

INFANT GIRL STRUCK DEAD BY TOUR BUS > PAGE 4

HOLDING THE BALANCE

PHUKET IMMIGRATION CLARIFIES NEW RULES ON RETIREMENT VISAS TO START MARCH 1

A foreigner hands in his application at Phuket Immigration. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

Tanyaluk Sakoot
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Phuket Immigration this week clarified the new rules regarding applications for retirement visas, confirming only one major change: that for those applying using funds in a Thai bank account to support their application, a minimum of B400,000 must be kept in the account throughout the year.

The rest of the “new” provisions have already long been in use, explained Phuket Immigration Deputy Chief Lt Col Archeep Jaroensuntisuk.

“Phuket Immigration has received the order to introduce the new rules.

The order was issued on Jan 18, and the new rules will come into force on March 1,” he said.

Under the new provisions, applicants for an extension to stay in the country temporarily on a Non-Immigration O-A visa – technically just another “permit-to-stay”, but specifically for retirees – must be at least 50 years old, Col Archeep noted.

“They must have entered the country on a valid Non-Immigrant visa and are currently allowed to stay in Thailand on a valid permit to stay,” he said.

Of primary concern is the confusion over the financial requirements, which Col Archeep stressed that

applicants have to satisfy only one category.

Overall, the three main financial categories that applicants can apply under, mandate that the applicant must prove that all monies in hand – either received as income throughout the year or already in the bank, or a combination of both – total at least B800,000.

“Under the income requirement, applicants must receive at least B65,000 per month,” Col Archeep explained.

As many embassies no longer issue affidavits confirming income, this is no longer required, he said, noting that letters from governments

and pension fund providers will be accepted along with other forms of evidence to prove the income pending.

“Of course any financial statements from banks and copies of bankbook records proving this income already being received should be provided,” he said.

Alternatively, applicants can show that they have B800,000 in a Thai bank account.

“Under the new rules, the B800,000 must be in the account at least two months before applying for the visa (permit to stay) and must remain in the account for at least three months after the visa has been issued,” Col Archeep said...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

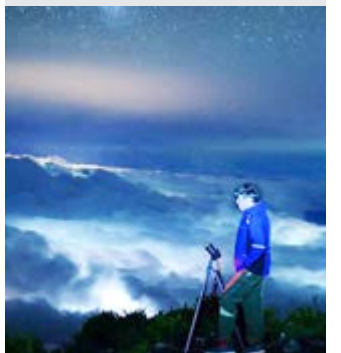
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Gov assures we have ‘absolutely enough’ water



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News



Officials at Thalang Dog Shelter ordered to brace for influx of strays > page 4

Chinese tourists injured as speedboat hits tanker

THE CAPTAIN OF THE tour speedboat that slammed into an oil tanker off Phuket's east coast while returning from Phi Phi Island last Saturday (Feb 9) faces a criminal charge of recklessness causing injury – and will have his boat operator's licence suspended and the speedboat itself temporarily de-registered.

The serious move to enforce marine safety regulations follows the twin-engine tour speedboat *Sainam* slamming into a small oil tanker off Koh Rang, off Phuket's east coast, last Saturday.

Eleven Chinese tourists on board were brought ashore and given first aid before being taken to Mission Hospital and Thalang Hospital. Among them were children as young as six and a pregnant woman.

Phuket City Police Chief Col Sompong Thiparpakul confirmed to *The Phuket News* on Wednesday (Feb 13)



The tour speedboat suffered heavy damage in the collision with the tanker, which left in total seven people injured.

that nine of the tourists had already flown home to China. The remaining two had also already been discharged from hospital care and were to fly home that day.

The speedboat captain, who Col Sompong named as 21-year-old Apichart Rakkarnde, remains in hospital care with a broken right leg.

Apichart told police that a "mechanical failure" caused him to lose control of the boat.

Eakkapop Thongtub and Waranya Prompinpiras

New rules on retirement visas to start March 1

Continued from page 1

...Again, financial statements from the relevant bank and copies of the bankbook are required in proving the funds are actually in the account, he added.

"After three months the foreigner can start withdrawing from the account, but under the new rules the balance in the account must not go below B400,000 at any time throughout the year," Col Acheep explained.

Asked what happens to applicants who are discovered next year dipping into the account, bringing the balance below B400,000, Col Acheep said, "Just don't do it. Keep it at B400,000."

The third – and likely most popular option – is to have B400,000 in a Thai bank account and receiving monies throughout the year that alto-



An officer at Phuket Immigration holds a copy of the new rules available in English. Photo: Phuket Immigration

gether total at least B800,000.

The same statements, letters and copies of bankbook records as needed for the first two options are required when applying under this option, Col Acheep explained.

GRANDFATHER RULE

Stunningly, under the new order the old provisions that

people who have been living in Thailand for continually on a retirement visa since before Oct 21, 2008 can still apply under the exact same conditions that they were first approved.

Under this "grandfather rule", applicants who are over 60 still only need to show that they either have B200,000 in a

Thai bank, or receive at least B20,000 income per month.

Likewise, applicants under the same grandfather rule who are 55-60 years old can apply showing that they have B500,000 in a Thai bank account or an income of B50,000 a month.

However, unlike the main application option for current retirement visa applicants, for applicants under the "grandfather rule" there is no option to provide a combination of monies to reach any special target, Col Acheep explained.

They must have the money in the bank or receive the required monthly income; they cannot add them together to try to reach any special figure, he said.

However, there is no minimum balance required to be kept in a Thai bank account, he noted.



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Gov assures reservoirs have 'absolutely enough'

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana last week went public to assure people that the island has "absolutely enough" water to last the dry season and called on people to not panic about water shortages.

Governor Phakaphong last Thursday (Feb 7) reiterated that the impending water restrictions that were to come into effect last Friday (Feb 8) had been cancelled.

The restrictions were to affect large residential and business areas in from Koh Kaew to Rassada and along Saiyuan Rd in Rawai from last Friday through to the end of February.

"The cause (for introducing the water rationing) is that the water levels in three reservoirs, Bang Neow Dum in Srisoonthorn, Bang Wad in Kathu and Khlong Katha in Chalong, are dramatically low," said the PWA announcement issued only two days earlier (Feb 5).

"The water levels will not be enough if rain does not come in two to three months," the notice added.

"The Phuket Provincial Water Authority office will continue with the water distribution until the drought crisis is gone," the PWA statement said.

However, Governor Phakaphong announced on Feb 7, "The Phuket Irrigation Office has confirmed that all three reservoirs still have sufficient amount of raw water and can supply water to the Phuket office of the Provincial Waterworks Authority as usual."

Governor Phakaphong stressed, "The province has not been complacent about the matter."

"The relevant authorities have presented the results of



The pumphouse sits stranded on the muddy bottom at the Bang Neow Dum reservoir in Srisoonthorn last Saturday (Feb 9). Photo: Supplied

their study on water management in Phuket as a guideline for prevention and correction of the issue," he said.

"We ask residents and businesses not to panic about the matter and we confirm that Phuket has absolutely enough water to provide services to people and businesses everywhere in Phuket," the Governor said.

Governor Phakaphong gave no indication of what the water management plan entailed, and no explanation of how much water was estimated to be "absolutely enough" to last the island until the annual rains return in May – more than two months away.

Last Thursday, Somsawat Chaisinsod, Director of Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office, explained to *The Phuket News* that, "The PWA has issued a statement on a misunderstanding

of the information that we have given them."

However, Mr Somsawat confirmed that the statement was "technically accurate".

"We can supply the water that the PWA has formally requested us to," he said.

Governor Phakaphong's assurances last week followed Phuket PWA Branch Manager Graisor Mahamad telling *The Phuket News* last Wednesday that Governor Phakaphong had agreed to formally request to call in the Royal Rainmaking Department and ordered officials to lift the planned water restrictions. He also ordered them to "find another way" to resolve the island's water supply crisis.

Meanwhile, the PWA last Friday announced yet another water outage, this time in Patong.

Water supply to Patong

(areas not specified) were affected from 9am "until finished", said the PWA in its announcement posted at about 11am that same day.



The view of the drop to the ground below. RIGHT: Police inspect the scene where the boy slipped and fell from the pool pump cover beside the pool. Photos: Kamala Police

Chinese boy, 9, dies after fall from rooftop pool

A 9-YEAR-OLD CHINESE boy died after falling from a rooftop pool at a hotel in Kamala early last Sunday evening (Feb 10).

The boy was staying staying on the fifth floor of the hotel with his father and sister, noted Lt Col Somnuek Damkaew of the Kamala Police in his report.

The three had arrived in Phuket on Friday (Feb 8) with 17 other relatives on a week-long large family holiday from Guangdong, he added.

The boy along with seven relatives were playing in the rooftop pool at about 7pm.

"The pool area has a glass wall that is 80 centimetres tall around its perimeter. However, the boy climbed up onto the

box covering the pool pump to jump into the pool," Kamala Police Chief Somkid Boonrat explained to *The Phuket News* on Monday.

The father saw the boy climbing onto the pump covering to jump into the pool and called for him to come down, but the boy slipped and fell to the ground, Col Somnuek noted in his report.

Photos from the scene show that the large, flat wooden covering over the pool pump has no railings along its terminal side and no railings to prevent people from easily stepping up onto it.

Police are continuing their investigation into the incident, Col Somnuek noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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Girl, 1 year old, dead after hit by tour bus

A 1-YEAR-OLD GIRL DIED after being struck by a tour bus in Rawai last Sunday evening (Feb 10).

The accident happened in front of a seafood restaurant beside Nonthasak Marine on Wiset Rd about 6pm, confirmed Chalong Police Chief Col Paksayot Thanongsak.

Rawai Municipality rescue staffer Natapol Kaewpraju said emergency responders rushed to the scene and sped the girl to the Rawai Health Promoting Centre on Wiset Rd, before taking her to the Accident and Emergency Centre of the yet-to-fully-open Chalong Hospital near Chalong Circle.

"The girl had serious injuries and no pulse.

"We took her to Chalong Hospital, but medical staff there confirmed that the girl had died," Mr Natapol said.



The bus has been seized and taken to the Phuket Land Transport Office, Col Paksayot said. *Photo: Rawai rescue*

Chalong Police Chief Col Paksayot confirmed that the driver of the tour bus has been charged with reckless driving causing death.

However, he added, "At this stage we are not clear on what happened. The girl was a daughter of a person who owned a shop in the area. The girl was running around and was struck by the bus."

The bus has been seized pending investigation.

Waranya Prompinpiras

'Brace for influx', dog shelter told

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana has ordered officials operating the Phuket Stray Dog Shelter in Thalang to prepare for a marked increase in the number of dogs arriving at the shelter once the campaign to eliminate rabies and round up all the unclaimed, infected dogs across the island begins in March.

All dangerous dogs will be removed from public areas, he added.

Governor Phakaphong inspected the Phuket Stray Dog Shelter in Thalang last Wednesday (Feb 6).

