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INSIDE TODAY

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■ **'WATER-SAFETY SUMMIT MUST BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE'**

# Gov fights for Safer Phuket

■ National protests delay summit; water safety stays course

By **Chutharat Plerin**

POLITICAL unrest may have forced the postponement of the Coastal Waters Safety Summit this week, but the ongoing protests will not prevent the landmark event from occurring after the February 2 election.

"The event may have been postponed, but it must be held as soon as possible," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut told the *Gazette* this week.

"I fully support the Safer Phuket project [which organized the summit]. Although there are many departments that each stage water-safety campaigns, it is much better for us to develop a co-ordinated approach to keep tourists safe," he said.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut rated the summit as "critical" in improving water safety on and around the island.

"We see that it is very important..."



Continued on Page 8

Despite the delay, Governor Maitri Inthusut maintains his resolve to push forward. Photo: Saran Mitratat

**Off-duty cop charged with bar girl death**

A PATONG police officer faces murder charges for the shooting death of a Bangla bar worker late last month.

Sgt Pongsakorn Tre-eyuth was suspended from active duty after he allegedly pulled out a gun, removed the magazine and, forgetting there was still a bullet in the chamber in a drunken stupor, attempted to show 27-year-old Sawitree Kaewin how a person could be held from behind with a gun pointed at his or her head.

Full story Page 3

**Scrambling to save lives on Patong Hill**

A BUDGET has been secured to widen the road over Patong Hill in the hope of preventing accidents such as the recent double-fatality runaway bus crash.

Full story Page 3

**Protest blocks MP candidate registration**

PROTESTERS prevented all but one candidate from registering for the controversial February 2 national election in a continued demonstration of anti-government sentiment on the island.

Full story Page 4

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## This Week



### Property

Discover the global real estate market at Dubai property expo. **Page 16**



### Health

Watch for the warning signs of potential alcoholism. **Page 36**



### Explore

Dodge the crowds with an idyllic getaway to Koh Racha. **Page 40**



### Boats

Indulge in a myriad of marine pleasures at PIMEX 2014. **Page 43**



### Education

BISP unites to build medical mission ship on campus. **Page 44**



### Sport

Both of Phuket's pro footy squads get ready for 2014. **Page 50**

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# Angry protesters avail

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

HUNDREDS of angry anti-government protesters on Sunday night forced the organizers of the annual Phuket Red Cross Fair to cancel a live concert by Thai rock star Sek Loso, who was to perform the closing show at the fair.

Sek "Seksan Sukpimai" Loso was one of many Thai celebrities who joined a publicity campaign calling on voters to cast their ballots at the upcoming February 2 election.

His participation in the campaign, however, drew much criticism from anti-government factions, who posted angry comments on the Sek Loso Facebook page.

Sek fired back at his online critics, swearing at them in a post that was later pulled down from his Facebook page.

Determined to prevent the rock star from taking the stage, hundreds of protesters massed at the fair at Saphan Hin.

Phuket Red Cross President Pawinee Inthusut attempted to talk the protesters into disbanding, but the angry crowd refused to budge.

About an hour later, at 10:30pm, officials announced that the concert was cancelled. Protesters



Protesters demand no Sek at the Phuket Red Cross Fair.

blew their whistles and started heading home.

Two rival Burmese gangs were among the fair-goers leaving the event. They ran into each other outside of Saphan Hin and a battle broke out, said Capt Udom Petcharat of the Phuket City Police.

Police called to the scene found the body of Mr Min, 23, who had been stabbed with a sharpened steel construction rod, Capt Udom

explained.

About 20 meters away was Mr Min Min, 26, who was seriously injured with stab wounds.

Two other men, Mr Moo, 24, and Mr Pao, 22, were found injured and in tears across from the Phuket Immigration Office nearby.

The men were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"Mr Min Min died en route," Capt Udom said.

## Electrifying prison-escape attempt

AN ATTEMPTED jailbreak from Phuket Prison came to a shocking halt at 12:30pm on January 4 when an inmate trying to escape was electrified by wires strung across the top of one of the perimeter walls.

Alerted to the escape attempt, prison guards ran to the east wall, where they found 45-year-old Worawut Rordbuth unconscious, hanging upside down with his left leg tangled in barbed wire.

Rescue workers, with help from other inmates, were quickly called to bring Mr Worawut



A prisoner attempts to escape.

back to ground.

"We believe he was attempting to break out because he was very homesick, as that is what he told our guards before his attempt," said Phuket Prison Chief

Rapin Nichanon.

Mr Worawut was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in jail for a theft conviction on March 29 last year.

"That sentence was compounded by another theft conviction that saw 1 year and 9 months added to his sentence. He is currently on trial for two more cases of theft," Chief Rapin explained.

"He will now be charged with attempting to escape from prison," Chief Rapin confirmed.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Bus crash spurs B10mn budget

By Saran Mittrarat

THE Phuket Highways Office has secured 10 million baht to widen the road at the bottom of Patong Hill in the hope of preventing more fatal bus crashes brought on by brake failure.

The news follows a runaway tour bus slamming into five vehicles, including one motorcycle, killing two people and leaving 26 others injured on December 29.

The bus, loaded with Russian and Thai tourists, stopped only after ramming a concrete barrier and hitting a power pole in front of Wat Suwankirirong (Patong Temple).

"We have drawn up a plan to expand the road from three to four lanes. This should help traffic flow and reduce the need for drivers to use their brakes so much," Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad said.

"We already have the 10 million baht budget required. The construction plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Transport

in Bangkok and is expected to be approved in March," he added.

The project will see 500 meters of Phra Barami Road expanded to four lanes, starting in front of the abandoned Crest resort and ending at the junction in front of Patong Temple.

"The expansion will take 150 days to complete. We will expand the road when we install larger drains along the roadside so both projects can be finished at the same time," Mr Samak explained.

However, Mr Samak admitted that little more could be done to make the road safer.

"There is not enough room to reduce the incline on the descent into Patong. If you want to make driving into Patong safer, I recommend we build a tunnel through the hills as soon as possible," he said.

"Some people will be negatively affected by such a project, but it will help save lives," Mr Samak noted.

The horrific bus crash before

New Year's Eve prompted Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut to call on the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) to draw up a list of suggestions to prevent more fatal accidents from occurring on the notorious incline.

PLTO Chief Transport Technician Jaturong Kaewkasi presented a list of nine recommendations to the governor on January 1.

"Over the years, there have been many accidents on Patong Hill involving buses or trucks that have had brake failure. These accidents have cost many lives," Mr Jaturong said.

Among the suggestions was to ban all buses and trucks travelling over Patong Hill at all times, and transfer passengers to and from Patong by van.

Another suggestion was to enforce a maximum age for all buses and trucks travelling over Patong Hill.

Governor Maitri led officials on an inspection of the site on January 3 to evaluate the efficacy of the nine suggestions.

"We will now raise our ideas with business owners to see if they have any valuable suggestions," Mr Jaturong explained.



The runaway bus came to a crushing halt after slamming into a power pole, leaving two people dead and 26 injured. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong



WEAPON: 11mm handgun

VICTIM: Sawitree Kaewin

## Cop charged over bar girl shooting

POLICE are considering discharging a police officer who shot dead a Soi Bangla bar worker before dawn on December 26.

The 35-year-old Patong Police officer, Sgt Pongsakorn Treeyuth, was off duty and allegedly drunk when he held an 11mm handgun to the head of Sawitree Kaewin, 27.

"We received an order from the Royal Thai Police in Bangkok late last month to investigate the case, and consider what action to take against Sgt Pongsakorn," Patong Police Investigator Jirasak Boonsang confirmed to the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"It has yet to be decided whether or not he will be kicked off the police force," Capt Jirasak said. "At this point in the investigation, we believe that it was not murder."

According to witness statements, the magazine was removed from the gun before Sgt Pongsakorn showed Ms Sawitree how a person could be held from behind with a gun pointed at his or her head. It

appeared that Sgt Pongsakorn forgot to check the chamber for bullets, Capt Jirasak stated.

"Three people who know both Sgt Pongsakorn and Ms Sawitree were drinking at a table nearby on the night of the incident. They told us that Sgt Pongsakorn and Ms Sawitree were friends and that there were no signs of argument that night," Capt Jirasak said.

"The only thing they saw after the sound of the gun firing was Ms Sawitree slumped over the table and a gun shot wound on Sgt Pongsakorn's hand," he said.

The police later questioned Sgt Pongsakorn.

"He told us that he was very drunk and claimed he could not remember what happened that night," said Capt Jirasak.

Patong Police have charged Sgt Pongsakorn with murder. However, Capt Jirasak said the charges may be changed before the case is handed over to the public prosecutor. — *Irfan Jamdukor*

## Officers take down taxi drivers

A STING operation involving an undercover policeman disguised as a taxi driver has put two taxi drivers behind bars.

Pamorn Maipuek, 40, and Narathid Wangaree, 27, were charged for threatening the plainclothes officer, who was attempting to pick up guests at Avista Hiway Resort and Spa on December 29.

"We had officers on standby and had Lt Sakson Prakapsin pick up guests at the hotel without a voucher," said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Paisarn Sangthep.

A hotel guard stopped Lt Sakson's car so he could inform the staff that the taxi had arrived.

"While Lt Sakson was waiting,



Two taxi drivers face authorities.

Mr Pamorn and Mr Narathid approached him," Lt Col Paisarn said. "Because he didn't have a ticket, the drivers told him that he couldn't pick up guests at the hotel. They claimed to operate the taxi queue in that area."

The drivers then threatened

Lt Sakson, saying that if he tried to pick up any guests in the area without a voucher he would have a problem with them.

A team of police officers then rushed in and arrested both men. They face up to three years imprisonment, a fine of up to 60,000 baht or both.

The Department of Special Investigations (DSI) launched a similar sting in November, when a taxi driver tried to force a DSI officer out of his vehicle, but no arrest was made. DSI Special Crime Unit 3 chief Somboon Sarasit believes enough evidence was gathered to gain approval for the DSI to investigate.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



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## Chinese tour guide battle turns violent

SCUFFLES broke out in front of Wichit Police Station on January 6 as tensions boiled over between Chinese-speaking Thai tour guides and Chinese nationals who they accuse of taking their jobs.

More than 100 Thai guides gathered at the station in support of Suraphol Saelub, 24; Somchai Saetung, 39; and Ja Saema, also 39, who all face charges of attacking Chinese national Ta Leng on January 5.

"Mr Leng works for the tour company Tai Lee Co," Wichit Police Superintendent Chawalit Phetsipear told the *Gazette*.

"He filed a complaint that he was attacked by six Thai tour guides," Col Chawalit said.

Mr Leng and the accused came to the station on Monday.

A small fight broke out as Mr Leng and his work colleagues left the police station. Angry guides accused Mr Leng of working as an illegal guide.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Mr Leng

# Only one candidate pushes through election blockade

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Phuket blockade preventing any further candidates from registering to enter the February 2 national election held strong on January 1, the last day for potential candidates to enter the election.

"We couldn't even get inside the building this morning to open the center as the protesters blocked our way," Director of the Phuket office of the Election Commission Kittipong Thiengkunakrit said.

The blockade, led by protest leader Suratin Lian-udom, the former Mayor of Rassada, has been in force since registrations opened on December 28.

"We don't want to have an election on February 2," Mr Suratin explained during the blockade.

"Yingluck Shinawatra must resign from all her work in politics, and the protesters in Bangkok must succeed in the formation of the People's Council before any elections are held," he said.



Protesters block the PEC registration booth on final day. Photo: Gazette file

"We come in peace, without weapons. We come only with whistles and a gift for the PEC. We want them to recognize that the people of Phuket are not ready

for an election on February 2," Mr Suratin added on the first day of his campaign.

Only one candidate managed to register to contest the election, Mr

Kittipong confirmed.

Jirayus Songyos enrolled as a Pheu Thai candidate to contest Phuket Voting District 2 after being escorted into the community center on December 29 by an entourage of about 20 people.

After Sunday, however, the protesters strengthened their resolve, forcing Mr Kittipong and Pheu Thai potential candidate Visit Jaiart to file two separate complaints about the blockade to Phuket City Police after Mr Visit was prevented from enrolling on Monday.

On January 1, however, Mr Kittipong did not call the police.

"I have already filed a complaint. Once is enough. They are already aware of the situation," he told the *Gazette*.

"Today was the last day for candidates to register to contest a seat in the February 2 election. We will report the problems we have had here in Phuket to EC officials in Bangkok," he said. "What happens next is up to them."

## Savvy Apple user busts airport baggage handler

A TECHNOLOGICALLY hand-capped baggage handler at Phuket International Airport was arrested for theft after having been outwitted by a savvy Apple user.

Tah Chat Chai Police arrested Somsak Pohnisai, 31, on December 27 and charged him with the theft of Yang Liqiang's iPad on December 14.

Mr Somsak might have gotten away with the theft from Ms

Yang's luggage had he not decided to take advantage of his newly acquired piece of technology by taking a picture of himself.

What Mr Somsak didn't know was that Ms Yang's iPad was connected to her Apple computer at home. The photos were passed on to Phuket police.

Mr Somsak was quickly arrested and confessed.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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# Sea taxi rumors docked

Project included in 2015 Marine budget, but not yet approved

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Marine Office chief trounced rumors this week that the 240-million-baht budget for an airport-to-Patong "sea taxi" had been approved.

"I do not know how the rumor that it was already approved was spread," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the *Gazette*.

Director of the Marine Office 5 Wichai Khamkong plans to raise the issue of the budget for the project, known as "From The Boat to The Plane", at a meeting with the Marine Department Director-General on January 10.

"We asked for the project to be included in the Marine Department's 2015 fiscal budget. However, it has yet to be approved by Cabinet," Mr Wichai said. "Our project is not in the minutes for the meeting, but I will raise the topic."

Though the budget has yet to be approved, it is well supported by Marine Department Director-General Sorasak Saensombat, said Mr Wichai.

The project is meant to be an alternative route for tourists between Phuket International Airport and Patong Beach.

"We really want to help alleviate the traffic problems on the



The sea taxis would ferry tourists between the airport and Patong, allowing them to sightsee along the way and reducing island gridlock, said Director for the Marine Office 5, Wichai Khamkong. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

island and offer tourists a better way of travelling from the airport to Patong," Mr Wichai said.

"Tourists can enjoy sightseeing

on the way there," he added.

Mr Wichai estimates that the trip by speedboat would take approximately 25 minutes.

Once the budget is approved, the Phuket Marine Office will again contact relevant parties to further develop the plan.



The 500-baht fine for speeding may go up to 1,000. Photo: Irfan Jamdukor

## Speed cams operational; 39 ticketed

PHUKET'S four speed cameras became operational on Christmas Day, and 39 tickets have been sent out so far.

Located at the notorious Ko En Curve, the Bang Khu Intersection, the bypass road and in front of Muang Thalang School, the cameras will photograph vehicles travelling faster than 90km/hr, the maximum speed on non-tollway roads outside of towns.

Speeders will receive a 500-baht ticket through the mail.

If the 500-baht fine does not deter speeders, it will be increased to 1,000 baht, the maximum allowed by law, said Lt Col Rungrit Rattanapagdee of the Phuket City Traffic Police.

"We are doing this for your safety," Col Rungrit said, urging drivers not to speed.

— Chutharat Plerin

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The family was looking for a hotel.

## French family rescued from forest hike

A FRENCH family who went walking in search of a place to stay south of Nai Yang Beach were found safe and sound after losing their way in a forest.

Officers from the Phuket Tourist Police received a call for help from Frenchman Bill Letshon, 56, at about 6:30pm on December 26.

Ten Tah Chat Chai Police officers and Kusoldharm rescue workers quickly formed search teams and found the family in about two hours in the Ruak & Muang Forest, about six kilometers from where they began their trek, said Sub Lt Yuthana Chitcholartarn of Tah Chat Chai Police.

Mr Letshon and his daughters Ninon, 20; Rose, 19; and Elisa 16 were looking for a new hotel to stay in when they entered the forest.

"We realized we were walking into a forest, but we didn't understand how difficult the going would be. By 6:30pm, I realized that we were lost. I remembered the Tourist Police hotline number [Tel: 1155] from a brochure at the airport, so we called the police for help.

"Thank you to the police for finding us and bringing us back to safety," Mr Letshon said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

# Top cop plays down bomb

By Irfarn Jamdukor

THE commander of the Phuket Provincial Police has called for the media to not "help suspects" by publishing news of the car bomb found in Phuket Town on December 23.

The call from Maj Gen Ong-art Phiewruangnont for media silence follows police confirmation that the pickup truck rigged as a bomb was stolen from a man shot dead in a car heist in the strife-torn Deep South province of Pattani in May.

"The media is free to publish stories as they choose, but they must be aware that the more information they give about this story, the more confidence the suspects will have," Gen Ong-art told the *Gazette*.

"[The news] should be an official secret because we do not want it to affect Phuket's tourism image. Publishing the story may inspire a feeling of success for the perpetrators in their cause," Maj Gen Ong-art said.

Despite confirmation from other police stations that the



The truck was moved to a quarry so that the bomb (inset) could be safely disarmed. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

pickup truck owner, Withan Yachumnan, was shot dead in the carjacking of his vehicle in Pattani, Commander Ong-art remains unconvinced that the bomb found in Phuket is directly linked to the Deep South insurgency.

"It's possible, that's all we can say at this stage," he said.

In line with his call for silence on

the bomb scare, Gen Ong-art declined to reveal any details about the bomb or its potential blast effect.

Gen Ong-art also said he could not confirm that the truck bomb was the largest explosive device found in the island's peacetime history.

The *Gazette* notes that in its news team's 20 years of report-

ing incidents on the island, there has not been a single report of a bigger bomb being found here than the two gas cylinders rigged to explode in the pickup.

Commander Ong-art has ordered police across the island to be vigilant for suspiciously parked vehicles and to double patrols by calling in volunteers to assist.

## Three saved from burning building

A FAMILY of three was rescued from a burning building after being trapped by an electrical fire in their bedroom above the family shop in Phuket Town late on the night of January 4.

When police and firefighters, along with three fire trucks, arrived at the Modern PVC plumbing supplies store on Mae Luan Road at about 11:40pm, they found smoke pouring from the building.

Firefighters split into two teams: one to start attacking the blaze and the other to ensure the family were safely out of the

building.

"It took the fire team 20 minutes to put out the blaze," said Lt Col Chaliao Thaihoo of the Phuket City Police.

The other team of firefighters entered the building to rescue the family, who had become trapped by the flames.

Anucha Thanphrapasorn, 50, told the *Gazette* that he woke to the smell of burning, and saw the portable fan on his dresser on fire.

"Smoke started filling the bedroom, so I grabbed a fire extinguisher that we keep in the

house and tried to put out the flames. When I couldn't stop the fire, I called for help" he said.

Firefighters confirmed that evidence at the scene indicated the fire was started by a short circuit in the fan.

However, a little confused, Mr Anucha confirmed, "I switched off the portable fan in the bedroom before going to sleep."

Regardless, Col Chaliao said that a team of forensics investigators will be called in to confirm what started the fire.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



The scorched exterior of the plumbing building.



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## Nai Harn gets artificial reef blocks

VILLAGERS and marine officers joined together on December 24 to drop concrete frames into the sea at Nai Harn Bay as substructures for artificial coral reefs.

"There were over 50 people there to help drop 200 concrete frame-cubes," said Tanet Munnoy, chief of the Phuket Office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

"Coral reefs are important resources for marine animals. In our area, they have been affected by illegal fishing and natural disasters," Mr Tanet said.

The artificial reef blocks were placed for marine life to colonize and may be used as dive sites in the future, he said.

The DMCR received a 10-million baht budget to produce 1,300 reef-blocks and place them in areas around Phuket. Earlier in December they sank 200 blocks at Koh Hae, 200 at Koh Bon and 300 at Koh Kaew. In January the remaining 400 blocks will be de-



1,300 concrete frames will be dropped around Phuket. Photo: DMCR

posited in the sea around Koh Racha.

"We are working on improving our marine resources. We are also increasing awareness of the importance of coral reefs and encouraging people to help us

preserve them," he added.

Mr Thanet says that the program is also educating fishermen about fishing practices that will not have long-term negative effects on valuable marine resources.

— **Irfarn Jamdukor**

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## 22 bus drivers fail DUI test



Positive for alcohol. Photo: PLTO

LAW enforcement officials randomly tested bus drivers for drugs and alcohol during the 10 Days of Danger, and found 22 drivers working under the influence.

Thung Thong Police and Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) staff stopped buses at the Thung Thong checkpoint on Phra Barami Road before they headed over the hills to Patong.

"Of 200 bus drivers headed to Patong, 12 tested positive for drugs and two for alcohol. One truck driver also tested positive for drugs," said Jaturong Kaewkasi, Chief Transport Technician of the PLTO.

"At Bus Terminal 2, we tested 680 bus drivers, and seven tested positive for drugs, none for alcohol," Mr Jaturong said.

— Chutharat Plerin

# Parking victory in Patong



New limits on tuk-tuk and taxi parking have freed up spaces on Patong's beachfront road, seen above on January 4. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

By Chutharat Plerin

PATONG Police have declared success in dislodging taxis and tuk-tuks from parking spots on the Patong beach road.

"We succeeded in our goal of freeing up space between Prachanukroh Road and Soi Bangla. Each of the seven taxi ranks there are now limited to five vehicles each," Patong Police

Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat told the *Gazette* on January 2.

The freed parking spaces are now available to other locals, tourists and expats.

"We are continuing to enforce the new regulation that came into effect on December 31. We want to make sure that there are spaces available for visitors when they come to Patong," Lt

Col Akanit said.

Patong Police are now discussing reclaiming public parking spaces from the taxi ranks along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road and Phang Muang Sai Kor Road.

"We don't have a deadline for that project yet. However, in the meantime, we will continue to enforce the rule along the beachfront road to keep it free," Col Akanit said.

Col Akanit stressed that anyone who encounters unruly or threatening behavior by a taxi or tuk-tuk driver should call 191 immediately.

"Unacceptable behavior includes being deceived; threatened; attacked; overcharged; taken somewhere that is not your agreed destination; prevented from entering another taxi or tuk-tuk; or forced to use a particular taxi or tuk-tuk," he said.

## Safer Phuket seas

From page 1

...to have all the relevant departments involved in creating a unified approach to improving water safety," Mr Phuripat said on Wednesday.

"It is critical for us to co-ordinate our efforts. It is pointless carrying out one-off water safety campaigns and then forgetting about it," he added.

Duncan Stewart, founder of the Safer Phuket movement, announced the postponement of the inaugural summit on Monday.

"We've made a huge amount of progress, but with the current political situation, the momentum was starting to dissipate. Everyone is in interim status at the moment," he explained.

"We met with Governor Maitri to discuss the situation and it was unanimously decided that we should not compromise on our goals for the event, so postponement was essential," Mr Stewart said.

The summit was to take place over two days at the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) currently on show at the Boat Lagoon Marina in Koh Kaew (see story page 43)

The main objective was to bring together officials from diverse government departments to begin creating a unified vision of water safety in Phuket that meets international standards.

"Now we are looking to reconvene as soon as possible after the February 2 election," Mr Stewart said.

While the summit remains on ice, Safer Phuket is steaming ahead with its project to install an

additional 50 lifeguard towers on Phuket beaches.

