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INSIDE TODAY

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Armed teens target weak

Police bolster patrols as armed robberies spike

By **Chutharat Plerin**

POLICE have ramped up street patrols and checkpoints, but say there is little more they can do to combat a spate of knife-point robberies in Rawai within the past month.

"They are targeting Thais and foreigners – anybody they think looks weak and would be an easy target," said Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazintharasorn.

In the most recent robbery, last Friday night, three teens overtook a British man on a motorbike as he rode down Soi Samakkee 2, and pressed a knife to his stomach as they grabbed his shoulder bag and motorbike keys.

The man, 63-year-old Rawai resident Chris Stark, lost his passport, ATM cards, mobile phones and about 500 baht.

Two weeks before, on July 3, an American friend of Mr Stark's was slashed during an attempted robbery near the Roxanne Bar.

Driving home at about 5am after watching a World Cup match, the man was blocked by six men on two motorbikes who demanded his valuables. Having a powerful bike, he accelerated and managed to escape the



Police stop and search youths at a night checkpoint. Image: Phuket City Police

group, but received a superficial knife wound on the shoulder.

"We are doing our best to patrol the area, and have set up checkpoints to search for drugs, weapons and other illegal items, but we simply don't have enough officers to do anything more," said Col Krittapas.

Most of the thieves are teens, Col Krittapas said, on average, 14 or 15 years old.

"We arrest them, but they're released right away, because the judicial focus for minors is on reform, not..."

Continued on Page 4

BOAT LAUNCH

Yachties ahoy!

The *Gazette* this week pushes the boat out with the launch of its new Boating page, to bring you the latest on all things that float.

To get the adventure underway, this week's page features the Pershing range of luxury flybridge cruisers: is it a beauty or a beast?

See Page 37

SPECIAL REPORT

Fishermen dealing in seahorses profit, but is it sustainable?

RECENT studies show that Thailand, the number one known exporter of dried seahorses in the world, exports over 5 million of the creatures to neighboring countries.

The profits from the sea horses, used for traditional Chinese medicines, boost migrant fisherman income by up to nearly 20 per cent.

A research project determining the sustainability of the trade is underway.

Full story Pages 6-7

NACC corruption probe targets 30 officials over land

AT LEAST 30 officers, from village chiefs to former officials at the Governor's Office, have been named in abuse of power complaints filed with the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

Tawichat Nillakan, chief of the Phuket NACC branch, explained that most of the complaints involve the issuing of illegal land titles

Full story Page 2

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This Week



Business

Learn how to increase your drink sales with expert tips. **Page 29**



Property

MBK's hotel unit nears the completion of its rebranding. **Page 31**



In Focus

One man's love for Hoosiers takes him around the globe. **Page 35**



History

A look at the role Portugal played in Siam's history. **Page 36**



Boating

Our new boating column takes a look at luxury on the water. **Page 37**



Sport

Four days of glorious racing ends with Foxy Lady's win. **Page 38**

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Dozens of officials under fire in illegal title probe

By Chutharat Plerin

AT LEAST 30 officials in Phuket are under investigation for their alleged involvement in illegally issuing land documents for plots in Sirinath National Park.

Tawichat Nillakan, chief of the Phuket office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), told the Phuket Gazette this week that his office had received at least 77 formal complaints against local officials for abusing their positions of power since the Phuket NACC office opened on March 4 last year.

"About one-fifth of those complaints are related to land," he said.

Three cases are specifically in regard to officials issuing land documents for plots in Sirinath National Park.

"One case involves 10 to 15 officers," Mr Tawichat said.

The complaints filed target officials at all levels, from those previously stationed as high as the Governor's Office, to local Ministry of Interior and Land Office officials, former Sirinath National Park officers, right down to tambon chiefs (*Kamnan*) and village chiefs (*Phu Yai Baan*).

"A former park chief at Sirinath is under investigation, but that person was the park chief decades



NACC Phuket Chief Tawichat said officials at all levels are being investigated for illegally issuing land titles for plots in Sirinath National Park.

ago," Mr Tawichat said.

None of the officials currently under investigation have been charged, Mr Tawichat confirmed.

"Once we have concluded our

investigation into each complaint, we will hand the case over to the public prosecutor to decide whether or not to proceed with formal charges," said Mr Tawichat.

Woman slain in Phuket Town

POLICE are hunting for the suspect of a shooting on the east side of Phuket Town on July 20 that ended in the death of a woman from Trang.

Local residents who had heard the sounds of gunfire in Soi Hachananivet, near the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) Hospital in Rassada, notified Phuket City Police at about 9:30pm.

"When we arrived at the scene, we saw a crowd of people standing around a motorbike and a pool of blood on the ground, but no victim," said Maj Rachan Panwai of Phuket City Police.

Saowalak Samtong, 41, who had been shot in the chest, had already been rushed to the PPAO



At least three bullets were fired.

Hospital by rescue workers.

"The medical team at the hospital tried their best to help Ms Saowalak, but they were not able to save her," said Maj Rachan.

Police found three bullet holes in a wall at the scene and are checking CCTV footage for further evidence.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Second diver in less than a week pulled unconscious from water

AN INDIAN woman diving on a day trip near Koh Phi Phi was pulled from the water unconscious on July 16 and rushed to hospital, where she remains.

Deetti Tirumalaraju, 28, encountered difficulties at about six meters, Phuket Marine Police Inspector Chatchai Sakdee was told.

She was brought to the surface and given first aid on the dive boat, the *Mermaid*, operated by the All 4 Diving company, said Lt Col Chatchai.

Seeking to get Ms Tirumalaraju to Phuket as fast



Ms Tirumalaraju, from India, ran into difficulties underwater at Phi Phi. Photo: Gazette file

retrieved unconscious from the water near Coral Island and rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Efforts to revive him by rescue crew and medical staff at the hospital were not successful.

as possible, the company's dive staff arranged for a speedboat to pick her up at Koh Kai and rush her to Rassada Pier, where an ambulance from Bangkok Hospital Phuket was waiting.

Hers was the second reported diving accident in Phuket waters in less than a week. Just four days before, Korean tourist Kim Sang Min, 47, was re-

trieved unconscious from the water near Coral Island and rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Efforts to revive him by rescue crew and medical staff at the hospital were not successful.

— Chutharat Plerin

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Thousands stand against new island dolphinarium

By Chutharat Plerin

Sea Shepard Global has called out for help to prevent the Nemo Dolphinarium from being built in Phuket.

The proposed facility will house six dolphins, two seals and one sea lion all from Japan, confirmed Kiattikhun Charoensawan, chief of the Phuket Fisheries Office, on Wednesday.

Phuket Aqua Project Co Ltd's application for the facility has been submitted to the Department of Fisheries's head office in Bangkok, he said.

The facility is about 90 per cent complete, said the project manager, who declined to be named.

"The owner expects it to be open by next high season," he added.

"Phuket is a world tourist destination. Having the dolphinarium in Phuket will be another option for tourists, and that will bring more tourists to the island."

Reports show that several of

the six dolphins for the facility are most likely being transported from Taiji via the Ukraine, said Gary Stokes, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Director for Asia.

"From the pictures we received from a concerned individual who lives in Phuket, the tank looks to be very small. Not very deep, and no separate holding tanks to separate the animals if needed. That said, no tank can ever replace their natural environment," he said.

"The annual slaughter of dolphins in Taiji is what we are aiming to stop, and this is driven by

the money from the wild caught dolphins, not the sale of meat. Therefore, any dolphin facility contributes to this slaughter, directly or indirectly. As many nations are closing down parks, others are now opening them up. China, for example, has plans for many across its secondary and tertiary cities; these [dolphins] will all come from Taiji."

Sea Shepard Global's petition,



The facility is about 90 per cent completed. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

which aims to have 10,000 people copy and paste an open letter denouncing the facility, has already raked up 9,367 copies, according to the website Change.org on Wednesday.

This isn't the first attempt to bring a dolphin facility to Phuket.

In 2011, Mark Berman of the United States-based Earth Island Institute and Edwin Wiek of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) joined forces to halt plans to build a "dolphinarium" as part of a resort and tourism complex in Rawai.



Lifeguards administer oxygen to the victim. Photo: Phuket Lifeguard Club

Jellyfish warning after woman is painfully stung

A RUSSIAN woman was rushed to hospital after being stung by a bluebottle jellyfish while swimming at Nai Thon Beach on July 18.

"We heard a woman screaming. We helped her out of the waist-deep water and found a bluebottle jellyfish stuck to the back of her hand," said Jit Chairap, head of the Nai Thon lifeguards.

"We removed the jellyfish, but then the woman started having trouble breathing, so we administered oxygen while waiting for the ambulance to arrive."

The woman, Dinara Khayranova, 24, was rushed to hospital and discharged after receiving treatment.

Lifeguards issued a warning to swimmers in the area.

"So far, Nai Thon is the only beach where bluebottles have been spotted. We have collected about 20 in two weeks," said Mr Jit.

— Chutharat Plerin

Cuffed fugitive on the run caught with the help of dog's bark

THE bark of a dog meant the end of escape for a man who had leapt handcuffed from a police pick-up truck on July 17 and disappeared into a forest.

Arrested for stealing a motorbike on July 15, Boonrit Boontang, 22, was being transferred to Phuket Provincial Court in the bed of the truck when it stopped at a red light at about 11:30am.

"He jumped from the police truck while we were sitting at the t-junction of Damrong Road, Palien Road and Ruamphattana Road, about two kilometers from the court," said Sen Sgt Maj Ratanachai Maneerat of the Thalang Police.

Mr Boonrit then disappeared into the forest by Baan Natkamon 2 housing estate, his hands still locked together.

About 30 officers from the Thalang and Phuket City police departments set off in search of him, said Lt Col Rattaket Munmuang of the Phuket City Police.

About seven hours later, a barking dog revealed the fugitive's hiding spot.

"We were searching the jungle by Baan Natkamon 2 housing estate when a woman stopped us and said she had heard a dog

barking, then pointed to a spot where she thought Mr Boonrit might be hiding," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Chao Phomna told the *Gazette*.