The shelter is currently home to about 700 dogs, but



Governor Phakaphong (2nd from left) ordered officials to prepare for a marked increase in the number of dogs arriving at the Phuket Stray Dog Shelter in Thalang. *Photo: PR Dept*

can support up to about 1,000 dogs, Gov Phakaphong noted.

The inspection visit followed a meeting at the Proud Phuket Hotel at Nai Yang on Wednesday, where Gov Phakaphong announced that the government campaign to eradicate rabies from Phuket and to round up all unwanted stray cats and dogs and dangerous dogs was to begin with full effect on March 1.

The campaign will continue until June 30, he said.

"The aim of this project is to provide vaccinations against rabies to all at-risk animals in all areas, and to also raise awareness about rabies, and

for people to properly care for their pets, including being responsible for their pets," he said.

At the meeting the Phuket office of the Department of Livestock Development reported that 23,791 dogs and cats in Phuket were vaccinated in 2018.

For this year, the goal is to vaccinate not less than 20,000.

The target is to vaccinate at least 80% of all cats and dogs in Phuket by end of March, the meeting was told.

See 'Dog Days Aren't Over' by Soi Dog Foundation Founder John Dalley on page 15.

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EDITORIAL

Fear and loathing in paradise

The news of the “new” immigration requirements for foreigners staying in the country on retirement visas – technically “permits-to-stay” – breaking late last month sent shivers throughout the expat community across the country.

However, as pointed out in our page 1 story this week, that wave of fear was mostly over misconceptions of what has actually changed. The short answer is “nothing, except the B400,000 minimum balance required in a Thai bank account throughout the year.”

If that is what hangs in the balance for foreign retirees to stay in Thailand, they really should be considering their options.

Keep in mind that this “new” minimum is for a segment of the population for which healthcare is a must, and that the B800,000 total annual

monies in hand requirement hasn't changed. Some people may need to reorganise how they receive their monies from abroad, but that's about it.

Spreading the fear were some online reports that did not include the “magic combo” of B400,000 held in a Thai bank plus monies received totalling at least B800,000 in the year, as well as some online polls that even reported the perceptions of people not even affected by the retirement rules saying that they expected many expat retirees in Thailand to be affected by the rule “change”.

Answers and clarity we need. Fear we can do without. For that we praise Col Acheep and Phuket Immigration for their openness and willingness to clarify and explain the best that they understand of the “new” rules.

Also praise to Phuket Immigration for appreciating that

although this is Thailand and that quite rightly all rules, laws and regulations are written in Thai, the correct explanation of any such changes must come in English for the international community to understand.

Many public offices throughout the country can learn a great deal from this attitude.

What we would call for is that any foreigners facing the reality of leaving the country because of this new requirement be given a respectful period of time to make the necessary arrangements to leave their new home.

After all, it was Thailand who invited them to come and enjoy their golden years in the Kingdom. It would be a deep disappointment if ample notice – and a thank you – were not forthcoming for those who had faith in enjoying their retirement here.

TOP 10 STORIES ON thephuketnews.com

- 1 Patong bike rental shop fined B2k after death of British 17-year-old
- 2 Huge king cobra caught in Krabi
- 3 Phuket Opinion: That sinking feeling
- 4 Two Russians dead in Patong Hill crash
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- 7 Chinese tourists injured as Phuket tour speedboat slams oil tanker
- 8 Jet-ski trailers allowed back on Patong Beach
- 9 Crew of salvaged Phuket fishing boat elude charges for catching baby rays
- 10 Governor orders Phuket dog shelter to 'brace for influx'

Visit thephuketnews.com for all the latest news

HAVE YOUR SAY

Glass half empty

Re: *What Crisis?*

Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office would like to inform that there is still 2.09 mcms. of water in the [Bang Neow Dum] reservoir. From water management planning, this amount of water is still enough at this stage.

Somsawat Chaisinsorn,
Director of Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office

Re: *Phuket Water Crisis: Governor to call in Royal Rainmakers, water rations lifted*

Yesterday I saw a water truck in Phuket Town watering the grass along the roadside and in medians. Every winter my grass turns brown and when the rainy season begins it quickly returns to its former splendour. Let nature do its thing...save water.

Island Man

Re: *Phuket Opinion: That sinking feeling*

Totally agree this makes Phuket look backwards. It's not like dry season comes as a surprise every year. But the annual water shortage is nothing new. Our ever-growing army

of water trucks make their livings in March and April every year. This year, though, looks set to be the worst yet. Just one of the many costs of unregulated development and rampant corruption.

CaptainJack69

Phuket is low on water and at the same time drowns in its own garbage. The island is badly managed, partly because of this stupid system of changing the governor every one or two years.

Michael Bosch

Isn't a budget (for example for infrastructure) based on the registered population? And here starts the dilemma. Phuket has probably more than double the inhabitants than the registered number – and therefore the budget approved is maybe half of what it should be.

Juergen Schenker

Too little, too late

Re: *Patong bike rental shop fined B2k after death of British 17-year-old*

Yeah, 2,000 baht should put a stop to the illegal rentals, and it's likely that close to 99% of

the bike rentals are illegal. As I walk around town I often get asked if I want to rent a bike. For fun I say I don't have a licence to ride one. Of course the answer to that is invariably, "no problem". The situation is a joke, like all things that require Thais to follow rules. Not their strong suit.

Gat Huckle

Just be completely honest and say the cops don't really care and the rental shop doesn't either. Stuff like this is never taken seriously unless it makes international news and Thailand loses face. That's all that really matters.

Galong

Yet more utterly unregulated tourism. Shops with no permits taking money to let tourists with no licences ride around on motorbikes with no insurance and apparently facing absolutely no repercussions.

CaptainJack69

What hire company in any country hires a bike to a 17-year-old non-licensed kid. Surely they checked his passport. They contributed to his death. They can be thank-

ful this is Thailand, as in any Western country they would be facing a massive lawsuit instead of a 90 AUD fine.

Andrew Couch

Going green

Re: *The Phuket start-up bottling humidity in the fight against plastic*

Nice to meet someone who actually cares about our planet and is doing something about it. Awesome guys.

Jorgen Kam

Re: *Le Meridien Phuket and UWC Thailand team up for sustainability*

Great initiative, excellent [bamboo] products created by the future generation.

Tenille Williams

New leash of life

Re: *Toto – the missing sea-going stray dog now in Soi Dogs' care, ready for adoption*

Hope Toto finds a new home.

Anki Israelsson

Soi Dog to the rescue yet again – well done! Good luck Toto. Wishing you happiness in a new home.

Jean Watts

Have an opinion? Comment on stories at thephuketnews.com

Secret meeting revealed

Govt denies involvement despite meeting day before Araibi release

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai says good relations between Thailand and Bahrain helped extricate Thailand from the controversy surrounding the Bahraini extradition request for footballer Hakeem al-Araibi, who has refugee status in Australia.

Mr Don said the Bahraini government values the relationship between the two countries, and did not want the Thai government subjected to pressure and criticism from the international community, and did not want the issue to be prolonged.

Bahraini media reported last Sunday (Feb 10) that Mr Don was granted an audience with Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain, to discuss the extradition of the Bahraini refugee footballer.

"Bahrain is a good friend of Thailand, and my trip was not because Thailand was pressured by many countries but because Bahrain saw this case as an urgent matter that required an immediate solution," he said.

In addition to Mr Don's secret flight to Manama, the capital of



This photo in the Bahrain media was the first revelation of the trip to Bahrain last weekend by Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai (left) for talks with Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, seen here holding Mr Don's hand.

Bahrain, it was also revealed that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha became directly involved in the secret diplomacy.

While Mr Don was with Prime Minister Khalifa, Gen Prayut phoned the Bahrain leader, and spoke to him directly.

According to the Bahrain media, the Prayut-Khalifa telephone call

"reviewed the progress of Bahraini-Thai relations and the mechanisms to enhance cooperation and coordination."

The Bahrain media are carefully monitored by the Manama regime.

Meanwhile, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs has carried no news of the Bahrain visit and Don-Khalifa talks, even after Mr Don admitted the

lightning trip on Tuesday (Feb 12).

Araibi arrived in Australia on Tuesday. He was freed from Bangkok Remand Prison on Monday (Feb 11) after the Criminal Court approved a request by prosecutors to withdraw its petition to have him extradited to his home country.

Araibi was held for over two months upon arriving in Bangkok

from Australia with his wife for their honeymoon.

Bahrain's National Communication Centre, however, issued a statement: "The Kingdom of Bahrain recognises the independence and integrity of the judiciary in the Kingdom of Thailand. Nonetheless, it reiterates its sovereign right to pursue legal action against Mr Al Araibi given that a guilty verdict, delivered by a Bahraini court, still stands."

Gen Prayut explained that after Mr Hakeem was freed from the remand prison, Thailand would no longer be involved with his case.

"From now on, his case would be Bahrain's and Australia's problem," he said.

"It is the right of these two countries to pursue legal action, but Thailand has nothing to do with the case anymore."

He also asked the public to stop all criticism toward the government now that the case is done.

He added that the government has no authority over the legal proceedings of the Criminal Court and cannot interfere in any way – despite his and the foreign minister's direct intervention on Sunday which was followed by Araibi's release the next day.



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BANGKOK

Damrongkiet Mala

Education expert Sompong Jitrakub has urged the Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec) to do more in its bid to purge bribery from state school admissions by scrapping all seven special entry conditions instead of only three.

"If all special conditions are not dropped, there will still be a loophole for school executives to demand bribes in the form of donations from parents during the admissions process. We need to get rid of all these special conditions to solve this chronic problem," Mr Sompong said in an interview on Tuesday (Feb 12).

The "seven special conditions" that Mr Sompong mentioned are part of Obec's official admissions rules for state primary and secondary schools nationwide.

Under the rules, students who meet one of the condi-



Up to seven-figure sums are given in exchange for top school places. Photo: Bangkok Post

tions may receive preferential admission to the school of their choice. The seven conditions available are: students under the patronage of donors of school land; students from poor or underprivileged families; students whose parents made sacrifices for victims of disasters; students whose parents are teachers or school personnel; students whose parents make frequent contributions to schools; students from al-

lied schools and students who passed entrance exams but missed out due to admissions quotas. These seven special cases are perceived as a significant cause of *pae jia*, which allow unscrupulous school executives to demand kickback money from parents in return for granting admissions.

Bribery in exchange for places in state schools is so rife that the National Anti-Corruption Commission

(NACC) recommended the Education Ministry remove these criteria entirely from its admissions policy.

Last week, Obec followed the NACC's recommendation by removing three of the special conditions. This new policy, however, will not be applied to upcoming admissions in March; it will become effective next year.

Under the new policy, the three conditions that will be

removed are those for children whose parents make frequent contributions to schools; students from allied schools and students who passed an entrance exam but were rejected entry due to a cap on places.