"We see this as a demonstrable statement of safety intent that lets the world know our commitment and intentions," Mr Stewart told the *Gazette* before Safer Phuket's official launch late last year.

The lifeguard stations and professionalizing of the new lifeguards will be entirely funded by advertising and sponsorship of each tower.

Safer Phuket is already in discussion with interested sponsors and supporters.

Highlighting the need for greater vigilance in keeping swimmers safe, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Tourism Division reported 23 deaths at Phuket beaches last year.

During the same period, lifeguards rescued 928 people from Phuket's surf, comprising 105 Thais and 823 foreigners, mostly tourists.

"Phuket is a part of the global community through its status as an international holiday destination, and therefore there is considerable support from within the Thai community for Phuket to be seen as an exemplary tourism destination model," Safer Phuket Executive Co-ordinator Tarin Tachthongchan said.

"We want to be proactive and lead within Thailand, Asia and beyond. The good news is that we have completed a huge amount of work for the Summit at the PIMEX boat show, so once we have political clarity we can reconvene very quickly," she said.

Additional reporting by Isaac Stone Simonelli

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Gen Prayuth says government will be held accountable during shutdown. Photo: The Nation

## Army moves again set off coup chatter

THE nation is once again awash with rumors of a forthcoming military coup after the Army announced plans to roll a variety of heavy weaponry into Bangkok ahead of the "Bangkok shutdown".

The Army claims it is rolling military tanks, armored vehicles and other equipment into the capital for Children's Day on January 11, as well as the annual Armed Forces Day on January 18.

An Army spokesman denied the move was part of a coup plot, *The Nation* reported.

"No, the rumors are untrue. 'The parades have been planned since mid-2013,'" said Maj-Gen Wara Boonyasit.

But those words did little to steady jitters on the part of Thais who oppose military intervention.

Adding to fears were comments by Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, who said on Tuesday that the government would be held responsible for any violence during the shutdown.

Nevertheless, the situation did not warrant the declaration of a state of emergency, he said.

Gen Prayuth said he would try to have this conflict end rather than allow it to continue for several months as in 2010.

# Bangkok braces for closure

BANGKOKIANS are bracing themselves for the so-called "Bangkok shutdown" on Monday, when the People's Democratic Reform Committee has promised to bring the city to a standstill.

The PDRC says it will erect stages at seven key intersections across the city, blocking the traffic in a bid to force caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to step down, *The Nation* reported.

It wants the interim government to resign so that an appointed "People's Government" can carry out reforms it claims are necessary for Thailand to progress.

The group had earlier said it would occupy 20 locations, leading to speculation that the PDRC reduced its goals due to lack of support.

The group plans to end its rally at Ratchadamnoen Avenue before moving to the new locations.

The seven locations are the Government Complex at Chaeng Wattana, Lat Phrao Intersection, Victory Monument, Pathumwan Intersection, Lumpini Park, Asoke Intersection and Ratchaprasong Intersection.

Suthep Thaugsuban, leader of the PDRC, has promised that the demonstrators will not occupy the two major airports, Don Muang and Suvarnabhumi, as happened in 2008.

He has also said that buses will be allowed to operate as normal and that the BTS and MRT mass transit rail lines will also be left alone.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck has expressed concern at the PDRC's plans.

She criticized the group's plans to cut water and power supplies at state agencies, saying this would only cause trouble for residents in the capital.

On Monday Ms Yingluck vis-



Police are expected to keep the peace during the capital's shutdown. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE nation

ited Suvarnabhumi International Airport to provide moral support to security officials.

While she was making the in-

spection, police applauded and shouted "PM, fight on", prompting her eyes to brim with tears.

A Pheu Thai Party source said it had been suggested that an emergency decree be invoked to deal with the PDRC's actions.

With a state of emergency in effect, the military would have to take charge and oversee operations to deal with the protesters.

But key military figures have

allegedly opposed the move and said they would prefer to play a back-up role to the police.

The source, a key Pheu Thai figure, said certain military leaders appeared sympathetic to the PDRC.

"If the Army does not comply should the government request for it to be involved, the prime minister has the right to remove the military leaders," he said.

## NACC to probe MPs, Senators

THE National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is to investigate 308 MPs and Senators who voted or sponsored a bill that would have altered the composition of the Senate.

The Constitution Court earlier ruled that the charter change amendment, which would have led to a fully elected Senate instead of the current partially appointed Upper House, was unconstitutional, leading to the NACC investigation.

Some observers warned that the NACC ruling would be part of a so-called "silent coup" in progress to oust the government of Yingluck Shinawatra, *The Nation* reported.

Ms Yingluck was not among the 308. The NACC said that Ms Yingluck and 72 lawmakers voted for the bill only in the third reading while a further eight did not vote for it on the third reading, so the NACC decided not to charge them.

It is not clear what effects the



Yingluck not named by NACC as part of the 308 people being investigated. Photo: The Nation

ruling will have on the lawmakers' ability to take part in the election currently scheduled for February 2.

The election is controversial. The Democrat Party has decided to boycott the poll, while the PDRC, currently campaigning for a "reform" process that would end the influence of the Shinawatra clan in Thai politics, does not want it to take place at all.



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# Cambodia on the run

## AROUND THE region

By Prak Chan Thul

THE Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Tuesday summoned Opposition party leaders Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha to appear in court on January 14 to be questioned about the deadly clashes last week that left five people dead and 37 injured.

The court also summoned Rong Chhun, president of the Cambodian Confederation of Unions, to answer charges of inciting crimes and social unrest.

Mr Chhun was one of the six union leaders who led nationwide strikes to increase the minimum wage from US\$80 to US\$160 before the violent clashes.

All six protest leaders are now in hiding.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of garment workers have returned to work, ending the two-week pay dispute after authorities used deadly force on January 3 to disband the strike.



A security guard chases monks from a demonstrators' camp during the riots in Phnom Penh. Photo: Reuters

About 350,000 workers had joined the strike, which threatened to cripple the country's main export industry, with more than US\$5 billion in revenue a year coming in from big international brands such as Adidas, Gap, Puma and H&M Hennes & Mauritz.

Central to the strike and protest was opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) leader Sam Rainsy, who claimed the government cheated its way to power in the July 15 elections and is depriving workers of fair wages.

Mr Rainsy also condemned the

violence and demanded a thorough investigation.

Ken Loo, secretary-general of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC), which represents 521 factories, put the losses suffered at "more than US\$200 million".

— *Cambodia Herald / Reuters*

## In brief...

### Philippines probes typhoon shelter kickbacks claims

REHABILITATION chief Panfilo Lacson has begun investigating reports of collusion between contractors and at least one politician to pocket kickbacks of up to 35 per cent in the construction of bunkhouses for victims of super typhoon "Yolanda".

Mr Lacson, a former senator and Philippine National Police chief, tapped the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to help gather evidence in the investigation he quietly initiated during his first visit in the affected areas. — *Philippine Inquirer*

### Thein Sein vows nationwide ceasefire soon

MYANMAR President Thein Sein announced in his Independence Day message on January 4 that the government is planning to hold a nationwide ceasefire agreement ceremony in the near future.

"It is high time all national peoples seek every possible way to reach genuine and eternal peace after ending the decade-long internal conflicts. Coordination is being made for signing a nationwide ceasefire agreement," Thein Sein said. — *Eleven Media*

## Aussies repel boat people to Indonesian waters

INDONESIAN authorities confirmed on Monday that for the first time under a new policy the Australian Navy had driven a boatload of migrants attempting to enter their country into Indonesian waters.

The East Nusa Tenggara Police said they found 45 undocumented migrants from Africa and the Middle East aboard a boat floating adrift off the island of Rote Ndao after it failed to enter Australia.

The migrants comprised 28 Somali nationals, nine Sudanese, two Eritreans, three Egyptians and three individuals from Ghana, Lebanon and Yemen, the police said.

Nine of the immigrants were women, while none were children.

Quoting one of the boat people, Rote Ndao Police Chief Hidayat said that the Australian



Asylum seekers argue with Indonesian police at a shelter in Merak in September. Photo: Reuters

Navy provided the migrants with life vests and communication equipment before repelling them into Indonesian waters.

"The Australian Navy knows that the local ship crews will usually put leaks in boats that

aim to enter Australian waters, thus they took the initiative to anticipate it," Hidayat added.

Jakarta has opposed Canberra's "turn back the boats" policy and has refused to receive asylum seekers sent back by the Australian authorities.

In November, the two neighboring countries were engaged in a standoff over the policy before Jakarta froze bilateral cooperation following revelations that Australia had attempted to spy on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his aides.

As of Tuesday, the Indonesian government had yet to announce it would resume cooperation anytime soon, despite Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visiting Jakarta to meet her Indonesian counterpart, Marty Natalegawa, last month. — *The Jakarta Post*

### Penang fishermen land record catch

FISHERMEN at the Cecil Street market in Penang have set another Malaysian record, this time netting a 200kg fish measuring 2.4m long.

The previous record fish weighed 195kg and measured 1.8m long, and was caught by fishermen from the same market in December 2012. — *The Star*



Monster catch



**Dickie's Light House restaurant and bar**, formerly known as Jimmy's Lighthouse, opened December 7 following an extensive refurbishment.

Featuring a new kitchen, great new deck and dining area and bar overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay, the decor is simple and complete with heavy teak tables and highly polished wooden floors.

Dickie's Light House hosts an extensive range of both Thai and Western foods and all-day breakfasts – all at prices that will astound you; the average meal is around 250 baht with all Thai dishes at or under 150 baht; steaks 350-400 baht – all very generous portions. Sunday roasts as well.

Dickie's Lighthouse also offers five accommodations, all with air-conditioning and queen-sized beds. All rooms have large windows overlooking the yachts, long-tail and motor boats moored in beautiful Chalong Bay. The sunrises are spectacular from all five rooms, which are newly furnished and very tastefully decorated.

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## In brief...

### Chinese drug cop implicated in huge armed ya ice raid

A CHINESE drug enforcement officer has been linked to government officials arrested after the seizure of nearly three tonnes of the drug *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) in the southern province of Guangdong last month, local media reported. Thousands of armed police arrested at least 182 people in a dramatic raid on the town of Boshe.

Investigators found that a captain of the drug enforcement squad in surrounding Lufeng city, Mr Guo, was linked to Cai Dongjia, who was arrested in December.

### Whale hunt keeps pressure on Aussie minister's policies

ANTI-WHALING activists said on Monday they had captured images of Japanese ships killing protected whales inside an internationally recognized whale sanctuary.

The aerial footage has raised pressure on Environment Minister Greg Hunt, who has backed away from a promise made during Australia's election campaign last year to send a ship to monitor Japanese whaling in the area.

### Chinese cops detain activists ahead of newspaper protest

CHINESE authorities have detained activists in the southern city of Guangzhou to try to derail a protest planned for Tuesday to commemorate a strike by reporters at an outspoken newspaper.

The clampdown comes on the first anniversary of a rare newsroom strike at the *Southern Weekly* over censorship.

### German Chancellor breaks pelvis skiing

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel has broken her pelvis in a cross-country skiing accident, forcing her to call off some foreign visits and official appointments just when she needs to bed down her fractious new coalition government.

## Central African Republic violence displaces nearly 1 million

VIOLENCE in Central African Republic (CAR) has uprooted nearly a million people, a fifth of the population, and is hampering aid efforts, particularly in the capital Bangui, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said.

A flare-up in violence between Muslim fighters and Christian militias has displaced more than 200,000 people in the past few weeks alone, leaving a total of 935,000 homeless.

A Muslim rebel group, the Seleka, unleashed a wave of killing and looting after seizing power in March, and the deployment of 1,600 French and nearly 4,000 African Union peacekeepers has done little to contain the tit-for-tat

violence between religious communities.

"Insecurity and chaos around the site... prevents us from doing any distribution," UNHCR spokesman Babar Baloch said. "It's a horrible situation. We have heard a lot about revenge attacks happening inside health centers."

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said it was cutting services to a minimum at its airport clinic after stray bullets killed three children and injured 40 people this week.

"We are not going to continue to put the lives of our personnel at risk," Lindis Hurum, its coordinator at the site, told Reuters.

— Reuters



Displaced CAR citizens gather. Photo: Reuters

# Syria war waters new life for Iraq al Qaeda

By Suadad al-Salhy

AL QAEDA gunmen seeking to form a radical Islamic state out of the chaos of Syria's civil war are fighting hard to reconquer the province they once controlled in neighboring Iraq, stirring fears the conflict is exporting ever more instability.

Exploiting local grievances against Baghdad's rule and buoyed by al Qaeda gains in Syria, the fighters have taken effective control of Anbar's two main cities for the first time since US occupation troops defeated them in 2006-07.

Their advance is ringing alarm bells in Washington: The United States has pledged to help Baghdad quell the militant surge in Anbar — although not with troops — to stabilize a province that saw the heaviest fighting of the US occupation.

Washington announced it was speeding up deliveries of military equipment to help Baghdad fight the gunmen. This would include missiles, surveillance drones and helicopters.

Al Qaeda's Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has a tough potential foe in Anbar's well-armed

tribes, fellow Sunnis ill-disposed to ceding power to al Qaeda even if they share ISIL's hostility to the Shi'ite-led central government.

And the group's goal of creating a hardline Islamic state reaching into Syria is still seen by many as far-fetched.

But its high-profile push into Ramadi and Falluja illustrates the dangers of conflict spreading from Syria's three-year-old conflict, which is in part a proxy war between Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shi'ite rival Iran, analysts say.

ISIL fighters operate in Syria as well, and recent setbacks for the group in the war there mean its Iraqi members may be all the more determined to secure gains in Anbar, analysts say.

"Both the Syrian and the Iraqi conflict are feeding upon one another," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East expert at the London School of Economics.

"There is already a fierce geostrategic struggle unfolding in the Arab arena between Saudi Arabia and Iran. There is a real danger that all-out war in Iraq could pour more gasoline on this raging fire and destabilize fragile Arab countries," said Mr Gerges.

The ISIL fighters are exploiting



Tribal fighters have been deployed on the streets of Baghdad. Photo: Reuters

simmering Sunni anger against the Shi'ite-led government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad, seen by many Sunnis as a high-handed autocrat beholden to Iran.

They are also making the most

of rising sectarian sentiment around the region and a weakening of government control in those Arab countries most affected by the popular uprisings since 2011.

— Reuters

## B-Ball for big Kim's birthday

FORMER NBA basketball star Dennis Rodman arrived in North Korea on Monday with a team of retired professional basketball players to mark the birthday of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The visit marked Mr Rodman's fourth trip to North Korea, where he and his team of fellow former National Basketball Association stars were to hold basketball games on Mr Kim's birthday, which is believed to fall on January 8.

On previous visits, Mr Rodman spent time dining as a guest of Mr



Dennis Rodman (left) Photo: Reuters

Kim, with whom he says he has a genuine friendship, though he did not meet Mr Kim on his third trip. Mr Rodman, however, said he

will not interfere in the country's politics.

"People always say that North Korea is like a really communist country, that people are not allowed to go there," Mr Rodman said in Beijing. "I just know the fact that, you know, to me he's a nice guy, to me," he said of Mr Kim.

"Whatever he does political-wise, that's not my job. I'm just an athlete, an individual who wants to go over there and play something for the world. That's it," he added.

— Reuters

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# Fresh start for Thavorn Grand

## PROPERTY Gazette

By Somchai Huasaikul

SOME good news for the property market in the heart of Phuket Town: the old Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel has been acquired by an owner affiliated with the Accor Group of hotels and is now undergoing a complete renovation for a scheduled rebranding under one of that group's many hotel chains.

Work at the site had been under way for almost a month before the *Gazette* could get any workers at the site to volunteer information as to who was funding it.

Also part of the massive overhaul is the adjacent Grand Plaza Massage complex opposite the Robinson Department Store, which closed at about the same



time as the Thavorn Grand Plaza in late 2011.

After repeated attempts, one of the workers said he had heard that the project would take two years to complete and then reopen under the Novotel brand.

The *Gazette* contacted Olivier Nourry, the new General Manager at Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong, to try and confirm the information. Mr Nourry, who was just in his fourth day at the new position when contacted, put us in touch with Vasu Thirasak, Regional Director of Communications for the Accor Group in Southeast and North-east Asia.

Mr Vasu confirmed by email that the complex had been acquired by one of the hotel owners in the Accor Group, but added that "we don't yet know what he has in plan for this hotel".

Accor, the world's leading hotel operator and market leader

in Europe, is present in 92 countries with more than 3,500 hotels and 450,000 rooms which include high-end names like Novotel, Sofitel and Pullman.

In Thailand it operates 50 properties with a total of 11,840 rooms, according to its website. These include: three Sofitels, five Pullman, five MGallery boutique hotels, twelve Novotel, nine Mercure, nine Ibis, three Ibis Styles, as well as four unbranded properties.

Mr Vasu has promised to inform the *Gazette* as soon as possible as to the owner's plans for the complex.

The eleven-story structure that formerly housed the Thavorn Grand Plaza hotel, now over 20 years old, offers excellent views of Phuket Town and Phuket Bay from its upper floors and rooftop restaurant.

As age took its toll on the property over the years, the hotel gradually transformed itself into more of a budget accommodation in the heart of Phuket Town.

It remains to be seen if the surrounding area, which has undergone a considerable amount of urban decay over the years, could justify a five-star property. However any reopening of the facilities would be seen as a boon to businesses in the area.



The Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel will undergo major renovations over the next two years following its recent acquisition by the Accor Group.

## Optimistic outlook

WITH the global economy showing signs of recovery this year and Thailand well placed to benefit from being a hub within the upcoming Asean Economic Community (AEC), Land & Houses President Naporn Sunthornchitcharoen is generally positive about the Kingdom's 2014 economic outlook.

The domestic political crisis is the one key factor that could damage this year's prospects, he said in a recent interview.

In relation to the government's planned infrastructure mega-project, which could be delayed by the Constitutional Court, he said: "Thailand really needs the infrastructure spending to prepare ourselves for the AEC [in 2015] and improve our logistics. So I think we will finally see the project taking place."

He added that in both the United States and Japan, solid economic data pointed to stronger economic momentum this year,



Land and Houses president Naporn Sunthornchitcharoen. Photo: The Nation

which was a positive factor for global economic growth and should drive an improved Thai export performance.

— *The Nation*



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# Privilege aims high

By Maciek Klimowicz

WITH the lasting development boom in Phuket, one might find it difficult to keep track of all the new condominiums and villa projects appearing on the island's map. That's why Karn Jiratuntathorn, the owner of the Privilege residences in Patong is aiming for something different.

"My project is not the same as other. There are many projects coming to Phuket from Bangkok with small units and low prices. Privilege is different – the units are big and the location is great with a beautiful sea view of the whole Patong bay. Only four, maybe five other projects have a sea view," he says.

"This is a high-end project. Many wealthy people come to Phuket and they don't have a big choice of high-end apartments – we're here to change that. We're aiming at people who enjoy luxury and high quality finishes."

The construction, which began in 2011, is complete and the apartments are ready to occupy. Out of the 49 available units, 12 were sold during the pre-sale period. The remaining units come in different sizes and

shapes. Buyers can choose from one bedroom apartments (68sqm), two bedrooms (153 sqm), three bedrooms (188sqm), and last but not least, a single penthouse sized 332sqm.

All rooms come with a plunge pool on the balconies and all apartments in buildings A and B of the four buildings the project is composed of, enjoy a beautiful sea view. The prices – depending whether or not there is a sea view – start at 85,000 to 95,000 baht per sqm for an apartment without a sea view and go up to 100,000 to 130,000 baht per sqm for an apartment with a view of Patong Bay.

The most expensive apartment – the 332 sqm penthouse costs 49 million baht and the most affordable single bedroom apartment without a sea view starts at just above 6 million baht. "All this in a serene neighborhood just two minutes away from Kalim beach and a 10 minute drive from the nightlife, and shopping center of Patong," says Khun Jiratuntathorn.

The common area of the Privilege offers a steam sauna, fitness area, infinity edge roof-



**PRIVILEGED:** The infinity edge rooftop swimming pool with an amazing view of Patong Bay. Photo: Supplied

top swimming pool and a small restaurant with room service available. All this combined with as many as 37 parking spaces make for an attractive package.

For customers looking for investment opportunities, the privilege operator offers a special program with 6% of guaranteed return for three years. For those who enter the rental program the operator offers 65% of the income generated by the unit.

For more information go to the Privilege website: [theprivilege.co.th](http://theprivilege.co.th)



No compromises – the Privilege offers serene atmosphere near the night life and shopping zones of Patong.



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# So near and yet so far

ASIA'S resort property scene is not unlike any other industry, in that it's always on the lookout for the next big thing. What do they say about the key to success – location location location. Is that one or three? Perhaps there is just an echo in the room or the snoring of an elephant next door.

Of course there remain other options than following the pack, you can always be a pioneer. In the old west, the perils of heading off alone into new territory often resulted in a barrage of deadly arrows aimed in your direction. Fatal? You bet. What real estate investors need to mimic is no different than following in the heels of the Microsoft/Bill Gates strategy and draft your way to prosperity in the wake of the more daring and often times less successful.

Whether you are in Phuket, Bali or elsewhere, tracking down the smart real estate market is no easy feat. One great example of speculation which backfired in the short term is the Natai area of southern Phang Nga, just over the bridge. In what was hailed to be the next Phuket, with high profile projects such as Richard Li's redevelopment of the 1,000 rai Thai Muang golf course into a mixed use world-class destination resort. Nearby were planned hotels branded to global brands such as Ritz-Carlton and the term "the Hamptons of Asia" came into vogue.

All of this quickly changed when government planning legislation effectively killed the deal with onerous restrictions on commercial areas from Thai Muang to the very southern tip of Phang Nga. Developers hit the snooze switch and things turned very quiet.



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

Track down to Bali and southern Lombok which for more years than I can remember has been touted to be the next big thing with the mega-development Mandalika Resort Development. This was to have become the next Nusa Dua and is managed by BTDC which has successfully driven the former in south Bali to great success. Today, the progress is just starting to gain momentum but the whispers remain as to how long will it take to get into the ground.

But like the stories of the pioneers, we are now entering a stage where both Bali and Phuket have firmly moved into the category of urban resort destinations and there is a defined number of new projects going beyond the boundaries of the big two.

A good case in point is that many industry types are facing the introduction of new, more liberal development guidelines in southern Phang Nga, which are currently in draft form but could be implemented in the first half of 2014. We have already seen Thai listed developer Charn Issara announce a new project in the area, after their successful Sri Panwa estate has fared well in terms of both property and hospitality success.

Over in Phi Phi, the Beach project, which will be branded by Bugatti, is on the radar. While further afield Centara has recently done a large deal in Krabi at the Pelican development. With a bridge under construction in nearby Koh Lanta that spans at least one island, the island is seeing a new rise of activity as well.

Down south, the deep deep south of Bali over the equator a similar transformation is taking place – pushing out of the urbanizing posh southern area. There is an outer island vibe pushing property transactions higher and higher in Nusa Lembongan, the three main Gili's and into Lombok itself.

