# Phuket Gazette

January 28 - February 3, 2017

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44 Pages / 20 Baht

'OFFICERS SAY THEY WILL LOOK INTO SAFER BLOOD TESTING METHODS'

# PACHYDRAMA

# Anti-smuggling steps taken to protect elephants in the wild and in captivity

#### By Winai Sarot

AN AGITATED elephant injured two people and damaged two vehicles, while officers were administering a blood-test as part of a general health and DNA check on January 21.

A total of 222 elephants were given blood tests at Nakkerd Hill camps by officers from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), who are currently investigating elephant trafficking on the island.

Another similar mishap occurred on January 19, when an elephant panicked and rammed into a pick-up truck while officers tried to take a blood sample.

Capt Somkiet Sarasit of Chalong Police and officers went to investigate at Phuket Safari, where the incident took place.

"We arrived at about 11:30am to find staff, Rawai officers and tourists in a state of shock," he said.

"Staff were trying to withdraw blood from behind the ear of an 8-year-old elephant named 'Plai Lucky'. His keeper, named Sorapong Chalaemtaisong, 37, was perched on top of him, keeping him calm. However, as soon as Mr Sorapong climbed down to assist the officers, Lucky managed to get away.

"At the same time, an elephant walking by saw the needle and became agitated. He bumped into Lucky, who in turn panicked, used his trunk to push officials aside and ran into a pick-up truck and mini-van."

A woman received injuries to her legs when she ran into a metallic object in the panic that ensued, and a man sustained injuries on his forehead (above the left eye) after being pushed into the van.

"Mr Sorapong attempted to calm Lucky with a banana, but failed. Another staff member, named Chalermwit Siripak, 29, then ran up to him and hopped onto the seat on his back," said Capt Somkiet.

Luckily, Mr Chalermwit managed to



After bananas didn't help to calm Lucky down, Phuket Safari staff member Mr Chalermwit ran up to the agitated elephant and hopped onto the seat on his back. Photo: Winai Sarot

calm Lucky down and no further damages or injuries were caused.

Lucky's owner paid for hospital expenses, while vehicle damages are being negotiated with the insurance company.

"The officers have told us that they will look into 'safer' methods to perform the tests. They also said it may be better to test for blood in a more suitable environment, without tourists and valuable property nearby," said Capt Somkiet.

Issue of the testing environment has been set to rest for the time being as all blood tests have been completed.

The DNP had announced January 26 as the deadline for elephant owners to register their animals with them. Any elephants that have not been correctly registered are now slated to be seized and the owner liable to face legal action.

Officials and veterinarians from DNP, the Department of Livestock, and the Department of Provincial Administration drew blood samples and checked the identification certificates and microchips of elephants at various sanctuaries in Phuket in accordance with orders given by Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha to pay particular attention to the issue of proper monitoring of the population of captive elephants.

Officials are currently in the process of establishing a new DNA-based registration system that aims to ensure all elephants bred in captivity are individually registered and traceable.

Proper monitoring of captive elephants and other animals has long been an issue on the island and nationwide, with several incidents of illegal possession of animals highlighted at zoos in Thailand.

Last June, more than a hundred animals, including two elephants, were seized at a Hua Hin zoo after officials found 'suspicious' mistakes on the documentation of both elephants, leading them to check the documentation of all others.

#### Canadian tourist killed while driving Phuket-BKK

TWO girls driving a rental jeep experience rains and crashed on their way to Bangkok. One was killed, while the other is seriously injured and will take months in rehabilitation procedures to recover.

Story on Page 3

#### **BUSINESS**



Dow Jones seems to have stepped into new highs after the US elections.

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#### **PROPERTY**



High season, especially for the property market, is not what it used to be.

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#### LIFE&STYLE



A historic look into Chiang Mai's rise and fall as one of the oldest cities in the Lanna Region.

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## Briefly

## Man detained for capturing live fish

A TOURIST was arrested and jailed on January 24 for catching and keeping fish at a beach on Racha Island off Phuket.

The arrest was made after locals reported the man collecting live fish in a water bottle at Plub Pla Beach.

At about 2pm, Fisheries Officer Nares Choopueng, along with Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Department officials, confronted the Chinese tourist while he was capturing the fish.

"We found Huang Yong Jia with a small water bottle containing two live fish next to him. We arrested him and sent him to Chalong Police Station, where he was legally processed and detained for two days without bail," said Mr Nares.