Mr Sompong said he believes that Obec should have removed all seven conditions.

"If these privileges remain, dishonest school executives can exploit their quotas for these special cases by demanding bribes from parents," he said.

Mr Sompong also said the government must force directors of state schools nationwide to declare their assets to avert possible graft. This would enable the government to monitor suspicious financial transactions in suspected incidents of "school place trading".

"School place trading is now common knowledge among parents. It may not be called tea money directly, but many schools use the phrase 'pledged donations for school development' instead. The figure can be in the mid-five-figure range for

less popular schools and can go up to six or seven figures for some prestigious schools," Mr Sompong said.

Mana Nimitmongkol, director of the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand, said all donations to schools should be completely transparent and there should be no donation bidding wars.

"My recommendation is that there must be receipts for every donation. All donations must be posted on school noticeboards and websites, so the donors can check where the money has gone and how it was spent."

He also urged the Education Ministry to work harder to bring all state schools up to a similar educational standard.

"The *pae jia* system is the by-product of disparity. The quality gap between famous schools and normal schools is too wide. That's why parents are willing to pay an exorbitant amount of money to purchase a place for their children at well-known schools," he said.

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Online booking deceptions

UK probe forces major changes by hotel booking giants

TOURISM

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Six major online booking operators – Expedia, Booking.com, Agoda, Hotels.com, ebookers and trivago – have agreed to make “voluntary” changes to their online sales tactics following an investigation by the UK’s Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) into issues including pressure selling, misleading discount claims, the effect that commissions have on how hotels are ordered on sites, and hidden charges.

“The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) took action last year because it was concerned that practices such as giving a false impression of a room’s popularity or not displaying the full cost of a room upfront could mislead people, stop them finding the best deal and potentially break consumer protection law,” said the CMS in a statement issued last Wednesday (Feb 6).

According to the statement, all companies under



The investigation by the UK’s Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) discovered pressure selling, misleading discount claims, the effect that commissions have on how hotels are ordered on sites, and hidden charges. Photo: NegativeSpace

investigation by the CMA have co-operated with its work and voluntarily agreed to the following:

Search results: making it clearer how hotels are ranked after a customer has entered their search requirements, for example telling people when search results have been affected by the amount

of commission a hotel pays the site.

Pressure selling: not giving a false impression of the availability or popularity of a hotel or rushing customers into making a booking decision based on incomplete information. For example, when highlighting that other customers are looking at the

same hotel as you, making it clear they may be searching for different dates. The CMA also saw examples of some sites strategically placing sold out hotels within search results to put pressure on people to book more quickly. Sites have now committed not to do this.

Discount claims: being clearer about discounts and

only promoting deals that are actually available at that time. Examples of misleading discount claims may include comparisons with a higher price that was not relevant to the customer’s search criteria. For example, some sites were comparing a higher weekend room rate with a weekday rate or comparing the price of a luxury suite with a standard room.

Hidden charges: displaying all compulsory charges such as taxes, booking or resort fees in the headline price. Sites can still break that price down, but the total amount the customer has to pay should always be shown upfront.

CMA Chairman, Andrew Tyrie, said, “The CMA has taken enforcement action to bring to an end misleading sales tactics, hidden charges and other practices in the online hotel booking market. These have been wholly unacceptable.

“Six websites have already given firm undertakings not to engage in these practices. They are some of the largest hotel booking sites. The

CMA will now do whatever it can to ensure that the rest of the sector meets the same standards.”

Not all firms engaged in all of the practices cited above, but all have nonetheless agreed to abide by all the principles set out in the undertakings, Mr Tyrie said.

“The CMA will now monitor compliance with the commitments made by the booking sites. All changes must be made by 1 September at the very latest, though the sites have already started making improvements,” he noted.

The CMA will also write to other hotel booking sites including online travel agents, metasearch engines and hotel chains setting out clear expectations for how they should be complying with consumer protection law,” Mr Tyrie added.

“The CMA also expects these sites to make necessary changes by 1 September. If it finds sufficient evidence that others could be breaking consumer protection law, it will consider taking further enforcement action,” he warned.

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Choosing a financial adviser

INVESTMENT

Paul Wyatt

If you don't have a good long-term relationship with your financial adviser, you may not get the most appropriate advice when you need it. If you don't you could lose money, so do your due diligence.

You need to do a little research like you would when you are buying any product or service. Find several companies preferably by recommendation, then compare them.

If your current financial adviser does not have these traits, then think again:

- Understands you, your goals, your personal and investment needs.

- Has the experience to help you develop and maintain a financial plan designed for you which continues to be relevant over the time of the relationship.

- Can offer guidance when required. If you ask a question, are they able to provide you with the full technical answer?

- Has experience and qualifications in financial services.

- Offers market updates, and can keep up to date with



Not doing your homework on your financial adviser can leave your finances in dire straits before you start. Photo: rawpixel

industry standards, changes and product changes.

Your adviser should be local, with a track record and good references, has a local firm, is recommending appropriate investments, explains how and what they are charging and is offering a long-term relationship.

Research yourself and ask questions to sort out the good from the bad.

- Check their website. Whilst these are easy to set up these days, it should give you an indication of who the people are, where they and the company are based, contact

details, their main business, when it was last updated and whether any advertising banners are appropriate to a professional firm. Are the company what they say they are.

- Licensing and regulation. Are they appropriate for the business they are offering? Is the company you are dealing with registered in Thailand? Does the adviser have the appropriate Visa and Work Permit paperwork? If they are offering investment management do they hold an SEC licence?

- Investments and platform products. What are the full costs? Who researches and

selects funds? What research system do they use to make selections? What qualifications do the decision makers have? Make sure they don't directly handle client money, this is a major red flag. Have they ever suffered an asset suspension or liquidation? Are they promoting 3rd party or in-house investments?

- Do you like and trust them? Does anyone else recommend them? Is there a bio on the website? Are they a member of any professional bodies? What is their relevant industry experience and qualifications? Are they open and transparent

about costs and commissions?

- Fees and commissions. What am I paying for financial advice, investment management, any investment platforms, trusts, etc and what does the adviser receive for initial and ongoing advice. No advice is free even if they claim it is.

- Advice and recommendations. Ask for everything presented in writing giving reasons and fees/charges for the advice. Did the adviser complete a fact find, risk assessment and capacity for loss exercise with you; otherwise how could they have given you the appropriate advice?

- Ongoing support. How often will you see the adviser in the future? Face to face, Skype, phone, email etc. When will you receive investment updates and how regularly? How do you contact them if things change?

There is some research to do and quite rightly as this is likely to be an important financial relationship for you; one which should be simple and largely beneficial, not one which is financially disastrous. This is intended to be a lifelong relationship and you must do the due diligence to ensure you can work with

the person you choose.

If you have a current adviser and you haven't asked these questions before, they should be only too pleased to answer them. If you are not satisfied, then follow the process and find someone better.

This is the first of six initial monthly articles about financial services. Further topics will also include choosing a financial adviser, UK pensions, markets and currencies, risk and what to watch out for.

Paul Wyatt is Managing Director of AIMS PI (Thailand) Limited, a Bangkok-based financial adviser who worked in the UK pensions industry from 1985 and in Thailand since 2009.

AIMS is a fee-based practice where all costs and charges are clear and transparent, having moved away from the concept of commission based advice, where the cost is hidden. Importantly, investment decisions are totally independent and not based on commission.

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SPACE ODDITY

The world of astrophotography

Photo: Pixabay

Amy Bryant

editor1@classactmedia.co.th

Some weeks ago, Phuket was treated to a glorious blood moon. It rose gradually, morphing from burnt, rusty orange into fiery red. This phenomenon, more commonly referred to as a lunar eclipse, occurs when the Moon passes directly behind the Earth, block-

ing direct sunlight. The sunlight that indirectly makes its way to the lunar surface becomes darker or filtered during this process, bathing the Moon in yellow, orange and red hues. It is certainly a rare and magical sight.

Capturing that magic, however, is no easy feat. While many of us give up the ghost after one blurry photo on our phone cameras, there are some dedicated folk who venture to the dark and

secluded corners of the world and rise at ungodly hours, expensive kit in tow, to get the perfect celestial snapshot.

One such person is Patrick Brown (right), a physics and chemistry teacher with a penchant for amateur astrophotography, and who lives in Phuket.

Here he shares his favourite photos taken on our very doorstep with a little backstory and science on each.

Continued on page 12



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Shoot the Moon. Photo: Patrick Brown

The Moon, Phuket Town, Jan 2019 Nikon Coolpix 900

"This is my favourite moon picture. I've taken a lot but none of them are as striking as this.

I headed out to take a photo of the lunar eclipse but realised it wouldn't be visible as it wasn't occurring at that time. But by then I was already out with my camera.

I was surprised to get this shot from Phuket Town considering the light pollution. A lot of photography is luck really. Being in the right place at the right time. I was looking for a lunar eclipse but I got this.

The original of this was hazier. When you put it through Photoshop and adjust the contrast, things come out that you didn't or couldn't see.

The darker areas here are flat areas of lava and the lighter areas are rocks and mountain ranges. You can see meteorite craters too. Some are billions of years old.

You can't see the flag on the moon with a camera or telescope. For many years, conspiracy theorists used that to say there was no proof of the moon landings. Now satellites can get close enough to see the flag and even the footprints."



The Milky Way. Feel insignificant yet? Photo: Patrick Brown

Milky Way, Koh Yao Noi, Feb 2017 Canon 80D with 16mm Rokinon lens

"I got up at about three in the morning and set up on the beach to take this. You can find out when the Milky Way will be the brightest and what time it rises and sets.

You need a place with no light. Koh Yao Noi isn't ideal as there are still lots of lights on the beach as well as the fishermen's green lights.

I took this with about a 20 second time exposure and a tripod. It's a lot brighter than what you see with your eyes.

If you look closely, you can see the stars are slightly blurred because of the rotation of the earth during those 20 seconds. I've now got a Polaris star tracker which tracks the movement of the Earth and moves your camera with it. You can do a minute exposure that way and capture more light.

The centre of the galaxy always comes out nice and bright. I'd like to take some more defined photos of it.

The first time I saw the Milky Way was in India. I could see it with my own eyes because it was that bright. I was like Oscar Wilde "in the gutter looking at the stars!"

Why astrophotography?

"I've always been into space. At Cub Scouts as a boy, they told us that you could see mountain ranges on the moon through binoculars. I didn't believe it but I went home and got my dad's binoculars and they were right. I was amazed by that. I could see craters and I was transfixed.

I was eight years old when they first landed on the Moon. I was amazed by all of that as well.

But I got into photography separately. My dad got me my first camera in 1975. Then I got a telescope but I never connected the camera up to it.

I didn't start taking astronomical photos that long ago really. The first time I took a photo of the Milky Way was in Indonesia in 2016. I put a camera, just a Sony, on its back on the ground and did a 60 second time exposure. I couldn't believe the photo. It isn't a basic camera; it has really good, wide aperture, but it isn't designed for astronomical photography."