One good example of the trend is the Latitude 8.1 Property Group with their hotel branded project just near Senggigi. Noted green architect Charlie Hearn has designed well thought out modern pool villas with some excellent ideas on sustainability. As we have seen in Phuket, investment type buyers are the key movers in the resort grade space and in this case Latitude has enlisted the Archipelago chain's Royal Kamuela brand to spur sales.

I spoke to Dan Miller who heads up Jones Lang LaSalle in Bali and his comment is that the



Photo: Rene Ehrhardt

## Legal restrictions put development in southern Phang Nga on hold.

project has been selling with great success on the back of a trio of divers – it's priced right from US\$ 400,000 up, has a dynamic ocean view and a known hotel operator.

As for those who are looking to get off the beaten path, the best

advice is to always take a forward looking view of the importance of infrastructure, you can only stay there if you can get there. While it's great to be a pioneer, perhaps just a move out of arm's reach is a great first step.



Bugatti is leading the pack in Koh Phi Phi and Laem Hin with its beach-front projects. Photo: Supplied

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# Outlook bright for Dubai expo



**Exhibition grows by 25%; 300 exhibitors from 80 countries to participate from April 8-10**

THE 10th International Property Show (IPS), which will coincide with the Annual Investment Meeting 2014, from April 8-10 in the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Center, will attract 300 companies from 80 countries.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud media sponsors of the exhibition, which this year will be the biggest edition since its inception.

Supported by the Dubai Land Department, the IPS has emerged as one of the leading regional real-estate meeting platforms for developers, investors and regional and international companies working in this field.

Sponsored by over 80 media partners, the 10th edition of the show has attracted 60% of property developers and 40% of property related sectors.

HE Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, Director General of the Dubai Land Department said that the IPS provides an ideal platform that brings together developers, real estate brokers, private and institutional investors, major local and international real estate companies, providing a unique opportunity to clinch lucrative business and investment deals.

He added that the growth rates of the real estate sector in the

region were very promising.

"We are witnessing an extraordinary period and the UAE is a fundamental pillar of this growth. The huge investments being made by local and regional companies in the development of infrastructure are among the greatest, not only in the MENA region, but also globally," he said.

Dawood Al Shezawi, CEO, Strategic Marketing & Exhibitions, organizers of the IPS, said: "We anticipate major regional and international



Dawood Al Shezawi.

participation in the IPS mainly because it is the first edition after Dubai won the bid for hosting Expo 2020. There is growing interest from real-estate developers from all over the world in the local market, especially Dubai, which is witnessing dynamic growth in the construction and infrastructure sectors."

He added: "We are ready for an extraordinary show in April. We have received encouraging feedback that points to a great show. The UAE real estate market is attracting international companies and service providers that are keen to expand presence in the region."

The previous edition unveiled 12 major regional projects by prominent developers. According to the organizers, this edition will



The 10th International Property Show will bring together a vast array of developers, brokers and investors.

see a higher number of new projects to be launched.

Of the participating companies, 18% are from hotel and leisure segment and 17% from commercials and residential, with the remainder including offices (15%), retailers (13%), urban development authorities (12%) and free zones (10%).

Exhibitors are coming from all over Europe, Asia Pacific and North and South-East Africa. These will include developers involved in the development of residential communities and high-rise buildings, entertainment facilities, retail outlets, financial

institutions, banks and investment companies, pension funds, asset management companies, authorities, investment zones and engineers of construction and interior design.

On a relevant note, the Global Built Asset Wealth Index, which quantifies the accumulated wealth of built assets of 30 countries and is conducted by EC Harris in conjunction with the Center for Economic and Business Research, has revealed that the Middle East real-estate market is expected to witness a built asset increase of 63%, amounting to US\$8.7 trillion by 2022.

According to this Index, when it comes to built assets wealth per person, the UAE's built asset wealth stood at \$122,809 per person, while in China it was \$26,000, which is slightly more than one-fifth of the UAE.

— *Phuket Gazette*

*Strategic Marketing & Exhibitions is the leading exposition and conference organizer in the UAE, based in Dubai. The company has grown dramatically and contributed immensely to the exhibition industry. Find out more about the upcoming exhibition at [internationalpropertyshow.ae](http://internationalpropertyshow.ae)*



The new condos are being marketed towards singles and young couples.

## Laguna Park Condominiums launched

LAGUNA Park Condominiums, the latest development by Laguna Property, was launched as the final component of the Laguna Park master plan's first phase.

The condominiums follow the recent and successful introduction of townhomes and villas to the project's plan.

"With the Laguna Park condominiums, we are targeting single residents and young couples with the appeal of the integrated Laguna lifestyle at an affordable price point. The concept of Laguna Park is 'growing together', and we aim to provide primary homes to residents, with the added security of a gated development, a family-friendly community and a wide range of facilities, amenities and services," said Mr Stuart Reading, Deputy MD of Laguna Resorts and Hotels.

### Prime address

Laguna Park is located adjacent to Laguna Phuket, a fully-integrated resort destination comprising five star resorts, golf course, residences, shopping village, spas, restaurants and bars.

Laguna Park's Bang Tao address puts the community within close proximity of Phuket International Airport, schools, beaches, retail outlets, and supermarkets – affording convenience for residents and bolstering the desirability of the homes.

### Livable by design

A total of 302 condominium units are planned, housed in two buildings, each with seven stories. Freehold ownership for foreign buyers will also be available. The condominiums will overlook the fairways of Laguna Phuket Golf Course, Phuket's only resort-based 18-hole course, which is in the process of being upgraded.

All apartments come in one-bedroom configurations with a separate living area and kitchen. The homes, which range from 32 to 43 square meters in size, have been designed with maximum usable floor space in mind.

### Park perks

All Laguna Park homeowners will receive a resident's card, which entitles the cardholder to

privileges and discounts within Laguna Phuket, at the resort restaurants, bars and spas.

Laguna Park residents will also enjoy access to a community recreation area which will include a swimming pool as well as the Laguna beach club area.

In addition to affordability, homeowners at Laguna Park will benefit from comprehensive after-sales service provided by Laguna's estate service team.

Construction is expected to commence in the latter part of 2014, with completion of condominium blocks scheduled to take 18 to 24 months.

Show units are now open at Laguna Property's new property sales center, located near the entrance to Laguna Phuket, where customers can find more information about Laguna Park, as well as the group's portfolio of properties in Phuket and worldwide.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit [lagunaproperty.com](http://lagunaproperty.com) or call +66 (0)76 362 333



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# Coming up in Wonderland

By Maciek Klimowicz

WHEN the *Phuket Gazette* interviewed them a few months back, Sonu Kapoor and Vikram Singh, the owners of Events International, had just settled in Phuket and were about to set out on their mission to quench the island's thirst for more fun. Now, with two sold-out Abba Forever shows behind them, we know they placed their bets right – Phuket is a Wonderland for businesses dealing with arts and entertainment – two things the island needs more of, and as much as Abba Forever delivered, it was just the beginning. “We got an overwhelming response, people started asking what's next. That's why we're serious about the upcoming shows,” says Sonu.

But before they move on to the upcoming events, they take a minute to reflect on the past and what they learned from the shows in Laguna. “We got a better response than we expected, and I think the main reason for that was the tremendous amount of publicity that we did. In the future, as time goes by and people become more and more aware of the kind of activity we offer, we should tone down the publicity,” explains Vikram, adding that the effort did pay off. “We broke even. Which we didn't expect, because whenever you do something for the first time, normally you expect to lose a bit of money. As in any business, it takes some time to build it.”

But what Sonu finds especially gratifying is not only the financial

side of the enterprise, but the way the previous shows brought different people together to share good fun. “What was great was the different age groups coming in. We had five-year-olds having fun, 30-plus, 40-plus and even 70-plus enjoying the show. It was meant to be a family



Classic with a twist coming to Phuket. entertainment show and that's something we achieved.”

And even though their next show, another Gazette Headline Event, is aimed at the youngest members of Phuket's audience, Sonu and Vikram are convinced that it will attract people of all ages again. “We're bringing a children's musical from London – *Alice in Wonderland*. But I'm sure a lot of parents will also show up with their kids. The venue is absolutely amazing – fabulous sound, light, great food and a lot of parking,” says Vikram. Sonu confirms, “I was talking to one 50-plus lady about *Alice in Wonderland* and I asked

if she's going to come and she replied, 'Of course I'm going to come!', even though she doesn't have any kids here to bring to the show. So again, the age of the audience could be anything from four to 70.”

There sure is a lot in the upcoming show to attract people of all ages. “There were many versions of *Alice in Wonderland* in the past but this has its own special take on the classic. There are a lot of songs and music, and as we can't carry all 25 actors from London, there will be seven or eight actors playing multiple roles, which means many costumes,” explains Vikram. “There's a lot of audience interaction too,” adds Sonu.

Not only are Sonu and Vikram experimenting with their target audience, but also with the venues.

“We use a different venue every time. Last time, Laguna did a fabulous job. Now for *Alice in Wonderland*, we managed to get the Simon Star Theater in Phuket Town, which is a completely different venue,” explains Vikram.

And to keep true to their idea of bringing the island closer together, this time Events International wants to attract more locals to the show. “We want to reach out to the Thai community. So we reach out to Thai schools to have the students participate,” explains Sonu. “A dear friend of ours, Kuhn Kiranee Narabal, who comes from an educational background and is a lecturer at one of the universities, has been helping us to contact all the big schools like Thai Hua, Satee, Phuket Wittayalai and all the others, and they have been



*Alice in Wonderland* is pure fun for children – young and old.

very, very welcoming and positive about it. So we're hoping to see a good Thai crowd as well,” she adds.

Thanks to Events International, both Thais and foreigners will get many more chances to enjoy live music and theater in the upcoming months. After *Alice in Wonderland*, Phuket will be rocked by a Beatles tribute band, a show from the West End, and a Jazz concert. “We all have different tastes. The idea is to bring in different productions, get as many people as possible to enjoy the shows, and get the whole community together.”

“We are experimenting, but at the same time the idea is to reach many people and different age groups to make sure everybody is happy when they leave the concert,” explains Sonu. “And I think everybody on the island should be enjoying culture, not just the international community, or Thai

community, but everybody. Music goes beyond all these borders.”

Here are the schools that helped market *Alice in Wonderland*: British International School, Headstart, Kajonkiet International Schools, QSI, Oak Meadow International, Phuket Wittayalai school, Satee Phuket School, Darasamuth Phuket School Daorung School, Phuket Thai Hua School, and Anuphas Phuket Town.

Events International presents *Alice in Wonderland* on January 25 and 26, 11:00am at the Simon Star Theater in Phuket Town. Tickets are 600 baht and are available at Les Diables Boat Lagoon, Villa Market Chalong, and Canal Village Laguna. For more information call 091-326 0276 or e-mail [indiafilmworks@gmail.com](mailto:indiafilmworks@gmail.com).



Seven or eight actors will play the roles of 20, meaning a lot of costume changes. There will be heaps of audience interaction too. Photos: Supplied

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# Seks' party interrupted

THIS year's Red Cross Fair ended on a bitter note, with incidents of lethal violence near the fairgrounds and a political protest that prevented one of Thailand's most famous rock stars from taking the stage (see page 2).

The last-minute cancellation of a scheduled performance by Sek Loso left scores of excited fans deeply disappointed, once again demonstrating that Phuket is "all in" on the disturbing trend of protesting to achieve collective socio-political and economic goals rather than relying on the rule of law, the foundations of which crumble with each successful protest.

This year's Red Cross Fair at Saphan Hin, by far the largest event of its kind on the island, appeared even larger than those held in previous years. We hope the organizing committee will look into all the problems that blemished this year's edition and take steps to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Though admittedly there is little the group could have done to prevent the protesters from sacking a key act on the final Saturday night, there are several other details that once shored up will make a huge difference for everyone attending the event.

Among the growing pains noted was that the scale of the event this year apparently made it necessary to extend the booth and exhibition area out onto the main road that runs to the tip of Saphan Hin, causing one of the worst traffic and parking problems the area has seen since the Songkran Festival last year.

With thousands of families arriving to enjoy the fair, the roadside booths forced parents with young children to brave walking in the street to reach the main event area.

Perhaps the best indication that the event had grown beyond the capacity of the venue was on the final night, when the featured Thai pop band playing on the main stage with a deafeningly loud sound system competed head on with a second large stage set up about 50 meters away, hosting a transgender cabaret show.

We have no doubt that this conflict of interest, between the desire to grow and the desire to produce a quality fair, has been noted by the Red Cross Society committee members and will be taken into account during next year's planning.

However, what is deeply concerning and remains unknown is how the protesters will continue to impose their will on their fellow islanders.

Just last month they blockaded all but one MP candidate from registering for the controversial February 2 national elections (see page 4), and though this action did not seem particularly democratic, it was a political action within a political sphere. To have these protesters expand their influence to something as good-willed as the Red Cross Fair is a very different matter.



## Alert drivers for passenger safety

*Re: Phuket bus drivers caught under the influence, December 28*

It is a good idea to control the intake of alcohol or drugs. It would also be useful to stop speeding buses and minivans and most importantly, check the driving time of drivers.

Drivers who are responsible for the lives of passengers should not be on the road for 8, 10 or 12 hours without rest. There is a lot of work to do, a lot of pressure within companies, but I trust the Thai security officials to increase safety.

Phil Patong

### The good old days were not long ago...

*Re: Phuket Opinion: The toll of tourism, January 5*

As one who was here before "development" took off, this article sums it up perfectly.

When I arrived to live in Phuket in 1995 I think there were about three traffic lights on the island. Numerous beautiful beaches, now off limits by hotel dictates, were easily accessible.

We all wondered how long it would take for corruption and greed to destroy this tropical paradise. Sadly, our worst fears materialized too quickly.

Steve Rubenstein  
Gazette forum

### ...and what's the plan for the future?

*Re: Phuket Opinion: The toll of tourism, January 5*

There seems to be no master plan about how Phuket should look five or 10 years from now.

As there are too many empty buildings already and secondhand houses can't be sold, all the construction work is just a big bubble that will explode soon, with consequences for the island's

## Letters to the Editor

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

non-tourist economy.

However, some people will have made enough money by then.

Ricardo  
Gazette forum

### Teach tourists culture

*Re: Frenchman needed brain surgery after brutal bashing, January 4*

It seems way over the top for some guy to have his face messed up to save some other guy's face!

On a more serious note, I think that all tourists entering Thailand should be given a simple brochure to read on the plane, stating the "dos and don'ts". Then just maybe we will have fewer incidents. Rule number one: Don't drink and talk!

Dave  
Gazette forum

### Speeding fines should be a lot higher...

*Re: Phuket speed cameras dish out tickets for holiday season, January 4*

1,000 baht is still not enough. It has to be significant to make people really think about the consequences.

Lorraine  
Gazette forum

### ...not for Thais, but for foreigners...

*Re: Phuket speed cameras dish out tickets for holiday season, January 4*

I guess 1,000 baht is a proper fine for Thais. It hurts enough as it is about three days of work for them to earn it back.

It would only be fair to make the same calculation for foreigners. So it should be at least 10,000 baht for farang. Or double, why not?

After all, there is never a good excuse for speeding and it should teach them to behave in a country where they are only visitors.

Joe  
Gazette forum

### ...for slowpokes too...

*Re: Phuket speed cameras dish out tickets for holiday season, January 4*

Fine those driving a salaeng (motorbike with sidecar) at 7kmh on the bypass road with a sidecar full of gas bottles, babies, garbage and a 97-year-old grandma... while talking on a mobile phone.

Nandoor  
Gazette forum

### Good news is a relief

*Re: Tesco Extra officially open in Phuket, January 3*

It's lovely to have a positive story from Phuket, rather than drugs, road deaths, drownings, protests. Roller skates, memories of the entrepreneur Billy Butlin. Well done, Tesco. The story made me smile.

Tony Robinson  
Gazette forum

### Keep tracking killer

*Re: Jintana's family continues search for justice after execution-style murder, January 2*

Good luck to Khun Winyoo and his family. Keep pushing the police to do their job and get some justice. For the police to say [a dispute with an employee] "probably caused her murder" isn't good enough and offers the family no closure at all.

Chalong resident  
Gazette forum

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# Stricter penalties will deter thieves

## FIRST PERSON

RIGHT now, I do everything I can think of to protect my shop from thieves. I rely on the police, but only in the aftermath of a robbery – they can't prevent a theft from happening.

There's just one thing I'd like to see that I think would help prevent robberies: the government should stiffen penalties for theft.

The current penalty – six years in jail – is not a strong enough deterrent. Imagine this: A thief steals a million baht and spends it. Then he's caught and goes to court. The sentence is six years, but if he confesses, he can get it reduced by up to three years.

So here's someone who in a few minutes can get the same amount of money it takes other people six years or more to earn, and the price he has to pay is just three years in jail. And we, the gold shop owners, are out the money – is that fair?

You might think we can cover our losses with insurance, but actually it's not worth it. We have to pay 30,000 baht to insure 2mn baht in property. I have more than 100mn baht of gold in my stores, so I'd have to pay 1.5mn baht for insurance each year. If you run a shop [with this volume of stock] for 40 years, as I have, that's going to total more than 60 million baht.

I think we're better off protecting ourselves.

Everyone thinks about CCTV, but there are a lot of other factors we consider to make our shops



**Chaikut Prayoonyong**, 65, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, is the president of the Phuket Gold Shop Association. The owner of three gold shops on the island, Mr Chaikut has over 40 years' experience as a gold trader.

Here, he talks about the steps gold shop owners should take to protect their shops against robberies, and suggests that the government create stricter punishments for thieves.

safe. The first thing is choosing a safe location. The best locations are in busy areas, in city settings or areas where there are a lot of pedestrians.

Then we need to be careful about who comes in and how they come in. We use a remote control to operate the door; that lets us screen customers before they enter. I've told my staff again and again to be very careful about admitting people who are wearing jackets, sunglasses, hats or face masks.

Having bars between customers and staff also adds to security.

As for hiring a security guard, that's a double-edged sword. A good security guard can be a great help, but a bad one can be a real problem. The pool of really capable security guards in Phuket is pretty small. It seems to be a profession that attracts people who don't know what else to do, or who aren't qualified for other jobs.

CCTV and alarms are of course

very important. We set up CCTV cameras to cover the entire shop, and also the parking area in front of the shop. With these we can provide police important evidence to investigate and prosecute thieves. Alarms should be connected to the police so they can respond immediately if there's a robbery.

It would be great if police patrolled around gold shops often, but I understand they just don't have the manpower for this. The number of officers isn't even enough for our real population. Add to that the fact that we're a world-famous tourist destination, which brings problems of its own that the police have to deal with. And there are about 120 gold shops in Phuket; we can't expect police to prevent robberies.

The only aspect of the safety equation that can be improved is stiffening penalties. For example, if the law said that thieves would have their hands cut off, or something worse, that would make people more afraid to steal.



Be alert to truck drivers riding their brakes down hills. Photo: Gazette file

## Monster, shmonster

I OPERATED very large trucks, buses, cranes and earth-moving vehicles for more years than I care to remember, in various countries including Austria – whose mountain passes make “monster” Patong Hill look like a pimple on an elephant – and Australia, in giant mines in the northwest.

The cardinal rule for going downhill is: Let your engine help retard your speed. That means shift down through the gears before it's too late.

I am truly amazed at the frequency of vehicles – mainly buses – losing control on Patong Hill. It begs the question: Where and how do the drivers of these vehicles get their licenses to operate these vehicles? Innocent people's lives depend on the experience, capability and knowledge of the guy behind the wheel.

Have the drivers had any mechanical tuition? Do they know what makes the damn thing work? That is, do they understand the braking mechanism, the gearbox – yes, even on automatics you can shift down, and should – or the engine vacuum retarder?

I understand the average holiday-maker coming here doesn't

## Island View

By The Macsta

Do you have an opinion to voice? Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

want to engage in thinking about such matters, they just want to get to their hotel, kick off their sweaty gear and get down to the beach or to Bangla Road.

But if it weren't for these poor trusting souls, there would be no need for these death traps and drivers of same. Why not help them accomplish their well-earned dream vacation in paradise by monitoring the drivers? Bus companies, police, tour companies and traffic authorities should all be responsible for this.

And here's some advice for all those who use “the monster”: The next time you use it, check the vehicles in front of you and see how far they travel with their brake lights on. Brake lights blazing means they're riding their brakes, which means the brakes are getting very hot, which means the brake fluid is going to boil, which means it's going to dry up, which means... Goodbye all!

## Issues & Answers...

## ...asking the questions that affect you...

### Phuket traffic law: rights for right lane the same for all

I saw a truck driving slowly in the right-hand lane on the bypass road, forcing traffic to build up behind it as it couldn't go fast enough. In other parts of Thailand I almost never see trucks in the right-hand lane. I heard that they are not allowed to use the right lane. Is that true?

Lotus,  
Phuket

**Phuket City Traffic Police Inspector Rungrit Rattanapagdee replies:**

Trucks are allowed to use the right-hand lane only under certain circumstances – to pass other vehicles or to avoid obstructions in the left lane. If they are not doing these things, by law they should be in the left lane.

This rule applies to all vehicles. The right-hand lane should be used only for passing or if the left lane is in some way obstructed.

Of course, there are exceptions. You may use the right lane if you are making a right turn, for example.

But the fine for using the right lane outside of these circumstances is 200 to 1,000 baht.

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

### Discounting the time, not the crime

I heard that if someone commits a crime but turns himself in, he will not be punished as severely as if he did not turn himself in. Is this true?

Koy  
Pa Khlok

**Phuket Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsaeen Panhya replies:**

The main benefit of turning yourself in is this: it makes it easier to get out on bail while you are awaiting trial.

What gives you a better chance of getting a reduced sentence is confessing to your crime, to the police or in court.

Thai judges have the authority to reduce sentences by up to 50 per cent, based on “extenuating circumstances”. The judge will consider all the information in the case, including whether a suspect

turned himself in, confessed, provided police with useful information and so forth.

However, a judge can also increase sentences. He may do this, for example, if the convicted person had committed the same crime before.

If a criminal committed the same crime before but confessed, the judge would consider both facts when deciding what sentence to hand down.

Judges' sentencing discretion is stated in Section 78 of the Thai Penal Code: Whenever it appears that there exists an extenuating circumstance, whether or not there be an increase or reduction of the punishment according to the provisions of this Code or the other law, the Court may, if it is suitable, reduce the punishment to be

inflicted on the offender by not more than one-half.



A confession gains you more than surrendering. Photo: Dylan Oliphant

# YOUR Phuket



## CARVERY AND CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE KEE RESORT AND SPA

The KEE Resort and Spa in Patong put on a fun-filled evening of festive entertainment at KEE Kitchen on Christmas Eve with a scrumptious carvery of turkey, lamb and ham for 120 guests as well as live music by the Plug and Play band and carol singing by the resort's management staff, led by General Manager Mr Somchai Pantong.



## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASIA SUPERYACHT RENDEZVOUS PHUKET, THAILAND

Yacht team members competed in the FEADSHIP Challenge



Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

## GRAND OPENING OF HILL MYNA CONDOMINIUM



Owner Somkiat Sukchun, along with Executive Partners Claudio Zaccagnino (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and Donata Zaccagnino (1<sup>st</sup> left), pose for a group photo with their VIP guests.

## AMARI PHUKET PATONG BEACH



Amari Phuket staff members participated in the 'Light Up Patong' ceremony to mark the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the devastating 2004 boxing day tsunami.