- Phuket Gazette

## Mother finds baby girl dead

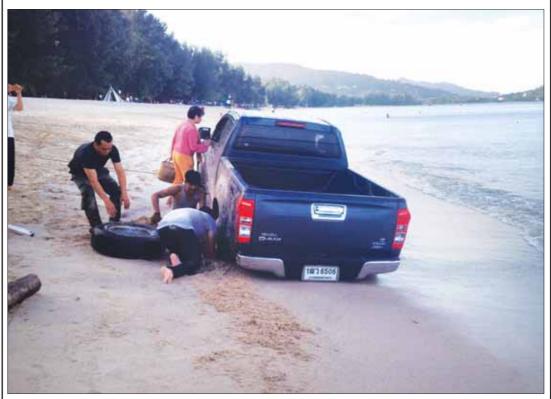
A 20-DAY-OLD baby girl was found dead at a Burmese worker camp in Thalang on January 24.

Col Chattri Choowichien of Thalang Police received the report at about 10:30pm from Soi Na Yao in Pa Khlok.

"Ms Soo, 31, told us that she was breast-feeding her newborn daughter in their room at about 6pm. The baby started choking on the milk and vomited several times – after which Ms Soo put her to sleep beside her," Col Chattri told the *Gazette*.

"The mother allowed her baby to sleep, but when she checked on her at about 10pm, she realized she had stopped

## Drunk man drives onto beach to listen to 'tunes'



Over seven hours were spent to pull out a pick-up truck from the sands of Bang Tao Beach on January 22. Owner Supot Muthina reported his predicament to Cherng Talay Police at about 8am. A few liter bottles of Thai whiskey, water bottles and snacks lay nearby on the sand. "I was having drinks with my friends and afterward felt like listening to some music by the beach. I did not expect this to happen at all," said Mr Supot. He has not been charged for drunk driving yet. Photo: Winai Sarot

breathing and called us."

Rescue workers took the baby's body to Thalang Hospital to figure out the cause of death.

- Winai Sarot

## Rawai Mayor issues warning

RAWAI Mayor Aroon Solos issued a warning about a swindler posing as a Phuket City Municipality officer.

Mr Aroon said that a man who called himself Raywat Chanakeaw called him to ask for money on January 23.

The caller claimed to be a Phuket City Municipality officer and said that he had been in an accident and needed money to get treatment at a hospital in Takua Pha District, Phang Nga.

He even provided a Krungthai bank account number under his name to transfer the amount to.

Mr Raywat claimed to know Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and ex-Kathu District Chief Khantee Sillapa, saying that they had both contributed toward his treatment as well.

"I really doubted this man's honesty, so I hung up and called Mr. Khantee to check if he did, indeed, know a man by that name. Mr Khantee confirmed that he had never heard of the man," said Mr Aroon.

The mayor has asked officials at Krungthai Bank to follow up with the account owner.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

#### Cat scratch may lead to leg amputation

A 63-YEAR-old man has undergone two surgeries and almost had to have his leg amputated after a seemingly harmless scratch by a cat last week.

A Facebook user named Yak Rerm Ton Mai Kab Krai Bang Khun posted a picture of a severely infected leg with a caption warning people to receive medical attention immediately if they get scratched by a cat.

The victim, named Veera Panthip, 63, is now under close observation by doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Ms Rungnapha said that Mr Veera was scratched on his calf on January 16, but did not seek medical attention immediately, as the injury seemed innocuous. The next day, however, he had a fever and the wound started swelling. The day after that, he decided to see a doctor.

"The doctor said that he was suffering from an infection and that they would have to cut the infected part out. On January 21, it started swelling again, so doctors performed another surgery to cut more of the infected part out," said Ms Rungnapha.

"We diagnosed Mr Veera with an infection called *necrotizing fasciitis*, which is caused by harmful bacteria that damages skin, muscle and fat under the skin," said Dr Chalermpong Sukonthapon, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"We would like to warn everyone that if they suffer from any injury, even a small one, they should seek timely medical attention for it," he added.

– Winai Sarot

## Czech pedo handed over to home country

OFFICIALS on January 24 deported a suspected Czech pedophile back to his home country where he is wanted for allegedly committing sexual crimes.

"Czech authorities will provide five policemen to escort him during his flight back," Immigration Bureau chief Nattorn Prohsunthorn said on January 23.

The suspect, Zdenek Pfeifer was arrested in Phuket in response to a request from Interpol and Czech authorities.

He was fined 1,000 baht for overstaying his visa by a Phuket court and then flown to Bangkok to process the other charges against him.

Mr Pfeifer had allegedly been seeking unprotected sex with women and homosexuals in Thailand spreading HIV.

