that the overall economy is poised to get better.

9. Despite media reports that Deutsche Bank AG (NYSE: DB) is imploding or may need a bailout, the technical chart for the iShares MSCI Germany Index Fund ETF (NYSEARCA: EWG) actually looks similar to that of IYT and could also be poised to breakout (best case scenario) or rollover (worst case scenario).

10. The Vanguard Total Stock Market ETF (NYSEARCA: VTI) is not back above its previous all time high and did experience a minor throwback in September, but it has also held up. VTI could still experience some short-term fluctuations and even another breakdown before ultimately ending the year higher.

“Now imagine the worst case scenario, such as another high-profile terrorist attack somewhere or Deutsche Bank implodes or something else happens that triggers a recession. By looking at the current technical charts, we have a pretty good idea of just where the market will head, that is

basically back down to recent lows or bottoms on the charts. Of course, this is barring a major ‘black swan’ type event such as 9/11 or a complete financial system meltdown such as in 2008.

On the hand – in the best case scenario – the entire market beyond semiconductors, software and Internet stocks could continue to go upward; especially once the uncertainty surrounding the US election is out of the way.

My plan as we enter the 4th quarter is to hold leading and emerging leadership stocks and give them room to grow to the upside. Right now, the market direction appears bullish. But should the market transition back down again or if a bear market were to begin, the price action will warn us to get out of stocks and back into cash.

Don Freeman, BSME, is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, financial planning and UK pension transfers. Call for a free portfolio review. Don can be reached at 089-970 5795 or email him on freemancapital@gmail.com

KBank and IBM team up

KASIKORNBANK plans to launch blockchain technology in the first half of 2017 with IBM.

KBank will also invite commercial banks and other organizations to use the technology, said Somkid Jiranuntarat, vice chairman of Kasikorn Business Technology Group.

In the initial stage, a system called OriginalCert API will be used to certify letters of guarantee (LG), which will simplify and speed up the LG issuance

process for customers.

Mr Somkid said the KBank would soft-launch the system to a sample of customers in the first quarter of next year, ahead of launching it commercially before mid-2017.

He said KBank recognizes that blockchain technology is a turning point for future business concepts and models, so it collaborated with IBM on the pilot project.

– The Nation

Thailand may get upgraded IPR status

THAILAND’S status is expected to be upgraded in Washington’s Intellectual Property Rights protection (IPR) rankings next year, even though Donald Trump has indicated he will pursue a stringent IPR policy when in office.

Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said that Thailand expected to be upgraded from the US Priority Watch List (PWL) to the Watch List (WL) next year, due to its efforts to protect intellectual property rights.

“The government has also made strong efforts to raise IPR awareness and enforce many related laws,” she said.

“Despite [the likelihood] Trump will tighten IPR law, Thailand is not [unduly] concerned as we have already developed our IPR protection standard, as well as increased awareness and our own innovation,” Ms Apiradi said.

Moreover, the government

also has a policy to promote the country under a digital economy and support innovation and the use of IPR for commercialization, the minister said, adding that the Kingdom’s IPR standard has made major headway compared to the past several years.

Thailand was downgraded to the PWL in 2007 and has remained there as it struggled to manage IPR problems, meaning that exports to the US could be made subject to high duties or other trade barriers.

The government has also drawn up a plan to suppress IPR violation and has had national strategies on intellectual property rights since 2012, setting out a clear road map for work that needs to be done, and which will be continued in the years to come, Ms Apiradi explained.

Tossapon Tungsubutra, acting director-general of the Intellectual Property Depart-

ment, said the US Trade Representative had followed up on Thailand’s moves to crack down on IPR violation and solve the problem of infringement, especially on the internet.

To raise awareness among traders, the department has provided a manual for merchants to warn them that the copying of goods is illegal and that violators will be subject to punishment under the law.

Moreover, to boost awareness among foreign visitors, the department had also asked for cooperation from Airports of Thailand to install a billboard at Suvarnabhumi Airport warning travellers not to buy copied goods, the official said.

In addition, to promote creativity in Thailand, the department has set up an Innovation Driven Enterprise center to support innovation from upstream to downstream.

– The Nation

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Premium pineapples sold out

By Chutharat Plerin

A HUNDRED Phuket-grown premium pineapples priced at 1,543 baht each were pre-booked for sale within an hour on November 11.

The pineapples will be ready for harvest in February next year and sold at the Phuket Pineapple Festival 2017, Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan announced at a press conference at Tu Kab Khao restaurant in Phuket Town.

“As we all know, pineapples are one of Phuket’s signature items, along with batik, goats’ milk and lobster. These products are all branded and promoted by Pracha Rath Rak Samakkee to help boost the province’s grassroots agricultural economy,” said Governor Chokchai.

Pracha Rath Rak Samakkee Phuket was first launched on March 31 this year, as a government-backed corporation with the aim of developing and promoting the province’s strengths, such as tourism, agriculture and locally-produced goods under the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) banner.