Ms Rinrapat Puwanutchotchai, Director of Human Resources, and ONYX Hospitality Group team members recently represented Amari Phuket when delivering a load of unused books which were donated from the hotel to Ban Sainamyen Municipality School, a community school in Patong.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

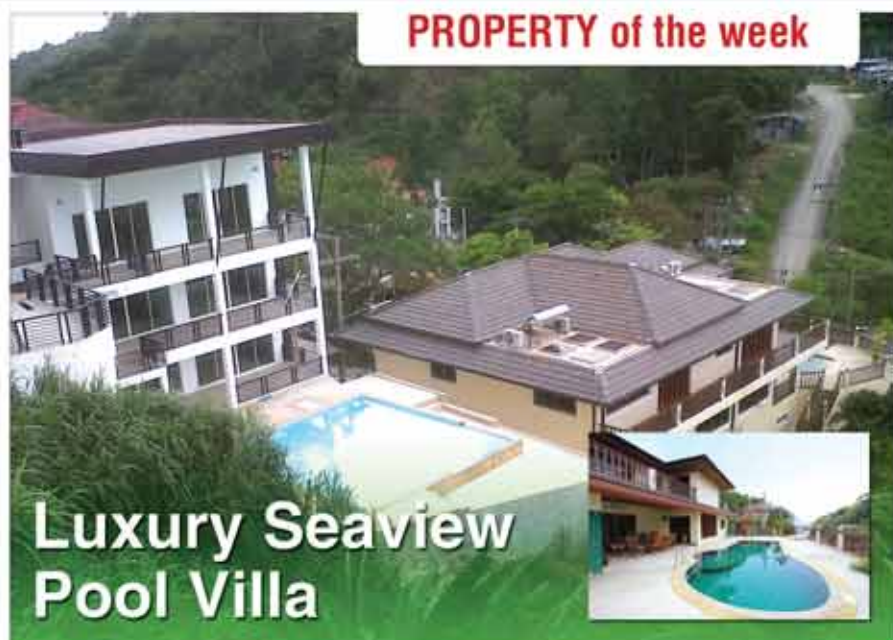
# ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online\*

January 11 - 17, 2014 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week



**Luxury Seaview  
Pool Villa**

**See page 22**

## JOB of the week



**Residence Phuket**

**See page 27**

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

**PROPERTY  
MANAGEMENT**

**See page 25**

## BOAT & MARINE of the week



**LEE MARINE**  
*International Marine Brokerage*

SINCE 1997

**Join Lee Marine at PIMEX**  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Royal Phuket Marina

**pimex**  
phuket international boat show

Visit our on water display featuring:



Pershing 92



Pershing 64



Ferretti 720



Ferretti 881RPH

**See page 30**

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

**Gazette Classifieds** – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

## Properties For Sale



**Luxury Sea View Pool Villa**  
**Sale & Rent**

This is a rare opportunity to be the owner of luxury villa which has more than could be expected. This villa is located quiet area on Patong Hill with a panoramic view over Patong Beach. Takes about 5 minutes to get to the city and the Beach. This villa is built by European supervision and is of high standard. The villa has a pool with jacuzzi, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, European kitchen, family room with bar, office, high-speed internet, double garage with remote operated automatic doors, roof glasses. More details of villa listed on Facebook. Land area 730sqm, indoor area 700sqm++. Must visit to really understand the high standard of the villa.

**45 million baht**

[www.facebook.com/HomeSal](http://www.facebook.com/HomeSal)

**Tel: 084-900 1514, 088-215 3433**

Email: [georgeouz@hotmail.com](mailto:georgeouz@hotmail.com) and [peterantala@gmail.com](mailto:peterantala@gmail.com)

### QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai-style pool villa, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in small community of 4 homes, very private and serene. In a desirable location within a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Don't wait; it will definitely go this high season 2013. 5.9 million baht. Contact Luke Remmers. Tel: 081-270 5145. Email: [rgartland@comcast.net](mailto:rgartland@comcast.net) www.phuketrealstate.com

### URGENT SALE - MODERN VILLA



A spacious family home in Boat Lagoon, modern contemporary, 4+1 beds, 4 baths, large dining area, fully furnished, 616sqm. Tel: 076-238948. Email: [sale@phuketpropertytrip.com](mailto:sale@phuketpropertytrip.com)

### OCEANFRONT VILLA



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

### HABITOWN KOH KAEW

For sale. 115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 air-cons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Please call 089-772 7012. Email: [gyb\\_giff@yahoo.com](mailto:gyb_giff@yahoo.com)

### 6 RAI LOVELY LAND PAKLOK

Quiet area, nice mountain view. Flat land, easy to build or for investment. 3 minutes to monument. Chanote title. Priced for quick sale at only 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: [vass\\_t99@yahoo.com](mailto:vass_t99@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE AT NAI YANG

House with swimming pool for sale at Nai Yang Beach, near Phuket Airport. 3 bedrooms, 3 toilets. 3.95 million baht. Tel: 089-215 2177 (English & Thai). Email: [tippawan.d@hotmail.com](mailto:tippawan.d@hotmail.com)

### 5 MINUTES WALK TO THE BEACH

House in Patong, only 4.9 million baht. Go to <http://zarpazorealestate.com/catalog/> (object no 398) or call 080-519 9777. Email: [kenth@zarpazorealestate.com](mailto:kenth@zarpazorealestate.com)

### PATONG HOUSE

Sea, hill and city views house, plus three separate apartments for rent. Total 360sqm. 7.65 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: [jbiwo@csloxinfo.com](mailto:jbiwo@csloxinfo.com)

### 2 POOL VILLAS NEXT TO PIA



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

### 2BR, 7TH FLOOR, LAKE VIEW CONDO

2-bedroom corner unit (59.64sqm). Never occupied, furnished, sunny, new condo, built by one of Thailand's most established quality developers. Top construction and after-sale service and management. Convenient to shopping, services, and main travel routes for the professional and leisurely lifestyle. Be at ease in your uniquely located and elevated view, modern and convenient lifestyle home. This unit is a special corner unit with lake & mountain views, added privacy, modern amenities, pool, fitness, CCTV, gated community and rental management services. Priced to sell at 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-276 1225 (English), 081-692 7397 (English & Thai). Email: [patong15@gmail.com](mailto:patong15@gmail.com)

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF ARAI

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

### NAI HARN - UNIQUE THAI STYLE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - 1km to Nai Harn Beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-081 9875 (English & Thai). Email: [soundofmusic999@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:soundofmusic999@yahoo.co.uk) For further details, please see our drop box at [www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn53lu67undl4e/uEaXCfM\\_I5](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn53lu67undl4e/uEaXCfM_I5)

### QUICK SALE!



Luxury pool villa, Nai Harn, 3/4 bedrooms, island views. 7.8 million baht. No offers. Tel: 089-593 0986

### BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLA

Big shady lot near beach. 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, furnished quality, freehold, secure. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: [cosmo\\_campbell@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmo_campbell@yahoo.com) www.villa-sale-phuket.com

### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

### LUXURY SEA VIEW POOL VILLA



For sale/rent. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, European kitchen, bar, internet, garage, 2 jacuzzis and much more. Too much to list. Good price. Located Patong, Phuket. Please call 084-900 1514, 088-215 3433 or send email to [georgeouz@hotmail.com](mailto:georgeouz@hotmail.com) or [peterantala@gmail.com](mailto:peterantala@gmail.com)

**PATONG SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE 6.3m BANT**

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

**206/4 PRABARAMEE ROAD**

+/- 270 sq meters 3,000 sq ft (approximately 23,000 Baht per sq meter) Top quality construction, materials, and design. 3-phase, 30 amp wiring throughout. Water storage tank, pump, & central hot water.

TEL: English/German/Spanish: 089 196 0940 English/Thai: 089 729 8655 Email: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com)

**Best Sea View Deal in Patong**

All classifieds  
in these pages are

**PAID!**

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whatever's advertised here  
is seriously for sale.

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...because they're real.

Live in Cherng Talay?

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Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Na: (076-325586)**  
or **(081-3977307)**

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

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

## Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



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

**Location:** Phanom District, Surat Thani, near Khao Sok National Park.  
**- Land:** 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



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

Flat land near Dowroong  
School in Phuket Town.  
Tel: 081-691 2526.

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

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

The land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tambon Bornok, Prachuap Khiri Khan, 20km from Prachuap Khiri Khan town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 086-615 9719



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

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

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

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

Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

3,750 baht per square meter.  
Tel: 086-950 2707, +32-49-  
329 7948 (English & Thai).  
Email: datacenter50@gmail.  
com Please visit our website  
at [www.zoutdesk.nl/](http://www.zoutdesk.nl/)

[www.lambertbrothers.co.th](http://www.lambertbrothers.co.th)

46sq wah, 3 bedrooms,  
2 bathrooms, 3 aircons,  
furnished, car park. Only  
3.5 million baht. Tel:  
081-787 7675

87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for 1 month, 35K baht/month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for 1 year contract.  
CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.  
Then hand it to any of our agents.

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

## Properties For Rent

**NAI HARN BEACH  
4-BED CONDOS**

Large renovated condos, can sleep 8 pax. Rooftop terrace, garden front. Beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT  
PASAK 2**

3-bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, cable TV, WiFi, furnished. Long term preferred. 16,000 baht monthly. Contact Porn. Tel: 087-274 0680 (English & Thai). Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

**COZY HOUSE NEAR  
NAI HARN**

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

**BEAUTIFUL CONDO**

1 bedroom, 65sqm, nicely furnished, balcony with golf course view. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.9 million baht. Phuket Country Club. Contact Ole. Tel: 085-795 4741. Email: oleandaman@gmail.com

**COMFORT  
BUNGALOW HOUSE**

75sqm, long-term rental: 10,000 baht per month, 2-room furnished, complete household, big veranda with tropical garden, pool, acquisition, available 10 March 2014. Please call 080-697 4629 (English). Email: h.liefeldt@gmx.de

**PARADISE  
FOR RENT**

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

**B.L. APARTMENT**

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

**FULLY FURNISHED  
HOUSE**

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

**KAMALA APARTMENT**

200sqm, seaview, ready to move in, pool, gym, wifi included, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, security. Long-term rent: 52,000 baht. Tel: 094-804 5830

**NEW FURNISHED  
3-BED VILLA**

Brand-new, fully furnished, modern 3-bed/3.5-bath villa with private garden and swimming pool. (5 minutes to Ao Po Grand Marina and Mission Hills Golf Course). Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072 (English & Thai), 081-893 5270 (English & Thai). Email: srduyoy@gmail.com For further details, please visit the website: http://phuket.renthouse.com/10296/showcase

**CONDO AT  
RATCHAPORN PLACE**

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

**POOL VILLA FOR RENT**

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

**SEAVIEW POOL VILLA**

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stunning ocean-facing property. 15 minutes to BIS/PIA schools. Cape Yamu. Rent: 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283

**WHY RENT?**

Own Kamala hotel room with 2 pools+jacuzzi. Rent: 60,000 baht per year. Tel: 084-716 0502

**NEW HOUSE  
140SQM FOR RENT**

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

**SINGLE HOUSE  
FOR RENT / SALE**

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sqm, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

**RAWAI BEACH CONDO**

1 bedroom. Mountain view balcony. 8,500 baht per month. Please call 086-057 7714

**WALK TO KATA BEACH**

2 bedrooms/3 bathrooms, furnished, new home. 500m to beach. Available 18 January 2014. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai) or send email to kahunadan@hotmail.com

**KATA OCEAN VIEW  
CONDO**

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rent. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330 641. www.oceanic-global.com

**HOUSE AT  
SAI YUAN**

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT  
IN NAI HARN**

Long-term rent available from 1 April 2014. 3 bedrooms. 12x6m com. pool. Furnished and Western kitchen. Nice garden. 28,000 baht per month from owner. Tel: 083-388 8036 (English), 089-972 5378 (Thai).

**PHUKET VILLA 5  
FOR RENT**

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

**RENT APARTMENT  
PATONG CONDO**

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

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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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

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

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

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [big@phuketgazette.net](mailto:big@phuketgazette.net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## SUB-EDITOR

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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



## Marketing Staff Wanted

Staff required to join a marketing team to work at Central Festival. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: [info@arhouse.asia](mailto:info@arhouse.asia)

## ISLAND BLISS CO.,LTD.

Assistant Finance & Accounting Manager. Good command of English, 3 years experience. Surin Beach. Tel: 076-621553. Email: [office@rjnthailand.com](mailto:office@rjnthailand.com)

## YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+tips. Tel: 087-384 2743. Email: [info@yacht-charter-thailand.com](mailto:info@yacht-charter-thailand.com)

## WEBMASTER/ GRAPHIC/IT WORKER

Knowledge in photo and video and good English skills required. Thai national only. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please contact [rico@princessyachts-thailand.com](mailto:rico@princessyachts-thailand.com)

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: [phkrealestate@aol.com](mailto:phkrealestate@aol.com)

## ACCOUNTANT & ADMINISTRATION

TLI is looking for honest and hardworking Thai, qualified accountant and 2 admin assistants, Thai national, fluent English. Tel: 083-102 2910. Email: [belinda@tropical-landscaping.com](mailto:belinda@tropical-landscaping.com)

## BAR STAFF KATA BEACH

Sexy ladies required. Tel: 086-057 7714.

## RESTAURANT SURIN

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

## GERMAN TEACHER URGENTLY

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

## FITNESS INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Qualified fitness instructor: work as instructor and coordinator (we provide work permit). Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## THAI EMPLOYEE - OFFICE JOB

Want an interesting job? New internet firm needs an employee, 20-35 years old, very good English and PC. CV in English only. Tel: 076-322663, 090-070 9633 (English & Thai). Email: [massimo.reve@gmail.com](mailto:massimo.reve@gmail.com)

## THAI OFFICE WORKER FOR GYM

Muay Thai Gym. Wanting Thai office worker with good English. Tel: 080-613 3312 (English & Thai). Email: [phukettopteam@gmail.com](mailto:phukettopteam@gmail.com). Website: [phuket.topteam.com](http://phuket.topteam.com)

## WAITRESS WANTED

Thai national, English-speaking waitress wanted. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## MARKETING ASSISTANT WANTED

English-speaking Marketing Assistant with good computer and internet knowledge wanted. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please send CV to [rico@princessyachtsthailand.com](mailto:rico@princessyachtsthailand.com)

## RECEPTIONIST WANTED

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

## COPYWRITER

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

## RESORT STAFF WANTED

Urgently: night reception, housekeeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: [yussies@gmail.com](mailto:yussies@gmail.com)

## THAI COOK WANTED

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

## EUROPEAN KITCHEN CHEF

Experience in European, mediterranean cuisine. Looking for job here in Phuket. Tel: 097-041 9481. Please call or send email to [klaus.jkalisch@yahoo.com](mailto:klaus.jkalisch@yahoo.com)

## 3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai nationals Only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## SALES ASSISTANT NEEDED

Sales assistant needed to work at Lemongrass House Rawai Store. Sales experience and some English preferable. Tel: 089-443 6922 (English & Thai), 093-673 4409 (Thai). Email: [aphart@gmail.com](mailto:aphart@gmail.com)

## FEMALE GUEST RELATIONS REP.

Female Guest Relations Representatives to work in night entertainment venue, must be able to speak 2 languages: either English, Russian, Chinese or Philippine. Please send resume or call. Tel: 093-007 8992 (English & Thai), 081-476 4700 (English & Thai). Email: [redtoothgecko@yahoo.com](mailto:redtoothgecko@yahoo.com)

## STAFF NEEDED

New resort on island looking positions: Multilinguals: 1) Manager - salary: 25,000 - 30,000 baht. 2) Barman - salary: 10,000 - 15,000 baht. English and Thai. 3) massage therapist - salary: 10,000 - 12,000 baht. 4) Housemaid - salary: 10,000 baht. meal and accomodation provided. Tel: 086-948 8559 (English), 088-447 9900 (English). Email: [farangmd@gmail.com](mailto:farangmd@gmail.com)

## GUEST RELATIONS WANTED

Thai national: guest relations representative wanted, English speaking, afternoon shift, good pay + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## SENIOR & JUNIOR COOK

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

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket. We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success. The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai nationals are desired. The positions require good command of spoken and written English.

- M&E Engineer: Mechanical & Electrical Engineers handle inspection, testing, and design review on a new construction project. Coordinate with designers and contractors for the successful completion of projects.  
- Contracts Manager: the successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contracts work in a construction environment.

- Administrative Assistant: solid skills in MS Office and previous construction experience is a plus. Tel: 076-617763. Please call and send resume to [hr@dmg-thailand.com](mailto:hr@dmg-thailand.com)

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

### CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

### RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

### KARON

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

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna at [Anna@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Anna@PhuketGazette.Net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

### DETOX STAFF

Thai national: experienced detox consultant, OR we can train you in detox. Must speak and write English. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: [info@phuketfit.com](mailto:info@phuketfit.com)

### CAFE & BAR STAFF WANTED

Bartender, waiters and waitresses, receptionist, guest relations, and bar supervisor needed. Thai nationality only. Salary 15,000-30,000 plus good benefits. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: [recruit@chamberofsecrets.com](mailto:recruit@chamberofsecrets.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://chamberofsecrets.com>

### NANNY FOR 20 DAYS NEEDED

Family needs nanny from 17 Jan for two small kids, while on holidays. Email: [sabinasta@gmail.com](mailto:sabinasta@gmail.com)

### EUROPEAN CHEF HIRE

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

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [Um@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Um@PhuketGazette.net)

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

### DANISH STAFF WANTED

Danish speaking, 20-30 years old, Send your CV and photo to [naturejob13@gmail.com](mailto:naturejob13@gmail.com)

### CALL CENTER

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

### VILLA MANAGER (LIVE IN)

Manager of house team, House keeper, Food & Beverage, Repairs. Excellent speak English, leadership, service minded skills. Own car, limasseusecence. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to [hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com)

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai national, female, 25-40 years old, self-motivated and attention to details, enthusiasm for learning new things, good communication skills in English and good computer literacy (Microsoft Office). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Send CV to [helena@phuketabc.com](mailto:helena@phuketabc.com)

### SALES ASSISTANT (RETAIL)

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

### KARON CLIFF

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

### GUEST RELATIONS

English, Korean or Russian speaker+service mind. Salary 12,000-20,000. Dormitory avail. Tel: 085-184 9659 (English), 085-184 9682 (English). Email: [tiffany.12321@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffany.12321@hotmail.com)

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### WEB GRAPHIC / CSS DESIGNER 1 POSITION

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

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

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

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Daily Meetings

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The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call 087-417 8860, 087-277 6948

### LOST / MISSING PERSONS



Looking for Alex Giles & Patcharee Goontee-ganock (Cherie). Last known residence was Rawai. Tel: 076-384267, 085-444 7474 (English & Thai). Email: dominic@hitemp.co.za

### BAR FOR SALE

Good opportunity, Patong Beach, seaview, fully equipped, 4 big screen TVs, 30 seats, software cashier, popular location. Tel: 093-698 1921 (English), 087-205 2566 (Thai). Fax: 093-698 1921. Email: jeromearmand17@gmail.com

### BUSINESS SALE

Money making company of waterproofing, thermal insulation, construction chemicals, electrical materials and lights etc. For sale. Tel: 081-893 5717

## Bar & Restaurant Equipment

### BAR FURNITURE ETC. FOR SALE

Bar furniture etc for sale. Full set of furniture, fixtures, fittings & equipment for stylish bar - only 1 year old - or take over the large bar premises (include accommodation) with all equipment in place. No key money just "quick sale price" for the gear. Please call 081-787 5938 (English & Thai). Email for list of equipment: nittayakm@gmail.com For further details, please see our facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhiteSpacePhuket

### PIZZA REFRIGERATOR

Pizza topping refrigerator, stainless steel, containers. Sale: 45,000 baht. Please call 084-845 4743

### COLD ROOM

For sale. Ready to work. Maintained every 3 months. Please call 080-538 4735 or send email to momo\_f@hotmail.com

### COFFEE & GELATO

2 group coffee machine and grinder, 7 gelato showcases and 16 pans, 2 gelato makers / pastuerisers, 2 kitchen cabinets, all in new condition, only 12 months old. Tel: 087-894 1384. Email: milnelaur2@aol.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Kata Beach, fully equipped indoor/outdoor area, very beautiful, 3 million baht. Email: phuket8757@gmail.com

### OPEN YOUR OWN PARTY STORE

High profit potential. Completely turnkey. Easy to run. Proven 20-year biz model. Full training provided. Tel: 082-989 8280. Email: Funtas ticmillionaire@gmail.com

### INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.com

### HOTEL/GUESTHOUSE/ VILLA WANTED

For purchase or rent long term: 12-40 rooms, no more than a 30-minute drive from Patong. Must be in a quiet location and have a sea view from at least 30% of the rooms. Tel: +41-07-9289 1259. Email: hotel.phuket.wanted@gmail.com

### DUMPING

Soil, sand, construction, debris. Please call 081-893 5717

### HOTEL/RESTAURANT FOR LEASE

Patong, 30 rooms, 40 seats + terrace. Fully equipped kitchen. Yearly profit: 2 million baht++. Rent: 162,000 baht per month. 1+3+3 lease left. Reduced price to 5.5 million. Includes Thai company limited with 3 work permits, directly from European owner. Option to include car in deal. Please call 087-498 3407 (English)

### ONLINE BUSINESS FROM NOW

Farang offers partnership! About financial participation we must speak. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

### PIZZERIA FOR SALE



Well running Italian restaurant and pizzeria with wood fired oven for sale in Khao Lak. 3 million baht, no key money, monthly pay rental, prime location, including all equipment. Tel: 076-484645, 084-058 8804, 084-629 7767 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-410624. Email: stardustbar@hotmail.com

### MERMAID BAR GRILL SALE

Established 2 years ago. Priced to sell 850,000 baht, Rawai, Nai Harn. Tel: 085-348 5137 (English & Thai), 082-532 2712 (English). Email: normprice50@hotmail.com Check the website at www.mermaidbargrill.com

### SCUBA DIVING OPERATION

Are you looking for a fully operational day trip scuba diving business - then look no further. Boat + equipment + customers. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 076-292052. Fax: 076-293 034. Email: charlesbird@me.com

### MOTORBIKE SHOP KAMALA

Kamala bike shop, top location on the high street. 38 bikes income producing. Business held in Thai company. Shop is furnished, with pool table, 4 rooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 aircons & rooftop deck. New 4-year lease, no key money. 5 minutes walk to the beach. Endless potential. Tel: 084-446 8965 (English), 085-917 1046 (Thai). Email for a business prospectus and pictures at haroldmccarthy@gmail.com

### BANGLA ROAD SHOP

Shop house available in Soi Bangla. Good for restaurant / coffee shop / bar. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829 (English & Thai). Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th

### REAL ESTATE AGENCY FOR SALE

Long established real estate agency for sale. Prime office position in Laguna. Established 2006. Website and office included only 4 million baht. For more details, please call +44-078-8528 0100 (English). Email: markhailey1@hotmail.com

### FREE BIRD BAR IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Great location, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating 60 pax, includes fully equipped beauty salon, parking: 10 vehicles, 8 years left on lease. Sale: 1.8 million baht. Negotiable! Tel: 087-884 8972, 087-892 6204, 087-244 1322 (Thai)

### KATA SHOP HOUSE FOR SALE

3 storeys, 1 bedroom with western kitchen, second bedroom for staff, beautiful decoration for spa on first floor with sauna. Fully furnished. Urgent sale 10 million baht. Negotiable! No agent. Tel: 081-956 1077

### EXCELLENT KATA INCOME PROPERTY

3-storey apartment, house includes 3-apartment rentals (13,000-15,000 baht per month each) and commercial space (currently a beauty salon) with additional apartment on 1st floor. 1km from beach. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 083-590 8806 (English). Email: tomjay90@hotmail.com

### JARANYA HOTEL FOR SALE



4-floor, 61 guest rooms, 640sqm, includes fully equipped restaurant, 5 minutes from Patong Beach and Bangla Road. Price: 110 million baht negotiable. Tel: 086-268 3963

### PATONG SHOPHOUSE FOR RENT

2 shophouses, low rent. Can make business, also ideal for restaurant and massage. Second floor fully furnished as 2-bedroom apartment with 2 bathrooms. Includes furniture. Big kitchen and living area. Tel: 084-189 7696. Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

### 2 BARS FOR SALE

Bangla Road, Patong, 3 years lease. 2.5 million baht and 4.7 million baht. Tel: 087-184 6739.