Also going by the name 'Frye Ferrari', the suspect is wanted by Interpol for allegedly sexually violating a minor and spreading HIV among women and gay men in his home country before fleeing to Thailand.

- The Nation

## Suspected OD victim found in Phuket Town

POLICE believe a drug overdose may have been the cause of death of a Myanmar man whose body was found outside a Phuket Town hostel on January 23 with drug paraphernalia nearby and white power in his shirt pocket.

Officers are now testing the white powder and investigating the cause of death.

"The victim, named Yan Jern Ming, had his migrant worker ID with him," said Capt Ronnaphum Permpoon of Phuket City Police. "He was lying face-up on the ground. On his arm, we saw three needle puncture wounds with some blood around them."

The body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further examination.

"According to a staff member at the hotel, Mr Yan had checked into the hotel on January 10 and was due to check out on January 31. He had previously told the housekeeper that he had come to Thailand to find a job as a tour guide, but had not been able to find employment yet."

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



### Canadian critically injured, No additional tuk-tuks friend killed in road accident

By Sahar Aftab Paliwala

A YOUNG Canadian woman faces months of rehabilitation and huge hospital bills after being severely injured in a singlevehicle accident that claimed her friend's life in Phuket last week, the Vancouver Sun reported on January 23.

Nezabravka (Nezi) Borislavova, 24, from Vancouver, suffered internal injuries, two broken shoulders, a broken arm and broken wrist, according to her family friend Patrick Parenteau. Ms Borislavova's friend Ali Lambert, a 22-yearold also from Vancouver, died in the accident.

Ms Lambert had been travelling for months through Europe and Vietnam. Ms Borislavova joined her and, after touring Thailand, the two planned to head further.

The girls were starting out



Nezi (right) was injured while her friend was killed. Photo: GoFundMe

from Phuket for Bangkok in a jeep that they had rented, when it began to rain, said Doug Lambert, Ali Lambert's father. From what he understands, the jeep skidded on the slick road, hit a pole, then rolled down an embankment soon after crossing the Sarasin Bridge.

Ms Borislavova was taken to one hospital before being trans-

ferred to another. She reportedly had no travel insurance.

Mr Parenteau has started a GoFundMe page to help with hospital and travel bills, which had raised just over US\$44,000 in four days. He is aiming to raise US\$50,000, of which US\$15,000 is earmarked for the first hospital to which Ms Borislavova was taken.



The provincial committee denied the request. Photo: Kongleaphy Keam

#### By Kongleaphy Keam

THE Provincial Committee turned down requests from both taxi and tuk-tuk operators to either expand their services to other areas or bring more vehicles to the Island.

Phuket Vice Governor Sanit Sriwihok presided over the meeting with concerned officials regarding the requests at the Provincial Hall on January 20.

"Taxi operators in Phuket City are asking for permission to operate in Patong, Kata and Karon as they don't earn

enough money in their current areas," said the vice governor.

"However, if we allow them to do so, the current operators in those locations will start complaining as their earnings will decline."

"Also, we received an unofficial document from Phuket Thaworn Transportation and Travel Ltd, stating that they want 72 additional tuk-tuks on the roads of Phuket."

"Their documents are confusing and not in order. Regardless, we cannot add more to an already-congested traffic situation," he added.

### Parents in protest of kindergarten closure



Parents handed the letter to Capt Boworn. Photo: Phuket PR

AT LEAST 200 parents and students gathered at Phuket Provincial Hall on January 23 to protest against the closing of the Phuket City Municipality kindergarten.

The group was led by Chanakan Nansang and Pranee Thongkao, with several protesters carrying signs that read 'Why close the kindergarten and open a secondary school?'

Ms Chanakan said that the Phuket Municipality School didn't issue a closure announcement.

An additional secondary school section has temporarily replaced the kindergarten section. The purported reason behind the closure is 'updating the educational system', but

further explanations were left for a future meeting.

"We submitted a letter to the Phuket City Mayor on January 12, but did not receive a clear response, as she is in Bangkok," said Ms Chanakan. Phuket City Mayor Somjai

Suwansupana had asked to meet the parents on February 6 for discussions, but they declined, saying that it would be too late.

A letter to the Phuket Governor was accepted by Capt Boworn Promkeawngam of the Royal Thai Navy.

Capt Boworn also ordered the Damrongdhama Center (ombudsman's office) to call both sides for a meeting "as soon as possible"

- Kongleaphy Keam



## Flood victims resort to living on rafts

IN THE FACE of weeks-long flooding, many victims in Surat Thani Province have chosen to live on rafts so that they can stay close to their flooded houses.