“These select, premium fruits are our ambassadors. We will have signs announcing the pineapple festival – if you are



The price tag was decided by adding a thousand baht to the land area of the island. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

in Phuket at the time, you must be a part of it and eat the pineapples,” said Gov Chokchai.

The mascot will be a boy named ‘Ya-Nad’, which means pineapple in the southern dialect.

The pineapple project was first introduced in July, at which time only 50 pineapples met the quality criteria to merit the high price tag.

Asked how the price was justified, Pracha Rath’s Orasa Tosawang said that it was part of the marketing strategy to boost Phuket’s identity as a source of quality agricultural products.

“Nonthaburi Province, for example, has durian which sells for 210,000 baht, after the Nonthaburi governor launched a durian promotion campaign. The campaign put the province in the spotlight and it became well-known nationwide – why shouldn’t we have a 1,500 baht pineapple?” Ms Orasa said.

Gov Chokchai also suggested merging Phuket’s pineapples with Maha Sarakham’s rice.

“Normally rice is worth 20 baht per kilogram, but we have boosted that to 500 baht per kg. It is certified by the Ministry of Commerce to be the most fra-

grant variety, proven by scientific methodology and testing,” he explained.

“So we take the world’s best pineapples and combine it with the world’s best rice, to make the world’s best pineapple fried rice. We will sell it here, at the Tu Kab Khao restaurant, as the signature provider of this unique product.”

The cost of the finished product is yet to be announced.

Wirachai Pranveerapaibool, managing director of Pracha Rath Rak Samakkee Phuket, explained that the fruits that made it to the final hundred were cho-

sen from seven million pineapples farmed in about 2,200 rai in Phuket each year.

“The 100 pineapples and other Phuket pineapples will be ready in February as it is the best time of the year for pineapples to flourish and we can be assured of the best quality. It will be around the same time as the Chinese New Year,” said Mr Wirachai.

He described the unique aspects of Phuket’s pineapples as being the taste, aroma and texture and added that the price tag of 1,543 baht was chosen by adding a thousand baht to the land area of Phuket, that is 543 square kilometers.

“The 100 pineapples will come in a package, including product number and a certificate from the Department of Agriculture,” Mr Wirachai said.

Mr Wichai Sae-Tan, the president of Phuket Pineapple Farmers Association, explained that the pineapples need to be taken good care of for 18 months.

“There are about 50 - 60 pineapple farmers in Phuket, of which 20 are in our group. We are all committed to producing the best quality pineapples,” he told the *Gazette*. “For this project, we chose 25 pineapples each from the top four pineapple farmers.”

Billions of baht in advertising pulled

AN ESTIMATED 4.6 billion baht worth of advertising spending was cancelled last month after the death of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 13, according to data from Nielsen (Thailand).

The figure was 45 per cent of the total advertising expenditure of B10.24bn in the same month last year. The media research giant reported on November 11 that overall advertising spending last month stood at B5.61bn.

The government had ordered all media outlets to drop paid advertisements, concerts and other show-business events as well as lower the tone of their entertainment-related programs to pay respects to the much-revered monarch for 30 days.

Radio advertising revenue fell 45 per cent to B287mn, while magazine ad revenue dropped 38 per cent to B231mn. Newspaper ad spending plummeted 26.48 per cent to B733mn.

Online-media advertising spending dipped 10.43 per cent to B103mn. Last month, out-of-home media remained in positive territory. Outdoor ad revenue climbed by B469mn. Transit-media ad spending grew by B420mn and in-store-media ad spending jumped 6.06 per cent to B35mn.

Top advertisers that cut their spending in October included Coca-Cola, Toyota, Tesco Lotus, Samsung’s mobile-phone unit, and Isuzu.

– *The Nation*



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Jungceylon holds krathong workshop

Shoppers at Jungceylon in Patong were invited to make their own krathongs at the mall's Port Arena on November 14-21 to celebrate Loy Krathong and take home the free cultural souvenirs.



Tourists show off Krathongs (floats) they made before releasing them into the sea.

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Events in Paradise

November full moon

Provincial officials marked the traditional Loy Krathong Day on the full moon night of November 14 at Saphan Hin, by releasing krathongs at the lagoon. The festival was a more sombre affair than usual with no fireworks this year, as the province continues to mourn the passing of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



From left: Phuket Vice Governor Teera Anantaseriwidhya; Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan; Vice Governor Snith Sriwihok; Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana.



Governor Chokchai prepares to release a krathong at the lagoon in Saphan Hin.

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Phuketians light up waterways during Loy Krathong festivities

By Kongleaphy Keam

PHUKET Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and all three vice governors arrived at Saphan Hin as honorary guests to join the Loy Krathong festival on November 14.

The event was organized by Phuket Municipality and led by Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana.

Loy Krathong, the “Festival of Light”, is one of Thailand’s most significant holidays. The annual festival takes place on the full moon of the 12th lunar month of the year, this year falling on November 14.

The meaning of the name of the festival is literal. Loy means ‘to float’, while krathong refers to the lotus-shaped vessels that are traditionally made of banana tree stems and leaves containing candles, joss sticks, small offerings of food and flowers.