### BAR / LOUNGE SALE BANGLA

Best looking Bar in Patong! Hip sexy day club & night venue, aircon & new fit out. 3+3 year lease: 120,000 baht per month. "No Key Money" only 3 million baht. Cheap! Tel: 087-881 7600, 090-876 9687. Email: cocodioster@gmail.com

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

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## SOLD SECOND HAND



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- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
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- Camera: Asabipenax. Price: 20,000 baht.

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

## MINI LATHE

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**I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME!**  
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## BLUE CANYON

Family for 820,000 baht. Includes transfer. Tel: 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

## LAGUNA GOLF CLUB

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

## BLUE CANYON CORPORATE MEMBER

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

## BLUE CANYON GC MEMBERSHIP

10 year individual membership for sale. 350,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-088 2665 (English). Email: robin\_briars@yahoo.co.uk

## BLUE CANYON CC MEMBERSHIP

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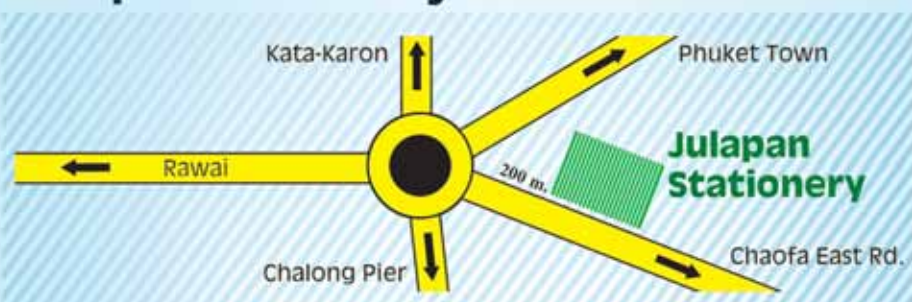
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New brakes, interior, suspension, exhaust, full tax and insurance, Blue book, just restored. 280,000 baht. Tel: 089-035 4461

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Full options, Toyota service. 320,000 baht. Negotiable! Tel: 081-968 3549

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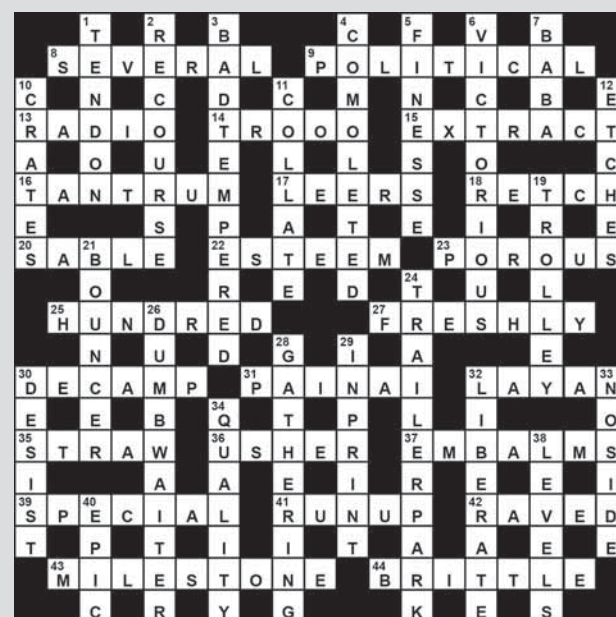
200hp Mercury (EFI) includes trailer, cover and anchor, Blue book. Engine Mercury. Body: 180,000 baht and trailer: 80,000 baht, all together: 240,000 baht. Tel: 086-948 0095 (English & Russian).

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## A man and a woman are flying a hang glider over a beach. The glider has a large, white wing with a red stripe. The man is wearing a red shirt and the woman is wearing a blue shirt. They are both smiling. The background shows a clear blue sky, a sandy beach, and some palm trees.



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## MILLENNIUM RESORT PATONG CHRISTMAS GALA DINNER

In the spirit of caring and giving, Millennium Resort Patong celebrated Christmas Eve on December 24 with the orphans from their adopted charity – The Sussex House Children's Foundation.




## NEW YEAR'S PARTY A BLAST AT DUSIT THANI LAGUNA PHUKET

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket celebrated New Year's Eve and rang in 2014 in the most fabulous beachside style. Guests were entertained with a spectacular fireworks display, launched lanterns for good luck and danced the night away at the full moon New Year's Eve party, welcoming the first day of the new year together with family and friends.



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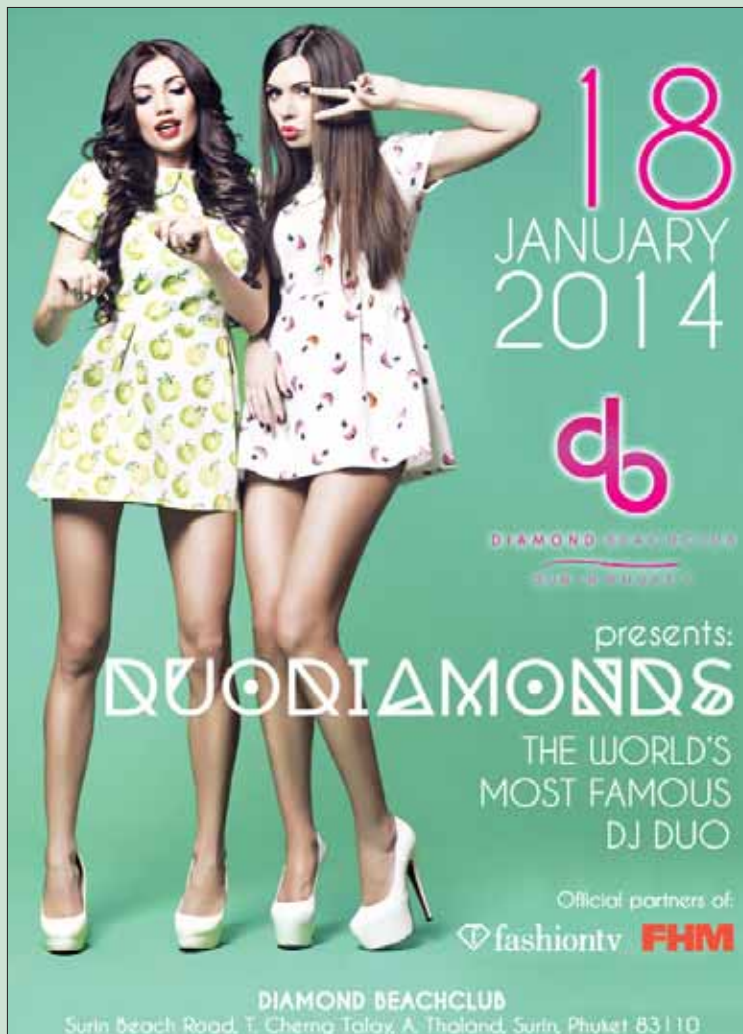
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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitaya Tantipinyakij Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, The Deed No. 2848, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.56 Rai, Financial Institution: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



# Hot DJ duo to rock Diamond Beach Club



**PASSION FOR FASHION:** The party starts at 9pm on January 18.

ONE DJ is not always enough to rock the night. That's why a DJ duo is coming to Diamond Beach Club in Surin on Saturday, January 18, to make you dance the night away. Duo Diamonds, two Ukrainian beauties, named one of the hottest female DJ double-acts in the world, present musical styles varying from mel-low deep-house to progressive techno. But they are more than DJs, they are fashion icons and official partners of the Fashion TV and A3 Network as well as official FHM and XXL playmates. Having performed in over 30 countries including venues in the Maldives, Dubai and on Ibiza, they come to Surin Beach to present their energy and professional DJ skills to Diamond Beach Club guests and ensure a night to remember. The party starts at 9pm.



Photo: Gazette file

## Big fun for the little ones

THIS one is for the kids! Thailand is celebrating its annual Children's Day on Saturday, January 11. And there sure won't be a lack of good fun for the little ones on the island.

At the grounds of Phuket provincial hall, from 8am to 4pm, this year's festivities will encompass the theme "Encouraging Thai youth turn the key to open the door for Asean". Activities include an awards ceremony to acknowledge moral youth; the opportunity to tour the office of the governor as well as president of the PPAO; numerous games; passing out coupons for a chance to win a bicycle; performances by students including a special show by "Look Sorn Tee Tib" and a "Bozo Mayagorn" magic show, as well as guest appearances from famous Thai stars "Noon Woranoot", also known as Lam Yong from the popular Channel 3 drama "Thong Neua Gao".

Other places to celebrate the Children's day are as follows:

### Bangkok Hospital Phuket

This year's theme – pets. Children who post photos of their pets on the hospital's Facebook page ([facebook.com/phukethospital](https://facebook.com/phukethospital)) or who bring a photo to the registra-

tion counter in the hospital will get a teddy bear. The event at the hospital's car park begins at 8:30am and will last until noon. The program is full of games and performances including a yoga show by autistic children. There will be free snacks and drinks for all.

### Laguna Phuket

Fun at the Laguna Phuket Y junction begins at 4pm. Make sure you're there to enjoy the magic show presented by Thailand's most sought after illusionist Naris from Bangkok. The magician goes on stage at 5:10pm. An hour later

the official opening ceremony will begin with Phuket's governor Maitri Inthasut as the guest of honor. From 6:30 to 7:30pm children can enjoy a concert of Kateeraya English. All children will get souvenirs and there will be free ice cream and drinks, multiple games and activities with prizes.

### Patong Municipality

If you're in Patong on Saturday, head for Loma Park where Children's day events will last from 8:30am to 3:30pm with 18 booths and various games and activities.

### Chalong Municipality

Celebrations at the grounds of the Chalong municipality office, near Wat Tai temple, begin at 8am and end at 2pm.

Navy organized Children's Day events were moved this year from Phuket's Deep Sea Port to Phang Nga. For boats and helicopters head for the Tablamu Royal Navy Office in Phang Nga. The fun begins at 8:30am.

Best wishes from the staff of *Phuket Gazette* to all the children on the island!

– *Phuket Gazette*



Fun and magic for the kids.

## Phuket Blood Bank's vaults low

### Rh negative blood needed to meet the festive season high demand

Following the Phuket 10 Days of Danger the Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) scrambles to boost low stocks of Rhesus-negative blood, calling on blood donors to come forward and save lives this holiday season.

"We have no AB- blood in stock at all," PRBC Chief Pornthip Rattajak told the *Phuket Gazette*. "We have a lot of visitors on the island, which increases the likelihood of road accidents. The demand for blood over the holiday period is 30 per cent more than the average demand – we need to be prepared," Chief Pornthip said. "We need all blood types, but we especially need Rhesus-negative [Rh-] blood. We just don't have enough of it."

Rhesus negative blood is a common blood type for foreigners, but not Thais. "Phuket is a tourism destination, so we need to stock a lot of Rh- blood to prepare for tourists in need," she added.

Donations can be made at the PRBC office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 8pm; and on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact the PRBC: 38/193 Rattanakosin 200 Years Road, Taladnua, Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-251 178 Fax: 076-250 185 or e-mail [phuketrbcc@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketrbcc@yahoo.com)



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Jan 9-12, 12-8pm PIMEX:

**Phuket International Boat Show**  
Since 2003 the show has grown into a successful marine and lifestyle show in South East Asia's exotic tropical playground. The show takes place at Phuket's five-star Royal Phuket Marina with the purpose-built exhibition space overlooking the in-water display in a magical setting offering fine dining and spectacular views of the yachts. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV have been proud sponsors of this signature event since it's launch a decade ago. For more information contact Andy Dowden on 081-892 7670 or visit the website at: [phuketboatshow.com](http://phuketboatshow.com)

### Jan 11, 6:30-10:30pm. Dusit Thani Andaman Seafood BBQ Buffet.

Enjoy a stunning sunset view while delighting yourself with our BBQ at the beach buffet dinner every Thursday and Saturday night. A variety of grilled seafood, meat, Asian cold and hot dishes accompanied with a varied selection of salads, appetizers and desserts. 1,420++ baht per person (food only). 815++ baht per child, aged from 6-12 years old (food plus free flow of soft drinks). For more information or bookings call 076-362999, email: [dtlfb@dusit.com](mailto:dtlfb@dusit.com), or visit the website: [dusit.com/dusit-thani/dusit](http://dusit.com/dusit-thani/dusit)

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

The first lunch of the year will be held at the Dusit Laguna Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.com). The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast televi-

# Phuket International Marine Expo

## Jan 9-12

@ Royal Phuket Marina  
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sion program (aired daily on True Visions channels 89 and 58), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711 or visit the website at: [phuketiwc.com](http://phuketiwc.com)

### Jan 17, 7-11pm. Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and strawberry lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouth-watering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Contact Jaspal Singh on 076-286464 or visit the website at: [navrangmahal.com](http://navrangmahal.com)

### Jan 18, 9pm-2am. Ministry of Sound: The Beach Party Returns

Following the huge success of its party with Ministry of Sound in December, Xana is excited to announce a second event, by public demand – The Beach Party Returns will feature Ministry of Sound's very own resident from London, DJ Tim Cullen. For more

information contact Annabel Fox on 076-324101 or visit the website at: [xanabeachclub.com](http://xanabeachclub.com)

### Jan 25-26, 11am-12pm. Alice in Wonderland

A musical from London. A wonderful way to celebrate Children's day with the family! The performance will be held at the Simon Star Theater in Phuket Town. This is another *Gazette* Headline Event, presented by Events International for Phuket's international community. For more information or bookings contact Sonu Kapoor on 091-326 0279, email [indiafilmworks@gmail.com](mailto:indiafilmworks@gmail.com), or visit the website at: [events-international.com](http://events-international.com)

### Jan 31, 7-11pm. Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and strawberry lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouth-watering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Contact

Jaspal Singh on 076-286464 or visit the website at: [navrangmahal.com](http://navrangmahal.com)

### Feb 7-8, 7-11pm. The Fab Beatles

A tribute to the Fab Four! Dates: February 7 and 8, air-con tent, Boat Lagoon, from 7pm onwards. Ticket price: 1,100 baht. VIP tickets, with seating 1,500 baht. This is the third in the ongoing series of *Gazette* Headline Events, presented by Events International and supported by the Boat Lagoon, Laguna Phuket and Central Festival. For more information or bookings contact Sonu Kapoor on 091-326 0279, email [indiafilmworks@gmail.com](mailto:indiafilmworks@gmail.com), or visit the website at: [events-international.com](http://events-international.com)

### Feb 14, 2014. Makha Bucha Day

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

### Feb 20, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club February Lunch

February's lunch will be held at the beautiful regent Cape Panwa Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.com). The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 89 and 58), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711 or visit the website at: [phuketiwc.com](http://phuketiwc.com)

### Apr 6, 2014. Chakri Memorial Day

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

### Apr 7, 2014. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand.

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**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events.

Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

**Catch the show at these times**

TrueVisions HD Channel 85 8 shows a week - MCOT World		Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week	
Monday:	05:10am	Monday - Friday:	10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm.
Tuesday:	11:10pm	Saturday & Sunday:	10:30am, 9:10pm.
Wednesday:	10:10am		
Thursday:	01:10pm		
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm		
Saturday:	01:10pm		
Sunday:	06:10pm		

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

Channel 43 - 8 shows a week

Monday:	05:10am
Tuesday:	11:10pm
Wednesday:	10:10am
Thursday:	01:10pm
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm
Saturday:	01:10pm
Sunday:	06:10pm

Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)

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# Party till you drop

**Many people hit the bottle during the New Year festivities, but sometimes the bottle hits back. Luckily, help is just a call away. The *Gazette* reports.**

PHUKET is renowned for its party scene, especially during the holidays, when tourists venture from around the globe to enjoy the island's nightlife, and expats let their hair down.

For many people, the annual revelry is marked by a few heavy drinking sessions followed by a few hangovers – and a new year resolution to take it easier next year. For some, however, the festive season likely marked a series of binges that progressed from drunken stupor to blackouts.

“Not remembering what you did the night before is a serious indicator of a drinking problem,” explained one Phuket member of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), the global

organization that has more than two million members worldwide.

“Blackouts tend to frighten normal people into cutting down how much they drink, but if the person keeps drinking to the point that they cannot remember what they did the night before, then they might consider seeking help,” he added.

Many people over-indulge during the holidays, and many of these people might be heavy drinkers. That does not mean these people have a drinking problem, the member explained.

“What has proved to be a clear sign of a progression towards alcoholism is the inability to stop after a few drinks. Once a person cannot stop, despite all the promises they make to themselves and to loved ones, they are already displaying alcoholic behavior,” he said.

Worse, usually those on their way to developing a serious drinking problem have no idea – or will not admit – that they drink much more than the people they are partying with.

“This is what makes it very difficult for people to recognize they might have a drinking problem,” another AA member said.

Those who do see the progression much more clearly, however, are those who are subjected to watching it reduce their loved ones to mere shadows of their former selves.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

The first rule is to never be angry and to not directly confront a potential alcoholic.

“Treat them as a sick person. Let them raise the issue, then at least the person you are concerned about has admitted there is a problem,” explained one Phuket AA member who has been sober for more than 15 years.



Sometimes, the best of times can be the beginning of the worst of times. Photo: Newtown graffiti / Flickr

“This could be something as simple as them talking about how much they drank, whether they remember or not, or even just complaining about their hangover. Then at least you can discuss these aspects,” he said.

Of course, a concerned person can contact AA in Phuket or Al-Anon, the support group for people living with alcoholics.

“AA does not do interventions, but members will talk to the person if the person agrees,” one AA elder said.

“It is also strongly suggested that the concerned person come to a meeting to learn more about alcoholism and AA before taking steps to help the person they are worried about,” he added.

“Every meeting in Phuket is an ‘open’ meeting, meaning that anyone interested in AA may attend, even if just to hear our stories and how we stopped drinking.

“One wife came to a Phuket AA meeting and ended up going home to tell her partner: ‘I went to an AA meeting today, and I saw half your buddies there...’ Some

people are very surprised who are alcoholics in recovery and are now living happy, sober lives,” he said.

If AA seems an appropriate suggestion, leave an AA leaflet around the house. “Just leave it lying around, some Phuket members got sober this way. Help could be this simple,” was the advice.

But if recurring drinking bouts keep resulting in dire circumstances, taking a hard line against specific behaviors may be required. “Never clean up their messes and don’t make excuses for them. If the boss calls asking why he or she isn’t at work – tell them the truth,” one well-experienced AA member advised.

Setting parameters for some behaviors might seem absurd, but they may well be needed for drinkers beyond the pail.

“Be very clear about breaking promises. If the person cannot adhere to a promise made, then there must be some consequence. It might be as simple as: ‘You’ve done it again, so now you go to an AA meeting, or give up drinking for two months, or go see a doctor’ –

this can be whatever is agreed, but stick to it,” one AA member urged.

Seeing a doctor can drive the point home. Test results that prove the liver has sustained severe damage from prolonged heavy drinking is usually hard to argue, he added.

“If the person can control his or her drinking, then all well and good. They are probably just a heavy drinker, not an alcoholic, and we take our hat off to them.

“But if drinking remains a problem, the consequences usually become more severe. For one AA member, the wife took the kids and the passports and moved out of the house. If the drinking stopped or the member sought help, then the wife and kids would be nearby to provide support

“He did stop, after joining AA. That was more than 14 years ago and the couple have been happily married since,” he added.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (Phuket)**  
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# Is there anybody out there? Yes, apparently

THERE is a video on YouTube that shows Morgan Freeman explaining a new theory in quantum physics. The universe might be conscious. In fact, scientists think it might be a sort of cosmic brain that is constantly expanding and evolving.

I had lots of questions about this. But I couldn't interview the universe because the universe is supposed to be a brain, and a brain doesn't have a mouth. That's a shortcoming that I hope our universe will be able to overcome.

And it raises a disturbing question. A brain requires a body to perform essential functions that will keep it alive. Like eating. If the universe is a giant brain, where's the rest of it?

Scientists theorize that there are other universes out there in what they call the multiverse. So our universe might be the brain, and other universes might be the mouth, stomach, anus, and so forth.

We're lucky to be living in such a prestigious universe as the brain. I would hate to be living in a universe like the anus, which must get some fairly nasty traffic.

Since I couldn't get an interview with the universe, I made one up, and it went like this:

**Me:** So, Universe, what is your opinion of Obamacare?

**Universe:** I've got bigger things to worry about. Like, they say I'm going to stop expanding and fizzle out in umpteen trillion



years. The stars will gutter out, and my massive carcass will lie cold and gray and dead in the moonlight. But there won't be any moonlight, because there won't be any moon.

**Me:** Well, that's what scientists are saying now, but they're always changing their minds. There's another theory that you'll just contract to a single point again, and then there'll be another Big Bang and you'll start expanding all over again.

**Universe:** That's a fairly stressful scenario to impose on an innocent universe like me.

**Me:** Well, it happens to us all the time. We call it death. Only in our case it's not sure that we'll bounce back. So welcome to the club, bro.

**Universe:** Thanks.

**Me:** Now, I'd like to know what role living beings play in your consciousness. If you're a brain, are we your thoughts?

**Universe:** No. You're my cells. My sensors. You collect information that's funneled into my processing unit.

**Me:** And where might that be, may I ask?

**Universe:** It's everywhere. It's all over.

**Me:** Well, does that make you

omniscient then?

**Universe:** No. Nobody's omniscient. Like you, I'm a work in progress. But I'm smarter than you are. After all, I've been at this for over 13 billion years.

**Me:** Do you have any advice for us?

**Universe:** Be nice to one another. When you hurt each other, you're hurting me, and I'm the only universe you've got. That is, unless you want to go live in one of the other universes, like that anus one.

**Me:** I guess I'll stick with you, bro.

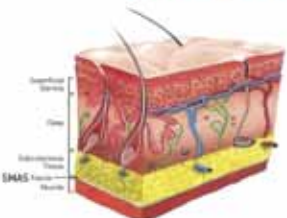
*Ye Olde Curmudgeon, who is glad he doesn't live in the anus universe, can be flamed c/o [s.t.sow@outlook.com](mailto:s.t.sow@outlook.com)*

## LASER PREMIUM

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### What's happening in the aging face?