"We followed her direction and saw Mr Boonrit lying under a tree. When he saw us he tried to run away again, but he was not fast enough this time."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Phuket to teach the nation how to handle waste

THE commander of the Royal Thai Navy has vowed to find the funds necessary to fix Phuket's third incinerator, broken since 2012, and make the island a model for managing trash.

Admiral Narong Pipathanasai made the pledge after touring the island's waste facility at Saphan Hin on Monday.

The island has filled all five of its landfills and it is impossible to burn all the trash coming in with only two of Phuket's three incinerators operating, Governor Maitri Inthusut noted in March.

"The site can hold a million tonnes of trash, but it all needs to be disposed of eventually," said Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana. "The [two] operational incinerators can burn 700 tonnes of trash a day, but during high season we receive at least 900 tonnes."

When all three incinerators are working, they can burn 950 tonnes of trash a day. —*Athip Karndee*



Admiral Narong

Visa runs surge as scores of expats scurry to go legit

By Saran Mittrarat

THE ongoing crackdown on foreigners staying in Thailand by doing visa runs to re-enter the country on visa-exemption status has sparked a surge in the number of foreigners in Phuket travelling to Penang to obtain visas issued by the Royal Thai Consulate there.

Preeyapan Adithepwarangkul, owner of KBV Visa Run, said that demand for the Penang visa run had grown so much that the company has chartered a full-size tour bus to conduct the run.

For years, the company relied on minivans.

Ms Preeyapan was adamant that all foreigners entering Thailand on the appropriate visas — and who carried with them evidence supporting their application for their respective visas — were not turned away at the Malaysian border.

However, she admitted that "some nationalities" on the Thai



Phuket Immigration Chief Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Immigration Bureau watchlist had been denied entry to Thailand, but declined to name the nationalities concerned.

Ms Preeyapan was surprised to hear that 33 foreigners on a KBV visa run returning from Penang on a tour bus last week were all told

by the KBV visa run leader that they had to show 20,000 baht cash to Thai Immigration officers at the Sadao border crossing.

"There is no reason to show cash at the border," she said. "If anyone is asked to do this, please let me know."

Meanwhile, Phuket Immigration Chief Sunchai Chokkajaykij this week confirmed that his office has received an order to begin issuing extensions of up to 30 days to foreigners who enter the country on visa-exemption status.

The order is to come into effect on August 29.

Currently, foreigners entering Thailand on visa-exemption status can apply to extend their stay at any immigration office, but only for an additional seven days.

"But from August 29, these foreigners can apply to extend their stay at any immigration office for up to 30 days — giving a maximum possible stay in Thailand of 60 days," he said.

"At this stage, foreigners will not be required to present an onward travel ticket, any minimum required amount of funds or even evidence of a hotel booking or travel itinerary," Col Sunchai said.

"However, this issue is under consideration," he noted.

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Three youths prepare to be searched by police. Photo: Phuket City Police

Police struggle to contain street attacks by teenagers

From page 1

punishment," he said.

Col Krittapas blamed the teens' parents for not overseeing them properly.

"These teens are not in school," he said. "Some are drug users who rob to get money to buy drugs. They ride around on motorcycles looking for victims, and target women and anyone who looks vulnerable."

Col Krittapas appealed to local businesses to help keep an eye out for suspicious or criminal activity.

"Please don't think this doesn't concern you," he said. "One day it could be you or a friend of yours. Working together is better."

Col Krittapas asked bars and guesthouses in particular to monitor their surroundings and asked callers to report illegal activities in Thai.

"Our officers don't speak En-

glish well. We have some police volunteers who can speak English, but most work only during the day-time," he said.

Col Krittapas urged everyone to protect themselves by avoiding dangerous and poorly lit areas.

Alarmed by recent violent attacks by teenagers, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Krajang Suwannarat last Saturday imposed a 10pm curfew on children under 18 years old and set up random nighttime checkpoints to enforce the regulation.

He also threatened that parents may be found liable if their children were caught out after hours.

Juvenile crime is the most serious problem Phuket faces, Chatree Taveesup, director of the island's Juvenile Observation and Protection Center, said in March.

Cases of juvenile crime heard by Phuket's Juvenile and Family Court spiked by nearly 50 per cent last year.

Battered beach revival

Governor aims to use disaster relief funds to fight coastal erosion

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

GOVERNOR Maitri Inthasut has pledged to support all budget requests by local authorities to combat the effects of coastal erosion that plagued the island's beaches last week.

If need be, the governor is willing to specifically declare Surin Beach a disaster zone in order to be able to release money from a disaster relief fund in order to make temporary repairs to the Surin beachfront.

Governor Maitri announced the news during a visit to Surin Beach on July 18, when he inspected the damage inflicted by pounding seas that pummeled a makeshift seawall to pieces and threatened to topple a lifeguard tower last week.

"I have to find a solution to this problem," Governor Maitri said.

"In the short term, the Cherng Talay OrBorTor [Tambon Administration Organization] will clear the beach of all the rubble and landscape the area to make it beautiful again for the tourism high season.

"For the long term, I have ordered the Public Works and Town and Country Planning office to inspect all the beaches and come up with a feasible permanent solution to prevent coastal erosion."



Governor Maitri (in blue shirt) is willing to declare Surin Beach a disaster zone in order to combat coastal erosion.

However, Governor Maitri agreed that so far the most likely solution was the installation of seawalls of varying sizes at each beach along Phuket's west coast, similar to the one proposed by Cherng Talay Mayor Ma-ann Samran earlier last week.

Gov Maitri pointed out that by declaring Surin Beach a disaster zone, he could allow the Cherng Talay OrBorTor to use 20 million

baht from a disaster relief fund to make temporary repairs to the beachfront.

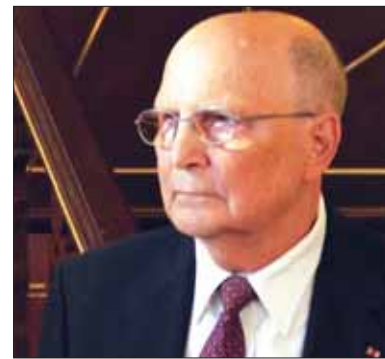
"So far we have received no reports of local residents needing these funds to repair their homes or businesses," Gov Maitri said.

"If we declare Surin Beach a disaster area, we could use this reserve to help them by quickly repairing the beachfront to prevent more damage being done before

the tourism high season arrives."

Governor Maitri said he was willing to do the same for other areas in Phuket in dire need of a defense against coastal erosion.

"I will support budget requests from any other local administrations in Phuket who need to help people who have been severely affected by coastal erosion and large waves damaging their properties," he said.



Dirk Naumann

German consul honored for 12 years of service

GERMAN Ambassador to Thailand Rolf Schulze bid farewell to Phuket legacy Dirk Naumann on July 18 as Mr Naumann concluded 12 dedicated years on the island as German Honorary Consul.

Amb Schulze commended Mr Naumann for service, especially his work after the tsunami.

"Without your creativity, engagement, help and human feeling it would not have been possible to help so many persons here: Thais, foreigners or Germans," he said.

Amb Schulze also welcomed Phuket's new German Honorary Consul, Mr Naumann's daughter, Anette Jimenez Hoechstetter.

"I can only hope that I'm adequate to fill the huge footsteps my father has placed on Phuket and its community over the last 12 years," she said.

— Isaac Stone Simonelli



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PADI launches seahorse specialty training course

MARINE conservationists in Phuket on July 18 announced the international launch of a seahorse diver specialty course to promote accurate crowdsourcing as Thailand, and the rest of the world, attempts to protect endangered populations.

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) course will teach student divers the basics of seahorse biology and conservation, how to identify and search for seahorses and the many actions divers can take to maintain sustainable seahorse populations, explained Lindsay Aylesworth, lead author of the Seahorse Diver Specialty.

Trained divers can then help to protect seahorses by monitoring populations over time and reporting seahorse sightings to iSeahorse.org, a global citizen science program created by Project Seahorse with support from the John

G Shedd Aquarium.

"With the creation of this course we want to build a network of knowledgeable and passionate divers who will answer the call to protect seahorses," said Ms Aylesworth.

Thailand is the world's largest exporter of seahorses and is taking proactive steps to understand the sustainability of the trade. This requires basic information about the species that are in Thailand's waters.

"The information collected through the specialty course will be used immediately for the research we are doing," said Ms Aylesworth.

The PADI specialty course was kick-started in Phuket on July 24 with an instructor certification course led by PADI Course Director Kevin Black from Kiwidiver.com with the support of PADI Regional Manager Andy Auer.

"With so many different species of seahorse found at our local Phuket beaches



Learn to identify seahorses with the new program. Photo: Kiwidiver

Kiwidiver.com is excited to be able to work with the team from Project Seahorse to learn more about this magnificent creature and help educate other divers about them," Mr Black told the *Gazette*.

— Isaac Stone Simonelli

Corralling

THOUGH not usually a fish specifically targeted by the fishing industry, an estimated 5.8 million seahorses are exported each year from Thailand, playing a large role in making the country the world leader in seahorse exports.

With seahorse catch numbers dwindling and the charismatic creatures being added to CITES, the eyes of the world turn to Thailand. The *Gazette's* Isaac Stone Simonelli reports.

MAKING A LIVING

THE majority of seahorses harvested from Thai waters are trawlers' bycatch, fish that are not targeted but nevertheless caught in fishing gear.

"The captains of trawlers and boat owners are not interested in the seahorse product and they allow the crews to collect and sell them to local traders for additional income," Dr Parichart Laksanawimol, Biology Lecturer at Rajabhat Chandrakasem University said.

Most fishermen in Thailand say that the profits from seahorse sales comprise up to 20 per cent of their annual earnings.

"Trawler crews' salaries range from 8,000 to 20,000 baht per month... The crew's profit from the seahorse trade is not easy to calculate due to seahorses being non-target species.

"However, additional income for the crew ranges from 500 baht to 10,000 baht per month depending on the fishing grounds and the season.

"Crew members usually do not share any profit from the seahorse trade. Each crew member collects and sells their seahorses individually," Dr Parichart said.