Although rain stopped pouring down in the Sap Tawee area of Surat Thani's Ban Na Doem District on January 22, floodwater was over one meter deep.

"We can't move back into our houses yet, but we at least can stay close by," a local man said from a raft.

Like many other villagers, he has decided to hover around his heavily inundated home so he can watch over the property.

"We are closely following news from the Meteorological Department too," he said.

The weather bureau has forecast that heavy rain will continue in many parts of the South for a few more days. Authorities have also warned of a landslide risk.

The Public Relations Department has asked for donations of radios, as officials believe these devices can be useful for people living in areas at risk of floods and other natural disasters.

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department has reported floods have hit more than 1.72 million people in Thailand, causing 83 deaths and leaving many missing.

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## Senior Thai official arrested in Japan theft

COMMERCE Ministry permanent secretary Wibullak Ruamrak confirmed on January 25 that a senior official of her ministry has been arrested in Japan for allegedly stealing three paintings from a hotel as reported by Japanese newspapers.

Reports had it that the official was arrested by Kyoto Police on January 24 for allegedly stealing the paintings from

## NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

the hotel's wall. The paintings were worth 15,000 yen (about 4,600 baht). He was arrested after hotel staff checked security cameras and saw him committing the theft.

Ms Wibullak said he was on an official trip to Japan.

She said the Thai consular office and trade representative office in Osaka were coordinating with Japanese police for

more information.

"The Commerce Ministry would conduct an investigation once the official returns to Thailand," she added.

### Brit shot dead in Chon Buri

POLICE in Chon Buri have called an urgent meeting to find the gunman who shot dead a British businessman in Bang Lamung District January 24.

Tony Kenway, 39, was found dead in a red Porsche Cayenne GTS in front of the Sanit Sports Club in Tambon Pong at 10:30am and police investigators initially suspected that he may have been killed because of a business dispute or personal conflict.

Provincial Police Region 2 Chief Lt General Jitti Rodbangyang said the case was a serious crime that affected public morale and could affect tourism as the victim was a foreigner.

He instructed officers to inspect security cameras along possible escape routes used by the shooter and his getaway driver, as well as interview witnesses and gather evidence to bring the culprits to justice.

## State firms marred with scandals

A NEW corruption scandal has hit three more state enterprises days after the national carrier, Thai Airways (THAI), was rocked by allegations that it was paid US\$ 38 million (1.3 billion baht) in bribes by

UK aircraft engine-maker Rolls-Royce.

In the latest disclosure from the US Justice Department, Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) and TOT Plc were named as agencies that received bribes from US-based General Cable for the sale of cables and wires to Thailand from 2002 to 2013.

In response to the disclosure, PEA governor Semsakool Klaikaew said on January 24 the board had set up a committee to gather more details on the alleged bribery case.

The PEA also asked the Justice Ministry to have a representative join the committee, which is due to conclude an initial investigation within 15 days, and seek more details from the US Department of Justice on the case.

"We still don't know exactly which projects were involved in the case. We need more details," he said.

Mr Semsakool said PEA places orders for electric cables every year and follows government procedures and regulations. One of which is that the electric cables must be locally produced.

According to the US Department of Justice's statement on December 29, 2016, General Cable Corp of Kentucky made a non-prosecution agreement to pay \$20 million in penalties for improperly paying government officials in Angola, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and Thailand to gain business.

This violated the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

## RTN to get sought-after submarines

THE Royal Thai Navy's longheld dream to have submarines looks set to be realized as the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) has approved funding to buy the first of three vessels, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said on January 25.

The Navy proposed buying three Chinese-built submarines for 36 billion baht. The plan features the acquisition of diesel-electric submarines, which are modified export versions of the Yuan-class.

The first submarine will cost around 13.5 billion baht under fiscal budget 2017, according to the Navy. The annual budget was approved in a fiscal bill last September.



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BUSINESS

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## The markets are aiming higher



AT THE start of 2017, much of the media coverage about the stock market was focused on the Dow Jones reaching a 'magical' 20,000 level, with perhaps some additional commentary about how the socalled 'January Effect' or the 'January Barometer' theories could help the market. However, before discussing what I believe the market's technical indicators are predicting, we need to debunk any theories surrounding the month of January that claim to predict the market's direction.

To begin with, the January Effect was first noticed or talked about by investment banker Sidney Wachtel back in the 1940s and is partially based on the assumption that some investors will sell stocks in December for tax purposes. Then in January, other investors will use their end of the year bonuses to buy back stocks, fulfill New Year's resolutions to invest more or meet with their financial advisers to discuss their new year's investment strategy.