The visible signs of facial aging include not only surface irregularities, such as dyspigmentation, numerous fine

lines, but also coarser textural changes, such as sagging, drooping and wrinkling of the skin. Most people concern only how to rejuvenate skin. However, six layers of the face: outer skin layer or epidermis, inner skin layer or dermis, fat, SMAS, muscles and bone have been totally affected. As a result, the keys to approach and reverse facial aging must be universally addressed layer by layer and choose the right targeted devices and procedural dermatology to correct the defect layers.

#### Outer skin layer or epidermis

Epidermis is the most outer part of the skin composing cell layers that are responsible for skin texture,

moisture and skin color. Thinning of the skin, dyspigmentation such as sun spots, age spots and melasma, skin dullness as well as roughness are the aesthetic complaints from epidermal aging.

**Our modalities** – CO2laser, Medlite C6 laser, IPL, soft peeling, deep facial cleansing, whitening treatment, mesotherapy



Medlite C6 laser is the US FDA graded laser targeting melanin pigment chromophore for spot removal, improving skin tone, and brightening skin color. Patients will not have any downtime after Medlite laser treatment. Intense pulse light or IPL is a non-laser light source employing multiple wavelengths for different proposes. Facial rejuvenation, vascular rosacea and red spot including acne are the common indications can be treated with IPL.

#### Inner skin layer or dermis

Dermis lies between the epidermis and subcutaneous with collagen, elastin, nerves, vessels and glands. It plays an important role for skin thickness and cosmetic appearance of the skin. As a result of collagen and elastin reduction, sagging jowl, larger pore, increasing fine lines, static lines, deep folds and more prominent acne scars occur. Various measures such as dermal filler, laser, and other light sources



**Our options** – ST reframe, e-Matrix, Ulthera, Thermage, Med lite C6 laser, botox, dermal filler, IPL, thread lifting. e-Matrix is the latest resurfacing device producing unique pyramidal column of fractional



RF energy Smoothen skin, soften lines, pore reduction, acne scar removal, skin tightening,

d collagen production, improving discoloration are all the benefits of the treatment.

### Fat

Fat is the layer below dermis. The aging face generally shows fat reduction. Losing volume of fat pockets resulting eye hollow deep nasolabial folds, and loss of jaw line including neck definition is also the consequent of fat atrophy. Autologous fat augmentation and filler injection are methods to replace the volume loss. However, submental fat pocket enlarged creating double chin is the reverse scenario which needs the different approach.

**Our recommendation** – filler injection for fat loss/fat dissolve for fat excess, bio-cone lifting

### SMAS (superficial musculoaponeurotic system)

Superficial musculoaponeurotic system or SMAS is a particular layer consisting of collagen and elastic fiber meshwork above the muscles. From the morphology of cadavers, not every muscle has this layer. However, when we are ages, this unique layer is composed of variable decreasing in strength and elasticity causing drooping skin and eyes. Therefore, SMAS layer plays a major role for surgeons to manipulate during surgical face and neck lifting. Nowadays non-surgical devices try to target SMAS in order to recover skin aging more effectively rather than focusing on treating and rejuvenating skin alone.

### Our recommendation- Ulthera (focused Ulthera and e-Matrix)

Non-invasive focused ultrasound (ulthera) is currently the only device that US FDA approved for facial lifting. Combining



ulthera with subablative skin resurfacing (e-Matrix) can produce significant collagen synthesis and can delay the use of more invasive surgical techniques which may associate with longer downtime, side effects and complications.

### Muscle

Dynamic wrinkles or wrinkles in motion such as smile lines, frown lines, bunny lines, and forehead line are the consequence of facial aging related to the muscles. Prominent masseter muscle from both aging and inherited structure can create the square face appearance.



**Our recommendation** – botox injection

### ADVERTISEMENT

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## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I HAVE deliberately kept the *heliconia* for another day. Why? Because, despite the name, the connection with the sun is less obvious than with the sunflower brigade. I can only assume it is because one common variety has chrome yellow spikes, much used as a cut flower by florists. But whatever the reason, the *heliconia* is a favorite here in Phuket; a tall reed-like plant with large oval pointed leaves that thrives best in marshy terrain.

In fact the species has, like the canna lily, become naturalized around *klongs* in parts of the island. Colloquially known as the “lobster claw” or “false bird of paradise”, its numerous exotic cultivars bear showy waxy flowers that consist of brightly colored and oddly shaped bracts. Many retain water and become home to insect larvae.

These clusters of bracts may



be erect or pendulous and while they are predominantly red and yellow, they do come in other hues. There is such a range of new strains, owing to the intense activity of hybridists, that the plant now has its own club (*Heliconia Society International*). These new forms vary enormously in size and shape with “stricta” strains producing rigid upright bracts, such as “golden torch” – much in demand as a landscape plant in public locations – and dramatic, hanging *rostrata* varieties.

But do remember that if you want *heliconias* to thrive in your garden, they will need rich soil, heavy feeding and plenty of water. And remember that each stem flowers but once, so cut back old growth: this practice will encourage new underground activity and healthy rhizomes. Typically *heliconias* come into their own in the wet season. So, while they abhor droughts and cold weather, perversely, and despite their name, they do

# Heliconia and hibiscus



*Heliconia rostrata* (inset). Photo: Cesarious

Stricta strains of the *heliconia* produce rigid upright bracts desirable for landscaping. Photo: US Botanic Garden

not need an excess of tropical sun.

How time flies, it is now three years since I composed a list of the “Top Twenty” flowering plants. The *hibiscus* came in, perhaps rather arbitrarily, at number ten. Most enthusiasts would rate it more highly: certainly on looks alone. *H. sinensis*, the best known species, is not easily upstaged. Its familiar, showy, trumpet-shaped flowers come in almost every color under the sun. Visit your local garden center and you will find small plants already displaying spectacular blooms in luminous shades of red, yellow, magenta, orange and white. Many consider the *hibiscus* to be the tropical flower *par excellence*, noting that its red blooms are traditionally worn in the hair by eligible Tahitian maidens.

*H. sinensis* is frequently employed in Phuket as a hedge, since it is a woody shrub, robust enough to form a tall barrier. And its propensity to flower most of the year round gives it an advantage over

most of its rivals. If it has a disadvantage as a candidate for hedging, it is because the ovate or toothed leaves are somewhat sparse and a *hibiscus* screen is not always very dense. One variegated variety which has leaves in shades of pink, white and green, is often preferred for this purpose. It has a more compact habit, prunes readily and has smaller but vibrant red flowers. The unusual

need plenty of TLC during the initial stages of growth. If you experiment with the hybrids available in nurseries, you may well find them difficult to establish here. The strains have often been developed in Florida or Hawaii (with names such as “Blue Bayou” or “Hula Girl”) and are not quite right for this climate. Maybe they would do better as carefully tended

container specimens. Disease, moreover, can be a problem. Ailing plants are very susceptible to attacks by mold and fungus, so ensure all your *hibiscus* have plenty of water and nutrients.

Next week, we will have a look at other and startlingly different species of *hibiscus* – *H. schizopetalus*, *H. mutabilis* and *H. sabdariffa*.

Unsurprising when you consider that there are more than 200 species in this fecund family.

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



Photo: Andrés Montesinos

*Hibiscus sinensis* is often used as a hedge.

hybrid “Snowqueen” has cream foliage when young: it turns either crimson or pale green when mature.

But there are downsides. The flowers are ephemeral – they last only a day – and the plant itself will

## Dog of the week

Rebounded Rusty ready for new home

RUSTY came in two months ago and was so sick he looked as if he were left to die. He used to spend his days hiding under an old cardboard box behind a fallen tree at one of the Phuket animal holding facilities, hiding from life.

He was so terrified of being attacked by one of the larger aggressive dogs that were locked up in the horrible compound with him, that he just hid in this small area without any food and was getting weaker and weaker as his sickness took over without any medication.

One day, a couple of people came into the compound and saw him hiding under this moldy old

box and tried to grab him but he was so scared he dashed out from his hiding place and ran as fast as he could and they spent the next half hour chasing him around the compound. All the other dogs were

barking and dashing around chasing him until they caught him.

Now two months later, his skin has cleared up, his beautiful fur has

grown back and his ear and eye infections are gone.

Thanks to Doggie Heaven he has a second chance!

Tel: 084 877 3566 or contact [doggieheaven.net](http://doggieheaven.net) to see some more photos of Rusty and his recovery process.



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## Tip of the week

Dry season etiquette for healthy plants

Later than usual, the dry season is finally upon us. As a consequence, the ground is rapidly drying out and becoming hard and unworkable. So daily watering is needed, especially for newly transplanted specimens, for most grassy areas, and for container plants. Soak pots and other containers thoroughly, then allow the soil to become almost dry before another watery application. Porous pots will need more water than glazed,

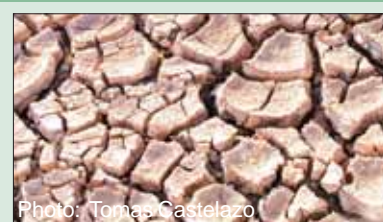


Photo: Tomas Castelazo

The dry season is upon us.

plastic or concrete ones because of higher levels of evaporation.

Continuous direct sunlight suits certain shrubs: *euphorbias*, *neriums*, *bougainvilleas*, *ixoras*

and *adeniums*. These will only require water in droughts and will bloom more abundantly in dry conditions. *Pereskias*, jasmines and gardenias also thrive in full sunlight, but need moist soil. At the other end of the spectrum are plants that will need frequent watering and some protection, even in open ground. These include all the ginger family, canna lilies, *heliconias* and the currently fashionable lilac-hued *ruellia*.

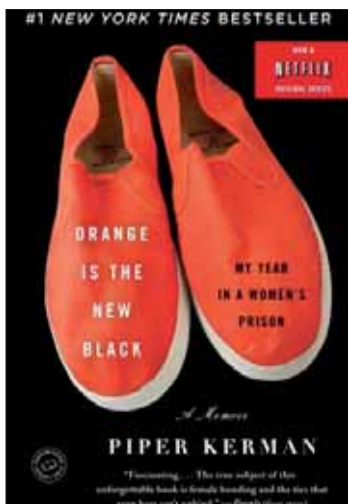
# Looking out from the inside

## Books

By James Eckardt

PIPER Kerman's memoir *Orange is the New Black* (Spiegel & Grau, New York, 2011, 327pp) is a charming and tender account of her year in prison. The focus is on her fellow inmates with whom she comes to share a hard-earned solidarity of love and respect.

Now a popular TV mini-series



in the US, *Orange is the New Black* takes place in the women's minimum security prison at Danbury, Connecticut. Half the inmates are Latinas (or "Spanish" as they prefer), the other half are divided equally between black and white.

Most are low level, non-violent drug offenders. They are loosely segregated into three dorms. "A Dorm was known as 'the Suburbs', B Dorm was dubbed 'the Ghetto' and C Dorm was 'Spanish Harlem'." In time the author would move smoothly among them, settling in B Dorm with her "bunkie", a respected

Jamaican baker known as "Miss Malcolm".

Thirty-four years old, a blond-haired, blue-eyed graduate of Smith, Piper Kerman surrenders at Danbury for the crime of being a cash courier for a drug ring on a flight from Chicago to Brussels. In 1994 she was the lesbian lover of the ringleader, partying in Europe and Asia. She escapes to San Francisco, meets her fiancé Larry and is settled in New York five years later when federal customs agents come knocking on her door. Drug conspiracy charges percolate for another five years till she turns up

But under the tutelage of her new friends – Pop, Nina, Annette, Jae, Little Janet, Yoga Janet, Miss Malcolm – she learns how to do time. Construction work, endless laps around the running track, and yoga classes render her physically and mentally fit. She lives for visits, weekly with Larry, bi-weekly with her mother and often with friends who bring her books, lots of books.

Kerman is a graceful writer, providing thumbnail portraits of the friends she comes to rely on: wife of a Russian gangster, Pop ran the prison kitchen. "Pop was a source of wonder and mystery

'It was a weird place, the all-female society with a handful of strange men, the military-style living, the predominant 'ghetto' vibe... crazy concentrations of people inspire crazy behavior'

– Piper Kerman

at Danbury for a plea-bargained sentence of 15 months.

Danbury is hardly a "gladiator school" prison rife with violence and rape. Still the mind-numbing routines, drudgery, petty rules, noise, overcrowding, starchy food and sullen authority of the guards come as a shock to the new inmate, #11187-424.

"It was a weird place, the all-female society with a handful of strange men, the military-style living, the predominant 'ghetto' vibe (both urban and rural) through a female lens, the mix of every age from silly young girls to old grandmas, all thrown together with varying levels of tolerance. Crazy concentrations of people inspire crazy behavior."

and revelation... who would help me do my time in every sense of the word, who would baby me when I needed it most and tell me to suck it up and get tough when there was no other option."

"Miss Malcolm had the respect of everyone in B Dorm and as I was clearly not going to give her any trouble, she seemed to take to me too. Despite her reserve and discretion, she had a dry but lively sense of humor and treated me to her sharp, sidelong observations on our daily life in B Dorm: "You in the Ghetto now, bunkie!"

"Camilla glowed with health and radiated beauty, tall, slim, with a glossy black mane, tawny brown skin, a pointed chin and



Author Piper Kerman's memoir 'Orange is the New Black' documents her year-long stint in prison. Photo: David Shankbone

huge dark eyes, she was always laughing, loudly."

Yoga Janet was another middle class drug criminal, fifty-ish, tall, fair and striking: "a world traveler, a classic eco-peacenik intellectual, a fitness fanatic and yoga expert and a devout Buddhist possessed of a wry sense of humor, all incredibly welcome attributes..."

Other friends range from Sister Platte, a pacifist nun, to

Vanessa, a 6'4" transsexual diva. Piper misses them all badly when, near the end of her sentence, she's transferred via Con Air to grim impersonal jails in Oklahoma City and Chicago where she makes a final court appearance.

But at last she is out on the street where Larry is waiting for her. "And then I was running, as fast as I could. No one could stop me."



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	PG278	19.45	21.10
	PG280	21.55	23.20
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Batok Bay on the west side of the island is the most popular with daytrippers, but is virtually empty before 10am and after 4pm. Photos: Leslie Porterfield

# Crowd dodging at Koh Racha



By Leslie Porterfield

IT'S almost a defining characteristic of an expat, not wanting to go where the tourists go. Hey, we know better. We know the best local restaurants, the shortcuts, the secret beaches. We refuse to be wedged among the throngs.

And yet, in some cases the throngs have got it right. Not with the cashew-factory perhaps (at least, not more than once) but with destinations like nearby Racha Island.

It's beautiful, is why, with white sand and clear blue water that make you happy just to look at them. It has intimate bays, a vast jungly interior, hiking trails, buffaloes and butterflies, and when the daytrippers aren't there, a village feeling. And it's just half an hour from Chalong.

So how to avoid the crowds? It's pretty simple. Stay off the beach at Batok Bay, on the west side, between 10 and 4, and don't go to the restaurants mid-island at lunchtime, when the daytrippers are eating their buffet lunches.



Trail on the northwest headland.

You'll find the rest of Koh Racha mostly empty – the four other lovely bays less than a 15-minute walk away, the sandy paths crisscrossing the island, the hiking trails on the headlands.

The best approach is to stay overnight. Enjoy swimming and snorkeling at Batok in the early morning, and when the speedboats start pulling up to the pontoon jetty, either retire to the Raya Family local caf   to watch the troops advance, or decamp.

You've got lots of choices for what to do next. Want more watersports? Head for the other bays. Alun's watersports has kayaks for rent at the east end of Siam Bay, local dive shops offer quick "Discover Scuba" courses, and freediving instruction is available too. Or go fishing from the rocks or a longtail.

One of my favorite things to do is walk. Paths tend to meander in a circular way, so it's not easy to get lost, and the trails on the northern headlands offer lovely sea glimpses. Since most visitors focus on the beaches, you'll have these routes mostly to yourself, shared only with the occasional skittish monitor lizard.

Koh Racha has been in the news lately for failure of some local businesses to properly dispose of wastewater and garbage. You may see dirty water in a stream inland, a garbage dump, or, here and there, a pile of construction material.

But for the most part, the island remains extremely lovely, and the development isn't all bad – it brought espresso, after all – at Rachaya Coffee in the little city center mid-island, now up

to 10 or 12 shops and restaurants and counting.

## Hotels

- Bungalow Raya Resort at Batok Bay, fan only, (900 baht); Raya Father, mid-island (2,500 baht up); Raya Village, mid-island (2,500 baht)
- With pool: Ban Raya Resort and Spa at Kon Kare Bay (4,230 baht up), Rayaburi Resort at Siam Bay (5,750 baht up), Racha Resort at Batok Bay (9,800 baht up)

*Boat transfer, breakfast, included in some, taxes may apply*



A sandy path near the mid-island buffalo pond.

## Restaurants and Bars

- Each hotel has a restaurant open to the public; others are located mid-island and at Batok Bay.

## Bays

- Batok: Most popular on the island, snorkel on the sides; daytrippers here from 10am to 4pm. Surfing here in low season.
- Siam: Gorgeous wide bay with view of Phuket; snorkeling about 150m out – go at high tide; the

shallow bay means it can be tricky to swim back at low tide.

- La: Small; snorkel straight out and on the left side; water can be choppy in high season; some corals damaged in November storm.
- Tur: snorkel straight and right or left; corals damaged here in storm; pontoon jetty is here in low season.
- Kon Kare: tiny rocky bay received most coral damage from storm but the fish haven't gone anywhere.

## Hikes

- Northwest headland: take the dirt road by the Racha Resort tennis court and go straight. When you see the garbage dump, either veer left or go up the hill; the path is circular, 40 minutes.
- Northeast headland: on the east side of Siam Beach, take the steep steps by Siam Bar. At the top, turn left. You'll emerge at La Bay. Keep going and you'll reach Tur Bay, 40 minutes.
- Viewpoint at Batok Bay: get a guide for this hike. 40 minutes.

## Activities

- Water sports: Alun's sport rental, east side of Siam Bay; sea-toy rental, Batok Bay
- Diving: The following have staff who are marine scientists and have been diving at the island for 4-8 years:
  - Aqua Raya (near entrance to Ban Raya Resort and Spa)
  - Raya Dive Center (at Ban Raya Resort and Spa)
  - Raya Scuba (mid-island)
- The longest-running dive shop on the island is:
  - Raya Divers (mid-island)
- All offer Discover dives.
- Free diving: Andaman Apnea (at Ban Raya Resort and Spa)

## Getting There

- Each hotel offers speedboat transfer from Chalong; some offer daytrips.
- Tour companies offer daytrips to the island which include lunch and usually snorkeling by speedboat at different spots. Some allow return on the following day for a small fee.



East-side Tur Bay is usually choppy in high season, but not always.

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# Diving into the deep end

A narrow escape from the rat-race to take a plunge in Phuket

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A WOMAN stands at the edge of one of the enormous limestone cliffs of Etretat, the salty Dutch air whipping her blond hair across her face. She's been in the banking industry for 10 years – and it's come to this: make a down payment on a house back in the UK and pay the mortgage for years to come, or roll up her financial nest-egg and take the plunge.

Stephanie Holland jumped – splashing into Phuket as a new dive instructor, a new solo business owner and a single woman in the dodgy red-taped, under-the-table business world of Thailand.

"I saw a little dive shop up for sale for about the same deposit as my supposed deposit for a house and I went hmmm... I could go be sensible, or go be rather stupid," Stephanie of Ocean Geo Diving and Tours admits, after having successfully weathered her second low season in Phuket.

"I had rose tinted spectacles on when I went out to do this... I just saw potential, my feet were not as firm on the ground as they should have been. I love the coffee shop though," she says.

Right, Stephanie landed in Phuket, got the keys to a struggling

dive shop, and decided to open a cafe on the side.

"The premise: you have a dive center and a class room, and you have somewhere to come chill out with a great deck at the front. I could just see it being a nice comfy area, and the two businesses would just bounce off of each other."

Despite the optimism, giving up an established career in the banking industry, giving up a well-grounded, happy life in Amsterdam and trading it all in for a dream flung far to the east was not a snap decision.

"Did I want to turn my hobby and my passion, something I do maybe twice a year, but on fantastic levels – the best diving you can get – into an every day job, and potentially hate it? Did I want to move to an Asian country as a single woman trying to run a business solo?" she asked herself. "I certainly wanted the challenge."

It was a debate – a six-month debate. "I got access to the PADI Pro site when I became an instructor and I never really thought until then that the dream could become a reality," she said.

However, the dream swept in like a flash flood. There was no handover phase, Stephanie, relying on good advice from those who cared, such as Rene Balot of



Holland shirked a 'normal' life in the UK and spent her savings on a dive shop in Phuket. Photos: Ocean Geo Diving

Sea Fun Divers, scrambled to learn the ropes.

"I literally got the keys. I didn't know who my phone provider was; I didn't know how to pay the electricity; I didn't know if I was going to get the internet cut off; I didn't know which bills had been paid, I didn't know where the insurance policy was – so every aspect you can think of was kind of a learning curve, which made the first three months a bit of a blur," Stephanie recalls.

Such overwhelming odds

seem to be even more heavily weighted for tragedy than the Greek would allow. But tenacity is now bearing fruit, she admits.

"The first year financially was pretty much break even, which for me, was 'okay, I can do better, but that's actually not too bad.'"

This year, Stephanie's benchmark is getting return customers. Both customers loyal to Ocean Geo Diving and Tours before she took over, new customers and previous colleagues from a lifetime ago.

With Phuket an international hub en route to Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney – the major business centers in Asia – those of the corporate world that Stephanie managed to escape are becoming regular customers.

"I've gone from earning a decent salary in the banking industry to spending about 200 baht on myself a day to eat and sleep and that's about it. So that's been a big shift mentally," she said.

"However, I properly dropped myself in the deep end and swam."



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# Merchant of the Orient: no regrets

Heart-to-heart with a legendary Phuket entrepreneur

By Steven Layne

"THIS Thailand, *you farang!*" Perhaps it's that simple for many faint-hearted foreigners struggling to justify distorting dreams for self-made financial freedom in the "Land of No Surprises"; but for one Phuket expat, entrepreneurial legend, the plot turned out to be a tad thicker. Anyone doing business in Phuket – or even just entertaining the prospect – should definitely read Don Battle's autobiography *Merchant of the Orient* (see end info).

From his poor farm-boy roots in the Alabama *boonies*, tours with the US Air Force and 24-hour shifts as a rocket scientist during the post Cold War space-race era – leading up to his American heyday inventing, consulting and contracting for the global energy sector, Don's story ultimately ends up in Thailand – right here in Phuket where he would set the bar for the island's expat-run SMEs. This, despite prevailing "foreigner-phobia" sentiments and regulations that seemingly make it impossible if not greatly limit the opportunities for non-Thai entrepreneurs to gain momentum for success, Don did it – then retired to write his book about it. Inspired by his story, the *Phuket Gazette* followed up with Don, who currently resides in Thailand's North.