Most commercial ports have seahorse buyers, explains Lindsay Aylesworth, lead researcher in Thailand for Project Seahorse and PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.

Rassada Pier has several commercial vendors of seahorses. "Seahorses for sale" signs and dried specimens are easily found there, as are vendors willing to make a sale. However, none of them were willing to speak on record when approached by the *Gazette*.

Middle men and local buyers pay fishermen at the ports between five baht and 1,000 baht for seahorses based on their size, said Ms Aylesworth.

The price for seahorses then begins to increase by 50 per cent per following transaction.

A woman selling seahorses at Rawai Pier to tourists priced a

dried specimen that was about 8cm long at 2,000 baht.

"Sometimes in the smaller scale [fishing] areas there seems to be a market for them, but in other places there are no markets," said Ms Aylesworth, who has been interviewing fishermen in Thailand for the last year and half to better understand the trade.

Fishers in areas that have not developed a market for seahorses are returning the seahorses they find caught in their nets to the sea, said Ms Aylesworth.



'In some areas there have been seahorse buyers for generations passing on [the trade] through family lines'

— Lindsay Aylesworth, Project Seahorse

"In some areas there have been seahorse buyers for generations passing on [the trade] through family lines.

"In other cases we've heard of entrepreneurial souls who have visited other places and seen that there are people selling them and say, 'Ah, let's see if I can catch some seahorses and sell them to you.'

"And in some locations there seems to be no history, no current market and no interest."

Project Seahorse alumnus Allison Perry's research, released in 2010, has shown a general decline in seahorse bycatch volumes.

"This raises concerns about the status of seahorse populations in these countries," said the research paper, titled *Fisheries, large-scale trade, and conservation of seahorses in Malaysia and Thailand*.

If catch numbers are decreasing faster than demand or if demand is not decreasing at all, prices for seahorses could be on the rise.

"Such price increases would not normally be expected to drive changes in bycatch landings of a species, although at least one Thai trawler was known to specifically target seahorses, an unusual practice that could potentially spread if seahorse market values continued to climb," the paper noted.

SEAHORSES, WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

The largest use for seahorses both domestically and internationally is for traditional Chinese medicine.

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profits from Thai seahorses

“Fishermen sell them to local buyers as dry individuals. Mostly they are used for traditional medicines. There is a history of seahorses being used for their curative powers – anything from swollen lymph nodes to arthritis or male fertility problems, because it’s the male seahorse that carries the babies,” said Ms Aylesworth.

Male seahorses are the only male in the animal kingdom known to give live birth, she added.

Though Thailand is the number one exporter of seahorses, with major markets in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Singapore, it also has a strong domestic market.

At least an estimated 520 kilograms are consumed annually as traditional Chinese medicine.

Some respondents in Ms Perry’s research felt that traditional Chinese medicine was losing popularity, at least in Thailand, with younger generations opting for Western medicines more often. However, global trends suggest that consumption of herbal remedies has been increasing, according to a World Health Organization study in 2005.

LETTER OF THE LAW

Though many divers and even some seahorse sellers believe the trade is illegal, it is not.

In 2004, seahorses were one of the first fish species added to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which demands that countries maintain “sustainable trade” and monitor populations.

“It’s still legal to trade dead seahorses inside the country, whereas seahorse exports have to have a permit from CITES authori-



More than 2 million seahorses are pulled from the waters that surround Thailand each year. Photo: Kiwidiver.com

ties in Thailand,” said Dr Parichart.

International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.

“Permits or certificates should only be granted if the relevant authorities are satisfied that certain conditions are met, above all that trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild,” explained Dr Parichart.

Though there are no specific laws in place in Thailand to protect seahorses, there are several laws that indirectly control seahorse catches, such as no fishing zones, no fishing during spawning season in some areas and no fishing with non-selective trawlers within 5,400 meters of the shore, said Dr Parichart.

“Any non-selective trawler will commonly damage benthic organisms [live on, in, or near the

seabed], as well as seahorse habitats,” Dr Parichart said.

However, it is difficult to enforce the law at sea, said Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 Chief Tanet Munnay, who earlier this year asked for the public to help document illegal fishing in marine sanctuaries and national parks.

“It is very difficult for us to catch illegal fishermen, as we have no way to keep from being seen as we approach them. And we have to catch them in the act in order to make an arrest,” Mr Tanet said at the time.

Another challenge facing the fishing industry are regulations concerning the size of the mesh in nets.

“I know that the Department of Fisheries has passed laws about meshing sizes that they encourage... for sustainability of different populations of targeted fish, because in theory, larger mesh sizes

don’t catch juveniles or unintended species,” Ms Aylesworth said.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The introduction of seahorses to CITES Appendix-II has pushed forward efforts to understand seahorse populations to ensure the sustainability of their trade throughout the world.

“Of the 48 seahorse species listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, 26 are considered ‘Data Deficient’ – meaning there isn’t enough information for us to know whether these species are thriving or disappearing,” said Ms Aylesworth.

However, many seahorse populations are in decline, mainly due to overfishing and habitat destruction. “Thailand is taking proactive

steps to understand the sustainability of the trade. This requires basic information about the species that are in Thailand’s waters,” Ms Aylesworth said.

To gain a better understanding, Project Seahorse scientists, collaborating with Thailand’s Department of Fisheries and Kasetsart University in Bangkok, are about halfway through a three-year project about Thailand’s trade of seahorses which they intend to present to CITES.

Part of the project is an online “citizen science” database called iSeahorse, which was recently coupled with a Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) seahorse specialty course.

“This is an exciting program for recreational divers – with a cohort of trained surveyors, we can track vulnerable seahorse populations and inform management strategies for fisheries, seahorse trade and marine protected areas,” said Tse-Lynn Loh, postdoctoral research associate at Shedd Aquarium and Project Seahorse.

One aspect of the trade that CITES does not require records of or regulations for is domestic trade, yet such consumption will have to be considered as Thailand attempts to determine sustainable levels of export.

“Even small exports might prove unsustainable if added to already large domestic use,” Ms Perry’s paper says.

“Managing the seahorse trade for sustainability may set a precedent for the future protection of other marine species of commercial importance, while efforts to protect seahorse species in the wild are likely to bring broader benefits to threatened marine habitats that are critical both for humans and biodiversity.”



— CHANINTR LIVING —
PHUKET

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Residents demanded that the PWA fix their water supply. Photo: Supplied

Angry residents demand water

A GROUP of angry residents from the Saiyuan Med Village housing estate in Rawai descended on the Phuket Water Authority (PWA) office at Bang Wad Reservoir on July 21 to demand action to fix their water supply.

Water supply had been intermittent since the start of the year, and for the past two months 55 homes in the estate have had no water from the PWA at all, said the complaint signed by Prawit Wiriyannorranan.

Mr Prawit is the managing director of Sunshine Property Limited Partnership, the company contracted to manage the estate.

Each household affected by the lack of water supply had to pay 3,000 baht per month to have water delivered by a private company.

"They also had to pay a minimum fee charged by the PWA for the water meter," said the complaint.

When called about the issue, PWA Manager Pisak Chonlayut confirmed that his staff had checked and fixed the problem, and that the water is running properly.

"I am in Surat Thani at the moment, but my staff called me about the group of foreigners who had filed the complaint," said Mr Pisak.

"The problem was due to a water pump. The housing estate is at a pretty high elevation, so the pump is sometimes not able to get the water to the homes."

Mr Pisak said that he would check the pump himself once he returned to Phuket.

Mr Pisak said that he was unable to address all the demands while out of the office, but added that anyone who continued to experience problems could contact him directly.

"Please report problems to me by calling 087-0120295," Mr Pisak offered.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

Be alert, Phuket: Traffic violation clampdown has begun

POLICE officers throughout Phuket are dishing out fines for motorists who violate traffic laws as part of a nationwide crackdown on road safety that started on July 17.

The Royal Thai Police identified 199 dangerous intersections throughout the country, three of which are in Phuket, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Sakchai Limcharoen. Officers stationed at these junctions will be on the lookout for any law-breaking motorists.

"The three intersections in Phuket are the Tesco Lotus junction in Kathu, at Thepkrasattri Road and Rassada Nuson Road near Rajabhat University and in Koh Kaew on Thepkrasattri Road," said Col Sakchai.

"However, we will be monitoring all intersections throughout the island."

Five types of drivers will be targeted and fined for violations in the clampdown: drivers who cross multiple lanes will face a fine of 1,000 baht; those who obstruct traffic will pay 500

baht; ghostriders, or motorists who drive against traffic, will be fined 500 baht; motorists who stop at an intersection but cross over the line will be fined 1,000 baht; and anyone caught using fake licence plates or driver's licences will be charged 2,000 baht.

"Last month, we had 5,000 traffic violation cases. About 70 per cent of them involved Thai nationals, and most of the violations were motorcyclists not wearing helmets."

— **Woranut Pechdee**

Old legal loophole makes owning park land legal

By Saran Mittrarat

A LEGAL loophole dating back more than 50 years may be just what those accused of encroaching on Phuket's Sirinath National Park need to legally claim privately owned plots within the park's boundaries.