How does Phuket compare to the UK in terms of astrophotography?

"You see the moon from a different angle because you're on a different part of the planet.

Just like the UK, you can get clearer pictures if you go to somewhere a bit darker. The light pollution isn't much better in Phuket. You need to go up north, to Khao Lak for example, for the best shots. That's why I was pleased and surprised to get the moon picture in Phuket Town."

Patrick doesn't sell or exhibit his works; this is a hobby, an outlet, undertaken for the love of photography and a long-established fascination with space.

"If readers look at my photos in *The Phuket News* for longer than they look at articles about traffic accidents then I'm on to a winner!"



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20 years of Phuket Old Town Festival

Puttimas Puttasuwan
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7 2nd Anniversary Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd was awash with reds and golds – even more so than usual – on Feb 10 as Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana welcomed locals and tourists alike at the opening of this year's Phuket Old Town festival. The festival, which celebrates Chinese New Year and Phuket's cultural identity, is in its 20th year and has become a major event in the island's calendar.

The evening saw parades, dance performances from *Kai Kaew* theatre, musical puppet shows, storytelling and



Traditional costumes were honoured.

the worshipping of Guan Yin (Goddess of Mercy), an ancient Phuket tradition, at the renowned golden dragon statue.

Governor Phakaphong thanked the cultural departments that have contributed to the preservation of local culture and traditions of Chinese Thais, acknowledging that their efforts have sustained the festival for 20 years. The Chinese Thai influence can be found on all corners of Phuket Old Town but let's focus on the themes of this year's festival: architecture, clothing and food.

Architecture

The striking Sino-Portuguese style buildings in Phuket Old Town reflect the early settlement by the Chinese and the subsequent arrival of the Portuguese during the tin-mining boom. The first of these buildings was constructed in 1903; the Portuguese settlers employed Chinese workers to build them, giving rise to the hybrid architectural style.

The key architectural features of Sino-Portuguese properties are almost identical to those of European buildings, such as label stops, cornices, window shutters, central courtyards to let in natural sunlight and beautifully decorated floor tiles. The walls are



Phuket Town Mayor Somjai (centre), herself from a long lineage of Phuket Town Chinese, led the proceedings.

usually partly decorated with ceramic tiles and the interiors furnished in a Chinese-style.

Clothing

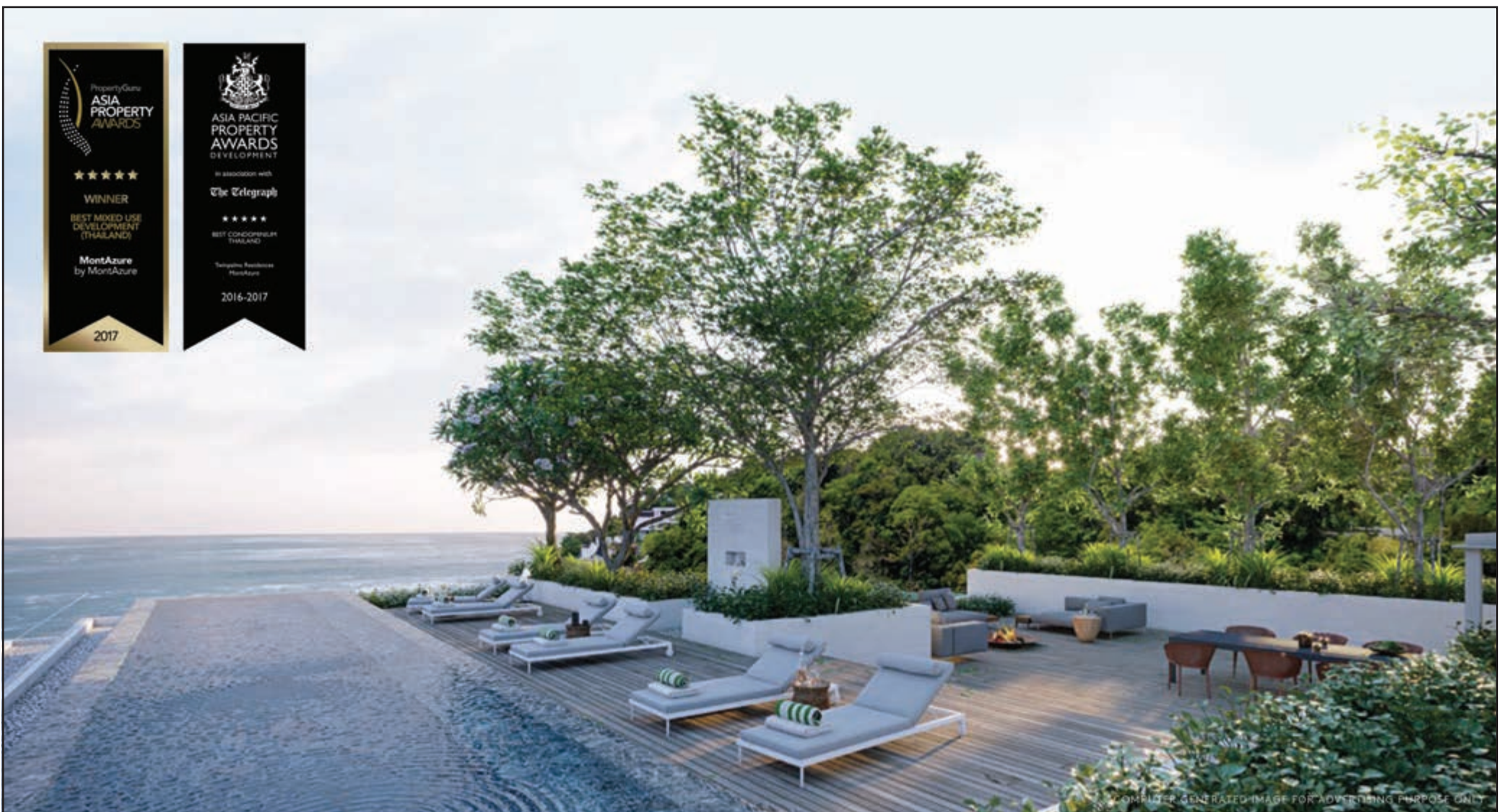
The Peranakan community, also referred to as Baba-Nyonya, are the descendants of Chinese immigrants. They are said to have accumulated huge wealth from tin-mining business. Most of the time, they dress just like other southern Thais, but they have preserved their own traditional clothing style which is worn on important occasions such as weddings and festivals. Baba men have long eschewed Chinese-style clothing in favour of fashionable modern suits. Yaya women, by contrast, have preserved a modern variant of the traditional sarong wrap-around tube skirt and the elegant *kebaya* blouse, tapering at the waist and flaring over the

hips. There is even a specific Phuket style of *kebaya*, noticeably lacier than those worn by Nyonya women in Singapore and Malaysia.

Food

Phuket owes its varied cuisine to the mix of cultures that have lived, or continue to live, here. Phuket predominantly offers Thai, Chinese-Thai, Malaysian and Muslim food. Some have the familiar tastes of Peranakan food from Penang, Malaysia and Singapore. An old adage has it that: "The test of a true Baba is to eat chilli without flinching."

However, more recent times have brought food from other foreigners, such as Europeans and Indians, who have come to live in Phuket. In turn, these cuisines are assimilated, eventually becoming traditional.



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READY TO MOVE IN



Family matters

The mother-son team behind a new cafe in Chalong

Amy Bryant

editor1@classactmedia.co.th

In London, where I was born and raised, it's difficult to avoid chain restaurants. In Phuket, it's a challenge to find them. I like it that way. I've always been drawn to the more unusual restaurants; the unassuming ones a little off the beaten track or in someone's front room, where you take your chances with an untranslated menu or end the night talking like old friends with the owner.

On a recent aimless walk through the quiet backstreets of Chalong, I came across an eatery which fit my idiosyncratic criteria: 'Louis Sweet Cafe.' Set at the back of the Jangyim-Roche family's home, the cafe boasts unspoilt views of Big Buddha, Nakkerd Hills and a lush field grazed by the occasional buffalo. A true hidden gem.

Although they call themselves a cafe, their menu offers a comprehensive mix of Thai and Western breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Customers can make use of the family's pool, too.

It might surprise you to learn that the cafe's eponymous baker and all-round helper is all of 10 years old. With flawless English and boundless enthusiasm, Louis makes the experience of eating there.

"The first thing I ever cooked was bacon for my dad when I was four," says Louis. "I learned how to bake when I was nine. We sold brownies outside our old shop and the most I made was B4,000 in one day," he adds, beaming.

While Thidaporn, Louis' mother, does the bulk of the cooking as the newly-opened cafe finds its feet,

Louis has his role to play slicing and preparing meat, cooking burgers and making batches of his signature sticky chocolate brownies.

He also comes to his mother with ideas for new dishes, often inspired by YouTube videos he's seen. He recently scoured Jungceylon and local markets for a particular type of squid after discovering Japanese *odorigui* online, a dish in which the headless animal's tentacles continue to move due to electrical impulses, although he admits that dish is a "little creepy" and won't be making an appearance at the cafe anytime soon.

"When we try new things and they're hard to make, it's exciting. I feel good when I cook. I like the fire and the knives too!" explains Louis.

His current project is the pizza burrito, but he becomes uncharacteristically quiet when we touch on this, perhaps wanting to keep the special recipe a secret for now suggests Thidaporn.

It's heartwarming to see this wholesome mother-son team in action and impressive to see Louis front of house handling orders, making recommendations and effortlessly conversing with customers at such a tender age.

"He is my shadow. I'm so lucky to have him," Thidaporn says. "I sold my shop and was going to sell the house and move back to Bangkok but he didn't want to. He said the spirits of the house didn't want us to either. So we stayed and opened this cafe at the end of last year instead."

Talking to Louis makes me feel slightly embarrassed that my only relatable experience was as a teenage retail worker which lasted all of two weeks after I called in sick (okay, hungover) and was



promptly fired. It's clear that the opportunities and experiences the cafe bring will stand him in good stead for the future.

When Louis isn't busy cooking up a storm or charming customers, you can find him either gaming, at the gun range with his father, dancing or watching football (despite seeing his beloved Manchester United lose a few too many times now).

As if this busy boy didn't have enough on his plate, he now has his sights set on competing in the popular cooking game show *MasterChef Junior Thailand* this year. He certainly has my support and will undoubtedly have that of any customers who take the time to experience this wonderful cafe for themselves.

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The dog days aren't over

Soi Dog co-founder, John Dalley, on the real problem with stray dogs

John Dalley

The amount of coverage and attention given to Phuket's stray dog "problem" over the past couple of weeks by the authorities seems to me to be getting far more than it warrants, and we need a reality check.