Traditionally, thousands of people across the nation release krathong into rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea. The offerings



Events were organized all over the Kingdom, such as this one in Saphan Hin. Photo: Phuket Municipality

are made to give thanks to the goddess of water and to seek forgiveness for past misdeeds.

The festival usually includes beauty pageants, fireworks and krathong-making contests using

materials such as banana leaves and cross-sections of banana tree trunks, coconut bark or paper.

“However, this year we did not make the event too extravagant as we are still in the

mourning period of the His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s passing. But as it is a Thai tradition, we did what we felt was appropriate,” said Mayor Somjai.

‘Biggest’ supermoon since 1948



‘Super moon’ is a rare occurrence. Photo: Zohaib Sikander

THE night of November 14 featured a super moon, which was the biggest the world got to see in 68 years. The special thing about it was that in addition to it being a full moon, it appeared so big because it was closest to earth at that time.

Hundreds of amateur and professional photographers focused up at the skies all over the world to capture the phenomenon.

The super moon livened up the Loy Krathong festivities, which falls on a full moon annually.

– Zohaib Sikander



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Athletes warm up for Ironman 70.3



British Olympic athlete Stuart Hayes is a regular competitor in Ironman events. Photo: Ironman 70.3

SOME of the world's fittest human beings are preparing to put their endurance to the test and compete for the US\$15,000 professional prize purse at the upcoming inaugural Foremost Ironman 70.3 Thailand and Foremost Ironkids event to be held in Phuket on November 27.

The athletes are to set off from Bangtao Beach for the first leg of the triathlon, a 1.9km swim, followed by a 90km bike race from the beach up to Sarasin Bridge and back, and then a 21.1km run starting and finishing at the beach.

The event's title sponsor, FrieslandCampina (Thailand) Public Company Limited, is backing the sports event as part of their 'Drink.Move.BeStrong' campaign.

"In 2014, we launched 'Drink.Move.BeStrong' campaign throughout Southeast Asia and reached out to more than 68 million people through strong collaborations with multiple stakeholders including schools, parents, national and local governments, retailers, media and the Junior NBA," said FrieslandCampina Thailand's managing director Marco Bertacca.

"Within 3 years of carrying out 'Drink.Move.BeStrong' campaign, we have touched the lives of over 100,000 kids in Thailand through multiple touchpoints and in school programs. Ironman and Ironkids is another perfect vehicle to help foster the realization of how sports and nutrition take

an important part in making our kids grow strong both emotionally and physically. Healthy kids will grow into a strong foundation that helps build the strong society of Thailand," added Mr Bertacca.

For first timers to get a taste for an Ironman race, there will also be a team relay but athletes aiming high will be competing to qualify for the prize money as well as the 30 qualifying age group slots for the 2017 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

For more information and to register visit ap.ironman.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and *The Nation* are the proud national media partners in the event.

- *Phuket Gazette*



The race begins with a 1.9km swim off Bangtao Beach.



The second leg is a 90km bike race to Sarasin Bridge and back.



The last leg of the triathlon is a 21.1km long run.



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Trying to put a round peg into a square hole

Excuse Buster
By Craig Burton

IN my previous column I talked about protein and how our bodies burn energy. Now we'll talk about how we can incorporate these aspects into a formula based on individual needs.

After reading and hearing about the two significant reasons for having protein in the diet, you may be under the impression that you should only eat protein, but that wouldn't be all good and could cause serious health problems.

And you might be following the 'eat less-move more' theory to the extreme, thinking: 'why not just starve myself and train intensely?'. This clearly does not turn out well for health either.

So let's turn our attention to the 'Outflow heat', which is measured by estimating (guessing) your heat expenditure.

We start by calculating how much energy your body theoretically burns at rest. This is called the 'basal metabolic rate' (BMR). There are many formulas that attempt to work this out but here is the current gold standard, the Mifflin St Jeor Equation:

For men: $BMR = 10 \times \text{weight (kg)} + 6.25 \times \text{height (cm)} - 5 \times \text{age (years)} + 5$.
For women: $BMR = 10 \times \text{weight (kg)} + 6.25 \times \text{height (cm)} - 5 \times$



Bathroom scales like this Blueweigh Smart Body Composition Analyzer can also measure your basal metabolic rate (BMR) as well as body fat content, body muscle weight, water content, bone mass and more, but a lot of the calculations are really down to pure guesswork. Photo: Blueweigh

age (years) - 161

"You'll want to use a BMR as a rough estimate to set your basic needs," says Dr. Jennifer Satchek, Ph.D, an associate professor of nutrition at Tufts University.

So we continue this exercise with 'rough estimates' again.

What about levels of muscle verses fat? Well, the lesser-used Katch-McArdle formula, uses lean muscle mass, but is considered less accurate than the Mifflin St Jeor Equation. This baffles me, as taking into account muscle verses fat should be more accurate, ex-

cept in order to accurately measure the percentage of body fat is not so simple an can lead to more errors than the Mifflin-St-Jeor generalization.