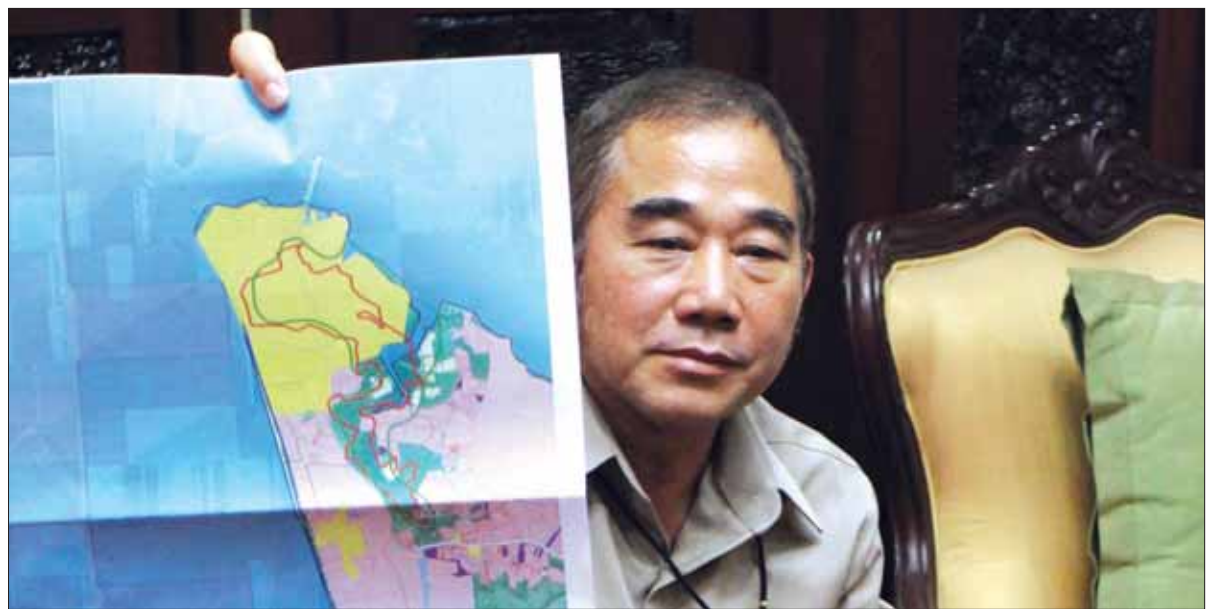
The surprise was delivered to Governor Maitri Inthasut on July 22 by a Deputy Director-General of the Land Department, Thammasak Chana, accompanied by Phuket Land Office chief Somyos Lawchoo.

Mr Thammasak pointed out to Governor Maitri that if claimants had in their possession a *SorKor 1* land use document for plots within the park, they may have the right to upgrade the document to full *Chanote* land title status.

"This would apply only if the holders were issued the *SorKor 1* before 1954, the last year they were issued, and if the holders were not compensated for their plots,"

"If the officers at Sirinath National Park cannot provide evidence of those landowners having been compensated for their land, those landowners will have full rights to upgrade their *SorKor 1* deeds to full *Chanote*," Mr Thammasak explained.

Mr Thammasak explained that the Land Department felt compelled to take direct action following the news that Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Taraphiban was to file police complaints against three people, Nakorn Wongsrithong, Chan Pongpa and Anoma Fangsen,



Phuket Land Office chief Somyos Lawchoo holds up a map of Phuket's north.

who claimed they had rights to plots within the park.

"We have set up a special team to investigate the rights of the landowners in this case. We expect the investigation to conclude within 60 days," Mr Thammasak said.

The "direct action" also follows the new Director-General of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Chatchawal Suksomjit, having earlier this month ordered the Land Department to hand over records and copies of land titles for plots along the border of – or allegedly in – Sirinath National Park.

That order followed allegations that the Land Department had repeatedly refused to hand over land register documents to Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant

Conservation (DNP) officers investigating encroachment onto park.

"The DNP Director said he was having extreme difficulty in obtaining records from the Land Office," Gen Chatchawal, a former deputy national police chief, said.

"They said that we do not have the authority to ask for any land records," said DNP director Samak Donnapee.

The law office of Tilleke & Gibbins, which has practiced law in Thailand for more than 120 years, in its definitive guide "Thailand Legal Basics" describes the *SorKor 1* as a land use document "which recognizes only possession and does not [convey or] imply ownership rights to a parcel of land."

"The certificate is nontrans-

ferable. However, a person in possession may transfer physical possession."

Considering the *SorKor 1* is reportedly "non-transferable", it was not explained to Governor Maitri just how any persons could have one in their valid possession today.

Today's visit by Mr Thammasak also follows Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat publicly pointing out that national level politicians were allegedly involved in commandeering more than 1,000 rai of public land in Phuket.

"The people at the root of the issue of encroachment in Sirinath Park go all the way up to the top... people who are too powerful for local authorities to bring to their knees," he told the *Gazette*.

Phuket beach tear-down debris stabs tourist through foot

PHUKET tourist exercising barefoot on Kamala Beach on July 18, was stabbed through the foot by a foot-long metal rod that was hidden beneath the sand.

Local rescue workers called to the scene near the Kamala Cemetery found Benedict Tauber, 55, sitting on the ground with the metal rod sticking through the bottom of his foot.

"We had to cut off part of the rod so that it would be easier for us to transport him to Patong Hospital," said rescue worker Watunyoo Muangpayaa.

Doctors had to cut through Mr Tauber's skin to remove the rod, a hospital staffer confirmed. Mr Tauber was discharged af-

ter doctors stitched and dressed the wound.

Kamala Mayor Karun Sriden urged all beachgoers walking barefoot on the beach to take caution, as the recent tear down of illegal structures at Kamala may have left behind scrap metal and building materials.

"We are still working on cleaning up the beach. Once everything is done, we will use backhoes to sift through the sand so we can find and remove any hazardous items that might still be hidden there," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Mr Karun did not give a specific date for the final cleanup.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



A rescue worker points to the barb still protruding through Mr Tauber's foot.

Doors open to protect migrants from slavery

By Saran Mitrarat

THE first wave of illegal migrant workers made their way to Phuket Provincial Community Hall on Tuesday to apply for legal working status at the one-stop registration center.

The center, initiated by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), streamlines the process of registering illegal migrant workers in Thailand, thereby aiming to eradicate slavery nationwide.

The center opened at 8:30am and will operate every day until August 21. After that date, both illegal workers and their employers are liable for prosecution, said Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) Chief Yaowapa Pibulpol.

"We expect about 20,000 illegal migrant workers to apply to become temporary legal workers. So far, we have received names of 15,700 illegal workers from business owners," said Ms Yaowapa.

"Those employers who sent us a list of names were set up with appointments at the center."

The total cost of legalizing a worker is 1,305 baht.

"Once the worker is officially registered, he or she will be



The opening ceremony of the migrant worker registration center was attended by Governor Maitri (center).

issued a color-coded card. On the front is a pink, non-Thai identification. On the back will be the work permit, which will be green for Myanmar nationals, brown for Cambodians and blue for Laotians."

This card will be valid for 60 days while officials verify the citizenship of each worker in his or her home country, explained Ms Yaowapa.

"Most of the illegal workers come to Thailand without proper documentation, such as passports. They will be allowed temporary

legal status while we verify their citizenship and obtain official documents from their home countries," she said.

"Once we have their documents and passports, we will be able to apply for their work permits and visas, which will be valid for one year."

Employers who were present at the center expressed their satisfaction with the process.

"In the past, we have had to pay a lot of money to legalize our workers. Now, it is easier and faster,"

said Panyaporn Saesu, a construction company owner who brought 14 workers to register.

Another employer from a construction company who had brought 27 illegal workers also expressed his approval.

"It was very fast. All relevant departments came to one building, which greatly reduced the time it takes to register," said Prapon Charoenthai.

The center will accept applications until 4:30pm each day, said Ms Yaowapa.

Fishing industry kept under watchful eye



Officials boarded five fishing boats to search for illegal workers.

OFFICIALS spot-checked five fishing vessels on July 17 as Thailand continues to ramp up its efforts to stifle human trafficking.

"We came out to the boats to ensure that there were no trafficking victims on fishing boats in the province," said Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, who led the raid along with Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) Chief Yaowapa Pibulpol.

"Our inspection revealed that some of the boats have yet to send the PPEO information about the migrant laborers working for them," Vice Gov Sommai said.

"However, all of the workers said that they were satisfied with their job."

Earlier this month, Phuket Marine Police freed two Myanmar nationals who were trapped in indentured labor on a fishing vessel in Phuket.

The issue of human trafficking in Thailand came to a head last month when the US State Department downgraded Thailand to the lowest level in its annual Trafficking in Persons report.

— Saran Mitrarat

Encroacher's house discovered in Kamala forest

A POLICE raid on an illegal homestead in the Kamala Forest on July 17 found no people but did turn up a registered rifle that police are using to pursue the suspects.

More than 30 Phuket police officers and a special squad from Region 8 Police went to the site, located three kilometers from the nearest road, after local residents reported that someone had encroached on the land, cut trees and built a house, said Provincial Police Deputy

Commander Arun Kaewvatee.

After a 20-minute ride through the forest, police came across a 20-rai area where trees had been cut down.

"Logs and cut planks of wood were stacked up here and there, and some were hidden in tall grass," said Col Arun.

"We estimate the value of the cut wood to be about 50,000 baht," he added, though he did not specify what kind of tree had been cut down.

Inside the wooden house built on the

property, police found a .22mm rifle and 20 rounds of ammunition. The gun had a permit. A check with the Kathu District Office revealed that it is owned by Kamala resident Rungrot Khnayern, 39.

"We will call Mr Rungrot in for questioning," said Col Arun.

Police also found a chainsaw and other wood and grass-cutting equipment inside the house.

Charges likely to be pressed in the case are: encroachment, illegally cutting trees and



Police found a wooden house built illegally in a 20-rai clearing.

possession of a chainsaw, Col Arun said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Ms Yingluck in Bangkok in May. Photo: Reuters

Yingluck given permission to leave Thailand for holiday

OUSTED Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has been given permission to leave Thailand to travel to Europe, where she is expected to attend the birthday party of her brother Thaksin Shinawatra, also a deposed former premier, military officers said on July 17.

A military spokesman said Ms Yingluck, forced from office in May, was permitted to leave provided she stayed out of politics. He said that she would be allowed back into Thailand at the end of her trip, reported Reuters.

About half of the people in a recent survey back the Army's granting of permission for Ms Yingluck to take a short trip out of the country, but opinions were split 41:39, according to Nida Poll, on whether she would actually return, reported *The Nation*.

The results of the survey conducted by the National Institute of Development Administration on 1,247 respondents nationwide showed 52-per-cent approval of Ms Yingluck's trip to Europe.

However, 40 per cent thought she should remain in the country to clear doubts that she may try to seek asylum abroad.

The NCPO has allowed Ms Yingluck and her son to travel abroad from July 20 to August 10.