The problem with this theory is that while there may have been a January Effect in the 1940s when stock markets were much smaller and more inefficient.



While Dow 22,000 may sound bullish, its only 8-10 per cent higher from mid-January levels. Photo: MaxPixel

that's no longer the case, as the markets are much more globalized. There are many more investors now and most retail investors are using some sort of tax-sheltered retirement plans.

As for the January Barometer, this theory states that the movement of the S&P 500 during the month of January will set the stock market's direction for the year. However, the most glaring problem with this theory is the fact that the market had a massive plunge in January 2016 and yet ended the year up 10 per cent – debunking any predictive accuracy beyond luck.

Instead of relying on these dubious January theories to

predict this year's stock market price movements, I analyze technical indicators, with the first important one being the double bottom base on the Dow's technical chart. This technical formation was formed by the October 2015 and January 2016 declines along with roughly two years of sideways trading from where those declines began.

After Brexit, the Dow broke to and has continued to stair step to new highs with a strong leap after the US elections. This means the technical indicator is still in play and has since formed a cup and handle formation with the original double bottom base

being the cup and the subsequent post Brexit and post US election rallies being the handle.

This cup and handle formation makes Dow 20,585 in the short term and the Dow 22,000 level (based on the difference between the two bottoms and the sideways action) over the longer term both look fairly doable. And while Dow 22,000 may sound overly bullish, its only 8-10 per cent higher from current mid-January levels.

As for the S&P 500, it's been range bound from the end of the 1990s until 2013 when it finally broke out, until 2015 when it went sideways. After Brexit, the S&P 500 took off only to pull

back before bolting higher once again after the US elections, and continuing to stair step higher into the new year. I would not want to see the S&P 500 break down below the 2,000 Brexit level as that would tell me there is more negativity and even a possible recession coming on.

As of mid-January, there is no sign of bearish price action that might cause either market index to roll over as the wind is against the market's back and it's acting perfectly fine. So until the price action tells us something different, there is no reason to not stay invested in stocks. I will be keeping my clients invested in growth stocks and sector ETFs that are outperforming the overall market. I like Alibaba, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Facebook and Netflix along with many unknown names in the small cap sector.

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, and financial planning. Call for a free portfolio review. Don can be reached at 089-970 5795 or email at freemancapital@gmail.com

## Ex-British PM to speak at travel and tourism summit

FORMER BRITISH Prime Minister David Cameron has been invited to deliver speeches about key issues that might influence global tourism at the "World Travel and Tourism Council Global Summit", which is scheduled to be held in Bangkok in April.

David Scowsill, president and CEO of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), said on January 24 that Mr Cameron would discuss some key geo-political issues facing the world and how they affect tourism.

The WTTC Global Summit is scheduled to take place on April 26-27.

The summit will focus on the impact of climate change, the rights and ability of people to travel; increased connectivity and infrastructure development in the region; and innovations that will enable travel and tour-

ism growth in coming decades.

Mr Scowsill said such innovations as a single visa covering an entire region were key to boosting tourism in the future.

He said around 58 per cent of the 1.2 billion people who travel in a given year had to wait and pay for visas. To make this easier, electronic applications or a single-visa policy might be a solution, like the Schengen policy practised in some areas in Europe.

Kobkarn Wattanavarangkul, minister of tourism and sports, said an electronic-visa project would be kicked off next year.

She said that hosting the WTTC summit reflected the government's commitment to growing travel and tourism in a sustainable manner and this country's role as the sector's leader in the Asean region.

- The Nation



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#### Phuket Gazette

# The Kingdom's 'gentle giants'

RECENT damage to three vehicles by a couple of needle-shy elephants in Phuket is unfortunate [see page 1], but the incidents give cause to reflect on the state of elephants in Thailand.

Not only is the elephant Thailand's 'national animal', it also featured on Siamese flags for almost 100 years before the creation of the modern Thai State.

Rough estimates put the number of captive elephants at about 3,000, with an estimated 2,000 more living in the wild.

By their very nature, elephants should be the easiest of animals to keep tabs on. Until quite recently, however, there was no nationwide effort to keep a comprehensive database of all elephants living in captivity here.

The current government deserves credit for the effort to get DNA samples for all domestic elephants to create a 'parenthood tree' that could put an end to transnational elephant smuggling, as well as the capture of young elephants in the wild to serve in the tourist trade.

Whether or not the tourism industry should be allowed to use elephants is debatable. In a perfect world, stable populations of humans and wild elephants could sustainably co-exist.

Given the human population explosion and subsequent habitat destruction, keeping as many of these remarkable animals alive as possible is probably the most realistic strategy for their long-term survival.