We have had one confirmed case of rabies – found by Soi Dog Foundation – in 24 years. Despite other dogs in the area being put under observation, no other case has as yet been identified, which is not surprising as most stray dogs on Phuket are vaccinated and sterilised. We will likely never know how the dog caught the virus. It may have been bitten by one of the hundreds of unvaccinated puppies flown into Phuket each year for sale. If so, the puppy would likely now be dead without anybody knowing it was carrying the disease. It could also have been bitten by a bat or a wild monkey.

We would encourage the Governor to stress the need for owners to exercise proper control of their dogs and have them sterilised, and to take action to stop the insanity of allowing hundreds of unvaccinated puppies to fly into what has been Thailand's only rabies-free province for many years from provinces where rabies is endemic. Puppies cannot be vaccinated against rabies until they are at least 12 weeks old.

Sending more dogs to the already overcrowded and underfunded dog pound, a facility that is little more than a death camp for dogs, will have no long-term effect.

The authorities periodically have a purge on dogs, effectively using a sticking plaster to repair a leaking dam. To solve the stray dog problem on Phuket and



One of many similar so-called 'dangerous dogs' taken to the pound in recent weeks. Photo: Soi Dog

throughout Thailand you need to get to the root of the problem which is too many unwanted puppies being dumped. These puppies, if they survive, just replace any dogs previously removed in an endless cycle.

Soi Dog is working with schools in Phuket to educate children on safety and how to care for pets but much more is needed. We also provide free sterilisation to any dog, owned or stray. Unless there is a good reason not to, we return stray dogs to where they came from, as that is the principle of capture, neuter, vaccinate, release. Dogs are territorial and will keep other

dogs out. Removing vaccinated, sterilised dogs without good reason only leads to others replacing them and the cycle continues.

There has been an explosion in the pet market in Asia in recent years which is big business. Very few owners, though, understand responsible pet ownership and consider it normal to allow their pets to roam free, rather than taking them out for exercise and at other times keeping them enclosed in their yards. Because most come from puppy farms where inbreeding and overbreeding lead to poor quality puppies, many develop medical issues which is leading to increasing numbers of pedigree dogs being abandoned.

Meanwhile the pound is filling up not with dangerous dogs but abandoned puppies and pets.

Volunteers and Soi Dog staff do their best to treat the dogs, the vast majority of which were living quite happily in their neighbourhoods. However, disease is a constant problem. Last year many died from canine distemper. Currently we are battling with parvovirus and we have many puppies and dogs from the pound in our isolation unit. Serious wounds are another daily occurrence.

Incidents like the one in Phang Nga province are fortunately very rare. We understand the pack leader was a known aggressive dog dumped by his owner and there had already been less serious incidents, but nothing was done until the awful attack which grabbed national headlines. Nearly all recorded dog bites are caused by uncontrolled owned dogs who are following their instinct to protect their property.

To my knowledge, no action has been taken against the owner of the dog in Phang Nga even though it is now illegal to dump unwanted pets.



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Keeping buoys and girls afloat

Like oil and water, children and cheap 'floaties' just don't mix

Daren Jenner

Whether you call Phuket home or are a first-time visitor, our beaches are a prime visit-and-repeat attraction. They are a great place for kids to swim, play on the sand or just relax with the family.

As a parent, you want your child to enjoy the beach safely. So on your way to the sand and sea, you stop at the convenience shop and buy a set of floaties. After all, they will help keep your young one safe in the ocean, right?

This is a must-read for any parent considering using floaties in Phuket's ocean waters.

What is a 'floatie'?

'Floatie' is a slang term for buoyancy aids, also called personal (PVD) or supplemental (SVD) flotation devices. They are usually pneumatic (filled with air) and are normally worn around the upper arms, torso or neck. In general, these devices are toys and are not durable or reliable enough for ocean use. These devices will not naturally turn an unconscious victim face-up in the water and allow them to breathe.

What is a life vest?

A Type II flotation vest is a pneumatic or flexible material vest worn around the torso (aka life vest), such as those found on commercial aircraft. They are designed to turn an unconscious victim face-up most of the time in calm to moderate sea conditions. They are lighter and less bulky than a Type I flotation vest.

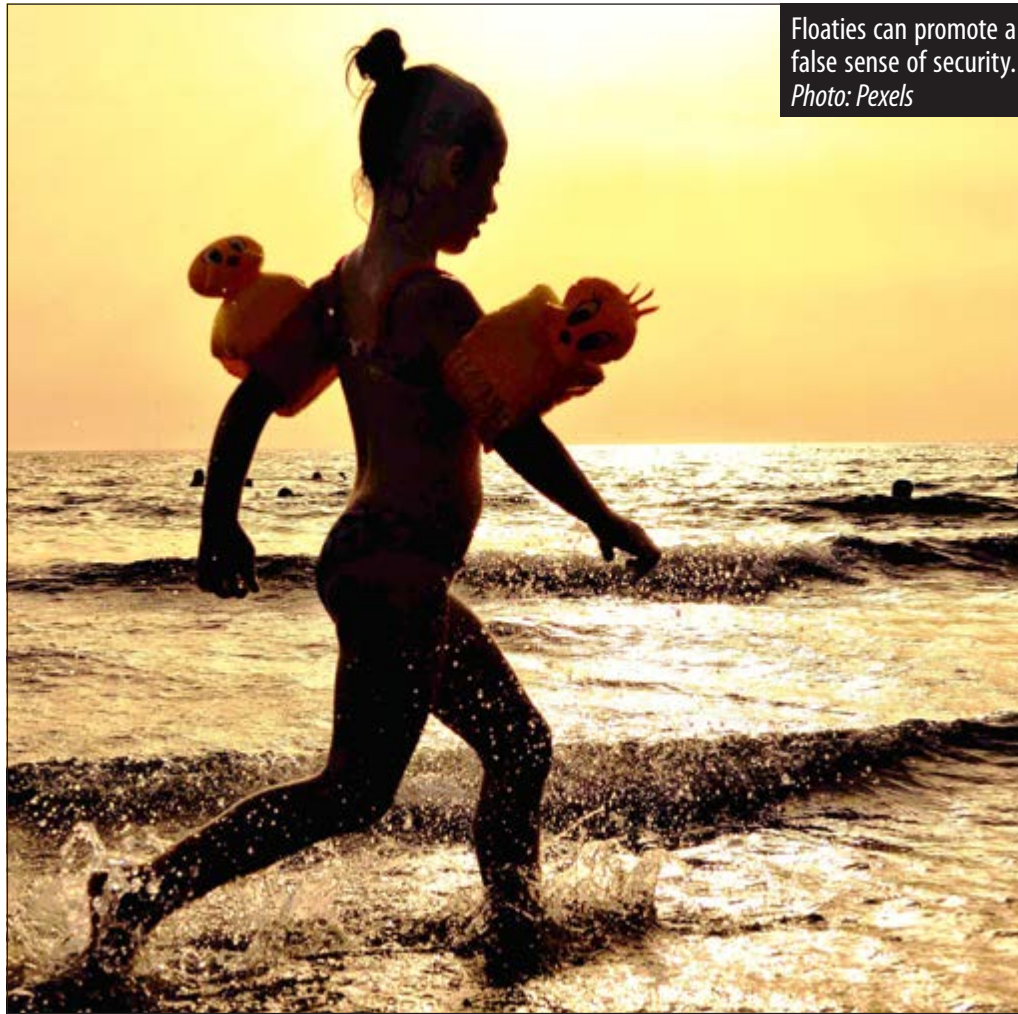
What is a life jacket?

A Type I life jacket is a full, sleeveless jacket that is designed to turn an unconscious victim face-up nearly all of the time, even in severe sea conditions. They usually have a sewn-in neck flap and are found on commercial vessels and naval craft. In the fatal *Phoenix* sinking last year where 47 tourists died in rough ocean conditions, this is the only type of life jacket that could have saved more lives.

Drowning: a local and international problem

Drowning is a leading cause of unintentional injury death in children, not only in Phuket but worldwide. Drowning remains the number one killer of Thai children under 14. In Australia, it is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in children under three. Worldwide, it is the third-highest cause of unintentional injury death in all age groups.

Floaties can promote a false sense of security.
Photo: Pexels



Floaties and kids don't mix. Why?

1. They float. This extra flotation leaves children more vulnerable to being drawn into gutters and feeder currents which merge to form rip currents. Without their feet firmly planted on the sand at all times, children using floaties are extremely susceptible to these dangerous currents. At all of Phuket's beaches, children should only go as deep as their swimming ability permits without any type of flotation device.

2. They are not designed for ocean use. Kids have a way of getting out of everything. Plus, cheap floaties can leak and fail. If a child has inadvertently floated out too far, a failure can lead to drowning in 30 to 60 seconds.

3. They promote a false sense of security. The resulting overconfidence can cause children to get into conditions they can't cope with. "When in doubt, don't let them go out."

Swimming ability and parental supervision: there is no substitute

In the early days of surfing, before ankle ropes, board riders who wiped out had to bodysurf and swim to retrieve their board. Basic swimming skills are essential for everyone in the water, under all circumstances.

Before you enter the water, make sure your kids, and you yourself as their responsible party, have the necessary swimming skills to cope with local ocean conditions without floaties. Keep close to them at all times while in the water.

And enjoy your family time safely at Phuket's magnificent beaches.

Daren Jenner is a bodysurfer and Ocean Lifeguard in Southeast Asia. He is also a Marine Safety Officer for the International Surf Lifesaving Association.

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Do universities seek well-rounded students?

Striking the right balance of extracurricular activities

As a parent, help your children explore different activities and then let them settle on those they truly enjoy. Photo: BISP

British
International School, Phuket

EDUCATION CORNER

Dale Ford

In my 30 years as a university counsellor, students and parents have often talked to me about a perception that colleges and universities are looking for applicants who have a bit of everything. They are under the assumption that to maximise the chances of admission, students should have a balance of excellent grades and test scores, along with a perfect spread of activities and involvement in a wide range of areas. While it's certainly true that academics and test scores are the first hurdle students must jump over to become viable university candidates,

the issue of extracurricular involvement is more complicated.

In the US, universities are happy to admit academically able students who excel in a smaller number of areas. Well-rounded people and a well-rounded class are two very different things. A university is interested in building a class of students with varied perspectives and passions. They need student journalists, leaders, athletes and musicians – but they don't expect one individual student to be all of those things.

As a parent, help your children explore different activities and then let them settle on those they truly enjoy. Once they find their areas of interest, encourage them to join clubs and activities that relate to these areas. There is no need to overschedule and attempt to build a résumé in the name of well-roundedness or as a strategy for enhancing university admission.

Students who follow their passions can become a "big deal" in a couple of different areas. It doesn't really matter whether that interest is in mastering the oboe, becoming a talented swimmer or providing service to the community. A side benefit to this approach is that your child (and your home) will be happier. A child forced to spend years practising an activity for which they have little interest is going to result in a home filled with adolescent angst.