NCPO chief given full control over security

THE provisional charter that was endorsed by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej puts the chief of National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) in charge of national security, allowing him to suppress actions both inside and outside the Kingdom that could be considered a threat to national peace, security, economy or the monarchy.

Article 44 of the provisional Constitution stipulates that all orders from NCPO Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha, with the endorsement of the NCPO, on those matters are final.

The 2014 provisional Constitution, comprised of 48 Articles, stipulates that the NCPO will continue in its current status. Article 48 of the provisional charter also gives the NCPO amnesty for its coup.

The charter stipulates that the National Legislative Assembly (NLA)'s 220 members would be selected by the NCPO and appointed by HM The King.

The government would comprised of a prime minister and a 35-member Cabinet, who will be nominated by the NLA and then appointed by HM The King.

The National Reform Council's 250 members will be nominated by the NCPO and then appointed by HM The King. The members will be representatives from each province and different civic groups.

The Constitution drafting committee will be comprised of 36 members appointed by the chairman of the National Reform Council, while the drafting committee's chairman will be

'[Foreign communities] are now focusing on the details and the process of the road map instead of condemning the coup'

— Sek Wannamathee, Foreign Ministry spokesman



Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha gives a traditional Thai greeting in Bangkok in June. Photo: Reuters

named by the NCPO. The rest of the committee will be comprised of 20 members nominated by the National Reform Council; five by the NLA; five by the Cabinet and five by the NCPO.

Once the charter is ready, the National Reform Council and the charter drafting committee must continue to collaborate on organic laws.

Members of the NLA, the National Reform Council, the Cabinet and the Constitution drafting com-

mittee must not have been political party members or office holders within the past three years.

Meanwhile, Gen Prayuth was granted an audience with HM The King at Klai Kangwon Palace in Prachuap Khiri Khan at 5pm on Tuesday. He was handed the royally endorsed provisional Constitution.

This the first time that the junta chief was granted an audience with HM The King since the military seized power in May.

This charter is meant to kick-start the second phase of the NCPO's road map for national reforms and reconciliation.

According to the road map, a

general election would be held by October next year.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamathee said that the provisional charter would help convince the international community that the NCPO would pursue its road map and complete it on schedule.

Mr Sek said it was good that the governments of European Union countries, the United States and Australia had shown a better understanding of the situation in Thailand.

They are now focusing on the details and the process of the road map instead of condemning the coup, Mr Sek said.

Attempt to kill red-shirt leader may be tied to personal dispute

THE attempt to kill a key red shirt leader in Chiang Mai on the evening of July 19 was likely the result of a personal conflict, police have said.

Niyom Luang-charoen, "DJ Lae", former leader of

Rak Chiang Mai 51, is under heavy security at Chiang Mai Hospital after an unknown number of gunmen fired about 30 rounds of ammunition at him at around 7:30pm, reported *The Nation*.

As of Tuesday, Mr Niyom was in stable condition after being hit by two bullets: one in his right wrist and another in his right knee. The attack occurred while he was having dinner with four friends and relatives at his home. Mr Niyom said he was opening his refrigerator when it began.

AROUND THE
nation

He dropped to the floor and pulled the refrigerator over his body to protect himself against the gunfire, Mr Niyom said. His four companions said they could not see the shooters because it was dark.

None of them were targeted.

Mr Niyom said that he suspected that his attackers intended to kill him in order to silence him. He said that he had previously identified them to police in other cases.

Mr Niyom said that he had provided a list of suspects in the attack to Lt Songsak Tanyadi of the San Kamphaeng Police Station.

A senior provincial police officer said cartridges of AK-47 bullets were found at the scene. Police are investigating.

NCPO eases controls on media

MEDIA organizations need to prove that representative bodies can regulate news outlets effectively and that they deserve self-regulation, National Press Council of Thailand chairman Chakkrish Permpool said.

He made the comment after the Army decided to tone down its order banning critical reports. The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) amended some points in its announcement – No 97 – on media control after being told by several different media groups it was harsh.

Several national media groups met with junta leaders on Monday to change or revoke the ruling over concerns of the ban and legal action that media organizations could face for disseminating confidential government information or criticizing the NCPO, reported *The Nation*.

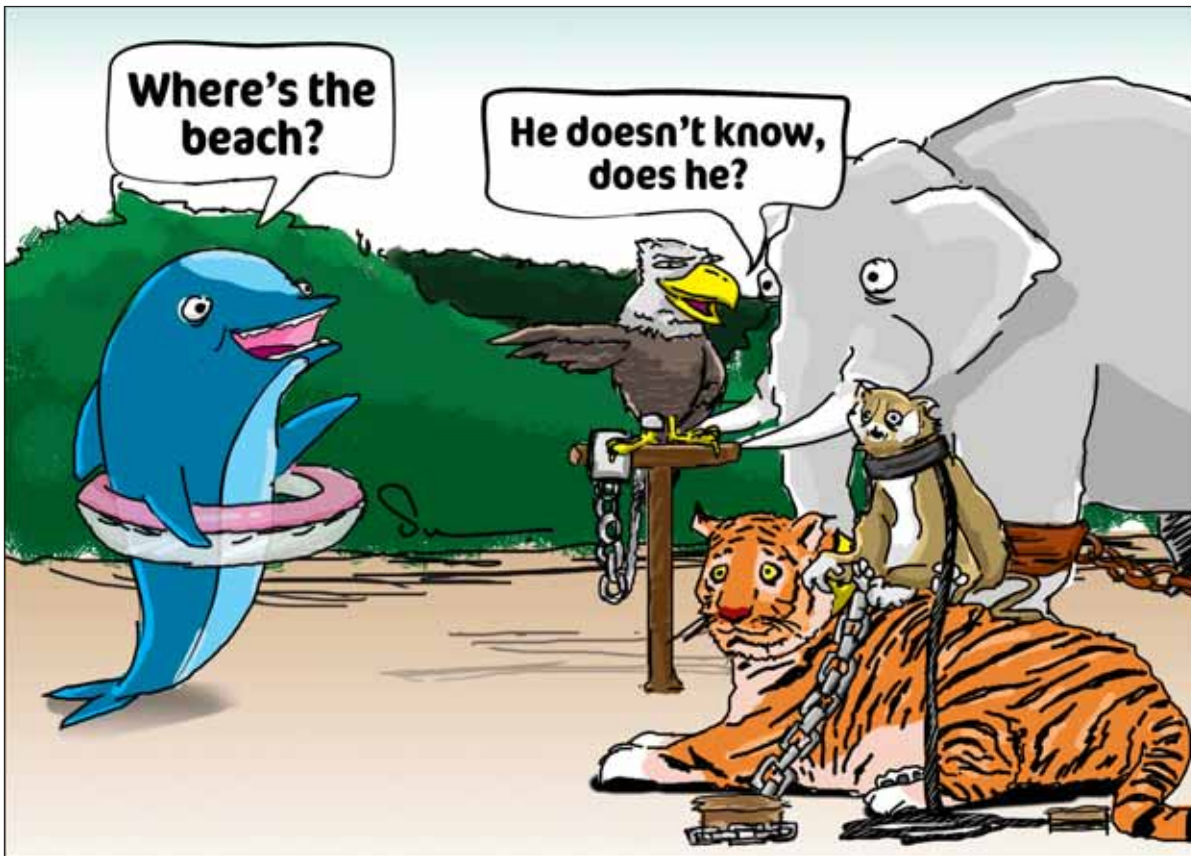
Instead of banning criticism totally, the NCPO said on Monday night, the ban applies to criticism made with ill intention or to discredit the NCPO by using false infor-

mation.

Also, instead of an immediate ban on distribution, sales or broadcast by the media for violating the prohibition, the NCPO says it would allow professional media agencies to investigate the outlet or outlets that allegedly spread the false information.

The changes came after a meeting between the permanent-secretary of defence and representatives from professional media organizations.

Mr Chakkrish said that the media organizations were planning to meet on Thursday to discuss the guidelines and measures of the order. Thai Journalists Association president Pradit Ruangdit said that media groups originally proposed that the NCPO revoke the announcement controlling the media as there are laws and codes of conduct to regulate the media. The real problem was law enforcement. However, the NCPO decided to change the announcement.



Don't let them keep the park land

Re: Gazette online, Land Dept explains legal loophole to owning park land, July 21

Will these cases go to a Military Court or a civilian one? If it's the former, there will be no "blurring around" or "snaking out" of anything.

If the *SorKor 1* holders were not compensated for the expropriation of the land on which they "farmed" in 1964, then compensate them right now at the 1964 land-use values (basically nothing) and close the file on their cases forthwith.

It's public land, so hand it back.

Art Anderson
Gazette forum

Details of break-in story don't add up

Re: Gazette online, Phuket thief smashes car window, makes off with 20,000 baht, July 19

Sounds very fishy! Jogging at 6:30am with a bag of money in your car? Jogging for only 15 minutes? Why drive all the way to the park and jog such a short time?

James Bond
Gazette forum

Rake it, don't hoe it

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach tear-down debris stabs tourist through foot, July 19

A backhoe would only partially fix the problem. It needs to be raked or sieved.

We metal detect the beaches to return lost jewelry to tourists, but we can't do it where they removed the structures at Surin as there are so many ferrous targets in the sand.

There are approximately 10 nails, 10 bottle tops and 10 ring tabs per square meter at a depth of three inches. Definitely don't go on that beach without wearing shoes.

Skip
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Build a public pool at Club Med Kata site

Re: Gazette online, Protest over Club Med lease brings promise of public hearing, July 19

A public park including a large swimming pool open to the public may be a better investment for the image of Kata and will provide alternative swimming during the monsoon period.

Asterix
Gazette forum

Make sure fishermen not sent to the fish

Re: Gazette online, Phuket migrant worker center to combat slavery to open July 22, as deadline looms, July 21

The idea of registering is great; however, illegals can just be thrown overboard. Will helicopters be used to monitor the vessels before they are boarded?