Thai law stipulates that only calves born to captive mothers can be kept legally. According to some estimates, the Department of National Parks has already taken DNA samples from more than 90 per cent of captive elephants, which means that before long, virtually all young captive elephants can be accounted for, at least theoretically. The next step should be to 'confiscate' illegal elephants and find new homes for them.

This will not be easy since elephants are famously 'high maintenance' creatures. The government plans to establish new sanctuaries and enact new legislation allowing qualified NGOs and other private organizations to play a role in this effort.

The long-term goal should focus on preserving what remains of their natural jungle habitats. Failure to do so would be just as perilous for us as it would be for them.

The Phuket Gazette is Published in association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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#### Volume 24 Issue 4

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### No charge for emergency cases

Re: Canadian tourist dies in single-vehicle accident, friend severely injured, Jan 24

I thought that if someone comes into hospital as an 'emergency', then they do not have to pay the hospital fees.

Or does this just apply to Thais?

When I saw a recent article about emergency patients being treated for free, I thought "what a great step forward", but it seems that this is not the case, or perhaps I've been misled?

This girl is an emergency patient so why does she have to

Babin Gazette forum

### He would have been driving drunk

Re: Pick-up stuck after drunk Phuket man drives onto beach, Jan 23

The real problem, of course, is that had this person not got bogged, he would have been driving around the streets of Phuket in a very drunken condition

Ollie Gaspari Facebook

#### End to riding side by side with others

Re: Italian man killed on Phuket road bend, Jan 23

His friend said it all. They were riding side by side and in all likelihood they were talking to each other.

A lot of visitors and local

#### Letters

to the Editor

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

residents do that, and, even if familiar with the road, lose control and die.

I blame it on the lack of police control – no helmets, speeding and other laws that are broken without any enforcement is a black mark on the police.

Bazza Gazette forum

### Tour company to also be punished

Re: Phuket tourist detained two days for capturing fish, Jan 25

They should fine the tour guide and tour company too. The guide for allowing it to happen and the company for running tours that allow this sort of thing to happen. If the guides and companies are fined, they may actually stop it from happening.

Simon Gazette forum

### Do not overvalue if you wish to sell

Re: By the Book: Preparing your property for sale, Jan 21

Most important tip is not to overvalue your property as most agents do. If your prop-

erty has been on the market for months or years without selling, it's probably overvalued as agents are not trained in valuations here. I have looked at properties that were overvalued and the owner has dropped the price by 30%, hoping for a buyer. Once a property has been on the market for 3 months or more with no buyer, people lose interest.

Peter Rawai Gazette forum

### Meeting the island's transport needs

Re: Taxi and tuk-tuk operators' requests denied, Jan 21

What is this committee afraid of?

Oh, probably being shot in the head on a dark road by the pillion passenger on a motorbike.

So let's continue with the ridiculous situation of not seeing a taxi for hire in 99% of the island.

Good decision – thanks for thinking of the transportation requirements of the people.

Chas Gazette forum

### He will not be missed in Thailand

Re: Thai immigration to deport alleged pedophile, sex-offender today, Jan 24

Well done and good rid-dance.

Pam Facebook

### Evolution of high season property market



THE last two months have been particularly 'different' from the past years' norms in Phuket in more ways than one. Firstly, the weather has not been as predictable. Hot, sunny days are now interlaced with cloudy, rainy days and the weather forecast is hardly ever accurate. If you think the weather forecast in Phuket is sounding a little like London, it actually may well be... don't forget your umbrella on the way out, together with the sunscreen.

The high season seems different as well. Surprisingly, this time around, branded 5-star hotels did not achieve the magical 100 per cent occupancy that they usually do over the Christmas and New Year period. A quick check, both online and walk-in, showed room availability over a variety of budget, as well as branded 5 star hotels. This may also have been affected by the strong Thai baht against the weak Euro, US dollar and British pound, as it is now 10-20 per cent more expen-



A backhoe tears down some of the last remaining buildings on Surin Beach. With the absence of beachside restaurants and clubs, a host of inland businesses have mushroomed to cater to demand. Gazette file

sive compared to the previous years. Airbnb may have also taken a chunk of the hotels' business, hence the pressure by the Phuket Hotel Association on local authorities to enforce the Hotel Act diligently.

With the absence of restaurants and beach clubs on the beaches, a new slew of restaurants, pubs, coffee shops and

beach clubs (not all of them close to the beach) have mush-roomed inland to cater to demand. Phuket is not just about beaches; it has some pretty decent restaurants, both local and international cuisine, spanning from steak houses to French cuisine. Though it's yet to achieve a mention in the top ranked gastronomical experi-

ences of Thailand, it won't be too long before it hits the list.