According to most experts' consensus, our BMR makes up more than 60 per cent of our daily energy use. We add to this the estimated energy expenditure, including movement and exercise, and make another broad guess.

This clearly adds up to a lot of guesswork to find the final calorie count you should be consuming in order to lose weight. I haven't listed them all.

What other science can get away with so much guessing? No wonder nutritional science gets so much criticism with such big guesses needed when following the standard foundations for fat loss.

So what's my recommendation, and is calorie counting a useless exercise?

Given the above, you may be surprised that I still believe counting calories can be helpful, for some people, to get a perspective on certain dietary aspects.

For example, you could start by counting the calories (or

grams) you intake from sugar and processed food, including refined grains, such as white breads and pasta. Then aim to reduce them. These are called 'empty calories', as they provide little to no nutrients, so the less consumed the better.

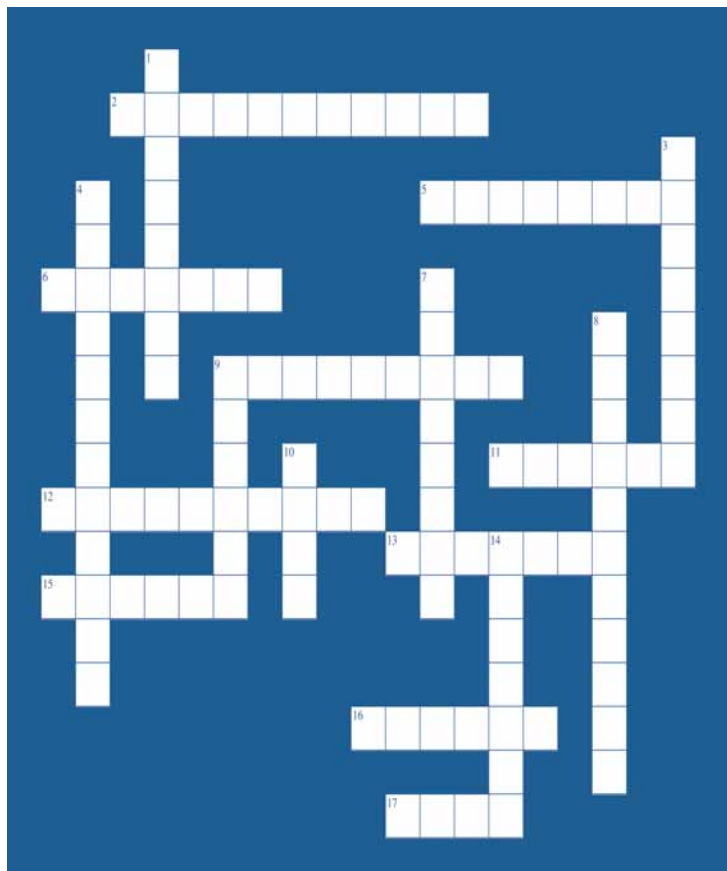
If you seek more fat loss, next try counting the amount of starchy carbohydrates, such as potatoes and rice - and cut down on them too.

The simple actions result in big success for most overweight people without having to focus on every single thing you eat; only focusing on the ones more likely to be fat-storing foods.

The primary focus should be on eating real, unprocessed food with a plate full of vegetables, some clean protein and good fats in each meal. This will make you feel full. If you can also eat slowly and mindfully, listening to your body's signals to say 'stop', then you'll have less chance of overeating.

When you combine this with regular supportive movement to stay healthy - there's no need to start running marathons - then losing weight or maintaining your ideal weight becomes so much easier and sustainable.

Craig Burton is a Certified Sports Nutritionist (CISSN) with a Bachelor of Science degree (Sports Science) and a National Academy of Sports Medicine (PES) certification.



Gazette Crossword

Across

2. Trendy backpacker
5. Movie set in Thailand starring Leonardo DiCaprio
6. Journalistic style
9. Racket
11. Gypsy
12. British celebrity cook who had a brasserie in Phuket
13. Phuket has 25 of these
15. Attempt to repair something
16. Lobster-like crustaceans
17. Civil legal liability

Down

1. Fleet of ships
3. Phuket governor's first name
4. Using magnets to levitate things
7. Site of 30-day mourning ceremony
8. Historical period of 'rebirth'
9. Strong box for valuables
10. Splendid ceremony
14. English griddle cake



Family Law/Custody /Divorce/Will

Child Adoption

Notary Public

Litigation (Civil & Criminal Cases)

Company Setup

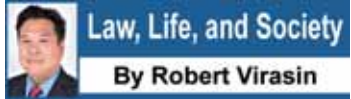
Business Contracts
Property Law/Due Diligence

Visa & Work Permit

Tel : 091-078 9595
info@phuketinternationallaw.com
www.phuketinternationallaw.com

Solution on opposite page.