Michael Maurice Arvin
Gazette forum

Water problem not isolated to Rawai

Re: Gazette online, Angry Rawai residents demand water, July 21

It's not just Rawai. The problem spreads across the whole island. There are properties in Patong that have had no mains water for several months. Complaints go unheeded. With any luck the junta will hear about the overall water supply problem and do something.

David Brook
Facebook

Bring sunbeds back

As regular visitors to your beautiful island, we are devastated to see the sun beds removed from your beaches.

In Australia, we have wonderful beaches but cannot enjoy them because of rules and red tape. Many tourists come to Thailand to enjoy the things that are on the beach here.

Tourists will find other places to holiday where they can enjoy a full day under an umbrella with a cold beer and some food on a comfy bed.

Ask yourself, if there were no beds on the beach, would you stay there all day?

David Milton
Brisbane

Erosion overreaction

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Governor prepared to cry 'disaster zone' to combat coastal erosion, July 19

This erosion is nothing new, nor is it a disaster. For millenia, this is how, every monsoon season, Mother Nature sculpts the beaches we all love.

Stuart
Gazette forum

Send the kids to bed

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police launch 10pm street curfew for minors, July 19

We noticed a lot of kids hanging around in groups on Bangla Road the other night, sticking close together, "accidentally" bumping into people from behind.

I turned and saw one group eye my girl's handbag, so I walked towards them. If they are innocent, why did they walk away?

The police need to move these kids on, there is no need for them to be out at 2 or 3 in the morning.

Ricky Black
Facebook

No to dolphins

THE fact that a dolphinarium is set to become one of Phuket's newest tourist attractions comes as terrible news for the island's reputation abroad, running counter to all of the positive changes we have witnessed in recent months.

Our position on the ethics of keeping sentient creatures like dolphins and other marine mammals in captivity for amusement and financial gain remains unchanged since the last time we addressed the issue in this space.

In 2011, Canadian investor Daniel McDaniel wanted to invest in a similar project in Rawai, but public outcry forced him to reconsider and eventually scrap the project.

Unfortunately, construction of the new dolphinarium is already a *fait accompli*, and the facility, at least in its current state, appears to be woefully inadequate to serve as a home for even a single dolphin, let alone six of them.

The news of Phuket's backslide comes not long after India became the world's fourth country to ban keeping dolphins in captivity. The Indian Ministry of Forests and Environment released its "Policy on establishment of dolphinarium" amidst proposals to build marine mammal parks. The Ministry's called dolphins "highly intelligent and sensitive" creatures and argued that they should be seen as non-human persons with rights.

Even the United States' National Aquarium in Baltimore announced earlier this year that it is considering retiring its eight bottlenose dolphins and moving them to an oceanside sanctuary.

Dolphins and other marine mammals kept in captivity suffer from chronic stress and behavioral abnormalities, such as odd repetitive movements, self-mutilation and aggression, Lori Marino, an Emory University neuroscientist and expert on dolphin cognition, explained to *National Geographic* earlier this year.

But the most disturbing part of the news of Phuket's proposed dolphinarium is that three of the dolphins were allegedly captured in Japan. In 2009, the documentary *The Cove* blew the lid off the annual capture and slaughter of wild dolphins by the Japanese in Taiji Cove. Subsequent documentaries like *Blackfish* have further exposed the impact captivity has on cetaceans.

Decades ago, performing dolphin shows were typically the only way people could witness these fantastically intelligent creatures, yet the shocking methods of how they are captured and killed remained a well-guarded secret. It is now time that images of dolphins jumping through hoops and doing other tricks for human enjoyment be consigned to the annals of history.

We hope that the Fisheries Department, the National Council for Peace and Order and other relevant agencies will find a way to put a stop to the import of the dolphins reportedly on their way to Phuket.

We also ask the investors in Phuket's dolphinarium to reflect on what they are doing, and why. Perhaps a viewing of *The Cove* would help change their minds and compel them to try to find a more humane use for the facility.

Phuket Gazette

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When I was studying in Bangkok, I saw a lot of billboards on the roadsides and on tall buildings. They looked wonderfully modern to me, and I thought to myself, one day I'd like to bring billboards to Phuket, my hometown.

Fortunately, I studied communication arts, and learned everything I needed to make my dream come true.

Advertising wasn't very developed in Phuket before tourism took off. There were still rice fields everywhere in those days. Then tourists came and businesses grew. Property companies, hotels, restaurants and the government wanted to use billboards to communicate with people.

Right now, about 70 per cent of our business is from the private sector and about 30 per cent is from the government. The private sector uses billboards to sell a product, whereas the government uses them mostly to issue traffic warnings or provide information about events.

I love designing billboards. Coming up with the creative concept for one is a meditative experience for me. The challenge is telling a story quickly, in just a few words.

A billboard ad has three main elements: words, pictures and colors. Words should be short and easy to understand. All elements



Kannika Heamphaphan 39, is the Managing Director of Arrow Media Company. She has a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from Ramkhamheang University and has been working with the company for more than 10 years.

Here, she talks about why she loves billboards and gives her prediction for their future on the island.

need to be appropriate for the target audience, and depend on their gender, age, education and so forth. We need a good understanding of psychology to know what kind of advertising works for each group. We can really learn a lot about human nature through this work.

In a way, billboards are dead things. They never move and they look the same every day. What we want to do is make them dynamic – make them move, change or switch. We can do this with lights, video and ads that flip and change.

I'm sensitive to where I put billboards. I won't put them up in places where they'll block a beautiful view. Even if a customer wants me to, I won't do it. Yes, I want to make money, but not if it stops people from enjoying the landscape. The ideal location for a billboard is an intersection.

If I set up the billboard on private land, I make a contract with the landowner. If I do it on public land, I pay a tax to the municipal office. The tax varies depending

on the municipality and the size of the sign.

In Phuket, there's a lot of competition for billboard business. There are three big companies here; ours is the biggest with about 50 per cent of the business.

We started out doing billboards and vinyl signs, but now we've expanded to all forms of communication, such as event organization, marketing and public relations as well as renting and selling stages. When we mix all these together, we can give the customer a complete package.

Let's say there's an event like the grand opening of a condominium. Before it happens, we publicize it with billboards and vehicle caravans that drive around the island carrying signs. Then there is the event itself, which we organize and provide the stage for. Finally, we inform the media by distributing press releases.

Phuket's economy is strong, and I predict we will see more and more billboards here in the future.



The days of arriving uncommitted are numbered. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

Expats: a dying breed

VISA runners are now being relegated to history; with no more back-to-backs, it's the end of an era. This will have a marked impact on the demographics of the island and Thailand as a whole.

All those working on a wing and a prayer will now be shown the exit door once and for all, and potentially blacklisted. All those who aren't prepared to make a 100 per cent commitment on entry will in future throw in the towel.

Good riddance, I hear a lot of the expat community crying out, but when you take into consideration that as many as 90 per cent of the current expats started off under these very same terms and circumstances, it may well forebode the size of the expat population in the years to come.

A dying breed? Yes, I believe so, with a consequential knock-on effect for all the farang-oriented businesses, not least the property industry. Thailand's loss could well be the Philippines gain.

Though the writing has of course been on the wall for all to see, I don't know why the authorities have not declared an open season on visa runners. A bit like the Glorious Twelfth, you know, when the grouse season starts. They could arrange beats to go through the darkest undergrowth of Patong and Khao San Road for example, and flush the coveys out. Ironically, this new enforcement does in fact come into effect on

Island View

By David Kirk

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

the Glorious Twelfth – August 12.

The crackdown won't be the only deterrent for those considering relocating to the Land of Smiles. But what made it worth considering in the past was that it was possible to try before you buy. Now the days of a free sample belong to folklore.

With this option gone, there are the logistics to consider. Just how many Thai companies, schools and authorities will advertise for Western staff outside of Thailand?

There may be other risks of working here now. From the perspective of the politically correct environment of the West, mentioning Thailand on a future curriculum vitae may be something best avoided.

And there is the possibility of increased competition for jobs starting next year, as free movement of people throughout ASEAN begins. About 65 per cent of Filipinos can speak English. Theoretically, work permits and visas will not be an issue for them, nor for their Thai employers.

Working in Thailand has never been a level playing field; now it seems that the goal posts have been moved yet again.

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

Looking for a sewing machine store

I want to buy an Elna sewing machine and I have been trying to contact a company that I was told used to be the Elna distributor in Phuket City, called Pen K.

The phone number I was given doesn't connect and I have no physical address for them. I cannot find them on the internet. Can you help?

Angela Cheater
Phuket

Jinjutha Khamkantha, Elvira Manager, replies:

The name of our company is Penkhun Phuket Co Ltd, but our shop is called Elvira. We are pleased to inform you that we have the Elna sewing machine for sale.

Our store is located opposite Darasamuth School, near the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall.

We are open for business from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Our address is: 11/8 Moo 4 Wichit Songkram Road. Tel: 076-214198 or 087-2673344.



Ready to sew. Photo: Yubabubler2

How long will the lights stay yellow?

There are new traffic lights on Wichit Songkhram Road at the intersection of Bang Yai Road (that runs behind Big C) and the new shortcut to Chao Fa West Road Road. They've been blinking for months.

The intersection is quite dangerous, especially during rush hours. There's more traffic since the shortcut opened, and nobody wants to stop.

When will they turn on the traffic lights?

Yuvanart,
Phuket

Teeraporn Jirarat-anakorn, Director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office, replies:

We apologize for the inconvenience.

When the Phuket Highway Department first

decided to put traffic lights at that location, the shortcut hadn't been created yet, so the lights were set up for a t-junction.

Then the shortcut was created and it changed from a 3-way to a 4-way intersection.

We now have to install one more set of traffic lights, and we also plan to put street lights in.

The plans have already been approved and the money is coming from the 2014 fiscal budget. We are now looking for a construction company to complete the project. We expect the work to be done and the traffic lights to be operating by the end of October.

Until then, the lights will be left in flashing mode, so please take care at the intersection.