In the real estate market, the difference has been the increase of 'bargain-hunters' in the sales market, looking for a good buy or a distressed property to pick up. Currently, it's a buyer's market with some sellers taking advantage of the strong Thai baht to dispose of their asset and re-

patriate money against a weaker currency back home. In the current short-term outlook, where owners are looking to dispose of their property, listing the property as 'priced to sell', rather than priced at the initial purchase price plus improvement costs, may assist the sale.

As for the holiday rental market, super luxury villas continue to retain their niche market of the big spenders looking to splash US\$3,000 or more per night for a luxury property serviced by an in-house manager, chefs, maids, chauffeur and even private yoga and pilates instructors. The long-term rental market (6 months to a year) remains active, especially within a 20-minute driving radius from international schools and workplaces, yet within convenient proximity to shops, restaurants, supermarkets, banks and other amenities.

Phuket is always changing and evolving, and is likely to continue setting its own trends.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket. To contact Amy or for more information, visit www.engel voelkers.com/en/phuket

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## Healthy treats for gluten intolerance



CONSIDER the irony, a gluten intolerant nutritionist marries a German baker's daughter... things could get very interesting.

However, I am really lucky to have a very accepting father-in-law who also enjoys making breads and bakery goods that I can eat too.

He was recently with us over Christmas and came up with a new low-carb, gluten-free bread recipe that was pretty easy to make.

The best part is, it tasted amazing, especially with a couple of poached eggs and avocados on top.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

Sunflower Seeds (ground) 30% = 150g

Linseed (ground) 26% = 130g Almond Meal 16% = 80g Chia Seeds (ground) 8% = 40g Psyllium Husk 5% = 25g Coconut Flour 5% = 25g Buckwheat Flour 4% = 20g Protein Powder (I used ground hemp seed) 2 % = 10g Salt 2% = 10g

Baking Soda approx. 1% = 5g Coriander, Anise, Cumin, Fennel (all ground) 1% = 5g



Left: Low-carb and gluten-free, but still delicious, especially with poached eggs and avocado on top. Photo: TiBine. Right: Nutritional breakdown for an average slice of low-carb, gluten-free bread prepared according to the recipe provided. Image: Craig Burton

If you want, you could add some nutmeg and curcuma as well, according to your taste and requirements.

As another variation you could add grated carrots, chopped olives and nuts.

The nuts and seeds should ideally be freshly ground so as

to not go rancid.

This recipe makes a 500g loaf of bread.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Add 500ml water and 40ml coconut oil and mix well.

Let the dough well in the

fridge for at least three hours, or overnight, if you are prepping in advance.

Serving Size 50g

Calories

Total Fat

Trans Fat

Sodium

Sugars

Protein

Vitamin A

Calcium

Cholesterol

Dietary Fiber

Saturated Fat

Amount Per Serving

Total Carbohydrate

Pour the dough in a baking form and bedew with water.

Bake for an hour and a half at a 200 degree Celsius preheated oven

Reduce heat to 160 degrees.

Continue to bake for another 40 minutes.

% Daily Value\*

14%

34%

26%

0%

20%

3%

34%

17%

0%

16%

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.

## EducationUSA Thailand to hold informational fairs for public

EDUCATIONUSA Thailand, a program within the US Department of State and US Embassy Bangkok, has invited high school and university students, parents and educators to its annual series of higher-education fairs.

The Phuket fair is slated to be held on February 1 at Satri Phuket School, Chiang Mai on February 2 at Le Meridien Chiang Mai, and Bangkok on February 4 at Renaissance Bangkok.

Participants will be able to gather information about scholarships – valued at more than US\$50,000 – from universities and colleges all over the US.

They will also have the opportunity to speak directly with US Embassy Consular officers regarding the student visa process.



 $\textbf{Entry to all Education} \textbf{USA Thailand fairs is free.} \ \textbf{Image: Education} \textbf{USA}$ 

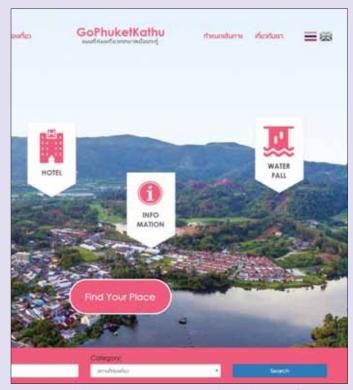
Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about various institutions of higher learning in the US as well as scholarship opportunities, academic advising and so on.