Of course, if a student has multiple interests, it's absolutely fine for all of them to be pursued. There is nothing wrong with being well-rounded instead of "angular". But the reality is that it's difficult to become a leader if students spread their time among a dozen different activities. Most successful university applicants have a relatively few number of extracurriculars that are somewhat related.

For the UK, if they are related in some way to the course to which the student is applying, even better.

Universities in most countries ask students to list their extracurricular involvement during the final four years of high school. Because of that, it is important that students find activities that interest them well before the end of high school. Doing that, while also having a good academic record and working with your school's experienced university counsellor, can make the application process a smooth one.

Are there any activities students should avoid? Yes, there are a few. No university admission officer would be impressed with "Facebooking" as an extracurricular activity.

Dale Ford is one of two University Counsellors at British International School, Phuket. For more information, visit them at www.bisphuket.ac.th



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Gong Xi Fa Cai!



JW Marriott Phuket General Manager Matthias Y. Sutter with wife Elia and twins Sebastian and Adriana.

CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR IN STYLE AT JW MARRIOTT PHUKET

JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa welcomed the Year of the Pig with a host of fun, traditional activities and authentic food between Feb 4-5. Hotel guests enjoyed a theatrical lion dance performance, firecrackers, colourful processions, dance shows and more. The activities are held to bring prosperity in all forms for the coming year.



Thumbs up from Jason, Rathavich and Plathong.



Laced up and ready to go.

GOOD EXERCISE, GOOD CAUSE AT RUN TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Keen runners were up at the crack of dawn on Feb 9 for the Run to Stop Domestic Violence organised by the Phuket Juvenile and Family Court. Over 1,000 runners undertook the 16-kilometre challenge, which started at British International School, Phuket and ended at Thanyapura.



The Naka Island Resort & Spa team with their prestigious award.



Yes, that's a plastic-free beach.

THE NAKA ISLAND RESORT & SPA, PHUKET WINS GREEN-FOCUSED AWARD

The exclusive boutique resort on Naka Yai Island was awarded the "Gold Level" Green Hotel Award at the 12th Anniversary G-Green award ceremony in Bangkok on Jan 30 for their commitment to sustainability. Their Green Committees work hard to reduce plastic consumption by reusing and recycling.



Here come the girls.



Goldie bringing the laughs.



Graham belting out the tunes.



Smiles all round.

FIREFLY AT THE PAVILIONS HOSTS FAMILY FUN DAY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Firefly pool and restaurant teamed up with The Good Shepherd and Phuket Has Been Good To Us for a Family Fun Day on Feb 10. The day was jam-packed with activities for the kids and culinary delights for the adults, all in the name of raising much-needed funds for Phuket charities. The event was sponsored by *The Phuket News* and Live 89.5.

Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana with Ratana Banyongpongler and Rabiab Jitkuea.



The next generation of Peranakan.

CENTRAL CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH BABA FASHION SHOW

Local Peranakan ladies donned traditional dresses at a fashion show in Central Floresta to mark Chinese New Year last week in a colourful display of their rich culture.



Go on, tell a *Phuket News* joke, Aidan.



Pete, Dave, JoJo and Aidan post-gig.

ANOTHER SIDE-SPLITTING SUNDAY SHOW AT THE JW MARRIOTT COMEDY NIGHT

Compère Aidan Killian, support act Dave Thompson and headliner JoJo Smith all had the audience in stitches on Feb 10 at the monthly Stand Up Asia event at the Marriott Resort, Merlin Beach.

FRI 15 FEB

beachfront at Anantara Layan Phuket Resort between 15 December 2018 and 15 February 2019. For more information and bookings, please call + 66 (0) 7631 7200 or email zuma@anantara.com

Served with Roast & Boiled Potatoes, 3 Fresh Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy. Only 350 Baht. Includes a Free Glass of House Red or White. See: www.otools-phuket.com



Sunday Roast All Day, All Night

Come enjoy a Traditional Sunday Roast EVERY SUNDAY at Two Chefs Kata Center, Karon, Kata Beach and Patong. Indulge in our Traditional Sunday Roast ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT for ONLY 445 Baht! Enjoy a Large ALL YOU CAN EAT selection of your favorites! Featuring: Roast Aussie Beef, Pork Loin and Chicken. Roasted or Mashed Potatoes. Roasted Mixed Vegetables Flavored with Thyme and Garlic. Yorkshire Pudding and Red Wine Gravy. Enjoy Live Music from 8-Late Performed by Our Famous Two Chefs Band! Come for the FOOD - Stay for the Fun. RESERVE Your Table Now Online at bit.ly/TwoChefsReservations Check out more details on our website at bit.ly/TwoChefsEvents Reservations, Two Chefs Kata Center, Karon, Kata Beach and Patong., Kata Beach 076-333-370 Kata Center 076-330-065 Karon 076-286-479 Patong 076-344-914.



Mussels night @ Shakers

1.2kg mussels served with French fries, your choice, your style: natural, marnière, Provençale, garlic and cream or Thai style. Reservations recommended B295 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

SAT 16 FEB



All you can eat BBQ Ribs night

6PM – 11PM: All you can eat BBQ Ribs served with salad buffet, potato salad & choice of sauces. Reservation recommended. 295 baht P.P. shakersphuket@gmail.com, 081 891 4381.



Futsal League 2019

Is your child interested in football? Would they enjoy enhancing their football skills whilst spending time with friends? At British International School Phuket, the Cruzeiro Saturday morning league will allow your child to play fun, competitive football at the incredible facilities. Bring them along to either U9/U11 or U13/U15 fixtures at the advertised times! See you there!



PIWC - Annual Fundraiser 2019

Phuket International Women's Club Annual Fundraiser 2019. At Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort on February 16, 2019. Start from 18.30. Dress-code: Rock or Pop. Tickets 2,500 baht; Buffer, welcome drink and Live Band. All proceeds go to PIWC scholarship fund. Ticketing & info: info@piwc-phuket.com

SUN 17 FEB



Traditional Sunday Roast at O'Tool's

Served from 2pm. Your Choice of either Roast Beef, Chicken, Loin of Pork or Leg of Lamb



Sala Sunday Night Steak & Seafood

Premium barbecue main course, including imported Australian Rib Eye, full rack of Lamb or whole Phuket Lobster accompanied by a buffet of delicious appetizers. Live music from 6.30pm. Premium BBQ. 1,700*Bah. Reservations, Sala Phuket, events@salaphuket.com 076 338 888.



The Great Nai Harn Phuket Sunday Brunch, just got better...

With our exclusive offer 4 guests eat for the price of 3! Culinary maestro Executive Chef Mark Jones, added exquisite new dishes for the most demanding palates. Experience it while enjoying the spectacular views over Nai Harn Bay and listening to the sounds of Resident DJ Sun. Every Sunday from 12:30 - 15:00 hrs THB 5,500 net per adult (With free-flow premium beverage handpicked by James Suckling) THB 3,850 net per adult (food only) THB 2,200 net per child aged from 6 to 18 (with free-flow juices and soft drinks) For more information and bookings, please call +66 76 380 200 or fbreservation@thenaiharn.com



All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

Beef, Pork and Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, fried mushrooms, grilled tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes – gravy, mushroom sauce, mint sauce. Reservations recommended. B350 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

MON 18 FEB



All you can eat BBQ night

6pm – 11pm: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns and Squid, Salad buffet, Choice of potatoes and sauces, bread, buns and garlic bread. Reservation recommended. B395 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.



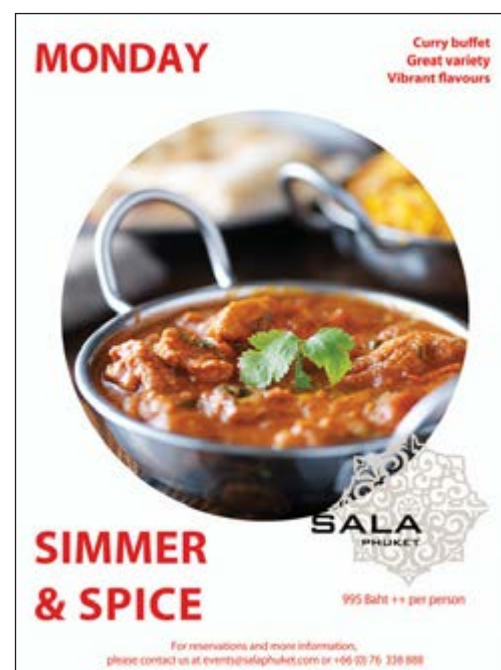
The 22nd Bay Regatta 2019

The 22nd Bay Regatta is expected to be the biggest yet and will firmly stand out as one of South East Asia's finest yachting events. Taking place in some of the most beautiful scenery the region has to offer, the four days racing and daily prize-giving dinners will bring a buzz of excitement to Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. More info at: facebook.com/bayregatta



ZUMA returns to Anantara Layan

Award-winning contemporary Japanese restaurant, ZUMA, returns for a third season to the beachfront at Anantara Layan Phuket Resort



Simmer & Spice

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STARTING PRICE THB 1,600++



WED 20 FEB



Sala Wednesday nights: Ribs, beats, brews

Devour our succulent pork rib set complete with sweet corn chowder, blue cheese salad, moist cornbread and finish it off with a bread and butter pudding. DJ Q will keep the soul flowing and your toes tapping as you wash down those tender ribs with a bucket of craft brews. Full Rack set B1,600, Half Rack set B1,200, bucket of craft brews B800. Reservations, SALA Phuket Resort and Spa. Email: events@sala.phuket.com or call 076 338 888.

THU 21 FEB



RETRO NIGHT – BACK TO THE 70s & 80s

Don't miss out on our newest, exciting weekly event at Two Chefs. Come and join us for our special Flambé 300g Australian grass fed rib eye steak served with a creamy peppercorn sauce, roasted vegetable medley and potato gratin for ONLY 595 THB. Have a sweet tooth? Treat yourself to the Two Chefs banana flambé served with vanilla ice cream for ONLY 95 THB. Sit back and enjoy one of our drink specials as you listen to the famous Two Chefs band performing all your favorite retro hits and more! Live music starts from 8pm and goes late at all of our Two Chefs locations. Reservations are highly recommended. You can book on our website at WWW.TWOCHEFS.COM or find us on Facebook at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWOCHEFS-THAILAND/ COME FOR THE FOOD STAY FOR THE FUN! Reservations, Call us directly at Two Chefs Kata Center 076-330-065, Kata Beach 076-333-370, Karon 076-286-479, Patong 076-344-914



PIWC - February 2019 luncheon

February's venue promises to be a treat. Lunch will be held at Taste Yamu (Formerly Breeze Restaurant). 224, Moo 7, Tambon Paklok, Amphoe Thalung, Phuket. Members 700 baht. Non Members 850 baht. Registration will commence at 11.30am. For those North of the island, a mini-van will be leaving from Villa Market in Laguna at 10.50am sharp.