Sometimes there is only justice for some

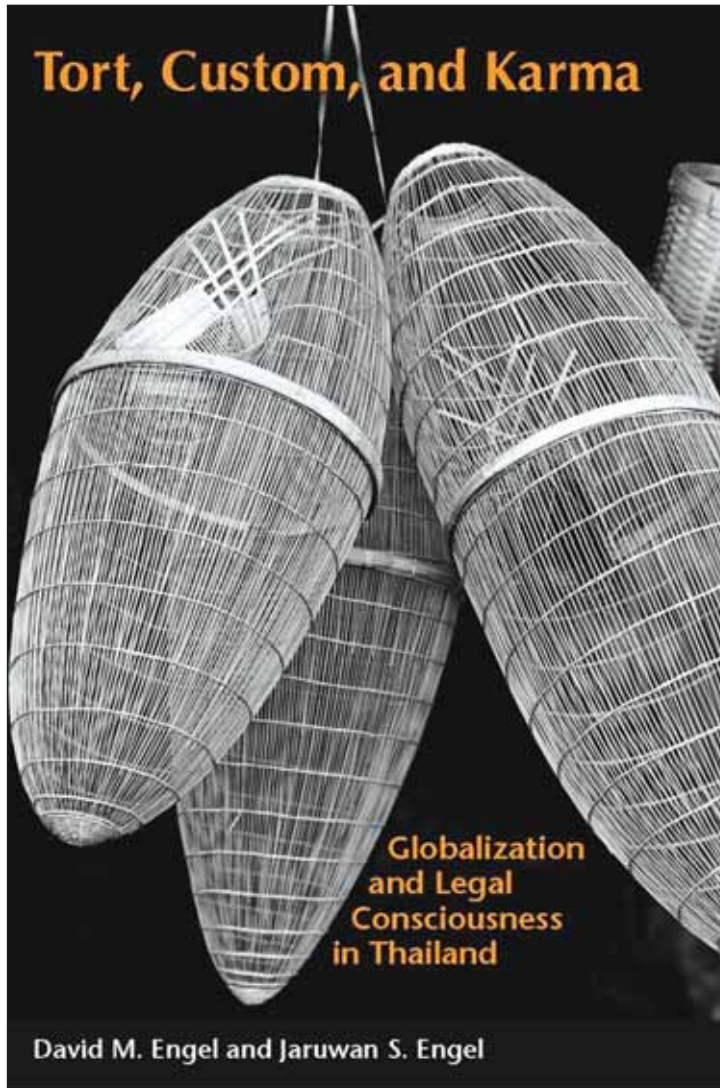


A well-dressed man is talking on his phone while driving a luxury car. He is not paying attention to the traffic. A car in front of him suddenly slows down. The man swerves his car and runs into a street food vendor, destroying the street vendor's cart and severely injuring the street vendor.

The street vendor is taken to the hospital, where he incurs large medical bills. He loses his means of earning income, is swamped with medical bills, receives a permanent disability, and he can no longer support his family. On top of this, he probably does not have the means to access the Thai court system.

Within Thai society, there is a large social and economic divide between the wealthy and the poor. They have vastly different perspectives on living and life. In the area of civil law and personal injury, the wealthy and well connected have access to the courts while the poor and uneducated are left to pray and hope.

In their book, *Tort, Custom, and Karma*, Professor David Engel and his wife researched the issue of legal access for the poor in Chiang Mai. The findings are surprising. From the mid 1960s to 2000, the rate of litigation has declined significantly, relative to the general increase in population and the increase number of



In their book, *Tort, Custom, and Karma*, Professor David Engel and his wife researched the issue of legal access for the poor in Chiang Mai.

Thai attorneys.

Professor Engel found that the general public has an antipathy to the legal system. People on a local level feel alienated from the legal system. They believe that there is no justice for them in the courts.

In the opinion of those in the middle and lower economic classes, government officials are corrupt and only the wealthy and powerful receive favorable rulings from the courts.

In addition, there are eco-

nomical hurdles to accessing the court system. Filing a lawsuit is expensive and time consuming without a guarantee of success. The average Thai worker lacks the knowledge and experience to file a lawsuit. Attorneys are generally required to navigate through the court system. Those who lack the funds to hire an attorney usually lack the expertise to file and argue a court case.

In Thai courts, most civil actions do not allow punitive damages (damages exceeding compensation and meant to punish the defendant). This deters people from filing lawsuits and attorneys from accepting cases from low-income clients. Even in egregious tort cases concerning severe injury or loss of life, an imbalance of wealth and power among the parties usually results in a one-sided settlement. This may be the only route for lower-income individuals to get any financial recourse.

The lack of a justice system has been exasperated by the reduction of community and the use of village elders to mediate settlements between parties. In an increasing networked world, people are less involved in their local communities, which has led to an increased breakdown of community foundations. When there are conflicts, the average Thai person does not have a person or place to assist in settling their disputes.

There are potential solutions to the lack of access to the court system. One solution is to al-

low punitive damages for torts caused by outrageous or irresponsible conduct by a defendant. If someone is drunk driving and destroys the victim's property or causes personal injury, the compensation from punitive damages could be an incentive for the victim to seek restitution through the court system.