Entry to the fairs is free. Special raffle prizes will also be

awarded at the venue.

For more information about scholarship and university applications, visit the Education USA Facebook page at facebook.com/Education USAThailand.

- Phuket Gazette



**Nutrition Facts** 

275

22g

5g

0g

475mg

10g

9g

1g

8g

0% • Vitamin C

12% • Iron

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000

calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher

or lower depending on your calories needs.

Kathu Municipality has partnered with Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket Campus, to launch an initiative called 'Go Phuket Kathu' that aims to promote Kathu tourism and develop the local economy. The municipality has also recently launched a website 'gophuketkathu.com' which features top destinations in Kathu, including restaurants and tourist attractions, as well as routes and maps for each. Image: Kathu Municipality

## The rise and fall of Chiang Mai

**LIFE & STYLE** 

#### **Looking Back**

By Anand Singh

CHIANG Mai has existed as a city for over 700 years. It is older than Bangkok and probably as old as Sukhothai. In the past, Chiang Mai was the capital of the Kingdom of Lanna, an independent kingdom rich in resources and unique in its culture and traditions.

The city was founded by King Mengrai, who came to the throne of a unified Tai state in the north. Mengrai was a good king and shrewd general. He managed to carve out a kingdom of his own by conquering Muang Lai, Chiang Kham and Chiang Khong. In 1262, he founded the city of Chiang Rai as his new capital.

In 1287, King Mengrai entered into a peace agreement with King Ngam Muang of Phayao and King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai. It was a historically significant peace agreement that bonded the three in a strong pact of friendship.

In 1291, King Mengrai waged war on the Kingdom of Haripunchai. Yi Ba, the last



Chiang Man temple is one of the oldest temples in Chiang Mai, the 'new city'. Photo: Leo Zaza

Mon King of Haripunchai was forced to flee to Lampang. With his victory, King Mengrai added the rich lands of Haripunchai to his territory. In 1294, the king decided to relocate his capital from Chiang Rai. He chose a site, which is today known as Wiang Kum Kam, a historic settlement and archaeological site situated along the Ping River. However, even back then, the city was prone to flooding.

King Mengrai looked to move his capital once again.

This time, he invited King Ngam Muang of Phayao and King Ramkhamhaeng of Sukhothai to help design and build a suitable city, which would serve as the seat of power for his kingdom.

The three kings helped build the city and named it Nopburi Sri Nakhon Ping Chiang Mai. 'Chiang Mai', meaning 'new city'. Over the years Chiang Mai grew to become the most powerful city in the Lanna region. According to an ancient stone

inscription found at Chiang Man temple, one of the oldest temples in Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai city was built on April 12, 1296.

By the end of the 15th century, a new power had emerged in the region. The Kingdom of Ayutthaya was expanding and had conquered the city-states of Sukhothai, Kamphaeng Phet and Phitsanulok. Before long, Ayutthaya was waging war with the ancient Kingdom of Angkor. Once a great empire, it was now in decline. Ayutthaya grew to fill

the power vacuum in the central plains of Siam.

In 1441, political instability in the north gave Ayutthaya an opportunity to invade the Lanna Kingdom. However the new king, Tilokkarat, would prove to be one of the most capable rulers in Chiang Mai's history. Under his rule, the northern kingdom fought back. The war continued for many years, with neither kingdom really gaining the upper hand.

King Tilokkarat was a strong patron of Theravada Buddhism. He renovated many Buddhist temples in his kingdom. During his reign, the northern kingdom expanded vastly. A city wall and moat was built around the city of Chiang Mai to protect it from attacks. Lanna would always have a bitter relationship with its southern neighbor Ayutthaya.

After the death of King Tilokkarat, Chiang Mai's Royal families feuded among themselves and vied for power. It was the start of a decline that would reduce the northern kingdom from an independent state to a tributary of Ayutthaya and later on Burma.

\*Terms and conditions apply



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NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the above named company, is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 11th January 2017 and Timothy William Hollingsworth of Unit 2, 128 Oxlade Dr, New Farm, Queensland 4005, Australia is the voluntary liquidator.

Date: 11th January 2017 (Sgd) Timothy William Hollingsworth Voluntary Liquidator

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British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

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- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
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- Ability to communicate in Thai would also be advantageous though not essential
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Closing date for applications - 31st January 2017

Early applications are encouraged as appointments may be made prior to closing date.

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Further information about the school may be obtained from our website www.bisphuket.ac.th

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph by email / fax and telephone contacts of referees to: **British International School, Phuket**59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83200

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