**As a foreigner doing business in Thailand, what would you say are some of the biggest challenges/obstacles you faced – and that other expat entrepreneurs may likely face? How did you over-**

**come these challenges?**

**Corruption:** As a minority we are confronted and competing with corruption. We don't have the money to pay the corrupt purchasing officers and others. Even if we did, one week it's enough and the next week, they'll want more. I have had great difficulty running my engineering and food businesses and not paying 'tea money'. Why would someone want to buy from me if I don't pay while their friends and relatives do? This held me back greatly, or perhaps it saved me from destruction. I think that it saved me.

**Government and public attitude towards products and services provided by foreigners:** I must say that government policies and regulations were never a problem for me in 30 years of doing business in Thailand.



As a matter of fact it is much easier here than the USA. Licenses, work permits and other things involving the government have been easy for me. But whether you believe it or not, a lot of racism exists in Thailand and this is a big obstacle in doing business across the board. If you are selling engineering technology like I did for many years, the racism is erased by what you have to offer. I noticed this a lot in the village that I live in now. Chiang Rai is not like Bangkok. Bangkok is a lot easier to do business than other provinces.

**Staffing.** No matter where you are, staffing is always a big problem. I used to think that education for your staff was the answer to part of this problem. I spent millions on education of staff and never got anything in return. However, I am happy that I did what I could

for education. It is something that no one can steal from you.

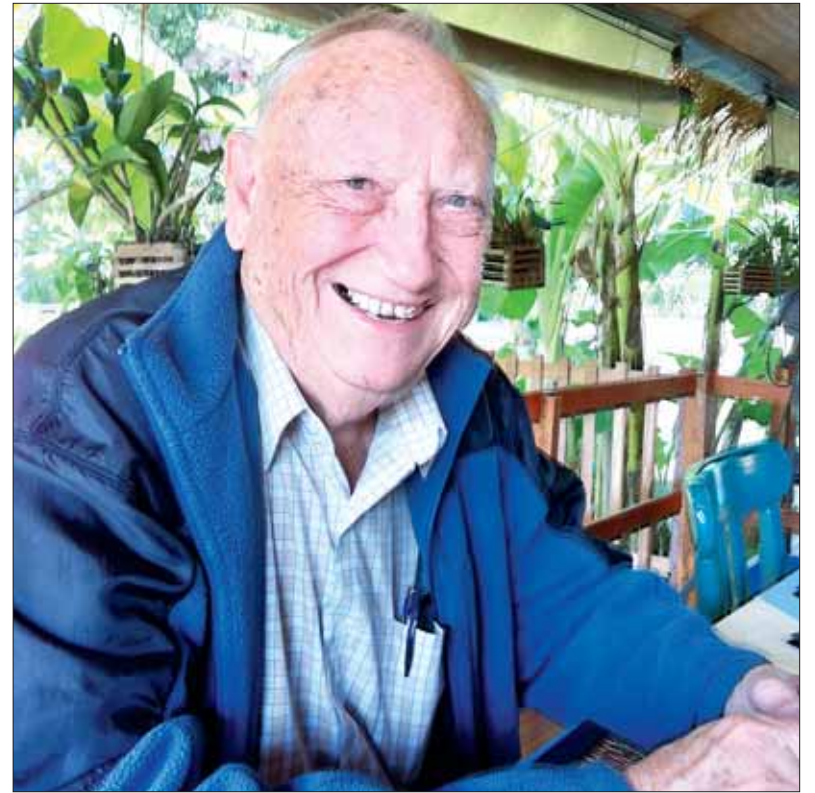
Thai women operate Thailand's service sector. As a rule you cannot get Thai men to work in the service sector. Money is not the answer to a stable staff – happiness in the work place, which includes associates and business owners are. Frequent meetings are important but it is hard to get staff members to freely express themselves during the meetings. I always provided housing and food for staff members and this helped to keep a more stable staff. When a major holiday comes, you have to ask for volunteers to stay and work while others go back home. By doing this, you will have a small working staff during Songkran and New Years. I am not sure that I ever found the answer to stable staff as I had a reasonable turnover.

Pilferage and taking without permission was a major problem for me in the retail business. Even with security systems in place, I was never able to overcome these problems.

I never overcame a lot of the obstacles. I am a fluent Thai speaker, I read and write in Thai. The big difference is that I am not a Thai and I can never be one. I am also a Christian and not a Buddhist. The superstition and black magic has always been difficult for me to understand and deal with.

What little success that I have achieved comes from working night and day. I was objective and work-focused on my mission and business.

I made a serious mistake by having four different businesses in four different provinces where I had to entrust billing and collection to local staff. I lost a ton of money through this serious mistake. I tried to stay about five days in each location with rotation but I could never overcome this prob-



Don Battle is now in Chiang Rai writing his second book. Photos: Supplied

lem. Working during the day and flying at night can make an old man out of you in a hurry. It finally got the best of me.

I thought that getting married would relieve me of some of the burdens of doing business but it did not. Very seldom will a Thai take a position of a farang over a Thai... I guessed it wrong.

**You successfully secured a substantial business loan from a Thai bank, which enabled you to expand your operations to a considerable degree. In your opinion, what were some of the main factors as to why you were able to secure such a loan as a foreigner?**

First, I never wanted to leave the small successful cafe that I had on Sai Yuan Road in Rawai. My greedy landlord wanted to open up their own Don's and would not renew my lease. They tried and failed. After being in the food business for three years, I could see the potential in Phuket and Rawai. This motivated me to build a good and classy food and entertainment mall just down the road.

I thought that my chances of the Thai banks loaning me money was no more than 50 per cent. At this time Samree Moothong was my manager and girlfriend. She was a great asset to me in preparing for the loan and making the application. She also co-signed the loan with me. You might say that I did not do this without good Thai help. I did an extensive business plan with five-year cash flow projections. I had also included my past three years of successful performance in the plan. I had the business plan translated to Thai. I also used the services of Sam Fauma's International Law firm to help me. Eddie Farmer from Phuket helped me a lot in my business plan and business development.

In addition to the business plan, I made a scale model of the entire mall with removable roof sections so that the inside could be seen. I made appointments with the local heads of the banks and presented my business plan. I made my pre-

sensation in Thai. Most were overwhelmed, as they had never seen a business plan let alone a scale model of the project. You can imagine how they felt with a farang making the presentation.

After making the presentation and application to SCB, Kbank and Bangkok Bank, I heard from Kbank quickly. I had two rai of land paid for which was worth a lot. My loan application was for six million baht. Kbank came and measured the land and asked me some questions. I later went to the bank and signed the loan application; 29 days after application, the bank called me and said that the loan committee in Bangkok had approved the loan.

**What advice can you give to other aspiring, expat entrepreneurs considering applying for a business loan from a Thai bank?**

Try to find a business where the product or service is unique and everyone is not already doing it. Stay away from the bar business. When applying for a loan, you need to have good collateral for the bank to attach. A good staff of Thai managers is also needed.

**If you could go back in time, what would you do differently in terms of doing business in Thailand?**

I don't think that I would change anything. I depended on a lot of good advice from customers and friends to make the right decisions.

**As the Merchant of the Orient, do you have any plans to come out of retirement, at least partially? Surely, you're not "fading away" just yet?**

I've been working on my second book, *Lost in Bangkok* for 30 years. Because of my age, I am not able to do much more than fishing and vegetable farming in Chiang Rai. I'm working with some Buddhist monks to help them with learning English.

*Don Battle's Merchant of the Orient: An Entrepreneur's Journey in Life is available in print and digital formats and can be ordered via Amazon.com.*



MEMORY LANE: Don's Mall was developed using a six million baht business loan.



Over 5,000 visitors are expected to attend the 2014 Phuket International Marine Expo. Photo: Gazette file

## PIMEX to showcase Asean preparedness

BILLED as “Asia’s favorite boat show” and the largest marine and luxury showcase in the region, the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX), has opened its doors to an expected 5,000 visitors from January 9 to 12 at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina.

A four-day festival of everything marine and lifestyle, PIMEX shines the light on Thailand’s marine leisure tourism industry and the island’s leading position as the marine hub of Asia, attracting a desirable demographic of high net worth individuals and thousands from around the world to view the 4 billion baht worth of offerings, ranging from the uber-lux superyachts and multi-million dollar villas, to day boats and dinghies, condominiums, superbikes, marine accessories and products, and much more.

For marine lifestyle aficionados, Phuket is their leisure destination of choice. With a healthy marine leisure tourism industry and established marine infrastructure, PIMEX generates more than 8bn baht for the island each year, underlining Phuket’s position as Asia’s marine playground and regional industry hub.

A cost-effective work-base, international-standard facilities and a leisure experience second to none are the foundations of Phuket’s preparedness for the

2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and working closely with marine industry stakeholders, PIMEX will further drive industry growth.

“Phuket is a leisure destination firmly established on the world map, known for its natural wonders and hospitality. The

to have an unprecedented in-water display of power and sail boats this year, including more boats than ever in the 70 to 95-foot range, as well as two superyachts over 100-feet.

“One feature of PIMEX is the quality of the boats on display each year, and this continues to improve and impress. This year we have two superyachts joining an already very strong line-up, underscoring Phuket’s position as the superyacht capital of Asia and the key role of PIMEX in promoting marine tourism in the region,” said Mr Dowden.

The lively marina boardwalk, a central attraction of “Asia’s favorite boat show”, will again be a hub of activity with live music, cafes, restaurants and bars, including three new dining outlets launching at PIMEX: Madame Saigon, Pasta Basta and Speakeasy. PIMEX really has it all – boats, both power and sail, from nine to 106 feet, luxury real estate, lifestyle products, widgets, gadgets, marine toys and much more. It also boasts Asia’s largest in-water display – 2,500sqm of exhibition hall display, boardwalk dining and a great water-side ambience.

– *Phuket Gazette*

*The Phuket Gazette and PGTV have been proud sponsors of this signature event since its launch a decade ago. Visit the website: [phuketboatshow.com](http://phuketboatshow.com)*



See the largest line-up of boats anywhere in Asia. Photo: C Mouchet

marine scene is a large part of that attraction and as the region moves towards 2015 and the AEC, Phuket and the marine industry expect to see further growth from new tourism dynamics,” said Andy Dowden, Show Director. “PIMEX will play a key role in reinforcing Phuket’s position as a regional marine hub and leveraging opportunities from the AEC for marine businesses in Phuket and beyond,” he added.

PIMEX hosts the largest line-up of boats anywhere in Asia and with Phuket being the region’s superyacht capital – welcoming more than 50 superyachts each year – the organizers are proud

## Wider makes debut in Asia

WIDER 42, acclaimed as the world’s most innovative performance yacht has reached the shores of Phuket and will be exhibited at the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX)

Visitors are welcome to visit the sleeking looking Wider 42 at berths C7 and C8 during the show. Registered visitors will have the opportunity to sea trial the yacht and test its performance in terms of speed, stability and versatility.

Measuring 42 feet, this performance yacht is an ideal day cruiser. It can expand at a flick of a switch, widening to hold 12 persons comfortably. It is fast – reaching 50 knots in a few seconds and can cover 350 miles at 40 knots – unthinkable for a yacht of this size, until now.

Wider 42 is the result of years of experience behind the Wider Group, a yacht manufacturer established in 2010 to produce

innovative yachts for the future, the idea mooted by its founder Mr Tilli Antonelli. The originality and excellence of Wider 42 enabled it to win three of the most prestigious awards in the yachting industry, namely the Robb Report’s “Best of the Best”, AIM “Editor’s Choice” and ADI Design Index Publication and to be acclaimed by leading yacht magazines as the world’s most innovative performance yacht.

Wider 42 is the first of many more exciting new yachts to come. Team Wider is building Super Wider yachts of 122 feet and 150 feet and customizing even larger state-of-the-art yachts that have expandable terraces for entertainment area, when berthed. – *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about Wider yachts visit their website at: [wideryachtasia.com](http://wideryachtasia.com)



Photo: Supplied

Wider yachts can expand their deck space at the flick of a switch.

## Speed and style



A Solaris One 44 will be on display at PIMEX. Photo: Solaris

ONE of the largest and most respected yacht brokerages in the world, Northrop & Johnson, is the first global yacht brokerage in Asia linking the yachting centers in the Americas, Europe and Asia. The appointed exclusive agent of Solaris Yachts and Bering Yachts in Southeast Asia, Northrop & Johnson Asia Ltd has two yachts available for viewing at PIMEX, the Phuket International Boat Show. Italian luxury yacht manu-

facturer, Solaris Yachts, is represented with a *Solaris One 44*: a cruiser-racer yacht based on IRC rules and a balanced combination of art, science, innovation and technology. Bering Yachts build strong, rugged, safe, reliable, long-range and luxurious steel explorer yachts capable of crossing oceans. Northrop & Johnson Asia Ltd presents a *Bering 60'*, a worldly trawler and traveller, on view by appointment. – *Phuket Gazette*

# On a mission to sail

By Mark Knowles

IF YOU have been past the British International School Phuket (BISP) campus in recent weeks, chances are you've spotted the giant steel ship, *Ixdos*, that first appeared on December 4 and now occupies a prominent position on the school's grounds. The arrival of the ship is a result of the collaboration between former BISP teacher and self-described "boat-person" Patrick Vickers and a group of student council members who share his dream of launching a "mission ship".

Patrick Vickers is indeed a man on a mission – his decade-long driving passion has been to build a ship and sail it to remote island communities to provide desperately needed medical services to the people who live there. Now, with the combined efforts of BISP students and the whole school community, Pat's dream is drawing ever closer to fruition.

It was back in 2003 when Pat first acted on his lifelong dream to build and sail a medical ship to remote Pacific islands. The idea was spawned during his work as a health systems analyst in Papua New Guinea, where he witnessed first hand the dreadful condition of people living without access to modern medical care. These dire circumstances are far from being unique to Papua New Guinea – according to UNICEF "about 29,000 children under the age of

five (21 every minute) die every day, mainly from preventable causes."

"As I was moving around in this amazing country, I found so much sickness, and [especially on] all these islands," Pat recalls.

Inspired to do something to help, Pat combined his boat-building skills and historical knowledge and hatched a plan to create a modern day "mission ship" to bring healthcare to these long-suffering islanders.

"I was in the navy for five years and I was always a nutter for the sailing boats, not the motor boats. So I've had a sailing background and I've had several boats before.



When completed, the 60-foot *Ixdos* will be a fully equipped floating medical clinic.

"What they used to have were mission ships, with pastors and doctors going around [and] doing everything, but they don't have them anymore, as they can't afford them. So I thought why not turn back the clock and get a new mission ship to do this job?"

So it was, that Pat embarked on his own mission. Starting from scratch with plans supplied by renowned Australian naval architect Bruce Roberts, he sourced steel and materials and began

building the sturdy hull of *Ixdos*. It has been a slow process though, with Pat relying on sporadic donations and his pension to fund the build. Pat has also had much help over the years from BISP students, who donate their labor to the project as part of the school's IB Community Action Service (CAS) volunteer program.

Now, ten years after the first plate of steel for *Ixdos* arrived in Phuket, a group of BISP student councilors have initiated a plan to complete the ship in one year – an ambitious and daunting goal. The ship was initially housed (at no cost) at the yard of Khun Luk, and later at Thai Marine, next door to the *Phuket Gazette* office. Recently, with the generous help of the parents of a student, the ship-in-progress has been moved from a nearby shipbuilding yard to the BISP campus. The members of the student council say that getting the ship on the school grounds was a key step toward building the momentum and enthusiasm needed to complete the ship in such an ambitious timeline.

Now, sitting on the lawn of the school, students, staff, parents and visitors alike have a daily reminder of the project and its worthy goals. The student councilors, many of them former students of Pat's, are also excited about the practical skills and experience they and their fellow students can gain while working on the boat – and as some of them are keen sailors already, they hope they will get their chance to sail on *Ixdos* when she is completed.

"I think because we've worked with Mr Vickers for so long, he's part of the school and the community here, so we felt we would like to step up and help him," says BISP Head Boy Luke Phillips.

"It has been estimated to finish this boat we will need at least five million baht. It will be a big



BISP Deputy Head Boy Liam Kealy, Deputy Head Girl Aleksandra Peremezhko, Pat Vickers, BISP Head Boy Luke Phillips (absent: Head Girl Bao Han Tran Le)

effort, so our motto is to 'push the boat out'," he added.

There is still much to do however, even when the boat is completed it will need to be crewed and stocked with medical supplies before setting off on its maiden voyage. Pat said he has received in-principle support from UNICEF, to help supply vital vaccines and medical equipment, but the logistics of this will need to be organized when the ship is seaworthy.

"In the meantime though, the main objective is to get the boat done – right now we're about 60 per cent finished but we have yet to get a generator, the sails... a lot of biggies," says Pat.

With the arrival of the ship

on campus, generous offers of assistance by the school community have been forthcoming, including one parent who has offered to supply a teak deck. It is hoped that every member of the school community, having learned about the mission ship, will do their small part to help it succeed.

Pat said he hopes former students, who have helped build the ship, will one day be able to live aboard and take part in its mission to bring aid to remote communities.

To monitor the progress of the *Ixdos* or make a donation to the project, visit the website which is currently under construction at: [missionship.com](http://missionship.com) or email [info@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:info@bisphuket.ac.th)



(L to R): BISP Head Boy Luke Phillips, BISP Headmaster Neil Richards MBE, Deputy Head Girl Aleksandra Peremezhko, Head Girl Bao Han Tran Le, Deputy Head Boy Liam Kealy and former BISP teacher Pat Vickers.

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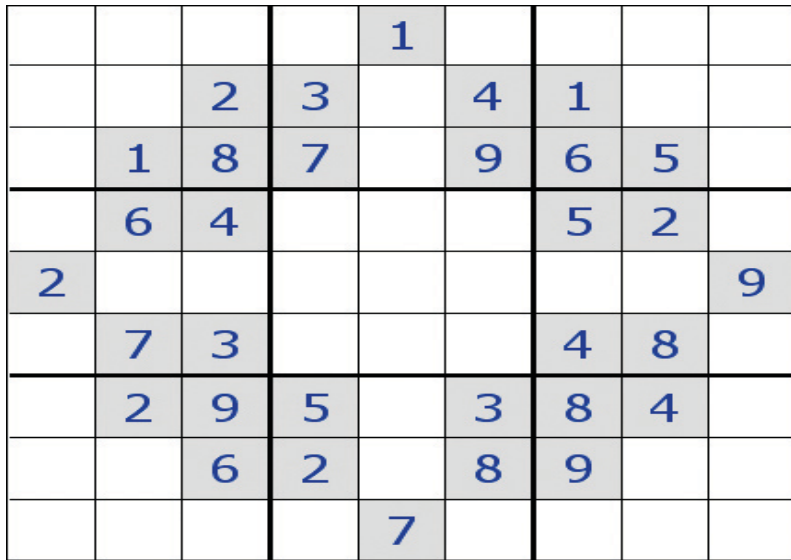
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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



#### Your fortnightly pith:

"Stop acting as if life is a rehearsal. Live this day as if it were your last.  
The past is over and gone. The future is not guaranteed."  
— Wayne Dyer

"Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that  
you do it." — Mahatma Gandhi

Taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

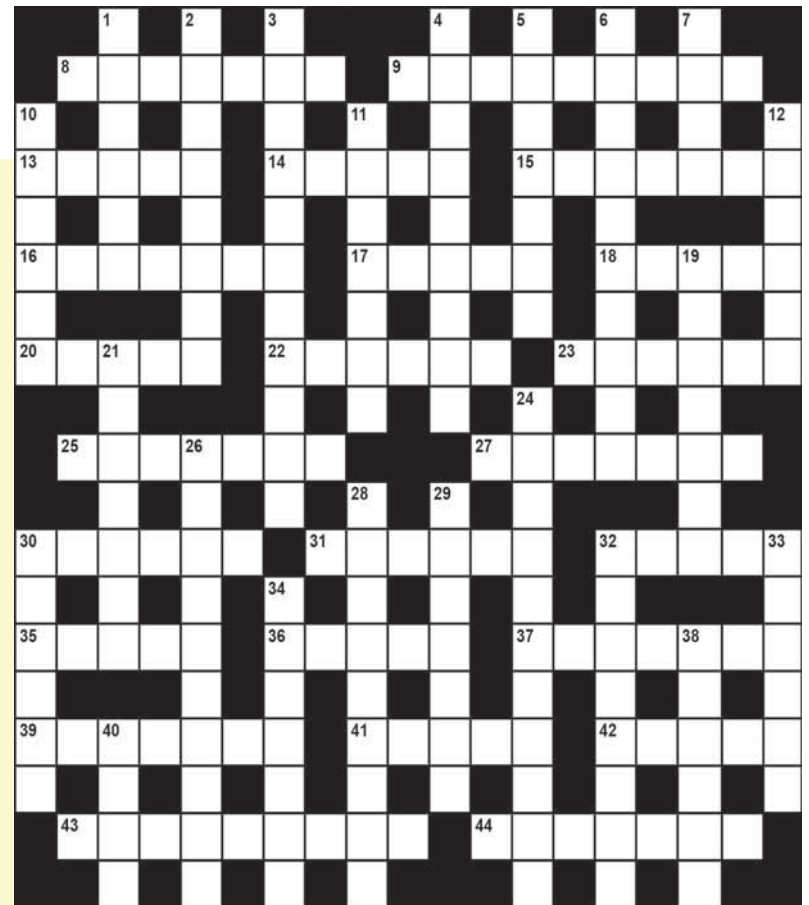
## COFFEE break

#### Across:

8. Else aver out East it could be a few (7)
9. Relating to the government, I act, I poll a change (9)
13. Or aid could be broadcast (5)
14. Gather together a group of soldiers (5)
15. Note times short treatise is a passage from a book (7)
16. Outburst from tram nut! (7)
17. Reels about and looks lasciviously (5)
18. Gag the noisy wretch (5)
20. Moving bales of fur (5)
22. East meets new respect (6)
23. Leaking, so pour out (6)
25. A round number in new dun herd (7)
27. Newly fly her's around inside (7)
30. Abscond in December with a torn map (6)
31. A pain I get from a Thai greeting (3,3)
32. Los Angeles any change from a Phuket district? (5)
35. Something used for drinking can give you warts (5)
36. Escort her after us (5)
37. Ambles about, about a mile, in preserves (7)
39. Place is possibly exceptional (7)
41. Dash towards and raise the flag (3,2)
42. Talked wildly and varied maybe, not I (5)
43. Else I'm not disturbed by a distance marker (9)
44. Fragile, Bert lit out (7)

#### Down:

1. Keep an eye on, on strong tissue on a muscle (6)




2. Possible option in respect of track (8)
3. Irritable, naughty, possibly deem pert (3,8)
4. Finished destroying temple, Doc? (9)
5. Bend in fine subtlety (7)
6. Triumphant but vicious about high point (10)
7. Two graduates, descendant from Chinese in Phuket (4)
10. Traces anew, puts in box (6)
11. Firm left late to gather together (7)
12. Engraves note on new chest (6)
19. Round fifty pound note in try to get small truck (7)
21. Or bunce arranged for club doorman (7)


24. As film advertisement, stop car in caravan site (7,4)
26. Serving device for stupid steward (4,6)
28. Understanding a meeting (9)
29. Fashionable impression as published (2,5)
30. Unsettled, sited around the South, give up (6)
32. Set free fifty, I scold (8)
33. Lack of pretentiousness at the end of the game (2,4)
34. Standard feature (7)
38. Flattens floors (6)
40. Note short picture can be a blockbuster (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**


#### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Waiting for answers can be frustrating, so letting off some steam is forecast to help Capricorns to control their stress levels this week. In the realm of romance, a fire sign is forecast to be more interested in a casual relationship than anything serious. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days will embark on more adventures in the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is eight.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 An opportunity missed can lead to something much more worthwhile for Aquarians around the middle of the month. With work well starred until the end of January, this is an auspicious time to climb the career ladder. Your personal zone is subject to a cloudy cosmic climate this weekend – a fire sign friend's penny pinching ways can lead to a disagreement. The number four can bring good fortune.

#### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):


 There are signs that someone close to Pisceans needs more reassurance of their importance in your life. If this relates to a family member, there could be reason to pay this person a visit, or at least

to make more contact. On a romantic level, the stars suggest that a spontaneous gesture will be appreciated by your partner. Money matters are most auspicious on Monday and Tuesday. Number nine looks lucky this week.

#### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):


 The stars suggest that a certain relationship in your world of work is about to come to an end. If this relates to Arians moving on to different employment, it would be wise to make a point of leaving on good terms. Those who have been day-dreaming of a romantic relationship with an earth sign have chance to turn this into reality around the middle of the month. The number one stands out.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 Planetary influences can tempt Taureans into laziness around the middle of January. The stars advise only taking time out after you have addressed work responsibilities as there are hints that a pressing matter can escalate later this month if ignored. In the realm of romance, those who feel they are being led up the jungle path by an air sign should be ready for an honest conversation. Number two seems special this week.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star


#### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 Someone intent on splitting hairs is predicted to waste your energy this week. In the world of work, this is likely to be an earth sign who is too focused on unimportant details. Where romance is concerned, a fire sign partner appears keen to make changes to plans relating to travel. Financial transactions are subject to mistakes being made midweek. The stars indicate that number five is lucky.


#### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Finances become healthier during the second half of January and many Cancerians will be considering investing in property. The stars suggest that you could be taken in by an earth sign's ability to spin a good story and getting a second opinion is advisable. In the realm of romance, focus on staying calm when the astral atmosphere encourages some tension this weekend. Your lucky number this week is seven.


#### LEO (July 24-August 22):

 Leos who have been keeping a low profile since the start of the year will be seeking some action. However, the stars suggest that friends are likely to be feeling the opposite. Where romance is concerned, there are hints of lightning striking twice; those who had a costly experience late last year could be close to a repeat performance. The number six can bring good fortune this week.

#### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 It will be important for Virgoans to pay more attention to what is happening around them this week. Where work is concerned, you could miss an important message and on a personal level, an air sign partner is tiring of not being listened to. If you are single and seeking, the cosmic climate encourages you to be more outgoing this weekend. Your lucky number this week is four.

#### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Your world of work settles down after a shaky start to the year, with influential people forecast to be more interested in your opinions and ideas. Where personal relationships are concerned, culture

clashes are highlighted for Librans this week. If this relates to the realm of romance, turning a blind eye to misunderstandings can lead to these becoming more serious issues. Number six can be important this week.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 The stars advise against making your mind up too quickly this week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who jump at the first opportunity could have cause for regret during the second half of January. Where work is concerned, February will be a more auspicious month to seek better opportunities. In your personal zone, a fair weather friend shows their true colors. Number one can attract good fortune this week.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Personal relationships benefit from a calmer cosmic climate this week. Sagittarians who have found it hard to relate to friends and family lately can see things from others' points of view more easily. Those who have recently suffered a loss are forecast to find their mood lightening. If you are single, meeting another fire sign makes you want to see more of this person. Your special number this week is three.

# NFL: Colts, Chargers survive wild card round

By Somchai Huasaikul

NATIONAL Football League fans who burned the midnight oil watching last weekend's four "wild card" playoff games were well rewarded, as all four games were amazing – quite possibly the best weekend of NFL action ever.

The first game saw an incredible come-from-behind win by the Indianapolis Colts over the visiting Kansas City Chiefs. Colts QB Andrew Luck, the former Heisman Trophy and first pick in the draft two years ago, looked really shaky early on, finding his team down by what appeared to be an insurmountable 38-10 deficit early in the third quarter.

But Luck never lost his composure, instead playing like a man possessed in the hurry up of-

fense, hurting the Chiefs both in the air and on the ground, including several runs of his own.

A 64-yard pass to Indy receiver AY Hilton tied the game at 44-44 with just over a minute left before veteran place keeper Adam Vinatieri iced the game with the point after attempt.

With the win, Luck and company won the right to travel to Foxborough to take on archrivals The New England Patriots this weekend (8:15am Sunday, January 12, Phuket time on CBS).

In the other AFC wild card game, Philip Rivers and the San Diego Chargers handed the Cincinnati Bengals their first home loss of the season, 27-10, knocking them out of the playoffs in the process and gaining the right to take on top-rated Denver at Mile High Stadium on

Sunday, January 13 (4:40am on Monday, Phuket time on CBS).

Over in the NFC matchups, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick led his team to a tight 23-20 win over the Green Bay Packers on the frozen tundra at Lambeau Field. Kaepernick completed 227 yards in passing, but his deadliest weapon was his feet, giving the Packers defense fits with a total of 98 yards on the ground.

The 49ers will now have to travel to North Carolina to take on the Panthers (1am early Tuesday Phuket time, Fox), who will be well rested after getting a first-round bye.

The last wild card winners were the New Orleans Saints, who edged out a 26-24 win at Philadelphia with a 32-yard field goal on the final play of a real nail-biter in Philly. The Saints



Photo: Charger Cheerleaders

Chargers' cheerleaders get their team all charged up.

under star QB Drew Brees will have to be in top form when they travel to Seattle to take on a well-rested Seahawks team who have the top-rated defense in the NFL and hardly ever lose at home. NFL fans here in Phuket will have to get up at 4:25am on Sunday to catch the action on Fox.

In this weekend's four divi-

sional playoff matches, Vegas likes the Pats, Seahawks and Denver to win at home by a touchdown or more, but the 49ers are favored by 1.5 points on the road at Carolina.

*Viewing Tip: It is a far cry from HD, but all of the games should be viewable live via online streaming, free of charge, at: [ustvnow.com](http://ustvnow.com)*

## Rodman says N Korea visit could help 'open door'

By Doina Chiacu and David Stanway

AMERICAN basketball star Dennis Rodman defended his latest visit to North Korea in an interview with broadcaster CNN on Tuesday, saying it would help "open the door" to the reclusive state.

Rodman, speaking during his fourth trip to the country, expressed "love" for leader Kim Jong Un and claimed his controversial trip was a "great idea for the world."

Rodman and a team of fellow former NBA stars will hold basketball games in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, to mark Kim's birthday, which is believed to fall on Wednesday, though this has never been officially confirmed.

The games come just weeks after Kim's powerful uncle Jang Song Thaek was purged and executed. South Korean president Park Geun-hye has described recent events in North Korea as a

"reign of terror."

During the interview, the former NBA star also appeared to question the activities of Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae, who has been held in North Korea on charges of crimes against the state since May last year.

"If you understand what Kenneth Bae did .... Do you understand what he did in this country? Why is he held captive in this country?" Rodman said.

Rodman has faced both ridicule and harsh criticism from some quarters for his trips, which some US politicians and activists view as serving only as fodder for propaganda efforts by the North Korean regime.

"This is not about me. If I can open the door a little bit, just a little bit," Rodman said. "It's all about the game. People love to do one thing – sports."

He also lamented the criticism his visits have drawn.

"It's amazing how we thrive on negativity. Does anyone know this guy's only 31 years old?" he said of Kim, whom he calls his friend.

"Dennis, he could be 31, he could be 51," said CNN interviewer Chris Cuomo. "He's just killed his uncle. He's holding an American hostage."

– Reuters



Dennis Rodman at Beijing Airport on transit to Pyongyang. Photo: REUTERS/Jason Lee

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## Thanyapura Phuket appoints new Sports Marketing Director

CONTINUING to gain momentum under new leadership, the island's premier sports and wellness destination Thanyapura Phuket, has made another key appointment in its quest to export its "active healthy lifestyle" concept globally.

Debbie Dionysius, the key figure in transforming the Phuket Triathlon into Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, has joined Thanyapura Phuket as its Director of Sports Marketing. Ms Dionysius was previously the long-

standing Assistant Vice President of Destination Marketing at Laguna Phuket, home of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-fest and the Phuket International Marathon.

Thanyapura Phuket Executive Chairman Chris McCormack, a four-time triathlon world champion, said Ms Dionysius' destination marketing pedigree made her appointment "a no-brainer".

"When you get an opportunity to hire someone like Debbie, you grab it with both hands. She is a hugely respected professional who has proven time and time again

that she gets the job done – and gets it done exceedingly well."

Ms Dionysius, who has lived in Phuket since 1995, when she was appointed Laguna Resorts and Hotels' Destination Marketing Manager, said the chance to work for Thanyapura, given its cutting-edge, progressive nature and team of champions, filled her with excitement.

"I feel everything I've done professionally has been leading to this point," she said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Debbie Dionysius. Photo. Supplied

## Integrated swim training bears fruit

By Steven Layne

CHIANG Mai brother and sister swim duo Tanakrit "Nok" Kittiya, 17, and Patrawadee "Ploy" Kittiya, 19, are again putting their recent intensive Phuket training to the test, looking to excel at the National Games, currently being contested in Suphanburi.

The siblings have been training at Thanyapura Phuket – Ploy since August, Nok since November last year – under the tutelage of Head Swim Coach Randy Simon in preparation for several important competitions – namely, the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, which took place last month in Myanmar; the Thailand National Games taking

place as this goes to print, and ultimately the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil.

Their training at Thanyapura Phuket bore its first "harvest" last month with several accomplishments at the recent SEA Games in Myanmar. Ploy won two Gold Medals (Women 4x100m Freestyle Relay, Women 200m Butterfly) and also achieved two new Thai national records (Women 4x100m Freestyle Relay, Women 200m Butterfly); She was the "Top Seed" for the Women 100m Butterfly finals, though was scratched from the finals to concentrate on the 800m Freestyle event, in which she managed a 6<sup>th</sup> Place finish.

Meanwhile, Ploy's younger brother Nok brought back a bronze medal (Men 400m Freestyle) and a new Thai national record for the Men's 4x200m Freestyle Relay.

Upon the duo's return to Phuket earlier this month, before heading to Suphanburi for the National Games, Randy remarked: "The meet was a big challenge for both Ploy and Nok, and although we had some real highs, we also had so real lows to go with them. In all, I am proud of how they conducted themselves and how they handled the adversity... as the Olympic Creed states, 'The most important thing is not to win, but to take part. Just as the most important thing in life is not triumph, it's the struggle. The

important thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well.' They did that... so there is nothing more I can ask of them!"

The American went on to comment on their ongoing regimen: "As Ploy and Nok are just coming off of the SEA Games competition, much of our preparations is what we call in swimming a 're-taper', which refers to a period of short but intense training, followed by a short recovery period that allows the body to adjust/recover and be stronger."

"We are also working more with our fitness trainer, Brian Finnis, with dryland training, and continuing our consultations with Andrea [mind trainer] on ways we can hone their ability to focus and perform to the best of their ability. As part of all of this, we are taking the swimmers to the Thanymundra retreat for three

days to allow us to remove distractions and complete our heaviest training," he continued.

"Along with that, we are analyzing their performances from SEA Games, and looking at adjustments that should allow them to swim even faster at the Thai National Games. We are looking to have a strong showing there and have set some high goals in a number of events that will (if all goes to plan) see them achieve top finishes and possibly another couple National Records to their tally."

Meanwhile, Thanyapura Phuket will host three elite nations for winter training this month as follows:

Jan 2-18: Norway National Swim Team

Jan 12- Feb 1: Dutch National Swim Team (Royal Dutch Swimming Federation)

Jan 18- Feb 7: Hungary National Swim Team



Thanyapura-trained Ploy and Nok brought two golds and one bronze home from the SEA Games. Photo: Shela Riva

## Right option for 2014

WAS 2013 everything that you hoped it would be? Did you accomplish everything that you set out to do last year? Are you satisfied with your personal relationships, current level of fitness or your amount of knowledge? Whether the answer to these questions is "yes" or "no", it has everything to do with the "options" you chose along the way.

Often the many small decisions (options) we make lead us down the many paths we take. We always have options; different choices that we can make, or at times choose not to make. For me it was a chance phone conversation with a good friend and fellow coach that eventually lead to me taking a job coaching in Australia. That then led to another change that saw me land in Hong Kong and then later here in Thailand. At the time, the chat didn't strike me as being a "life changing" discussion. But looking back now, I can see that it was that simple phone chat with a friend that I hadn't spoken to in awhile that opened a new set of options for me. What if I hadn't taken that call?

For many adults, they can point to moments like this when they knew that the option they were about to pick would affect their life for better or worse. One thing that we all have in common is the fact that every day, we are faced with



many different options. Some will move us toward our goals, and others will move us further away from them. But no matter which you ultimately choose... *you* still had to decide on which option was best for you at that time. For example, sleeping in instead of going to Saturday morning training is an option you could take.

So is watching TV instead of reading a book. Eating fast-food or junk food instead of eating correctly is also an option you might choose, or ignoring a situation with a family member or friend instead of taking steps to remedy the problem. These are options that we all can relate to, but are they really what will get us what we want in the long run? Will they make us a stronger athlete? Do they make us a smarter or healthier person? Will they bring us better relationships with loved ones? In the examples I've listed above... I think not. Do you?

This year can be yours for the taking, or it can be just another year of your life... the option is yours!!

Swimming tips by Randy Simon; email: [aquatics@thanyapura.com](mailto:aquatics@thanyapura.com)

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# International Sport

## Reaching the ultimate goal

By Jeremie Schatz

THE ancient martial art of Muay Thai is alive and strong, especially in Phuket, where fighters from around the world make their way to train with some of the best. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV were able to get the scoop on what's new in the island's fighting scene during a recent visit to Tiger Muay Thai gym.

Located on Soi Ta Led in Chalong, the Tiger name has become somewhat synonymous with Muay Thai and mixed martial arts (MMA) fighting. Tiger-sponsored fighters Mairbek Taisumov, 25, and Zubair Tukhugov, 22, are now bringing the Tiger name to another level with their accomplishments on the world famous Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) circuit.

Chechnyans Taisumov and Tukhugov have been training in MMA for over a year under Tiger coach Roger Huerta.

"I used to fight for the UFC. My background first came from wrestling, then jujitsu and then Muay Thai. Then I put that all together," says Huerta. Huerta's four years of experience on the

UFC circuit taught him what it takes to be a winning fighter – lessons which he now passes on to his protégés.

"Mairbek used to fight for M1 Global and Zu [Zubair] was fighting for Fight Nights, which are pretty big in Russia," says Huerta. M1 Global is based out of the Netherlands and Fight Nights in Russia – both are large fight promoters similar to the UFC.

"I had the time to go somewhere to train and I just took my bag and came to Thailand and met this guy [Huerta]," recalls Taisumov. Since then Taisumov has been making Huerta proud, sporting 21 wins and just four losses on the UFC circuit, including his recent win at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

Tukhugov is looking to chalk up another victory to his 15 win and three loss record with an upcoming UFC fight in Brazil next month.

"UFC is based out of Las Vegas but they bounce around the whole world – Zubair will be

fighting next month in Brazil, then the next show will be in Macau and they [UFC] are going to do seven shows in Asia over the next year. They are constantly opening new markets. They went to Europe already and



UFC fighter Zubair Tukhugov (center) with coach Roger Huerta (right) and strength and conditioning expert Andrew Wood (left). Photos: Jeremie Schatz

now they are coming to Asia," says Will Elliot, director at Tiger Muay Thai.

"The UFC is basically the Mecca of MMA. That's where you're going to fight the best fighters in the world... these guys want to be the best fighters in the world, fight the best fighters in the world," declares Huerta.

To fight with the best, Taisumov and Tukhugov subject themselves to a ruthless training regimen under Huerta's guidance. No alcohol or partying, training morning, day

and night with a slew of weights, strength conditioning and flexibility exercises are part of the lifestyle they commit to in order to stay at the top of their game.

Huerta's guys usually get a week off after a fight for some much needed rest and healing time but sometimes the rush of the win leaves them wanting more. "We won by a unanimous decision, beat a really tough Korean and he [Taisumov] is ready to rock and roll again – he's ready to fight again already," says Huerta.



Tiger Muay Thai sponsored UFC fighter Mairbek Taisumov.

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# Season start delayed, Jackson re-signed

By Steven Layne

DUE TO the ongoing social-political unrest in the Kingdom's capital, the Futsal Thailand Premier League (FTPL) 2014 season's planned January 25 kickoff has been postponed.

The season opener has now been tentatively set to commence in early February, an administrator of the island's pro five-a-side footy club Phuket United has confirmed.

"The [season] start was postponed due to the political [unrest]. The season should start around February 8, but we have to monitor the situation closely," he said.

Asked about this year's lineup, the coordinator confirmed that the club will have at least two foreign players in addition to a dozen confirmed Thai players.

"The two foreign players are Brazilian: Returning from last season, Jackson Santos and a new player, Francisco Edson Silva de Soares."

The news of Santos' surprise re-signing comes to the delight of the Andaman Pearls' 3,000-plus fan-base, who were initially disappointed after it was announced back in November that the club was not planning to re-sign the skilled Brazilian due to budget constraints.

"Action Jackson" was the club's top scorer last season with 36 goals, second in the national

island for training after January 15.

Unfortunately, Phuket United's other two Brazilian players from last season, Marcos and Jardel will not be returning to the club; Marcos was reported to have signed with Si Saket, while Jardel's Brazilian club, Amp re Futsal reportedly would not release him for loan to Phuket this season.

Santos' new Brazilian teammate, Francisco, nicknamed "Gugu", played for Si Saket last season, helping the club finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league behind Chonburi and Thai Port – ahead of Bangkok and Phuket, respectively.

Looking ahead to their second season in Thailand's top futsal ranks, Phuket United are one of 12 teams to have confirmed their readiness to compete in the 2014 FTPL, sponsored by Siam Multimedia Co Ltd.

The other returning clubs include champs Chonburi (who also went on to be crowned AFC Futsal Club Champions late last year in Japan); league runners-up Thai Port; Royal Navy; Si Pathum



'Action Jackson' Santos volleys for Phuket United.

league behind fellow Brazilian Ramualdo Namorato, who scored 39 goals for Si Saket.

Santos, whose wife recently gave birth to a healthy baby girl, told the *Gazette* that he is very excited to return to Phuket this season, and will arrive back to the



FAN FAVORITE: The news of Jackson Santos' re-signing came as a delight to Phuket United's 3,000-plus fan-base. Photos: Eric Haeg

Si Saket; Bangkok; Nonthaburi, Samut Sakhon; Highways Department, Prachinburi, CAT as well as Samut Songkhram – who transferred their squad, locale and competition right to a newly-formed club, Ayuthaya City.

Clubs who did not confirm readiness for the 2014 FTPL include Leo Bang Seu, Lampang United, Samut Prakarn and Surat

Thani FC – whose places will be substituted by four new clubs: Chiang Mai, Pattaya Arena, Khon Kaen and Uthaitani.

The former four clubs will have the option to reinstate their right to compete in the 2015 season.

Keep checking the *Gazette* for regular updates about Phuket United and the FTPL 2014 season.

## Learn from your mistakes

WHEN members and guests are taking lessons, practicing, or playing on the Thanyapura Tennis courts under the instruction of Peter Burwash International (PBI), it is our teaching philosophy that it is absolutely fine to commit errors, as long as you make mental note of those errors and don't commit the same mistake next time the same situation arises.

Tennis is a game with an overwhelming amount of variables involved, be it the wind, the court, the sun, the spin or your opponent; it is a foolish pursuit to expect perfection. You are far better off to simply be aware that you have to

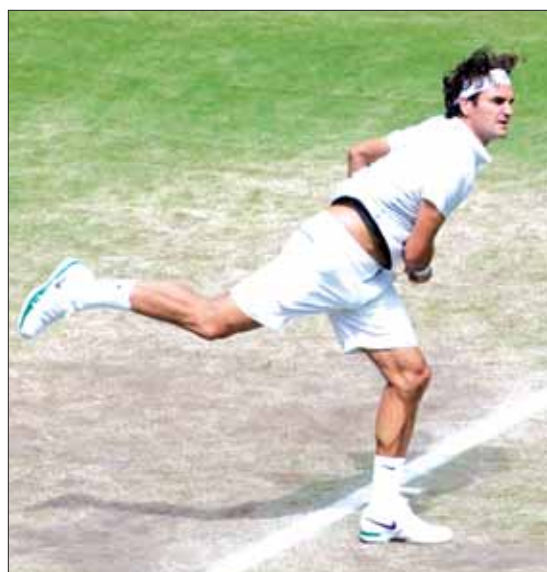


play tennis with purpose on each shot and repeating the same errors is not playing smartly.

For example: If you are returning serve and you hit the return long, you need to make note of the mistake you made (hitting long) and when the next return of serve comes to you, ensure that you make an effort not to hit it long. Yes, this may possibly lead to you hitting the next return into the net. Obviously that's not the goal, but at least it is a mistake with intent and awareness behind it.

The "Beyond the Obvious" note here is that there are plenty of us who are very hard on ourselves when we make mistakes in life. Maybe a better way to handle these mistakes is to simply be aware that the mistake has happened and don't commit the same mistake next time the same situation arises.

Happy Hitting!



Even greats like Roger Federer make mistakes sometimes. Photo: Nick Webb

Questions? Email: [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)

## Islanders getting into gear

PHUKET FC's Brazilian Head Coach Stefano "Teco" Cugurra and his Indonesian wife Miranda on January 2 were blessed with the birth of a healthy baby boy, who they named "Romario" and nicknamed "Phuket".

While Miranda will certainly be occupied in the coming weeks, Coach Teco also has a busy month ahead of him preparing for the start of the Toyota League One 2014 season, which is set to kick off on February 22.

Having assembled a total of about 26 players – including four Brazilians, a Japanese, a Myanmar national player and a handful of both fresh and seasoned Thai players – the new-look squad has scheduled seven high profile pre-season friendly matches this month and next as listed in the box below.



Phuket FC are changing their logo this season. Photos: Supplied

Meanwhile, at the time of going to press, the club was preparing to unveil a new logo for this season. Be sure to check the *Phuket Gazette* sports section online for more details.

Finally, the *Gazette* would like to congratulate Coach Teco, Miranda and Nong Phuket, who couldn't have been born in a better place. See you at Surakul!

– Steven Layne



Coach Teco and his son, Phuket



Note: all matches to the left will be played at Surakul Stadium and kick-off times are tentatively set for 6pm. Be sure to check the *Phuket Gazette* sports section online for confirmations and updates.

## Pre-season match schedule

- January 12 vs Ratchaburi Mitrphol FC (TPL)
- January 17 vs FC Forward Vladivostok (Russian league)
- January 25 vs Nakhon Sri Heritage (Thai Division 2)
- January 27 vs Brunei DPMM FC (Singapore 1 League)
- February 1 vs Chonburi FC (TPL)
- February 9 vs a top Asean club (TBC)
- February 15 vs a top TPP club (TBC)



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