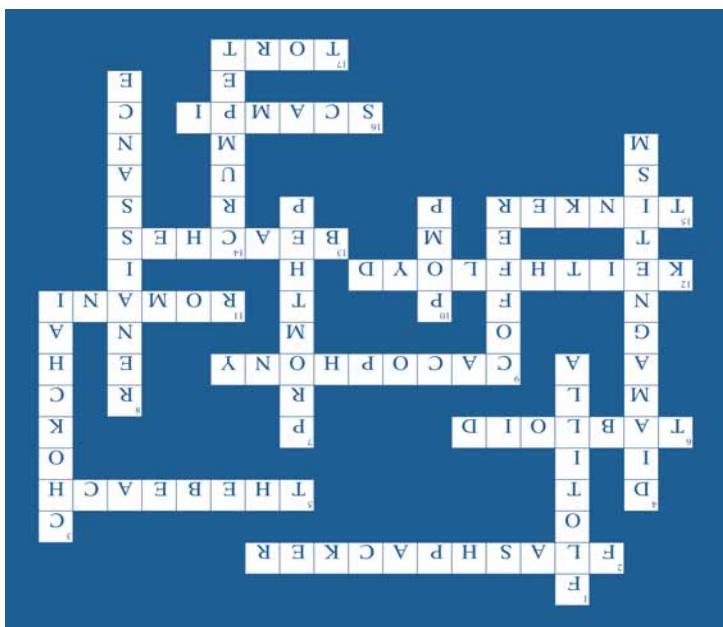
Another possible solution would be to create a local arbitration system to replace the loss of respected village elders. An arbitrator can resolve conflicts without the legal formalities of a traditional court hearing, thereby making it more accessible for regular people. The government arbitrator can issue a court enforceable decision or attempt to prod the parties to negotiate a fair settlement.

A large segment of the population feel that they do not have access to the justice system. Disillusionment in the law has become the norm. This can lead to the breakdown of civil society. Growing disenchantment with the legal system contributes to the feeling of the lack of justice. Something should be done to reform Thailand's legal system to allow tort victims greater access to the court system.

Mr Robert R Virasin is a licenced U.S. Attorney and managing director of Virasin & Partners. Mr. Yutthachai Sangsirisap is a licenced Thai Attorney at Virasin & Partners. They can be reached at info@virasin.com or at www.virasin.com.

Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



Condo prices in central Bangkok jump 50-60 per cent in six years

THE resale prices of condominium units near the Sanam Pao, Ari and Saphan Khwai Skytrain stations have surged by 50-60 per cent in five to six years because of high residential density, according to Plus Property Co, the property-management arm of Sansiri.

A survey by the firm shows that the areas around these stations attract affluent individuals with inherited wealth, civil servants, private-sector employees and students, while the number of new projects is limited, due to the difficulty in finding large enough sites.

These areas boast convenient transport because of their proximity to the BTS Skytrain. Once the Bang Sue interchange station becomes operational, condominium prices are expected to climb further.

The rental market is still bustling, with high demand among both Thai and foreign tenants contributing to returns on investment of 5-7 per cent for a one-bedroom, 30-square-meter condo, Anukul Ratpitaksanti, deputy managing director, said on November 15.

A survey conducted in the first half of the year found a supply of 2,184 condos, of which up to 91 per cent have



The residential areas around BTS Skytrain stations attract affluent individuals with inherited wealth, civil servants, private-sector employees and students. Photo: My Train Pix

been sold. The average was 12 units sold per month.

There are only nine high-rise units available from three condo projects near Skytrain routes, and they are being sold at an average price of 160,000 baht per square meter.

There are 197 low-rise units from 12 condo projects available, and they are being sold at

an average price of 102,000 baht per sqm.

This shows that these areas remain in high demand among consumers, especially for high-rise condos near Skytrain routes.

In the second half of the year, only 1,371 units from two new condo projects will be entering the market, with

average opening prices at 160,000-170,000 baht per sqm.

The high prices are due to limited availability of large sites near Skytrain stations, or extremely high prices for land.

This has contributed to demand expanding for condos located on secondary roads or

a short distance down side streets, since the units can still be considered near to Skytrain stations.

“The price of land near the Sanam Pao, Ari and Saphan Khwai BTS stations during the past five years has increased by an average of 5-25 per cent per year,” Mr Anukul said.

– *The Nation*

Q4 launches postponed until next year

LEADING RESIDENTIAL developers plan to launch projects with a combined value of 200 billion baht next year, after cutting back on further launches this year during a period when commercial banks continue to tightly restrict the approval of mortgages and demand among home-buyers has fallen away sharply.

“We have had to delay the launch of five residential projects during the remainder of this year after seeing a fall in residential demand,” Prukka Real Estate co-chief executive officer Lersak Chuladesa said recently.

“Prukka originally planned to launch 25 projects worth 25bn baht during the rest of the year, but the company revised its plan and will now launch 20 projects worth 20bn baht be-

cause of a market slump,” he said.

However, the developer plans to launch more than 50 projects – including the five carried over from this year – during the course of 2017, with a combined value of over 50bn baht.