SAT 23 FEB



DJs Meat, Fishmonger @ Baba

We welcome Meat who will bring his signature house sounds to Baba Beach Club Phuket. Escape to our Music Lovers' oasis on Natai beach for an elevated weekend experience. For more information & bookings, contact us: +66 76 429 388, phuket@bababeachclub.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/BabaBeachClub Instagram: www.instagram.com/bababeachclub Website: www.bababeachclub.com Soundcloud: www.soundcloud.com/baba-beach-club

FRI 1 MAR



Boat Lagoon Weekend 1-2 March 2019

Beat & Bite. Music & Food & Fun. From 6.00 pm till 10.00 pm. at Lagoon Quay. พบกับงานแสดงดนตรี อาหาร และความสนุกหลากหลายรูปแบบ ที่งานปิกนิกที่ลานริวกองภูเก็ต Boat Lagoon, Phuket Boat Lagoon



Grow Boating Networking Evening

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for March 2019 will be held at The Speakeasy Yacht Club, at The Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Please contact us if you would like to be our drinks sponsor.

sors. There will be a light buffet sponsored by The Speakeasy Yacht Club and special prices on your favourite local drinks. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com For more info www.facebook.com/events/306692660180317/

FRI 8 MAR



Phuket Sundowners - Mar 2019

AustCham Thailand is delighted to invite members and guests from AustCham and partner chambers to join our Phuket Sundowners to be held on Friday 8th March, 2019, at the Angsana Laguna Phuket. Cost: Baht 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. Baht 900 for non-members.

SUN 10 MAR



KEVIN GILDEA & IMRAN YUSUF IN PHUKET

Do not miss KEVIN GILDEA (IRL) and IMRAN YUSUF (UK) with host DEEPAK CHANDRAN (IND). Early bird tickets are on sale now from 350 THB or 600 THB at the door. Get your tickets today on TicketFlap: www.ticketflap.com/phuketcomedy-kevingildea Magic Rock, Marriott Resort & Spa, Merlin Beach, Phuket.

SAT 16 MAR



Food Competition 2019

Don't miss the 3rd Annual Culinary Completion @ QSI Phuket on Saturday March 16th from

11:00 – 15:30. Schools from around Phuket will compete in two divisions, junior and senior. They will compete in creating an original and chef replicated dish. These dishes will then be judged by our celebrity executive chef judges, who will decide this year's Top Chefs.

WED 3 APR



Hospitality Golf Challenge 2019

The 4th Laguna Phuket Hospitality Challenge charity golf tournament will take place on the 3rd April 2019, with an amazing day of gourmet golf at Laguna Golf Phuket Course all in aid of The Children First Fund. Why not come and join the event with some great local hole sponsors treating all the golfers to some fun challenges and exciting Food and Beverage service. We are proud to have 89.5FM and Phuket News TV as our Media Partner and Sponsor. Visit www.asean-events.com or email mark@asean-events.com

SAT 27 APR



Blue Horizon WCGC Thailand 2019

The Blue Horizon World Corporate Golf Challenge continues in 2019 with the top 10% of teams (2 people per team) from each qualifier gaining entry to the Thailand Final on the 27th of April 2019 at Laguna Golf Club Phuket. Prominent sponsors provide an all-expenses paid trip to the World Final at Oitavoss Dunes in Cascais, Portugal. For more details and to sign up contact events@foremanagement.com



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**SUNDAY Fun
BRUNCH**

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Jobs



The Phuket News



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at 095 4682248 or email your CV,

Biodata at pnesi@loperagroup.com **if you:**

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- Have a friendly customer focused personality
- Like to work with people

We offer:

- 6 days work week
- Social security
- Friendly working environment with a team spirit
- Potential to grow in our International company

L'Opera Ristorante Italiano (A member of L'Opera Group Inc.)
24-30 Laguna Road, Chertngtalay, Phuket



QSI International School of Phuket
(Location: 500 meters from Tesco Lotus Samkong)
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QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English
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Due to recent growth the following teachers are required:

- Preschool Teacher (Required immediately)

Qualification

- Dynamic Teacher
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- Experience in teaching is needed
- Teaching license is preferred

Interested teachers please send email with following attachments

- A covering letter stating the position you are applying for
- Your resume with a recent photo
- A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
- A scan of your passport's photo page

Send CV to Phuket@qsi.org

<https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt> Tel. 076 304 312

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Mai Khao 1 Bed Condo Sale

Mai Khao Beach Condo-Great condo. 5mins from Splash Jungle Water Park. Wonderful location and is a must see. B5,300,000, Christine, 0948411918.



2 Bed Condo Bangtao Phuket

Mandala Condominium - Wonderful spacious condo. Great location near Bangtao beach and Laguna. 184sqm with private pool and tropical gardens. B15,900,000, Andy, 083 800 1888



1 Bed Condo in Kamala

MontAzure Twinpalms Residence-Great condo located in Kamala. The ultimate in luxury. Has got to be seen to be believed. Fantastical facilities in this resort condo. B15,800,000, Tina, 0872699206.

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Private location in prestige area. Outstanding Value. Call owner (Alan): 084 0657590.



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Aquila 44 (2017) USD 795,000

The Aquila 44 is a sturdy power catamaran that runs like a real motor yacht able to reach speeds up to 20 kts. A quick look at the specifications reveals a well thought build with quality materials. 100% vinyl ester resin infused. The bulbous bow, oversized fly bridge, the steps to access the bow from the fly the extended cockpit and the master on the main deck are all features that make the Aquila 44 a top power catamaran choice. Come and view display at The Thailand Yacht Show 2019.



GRAN TURISMO 49 (2013) USD 450,000

This Beneteau Gran Turismo 49 Flybridge Cruiser. She is very well appointed and boasts a hydraulic swim platform, full beam Master cabin and a further VIP forward, both with en-suite facilities. This Flybridge 49 ft opted for the second saloon/dining area amidship, located opposite the lower galley creating a really social environment onboard.



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URGENT SALE



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URGENT SALE



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URGENT SALE



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1 Bed Condo Sale Rawai

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URGENT SALE



Karon 1 Bed Condo for Sale

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Villa Mission Heights Big Pool

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PSG dominate local league

Cruzeiro Champions League: PSG go into semis as firm favourites

FOOTBALL

Gemma Ashworth

On Saturday, January 26, the Cruzeiro Football 7-a-side Champions League began at British International School. Over 60 children, aged 8 to 15, have been taking part over the past few weekends, playing alongside friends and new teammates from across Phuket.

Children aged under 9 and under 11 were mixed and spread evenly across four teams, with the same occurring in the under 13 and under 15 age groups. The four Champions League teams involved four major clubs from Europe; Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City.

Seven-a-side soccer is played on a smaller grass pitch, allowing each player on the team to have a lot of chances on the ball. The game is fast-paced with countless opportunities to attack the goal. This also gives the opportunity for defenders to practice reacting to the speed



Photo: Liza Chuang

of the opposition and improve their defensive skills.

The league promotes inclusivity across teams, bringing together players with different abilities, ages and backgrounds from international schools across Phuket. The league focuses on personal development, physically, mentally and socially, allowing players to interact with others, whilst improving their own game.

Leo Medeiros, one of the talented Brazilian coaches at Cruzeiro Soccer Schools

said “We are very happy to spread our football culture in the community. Also, to bring together kids from different environments and schools, helping them grow not just as athletes but also as human beings.”

The league will recommence on March 3 when the semi-finals will take place.

In the U9/11 competition, Paris Saint Germain (1st) will play Manchester City (4th), and Bayern Munich (2nd) will play Real Madrid (3rd).

PREVIOUS RESULTS	U9/U11				U13/U15			
	Home		Away		Home		Away	
26 th Jan	PSG	4	2	RM	BM	4	4	MC
	BM	2	1	MC	PSG	2	1	RM
2 nd Feb	PSG	2	1	RM	PSG	3	1	BM
	RM	5	0	MC	RM	2	1	MC
9 th Feb	PSG	4	2	MC	RM	3	7	PSG
	BM	5	1	RM	BM	2	0	MC

UNDER 9/11 - STANDINGS								
Position	Club	Won	Lost	Draw	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paris Saint Germain (PSG)	3	0	0	10	5	+5	9
2	Bayern Munich (BM)	2	1	0	8	4	+4	3
3	Real Madrid (RM)	1	2	0	9	8	+1	4
4	Manchester City (MC)	0	3	0	2	10	-8	1

UNDER 13/15 - STANDINGS								
Position	Club	Won	Lost	Draw	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paris Saint Germain (PSG)	3	0	0	12	5	+7	9
2	Real Madrid (RM)	1	2	0	6	10	-4	3
3	Bayern Munich (BM)	1	1	1	5	7	-2	4
4	Manchester City (MC)	0	2	1	5	8	-3	1

In the U11/15 competition, Paris Saint Germain will play Manchester City, whilst Real Madrid take on Bayern Munich. The winners of each game will progress to the final, with a 3rd and 4th play-off to decide the final standings.

Medeiros added, “We hope that all those who have been

involved in the Champions League have thoroughly enjoyed participating so far. Registration is now closed for this league, yet we hope that more players will join us for the next league in April, to further develop their skills and have fun playing football. More information regarding

the league will be provided soon.

For more information about the Cruzeiro Soccer Schools Champions League, or for anyone interested in training at Cruzeiro Soccer Schools, contact cruzeirosoccerschools@gmail.com

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A stroke of Genius in Patong

Patong Pool League: Genius Bar draw level with Kiki

POOL

Jeroen Tak

The 12th round of the Patong Pool League (PPL) sponsored by Thailand Pool Tables and Genius 2 Garden and Restaurant was played Thursday, Feb 7.

Kiki Sports Bar played away against Genius. Top player from Holland William was back but the two Thai players Jack and Mac were missing. Wan, Poy, Rat and Li all playing for Genius were winning their singles and doubles games. It looked to be a very difficult night for Kiki Sports Bar who has been doing pretty well in the league so far. The beer leg was a three-setter and also won by Genius, who took a very comfortable 9-3 victory.

Champs bar played at home against Martin Swiss. Simon and Mad Mick playing for Champs bar won their singles and doubles games, but so did Kid and Martin playing for Martin Swiss. It was not a good evening for Martin Swiss as three of their players

Nick has been playing for Ting Tong for many years. He is also a keen golfer and that makes him even harder to beat on the pool table.



potted the black ball in the wrong pocket. The beer leg was a three-setter and won by Martin Swiss, but the overall result was a 6-6 draw.

Red Light played away against Kwan's Birdie Club in Kathu. Monday (Feb 4) was Kwan's birthday and fat-boy Colin managed to break the floor. We think Kwan rather had preferred chocolate or

something else. So repairs had to be made in time to make it possible to play the match on Thursday. Colin redeemed himself by winning his singles and doubles games and so did the other Kwan's Birdie players Goh, Se and Mike. The beer leg was a three-setter and also won by Kwan's Birdie Team, who won with a 10-2 result, further strengthening their position at

the top of the league.