The 3-way lights were put in before the shortcut (above) made it a 4-way intersection. Photo: Gazette file

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Until August 28, 2-4:30pm. Kidz Activities by Quest

During July and August, kids and parents are invited to visit Canal Village every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to take part in the kids' activities program of the day, which include treasure hunt, wacky games, bbq chefs, and kids vs. wild, all taking turn for an afternoon of kids' entertainment. "Kidz Activities by Quest" is the highlight activity during Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Promotion, a trove of extra benefits and added value for all Laguna hotel guests which include free dining for kids, free kids' golf, free Laguna Tours Excursions and extra beds (terms and conditions apply). For more information call 076-362300 or visit: lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival/index.php

August 1, 6-11:30pm. Aussie Night at Two Chefs

Two Chefs are serving a large buffet filled with Aussie favorites like: Prawn cocktails, bbq pork ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken drum sticks, wagyu-Aussie beef burgers, salt and pepper calamari, oven roasted lamb, fish and chips, barbecued snacks, chicken parmigiana, meat pies, caesar salad, coleslaw lamingtons, pavlova and much more. All this only 695 baht, children under 12 years 350 baht (under 3 free). For this special evening the house band will entertain you with some famous Aussie tunes; it will surely last long into the night. Come for the food and stay for the fun. For more information email: karon@twochefs.com or visit: twochefs.com

August 12. Her Majesty The



Aussie Night at Two Chefs August 1, 6-11:30pm

Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's Birthday, also celebrated as Mother's Day.

August 21, 11:30am-2 pm. Phuket International Women's Club August Lunch

The August lunch will be at Hyatt Regency Kamala. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at: info@piwc-phuket.com

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who abolished slavery in Thailand.

November 4, 9am-4pm. PIWC

presents The Melbourne Cup

The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information contact Carole Dux on 066-763 1671, email info@piwc-phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

November 6. Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, which usually falls in November.

A krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the River Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday

November 7-8. 2014 BISP International Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host for the thirteenth consecutive year, the seven-a-side Football Tournament. Well over 1,000 young players from all over Asia are expected at this exciting competition.

For more information email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 [HD] and 107 [SD]), are proud to sponsor this event.

December 5. HM The King's Birthday.

His Majesty the King's Birthday is also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

Dec 10. Constitution Day

This day commemorates the signing of Thailand's permanent constitution by King Prajadhibok (Rama VII) in 1932, which marked the beginning of Thailand's transition from an absolute monarchy into a constitutional democracy.

Looking for a place to stay?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Chalong Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm	MCOT World Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103	Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond. Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
 Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

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KHAO LAK CABLE Channel 50
 And local cable networks across Thailand

HAADTHIP

YOUR Phuket

Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2014

The 11th annual Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek drew to a close on last Sunday with a fabulous party to wrap up the regatta. Winners were presented with their trophies before dancing the night away to live music and DJs. This year's Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek attracted a fleet of 33 yachts and more than 400 racers and support members from at least 11 countries.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show are proud to sponsor the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2014.



Sirirat 'Noo-si' Ruangsri, Miss Thailand World 2010



From left: Kanyarat Jones of Media Business Services; Poomiphat Navanukroh of Cape Panwa Hotel; Third Navy Region Commander Vice Admiral Tarathorn Kachitsuwan; Sirirat 'Noo-si' Ruangsri, Miss Thailand World 2010; and Byron Jones, managing director of Media Business Services – organizers of Raceweek.



The Foxy Lady IV crew celebrate their victory in the IRC 1 Racing Class for Raceweek 2014.



Members of the Sansiri team celebrate after some hard-run racing over the four-day regatta

Two Chefs VIP canape buffet

Local media and other guests were recently invited to test a selection of delectable new canapes at a VIP tasting event hosted by the team at Two Chefs Bistro in Karon.



Guests got the chance to sample some of Two Chefs' latest gourmet bite-sized creations.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 17

JOB of the week



East Marine

See page 20

INVESTMENT of the week

**Good Profitable
Company
for sale
in Kata**

See page 22

BOAT of the week



See page 25

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Questions?
Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

Properties For Sale

LAND FOR SALE

Close to the beach in Mai Khao. 4,136 sqm. Chanote title 16.9 million baht. Negotiable price. Contact Khun Tik.Tel: 085-784 7218 (English & Thai). Email: khurutphuketproperty@gmail.com

TITLE CONDO 2BR REDUCED

Rawai: 66 sqm, 6.5 million baht if closed within in 30 days. Tel: 089-772 7136 (English). Email: tedleefisher@hotmail.com

PRIME BEACHFRONT LAND

Beachfront land on Rawai / Chalong beach. Also connects directly to Vised Road. Adjacent to Serenity Terraces, so really prime! Over 4 rai at 180 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA



Within unique development - 8,700,000 baht. Please call 081-077 1765. Email: phuketformations@gmail.com

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN



3 rai, Chanote. Price: 54 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4383. Email: ruggdan@gmail.com

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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



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

BUILDING BANGLA - PATONG

25 million baht, XL commercial / residential building in Soi Bangla Square, Patong. 4 floors + 6m frontage. Over 360sqm in total. For more information, please call 087-881 7600 (English & Thai). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

PHUKET NEW CONDO FOR SALE

2-bed, 2-bath. Sugar Palm Condo. Right at Suan Luang Park with direct access to superb park, lake and ocean views. 10th floor, corner unit, 90 sqm. 10 min to Central shopping center, 20-30 minutes to beaches. 65,000 baht per sqm. Call Noi 087- 269 8492.

3-BEDROOMS 2-BATHROOMS IN COMPOUND

Villa in good compound with sport club. Furnished, opposite Laem Hin Seafood & Maeju, near PIADS. For more information, please call 081-719 0014. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE IN UDON THANI

59 rai: 150,000 baht per rai. Beautiful land, perfect for resort living. Many big trees and a creek, very peaceful mountain views. Next to a national park. Power, water, easy access. 15 minutes from airport. Beautiful part of Thailand. Contact Nisa 086-211 1599. (English & Thai). Email: moon_nisa@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



79sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room, kitchen, aircon, auto gate. Tel: 088-7687 054.

LAND & HOUSES 88 NEW



Chalong, only pool villa, 75sq wah, 3 bedrooms, exclusive modern interior design, corner house. Urgent sale: 9.75 million baht. Contact Thilo. Tel: 089-874 3376.

LAND FOR SALE

Back of Loch Palm, 510sqm, part of a small gated community of 2 villas, next to small lake. Chanote title and, if interested, complete house plans provided for free. 6 million baht, negotiable. For more information, please call 087-266 4583 (English), 082-440 6884 (Thai).

LUXURY VILLA

Just 3 minutes from BIS, 900sqm land, 350sqm building, 3 bedrooms + maid room, 4 bathrooms, studio, 14x4m swimming pool, fish ponds. 15 million baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

SEAFRONT LAND KAMALA FOR SALE

6 rai, Chanote, seafront 66m. Tel: 089-897 2141.

LAND AND HOUSE PARK

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 2-storey house for sale. 200 sqm land, for photos. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SALE / RENT SEA VIEW

1-bedroom apartment at Eden Resort Karon. Only 15 apartments in complex. Fully furnished, gym and 20x5m swimming pool. Please call 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

VILLA WITH POOL

4-bedrooms, pool villa for sale, fully furnished, 12.5 million baht or rent long term: 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-729 2989. Email: tabppg@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR SALE / RENT



In Supalai City Hill estate. Very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht on. For more information, please call 089-874 00 61. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

2-STOREY HOUSE

Close to the Heroines' Monument. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

URGENT SALE

Anuphas Kathu, refurbished, 2-storey, 3-bedroom villa 4 sale. 081-968 4314 (English). Email: johnhideaway@hotmail.com

ZCAPE 1-BEDROOM CONDO LAGUNA

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7sqm & 29.41sqm), adjacent units on 6th floor in Zcape development, ready now. Near Laguna, Boat Avenue and beaches. Thai or foreign ownership ok. Both priced at under 2 million baht. Tel: 085-235 1532 (English & Thai). Email: thanasak.nk@gmail.com

NEW SEAVIEW FREEHOLD CONDO

Brand-new freehold condos from 2.3 million baht, includes furniture, plus seaview condos, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

FREEHOLD POOL VILLA



From 1.1 million baht. 800m from Nai Harn Beach. For more information, please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

ENTERTAINMENT PALACE



Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

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PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY

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

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom 23781@msn.com

LAND FOR SALE

1.5 rai land: 30 minutes from Bang Tao Beach, for hotel & condominium. 2 rai land: Soi Pasak 4. 100m from Pasak Road, for housing condominium. Tel: 076-340559, 081-937 8152.

HABITOWN KOH KAEW FOR SALE

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

HOUSE FOR SALE NAI HARN

3-bedrooms, fully furnished, 5 minutes to the beach. Reduced to 3.9 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 088-168 5032.

APARTMENT FOR SALE IN BOAT LAGOON

2-bedroom, marina apartment for sale in Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, in a residential maritime township surrounded by commercial plaza and sporting facilities. Fully furnished, private carport, large swimming pool available for residents. Living area: 198sqm. Freehold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Christophe.soula@hotmail.fr

PALM BREEZE CONDO
Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No agents! For more information, please call 081-956 1077.

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

Studio of 36 sqm. Phuket Town at Green Places. Quiet. Details on request. Tel: 095-437 9062 (English). Email: lilly@mail.ru

LAND WITH SEA VIEW FOR SALE

200sqm with a beautiful view. Located on 50 Pee Road, Patong. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 098-386 6408 (English), 087-268 2396 (Thai). Email: jasonsfriday6@gmail.com

LAND - PATONG BEACH

Opposite White Box restaurant. Sea View & beach front. 48 million baht/rai. Plots of 22 rai, 10 rai, and 4 rai Tel: 084-847 9977 (English & Thai), 084-058 8892 (English & Thai). Email: info@pacificlighthousehotel.com

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



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.

Properties For Rent

HOUSE IN THALANG

2-bedrooms, 1-bathroom, fully furnished, aircon, close to Heroines' Monument. Tel: 081-477 6323, 088-753 4842. Email: gigi.sama@gmail.com

SEA VIEW CONDO PATONG

Fully furnished, 2 bedroom and 1 bedroom. Units available for rent on daily, monthly, yearly basis. Free WiFi, cable TV. Please call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786. Email: highstylecondominium@gmail.com

CHEAP RENT

Short-term luxury pool villa near Laguna, car available. Tel: 089-594 4067(English).