“We believe residential demand will recover next year when the government starts to invest in infrastructure projects worth more than 600bn baht,” Mr Lersak added.

“Property Perfect is also deferring 10 projects worth 15.2bn baht until the first half of next year,” said Wongsakorn Prasitvipat, the company’s chief business officer.

“We have had to delay the launch of four condominium projects worth 5bn baht and six detached-housing projects

worth 10.2bn baht during the rest of this year, after witnessing a drop in demand since the third quarter,” he said.

“The decision means Property Perfect’s pre-sales target of 15bn baht for the full year will now likely be off by some 20 per cent, coming in at about 12bn baht,” he added.

“However, the company will use an integrated marketing strategy to drive pre-sales at its existing projects through to the year’s end,” Mr Wongsakorn stressed.

“We believe next year’s residential market will be better than this year’s, when household debt declines after all repayments have been made under the first-car scheme by the end of this year. This will create room for people to get a new loan from the bank to buy

a home next year,” he explained.

Meanwhile, Kanda Property chief executive officer Issara Boonyoung said his company planned to launch six residential projects worth up to 10bn baht combined next year, thanks to the government’s investment in infrastructure projects, which will kick off in earnest during the course of the year.

Nirvana Development, a subsidiary of Singha Estate, plans to launch six projects together worth 10bn baht next year.

Ocean Property, the real-estate arm of Ocean Life Insurance, also plans new launches in the year ahead, with four residential projects worth 2.6bn baht in its sights.

“We have a four-year business plan from 2017 through 2020 to

launch up to four projects worth up to 4bn baht each year, which would boost our annual sales by double digits.

Meanwhile, a survey by *The Nation* has found that several other leading developers are also planning to launch more residential projects in 2017, having deferred some from this year.

For example, LPN Development plans to launch up to 10 condominium projects valued at more than 10bn baht combined next year, while Land & Houses will launch between 13 and 15 residential projects worth over 20bn baht.

AP (Thailand) plans 20 to 25 residential launches worth over 30bn baht combined during the year, and SC Asset Corp has plans for about 10 new projects valued at more than 15bn baht.

– *The Nation*

Wabi Sabi banks on zen-style boutique for honeymooners



Wabi Sabi Boutique Hotel Kamala Phuket targets honeymooners. Photo: Wabi Sabi Boutique Hotels Group

A NEW addition to Phuket's 'boutique hotels' this year is the Wabi Sabi Boutique Hotel Kamala Phuket. Operated by the Wabi Sabi Boutique Hotels Group, the new 38-suite resort opened in January as a completely non-smoking, all-suites boutique hotel.

Located off Kamala Beach, the resort is aimed at offering a peaceful 'zen-like environment' with botanical gardens targeting honeymooners and

corporate guests specifically with a non-children-friendly policy.

The designers went with a motto of simplicity – 'less is more and luxury' – as well as incorporating eco-friendly features such as water preservation and recycling programs to limit its carbon footprint.

Guests can choose from nine different categories of room, ranging from 50 square

meters to 110sqm.

According to the owners, the resort has Japanese aesthetics and a Japanese world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection.

Plans for a second phase of the property include the addition of detox programs, a wellness spa, yoga and tai chi as well as a garden farm with organic herbs for Thai cooking classes.

– *Phuket Gazette*

New direct flights to Phuket take off



Malindo Air is now operating direct flights to Phuket from Kuala Lumpur. Photo: Ian Moy

MALAYSIAN-based, low-cost airline Malindo Air commenced direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Phuket on November 10.

The airline is now operating four weekly flights to the province on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with a Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 12 seats in business class and 150 in economy class.

The new route is expected to help stimulate tourism to Phuket, which has suffered

declines in the past month as hotels on the island reported lower tourist numbers than usual at the start of the peak season.

Malindo flights are expected to be filled mainly with Asian tourists from Malaysia and Indonesia – in competition with AirAsia and Malaysia Airlines on the Kuala Lumpur-Phuket route. Phuket is the carrier's third direct destination in Thailand following Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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NEW SEAVIEW RESORT FOR SALE



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POOL VILLA

Contemporary Thai style, extremely spacious, 3 bedrooms, European kitchen, quiet but highly convenient location near the sea in Chalong. 9 million baht, fully furnished. Located in Palai, Chalong. Tel: 076-282522, 085-438 2289 (English), 084-850 1701 (Thai). Email: arcurtis1@hotmail.com

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HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

Located in Boat Lagoon, 3 bedrooms. For more information, please contact Alex. Tel: 097-230 5717.

LARGE LUXURY HOUSE FOR SALE



3 floors, 740sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms with swimming pool, walled garden, private parking, located in Saiyuan - Rawai, Phuket. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 076-613860, 095-061 2868.

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Beautiful 30sqm studio apartment, fully furnished with high standard amenities and ready to move in. Chalong area with view over Phunaka Golf drive range. Low maintenance fees and close to all facilities. For sale: 1.49 million baht. Email: mbernard94@gmail.com

LAND NEAR BIG BUDDHA



Over 3 rai. 6.5 million baht per rai. Or smaller plots from 1.7 million baht. For more information, please call 081-538 4588.