Simon and Oil played at home against Caddy Shack. Luke playing for Simon and Oil finally returned to form and won his singles and doubles games. However, Lee, Shaun, Don and Trevor aka "Young Man", all playing for Caddy Shack, also won their singles and doubles games. The beer leg was a three-setter and won

by Simon and Oil, but Caddy Shack won the evening 7-5.

Happy End played away against Ting Tong bar.

Ting Tong started strongly, winning five of the six singles games. However, Happy End came back in the doubles and was able to win the beer leg in three sets. All games were pretty close and exciting for the visitors to watch. The final

result was a marginal 6-5 victory for Ting Tong.

The 13th round of the Patong Pool League will be played on Thursday Feb 14. People interested in playing as well as visitors are all welcome to attend at one of the 11 participating bars. For details, visit the Patong Friendly Pool League Facebook page.

RPL STANDINGS WEEK 10 TWELFTH WEEK PPL 2018 - 19	
Kwan's Birdie Club	85
Caddy Shack	77
Genius	72
Kiki Sports	72
Ting Tong	65
Martin Swiss	63
Natalie	63
Genius	62
Happy End	59
Simon Oil	54
Red Light	53
Champs	40

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Ramsey moves to Juve for B16.13mn a week

FOOTBALL

Kieran Canning

Aaron Ramsey has joined European football's monied elite after agreeing a lucrative move to Juventus, but doubts remain about the Arsenal midfielder's ability to justify his jaw-dropping salary.

Reports in Britain claim Ramsey's four-year deal will pay him a basic salary of £400,000 (B16.13 million) per week once he officially joins Juventus in the close-season.

While some in the Italian media have questioned whether the contract is really that high, there can be no doubt the Wales star is now among the best paid players in the world.

The staggering salary was available to Ramsey because his Arsenal deal was due to expire at the end of this season, making him eligible to sign a pre-contract with any overseas team after January 1 under the terms of the 'Bosman ruling' that provides the guidelines for free agent transfers.

The 28-year-old is a quality player but few would rank him alongside soon-to-be Juventus team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar, all global icons whose pay packets are now joined by Ramsey as among the biggest in the sport.

Juventus's willingness to splash the cash on Ramsey has surprised many but, because the Italian club didn't need to give Arsenal a transfer fee, they see the deal as good business.

Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici told *Gazzetta*



Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey has cashed in on his free-agent status in a lucrative deal with Juventus. Photo: AFP

dello Sport that Ramsey can finally unlock his full potential in Turin.

"Ramsey is a player who in my opinion has never found his position, because he has never played in a three (in midfield), which is his role, as he is capable of running from deep," he said.

Ramsey has provided six assists in the Premier League this season – more than any Juventus midfielder – and John Toshack, who gave Ramsey his Wales debut, believes his former player is versatile enough to cope in Serie A.

"He might do better in a three-man midfield, where he has the possibility to push forward. In modern football you do need to be versatile and he is a modern player," Toshack said.

Arsenal had been prepared to offer Ramsey an improved long-term contract themselves, but that deal was suddenly taken off the table following the arrival of new manager Unai Emery in the close-season.

"We thought we were in a position where we had agreed a deal but that's no longer the case," Ramsey said in October.

While Ramsey is a fan favourite for his whole-hearted play and knack of scoring crucial goals, he has been reduced to bit-part status under Emery.

Ramsey has made only nine Premier League starts for Arsenal this term, featuring 13 times as a substitute.

Even in his truncated time on the pitch, Ramsey has given glimpses of the talent Juventus have paid so richly to acquire.

His stand-out moment came in a rout of Fulham when he helped instigate a flowing move that ended with his audacious back-heeled finish for one of the goals of the season to date.

This roller-coaster campaign has been the perfect encapsulation of Ramsey's 11-year Arsenal career. Signed from Cardiff in 2008 as a precocious 17-year-old who had already become the second youngest player to appear in

the FA Cup final, Ramsey was heralded as the centre-piece to a new era for then Gunners boss Arsene Wenger.

Ramsey initially looked capable of living up to that billing, but a horrific broken leg suffered in a challenge from Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross in 2010 took a heavy toll.

It was three years before Ramsey was mentally and physically recovered.

His gruelling rehabilitation was rewarded when he scored the winning goal in the 2014 and 2017 FA Cup finals and was voted Arsenal's Player of the Year last season.

Now Ramsey is preparing to follow in the footsteps of fellow Welshmen John Charles and Ian Rush, who also made headline-grabbing moves to Juventus.

Charles is still revered as a Juventus legend, while Rush is a footnote after one forgettable season.

AFP

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The overall competition winner will receive a 3 day/2 night stay in a two-bedroom private pool villa including daily breakfast plus a 90-minute spa treatment for two persons at Baba Beach Club Phuket. Total prize value: B130,000

The monthly competition winner for February 2019 will receive a B3,000 voucher to spend at any one of the island's Two Chefs outlets.

EPL PREDICTIONS

MONTHLY STANDINGS

1. SirBR	14
2. adamrosindale	13
3. diggersd	13
4. lufc	13
5. stafsulaiman	13

OVERALL STANDINGS

1. giggs	155
2. fazza	153
3. Griffsbar	151
4. Smiley Bar	151
5. Fitz	148



Live Sports TV Schedule

*Times may be subject to change

SPORT	START	STOP	EVENT	TEAMS / INFO
Friday 15th Feb				
Rugby Union	13:35	15:35	Super XV	Chiefs v. Highlanders
	15:45	17:45	Super XV	Brumbies v. Rebels
Rugby League	16:00	18:00	NRL	Aus v. NZ All Stars
Cricket	14:50	23:00	Test Match 1 - Durban	South Africa v. Sri Lanka, Day 3
Saturday 16th Feb				
Rugby Union	13:35	15:35	Super XV	Blues v. Crusaders
	15:45	17:45	Super XV	Waratahs v. Hurricanes
	17:55	19:55	Super XV	Sunwolves v. Sharks
	22:15	00:10	Super XV	Bulls v. Stormers
Rugby Union	20:40	22:30	Top 14	Clermont v. Bordeaux
Soccer	17:00	19:00	FA Cup - 5 th Round	QPR v. Watford (Repeat)
	19:30	21:30	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Brighton v. Derby
	22:00	00:00	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Wimbledon v. Millwall
	00:30	02:30	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Newport v. Man City
Cricket	14:50	23:00	Test Match 1 - Durban	South Africa v. Sri Lanka, Day 4
Sunday 17th Feb				
Soccer	20:00	22:00	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Bristol v. Wolverhampton
	23:00	01:00	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Doncaster v. Crystal Palace
	23:00	01:00	FA Cup - 5 th Round	Swansea v. Brentford
Cricket	14:50	23:00	Test Match 1 - Durban	South Africa v. Sri Lanka, Day 5
Cricket	15:00	18:30	BBL Final	tbc

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Sport



Cruzeiro Champions League sees PSG plough through > p29

HONEY BADGER

Phuket's Emilio Urrutia prepares for a big test at Asia's top fight promotion

'The Honey Badger' throws a left on his way to a 1st round KO of world champion grappler Bruno Pucci. Photo: ONE Championship



MMA

JP Mestanza
tv@classactmedia.co.th

One more repetition, one more training session, one more round.

It is a mantra that fuels the engine of professional fighter Emilio Urrutia (11-6), a long-time Phuket resident and stalwart in the island's burgeoning fight scene.

"The Honeybadger" steps into the ONE Championship ring on Saturday, February 16 at the Impact Arena in Bangkok, where he will be taking on Japan's Yoshiki Nakahara (11-4) in a mixed martial arts bout.

"I don't know how, I don't know when, all I know is that I'm going to win and have my hands up in the sky from the moment we get off the plane to the minute I walk

out the cage. I'm showing up a winner and leaving a winner. That's the only thing I know is a fact," he says to *The Phuket News*.

Ever since moving to Phuket to become part of the Chalong-based Tiger Muay Thai & MMA fight team in the summer of 2013, Urrutia has not stopped fighting. This is where his career began, competing in promotions across Asia while training with high-level athletes who also call Phuket home.

"[Phuket] is basically a university for martial arts. I can literally go to class every single day, go to any different type of martial arts class, and learn every day from top coaches. On top of that, we always have people from different places constantly coming, so I'm always learning about new styles, new ways to do things, dif-



Emilio Urrutia trains at Chalong-based Tiger Muay Thai & Mixed Martial Arts. Photo: Hip Santayom

ferent routes, etc. It is what has really helped me make those big gains in between training that, for sure, others don't have the luxury of getting," he says.

Urrutia's high-level prepa-

ration is evident, especially when he first joined ONE Championship – by far the biggest fight promotion in Asia. He won his first two fights with the promotion back-to-back, including

a spectacular first round knockout win last year over Brazilian grappling world champion, Bruno Pucci.

His next two bouts left more to be desired.

Now entering his February 16 bout on a two-fight losing streak, Urrutia is looking to put the past behind him, although he has been here before. He lost back-to-back fights in 2015 and again in 2016, only to bounce back with three and four-fight win streaks, respectively.

Having fought across Asia in his last four fights, Urrutia will finally fight in his adopted country of Thailand for the first time in ONE Championship, a place where his career began and where he will share the card with his friends and teammates Shannon 'Oneshin' Wiratchai and Rika 'Tiny Doll' Ishige.

"I have fought in Bangkok

three times before, and I have never lost here," Urrutia says. "We will have the crowd on our side and our entire Tiger Muay Thai family out to support us."

The preparation remains the same as it always has, he says. "Work hard, show up to practice and work on everything together as a combined unit."

Urrutia is finally able to compete in front of friends and family in Bangkok and has been adding more striking to his arsenal for the occasion.

"I have been working a lot on Muay Thai, particularly clinching for this fight," he says. "I've got to represent for the land of smiles, for the people in Bangkok."

And now it comes down to stepping into the bright lights of Asia's fight capital with Urrutia looking for another win in Bangkok.

Phuket hosts Muay Thai Greats

MUAY THAI

THAI BOXING GIANTS ARE set to grace the shores of Phuket as Thai Fight celebrates its 10th anniversary on the island.

Next Saturday (Feb 23) Laguna Phuket will host an evening of world-class fighting between

some of the world's best Thai and international Muay Thai fighters.

The official press conference for the event was held on Tuesday (Feb 12) at XANA Beach Club and was attended by Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana and multi-time world champion superstar fighter Saenchai, who will be fighting on the night.

Gates open at 4pm and the event will be broadcast live on national television (channels 3, 33, 28 and LINE TV).

There will be eight world-class fights on the night, with fighters wearing only wraps without gloves – a practice reminiscent of the traditional Muay Boran (ancient boxing).

Poria Mermand



Gov Phakaphong (top, 4th from left) and Saenchai (bottom, 2nd from left) at the press conference on Tuesday (Feb 12).