Liquidation Sale! Kata Beach

Owner must sale (almost 80 years old)
 1 apartment, 60sqm. From 2.9 MB. Now 2 MB
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 1 villa on the roof (penthouse), 300sqm. From 22 MB. Now 15 MB
 All these apartments are in a small private property with elevator, indoor pool, sauna, gym. Close to the shops, market and beach.



Tel: 081-788 8280 | Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

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NAI HARN VILLA FOR SALE



4-bedroom house with pool and large garden. Tel: 081-894 2733. Email: Jasmin Consulting@gmx.net



6-ROOM VILLA 4 MIN FROM BIS

Modern looking 1 floor, 6 rooms and 18m pool. 387sqm living space. Ideal home for British Intl School family. View to offer. Located in Koh Kaew. Tel: 087-891 7331 (English). Email: karen_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg

POOL VILLA RAWAI



4-bedroom & 3-bathroom guesthouse. Chanote title. 974sqm land, 300sqm building. 12.5 million baht. Please call 085-796 5771 or send email to ornen29@hotmail.com

2-STOREY SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



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Tel: 089-840 5290 (Thai), 094-579 5666 (Thai / Eng.)



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3-house property with 520sqm for quick sale at 8 million baht. Tel: 098-736 9588.

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PROPERTY FOR RENT

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2-bedroom villa for rent with 2 ensuite, covered car park, new kitchen, fresh painted wardrobes, new fridge. Available for rent also as 4-bedroom house. Located in Ao Po. Tel: 081-537 1356, 090-868 0695. Email: clem@wdrace.com

RAWAI BUNGALOW

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APT FOR RENT NAI HARN BEACH

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- ▶ At least 3-5 year experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong in English communication skills and computer literacy
- ▶ Strong in analytic, problem solving skills and execution of work

Fringe Benefits:

- ▶ Good salary + sharing service charge
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Thai national and foreign applicants will be considered. Please send your CV to hr@zeavola.com preecha@zeavola.com or call **Preecha Onkong**. Tel: 075-627000 for an appointment.

Human Resources Department
Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand
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Phuket Gazette

Entertaining Phuket beat by beat

By Sahar Aftab Paliwala

GARRY Holden is a well-known Phuket entertainer and founder of the upbeat, online radio station 'Phuket Vibe'. He was born in the UK, where he says he grew up religiously listening to the Top 40 charts on BBC Radio 1, waiting for his favorite tracks to come on. That is where his interest in radio and being a DJ took seed.

"I was never a massive academic, hence my choice to explore the entertainment world," says Garry.

He first came to Thailand on honeymoon with his wife Jackie in 2004.

"We fell in love with Phuket, Thai people and their culture," he reminisces. "So much so, that we basically only returned to the UK to sell our house and move out here. We have now been living and working here for 11 years."

It is impossible to be unaffected by Garry's infectious, jubilant personality when you meet him and it is this same vibe that he brings to his radio shows. When asked how old he is, he responds "Oh, not

over the hill just yet!" It is this tongue-in-cheek humor that makes him the ideal host of the Late Late Breakfast Show.

"The Late Late Breakfast Show is a fun, upbeat show. With so much doom and gloom everywhere, I like to help take people to a happy place with music from the 80s, 90s and a sprinkle of today's hits. It's mixed with fun, laughter and a little silliness," he says.

"The show starts at 10am, as not everyone is an early bird," he smiles. "It's heard all over the world, and brings a smile to many faces, I hope."

The three-hour weekday special covers everything from showbiz and entertainment to riddles and competitions, together with Garry's select choice of tracks, for a fun and lively way to start your mornings in Phuket.

Garry is also well-known for being the only British contestant chosen for Season 1 of The Biggest Loser Asia in 2009, which was the Asian version of the competitive US reality television series The Biggest Loser.

Although Garry was eliminated in week five of the competition, he kept up his fitness regime of his own accord, to shed a whopping 45kg in five months and emerge looking younger, fresher and healthier.

Within a year of his exit from the show, Garry had participated in a half marathon, a triathlon and an Ironman 70.3 competition, making him the first The Biggest Loser Asia contestant to do so. He says that it's important to have goals, and if, along the way, he can inspire even one overweight person to get off the sofa, then it's all worthwhile. He also participated in fun runs and charity events to encour-

age both children and adults to adopt a healthy lifestyle and indulge in sports and exercise.

These days, Garry is more focused on his radio work. He has done DJ stints in many coun-

tries worldwide, and considers himself lucky to be living the dream after years of being a club and mobile DJ, to successfully moving across to radio with his own station.

The Late Late Breakfast Show runs on *Phuket Gazette Radio*, Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm.

With so much doom and gloom everywhere, I like to help take people to a happy place... mixed with fun, laughter and a little silliness!

**- Garry Holden
Founder of Phuket Vibe**



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