CHALONG HOUSE

2-bedrooms, 3-bathrooms, 3 aircons, Fully furnished. Tel: 087-266 7191.

PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM UNITS

Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

7,000 BAHT PER MONTH

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://panwagreen.weebly.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3-bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

BRAND NEW MODERN POOL VILLA

Brand New Modern Pool Villas (2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, Satellite TV, Pool & Garden Maintenance. Between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072. Email: srdupouy@gmail.com, www.tropical-house.net

KATA BUNGALOW SOI 4

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, WiFi and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-606 2827(English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG

3-bed, Fully furnished. Long time rental. 21,000 baht per month. Please call 084-847 4377 (English), 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

LOFT - STYLE FLATS KATHU

Furnished, quiet, secure, central location, gym in complex, 8,000-13,000 baht per month long-term. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

4-BED, 3-BATH NEAR LAGUNA

4-bed, 3-bath with private pool, landscaped garden, and only a few minutes drive to Villa Market and Laguna. Short and long term. Available now. Call: 089-655 7480. Email: suppamas@live.com

APARTMENT AT KATHU FOR RENT

The Green Golf Residence offers 48-168sqm studios and 1 to 3-bedroom apartments located in the Phuket Country Club. Evergreen fairway views and natural lake views. Fully furnished, WiFi. Tel: 076-319338, 085-068 9794 (English&Thai). Email: m_m onpriya@hotmail.com, www.thegreengolfresidence.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Near BIS single house. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, airconditioners, furniture, kitchen. 28,000baht per month. For more information please call 081-892 1732. Email: ann@siammileage.com

LUXURY 1 BED PATONG

100 sqm, pool, Fully furnished, WiFi. Price: 18,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothermal@hotmail.com

HOUSE NEAR BANG TAO BEACH

2 storeys, fully furnished, near big Thalung Tesco-Lotus. 10 minutes to many beaches. Price: 12,000-15,000 baht per month. Please call 090-924 5838. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

KATHU GOLF AND VALLEY VIEW VILLA

1, 2 and 3 bed Kathu golf and valley view villa. For rent, big pool, 4 km to BIS. Quiet, on top of a private hill. Fully furnished. Maid, WiFi, security. Long-term 35,000, 40,000 and 75,000 baht per month. For more information please call 087-269 8492.

CONDO IN LAGUNA

ZCape condo, one bed. Next to Boat Avenue, 6th floor. Nice view, changed from original design. Great kitchen, 30 sqm, gym, pool. 18,000 baht per month, long term. Call Tao. For more information please call 083-185 9487 (English & Thai), 081-273 4212 (English). Email: phuketcondo1@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM VILLA LONG TERM

Nice villa, Central Phuket, 3 beds, 2 baths, GT, 200sqm, fair rent. Gated, quiet, unfurnished. Available from August 2014. Take over aircon. Price for sale 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-281 1264. Email: info@contextphuket.com

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT

Five-star, one-bedroom apartment with pool in a quiet area. For sale 24,000 baht per month. Available now. Call Daniele Fenocchio. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English & Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com, www.karonhill.altervista.org

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. For more information please call 081-978 1558. Email:keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

BANG TAO LUXURY POOL VILLA

For rent 100,000 baht per month. 500m to Bang Tao beach. 3 bed / 3 bath plus maid's room. Available 1 July 2014. Please call 076-325986, 089-867 7154.

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG

Fully furnished, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 094-595 2451, 094-595 1444. Email: rightherephuket@gmail.com

2-SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

One minute walk to beach. Ideal for restaurant, bar, massage. 2nd fl furnished as 2-bedroom apartment w/2 baths and kitchen. Tel: 084-189 7696 (English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY HOUSE AND VILLA RENTAL

Private pool villa Rawai, 2 beds, 2 baths, short term only. For more information please call 085-787 3046(English). Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

200SQM WAREHOUSE

Near Chalong circle, modern lockup. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Please call 081-082 5707.

**CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE**

Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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

ADMIN ASSISTANT WANTED

English speaking Thai National with admin experience. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A family is looking for a personal assistant to be located in Bang Jo, Phuket, full time, start ASAP. This person must be fluent in Thai & English, educated, love animals, be flexible with work hours, be a fast and motivated worker and a non-smoker. Attractive salary offered, please email CV to sherin.peace@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

Aged 25 years or older, permanent resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to opaopa543@mail.ru

RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

LivePhuket.com is the Number 1 holiday rentals platform in Phuket. We require a talented and smart Rentals Consultant. You have the opportunity to easily earn over 100,000 baht every month! Must be a Thai national and have excellent English, written and spoken. Tel: 092-474 6157. (English) Email: paul@livephuket.com



East Marine Co., Ltd.

Well-established yacht equipment distributor located in Boat Lagoon Marina seeks to fill the following positions.

SALES AND MARKETING POSITION

- Fluent in English, spoken and written
- Excellent communication skills dealing with customers via email, telephone etc.
- Co-ordinate with teams and department involved, and ensure job is completed
- Set up marketing plans, promotions, on-line marketing, marketing kits, newsletters and emailing to increase sales volume
- Regularly report on sales, products that sell well and those that don't and come up with ideas and recommendations
- Track competitors and market to improve and develop performance of the company
- Minimum 5 years work experience

ACCOUNTANT POSITION

- Good spoken/written English
- Inventory and stock reports
- Staff time sheet calculation
- Good knowledge of accounting software
- Able to manage and assist with financial reports
- Thai national, aged 25 years up
- Minimum 5 years work experience

Qualified candidates please send CV and expected salary to

scott@eastmarineasia.com

SALESPERSON

Sales person wanted for smart home systems integration company. Please email CV. Tel: 084-443 9863 (English). Email: daragh@techworx.asia

MARKETING STAFF

Fast-growing real estate company is looking for marketing executives to join our property booth in Patong. Female / Thai national - Friendly personality and outgoing communication skills, fluent in English, multilingual is a plus. Good salary and attractive commission. Send your CV with recent photo to helena@phuketabc.com. Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Email: helena@phuketabc.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

English speaking TO and Sales Reps needed. Experience in timeshare only. Start immediately. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

ELT Phuket is looking for teachers. Competitive salary and bonuses. Apply within. Tel: 084-847 3033. Email: maxbeardsley@gmail.com

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Live-in housekeeper wanted for small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, some childcare and cooking. Excellent salary. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: ritaloui sedobson@hotmail.com

HOST FOR TOUR GROUP

Looking for part time host / guest attendant in Phuket. English speaking. High pay. Email us. Tel: 098-487 4168 (English). Email: aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com

DETOX CONSULTANT WANTED

English speaking Thai National with previous detox or nurse experience. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai-Phuket. Secretary/Receptionist: Thai female. Required: Good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiastic, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills. Good Salary and Commission! Tel: 076-388801. Please send resume and recent photo to contact@harvest-property.com

COPY WRITER

Siam Real Estate require an English speaking freelance copy writer with experience in real estate copy. Flexible working-times; own hours. Good rate per copy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com. NO calls.

FINANCE MANAGER 30K+

LivePhuket is the fastest growing holiday rental & real estate platform based in Kamala, Phuket. Must have 5+ years finance experience and speak and write excellent English. Tel: 092-474 6157. Send CVs to Paul@livephuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.livephuket.com

P.A. / COMPANY SECRETARY

Managing Director of multiple companies is looking for a Phuket-based, native English-speaking foreigner or a Thai national with native English speaking capabilities. • Company Secretary experience is a must. • Experience as an Executive Assistant with strong organizational/detail-oriented administrative skills. Must possess excellent business e-mail correspondence skills. Must also possess excellent note-taking skills and be very computer savvy and proficient with Microsoft Office. Tel: 090-916 3460 (English). Email: securecomm@yahoo.com

Employment Wanted

COOKS & WAITRESSES NEEDED

A new restaurant opening in Phuket Town seeks full and part time cooks and waitresses. Must speak good English. Great salary package given. Tel: 076-223677, 086-509 7510 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-223677. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Andy: (076-341644)

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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

- NEW** ▶ **Andy's Real Estate Agency** (Opp. Savoei Seafood) Tel: **076-341644**
- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-344521-2**
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-290468**

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: **076-388144**

KARON

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

**GERMAN TEACHER
NEEDED**

We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. (41) 079-369 6535. Email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

**LICENSED BOAT
CAPTAIN SAMUI**

For wooden boat under 20 tons at Koh Samui for snorkeling day tours. Tel: 077-961911, 081-737 1984 (English & Thai), 081-396 8383 (English & Thai). Email: tks@tourskohsamui.com

**RUSSIAN
SALESPERSON**

Siam Real Estate require a Russian speaking real estate salesperson, preferably with experience of selling property in Phuket. Must be computer literate and have good people skills. Work permit, good salary and commission. No phone calls. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com Location Phuket

**SALES & HOST
PERSON**

Lotus Medical International seeks to hire people both to host our clients coming to Thailand for surgery and for sales. Fluent English speaking and IT skills are essential, as well as a friendly personality and a high level of empathy, customer service and motivation. Good salary available, please send your CV to info@lotusmedicalinternational.com http://lotusmedicalinternational.com

**CHINESE REAL
ESTATE SALES**

Siam Real Estate require experienced Chinese speaking sales person with good English and computer literacy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com or see www.siamrealestate.com

**RAW FOOD CHEF
WANTED**

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

OPC MANAGER

David Vacation Club is looking for an OPC Manager with experience in timeshare. Work permit, free accommodation, social security. Call and ask for George. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833 (English). Email: george@davidvacationclub.com

**ASSISTANT SALES
MANAGER**

Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

SALES MANAGER

For designer ladies fashion boutique in Surin. Good salary plus commissions, must speak English. Tel: 085-153 1403.

**EARN 30,000-120,000
BAHT / MONTH**

Cruise ship staff needed. Work 3-7 month shift. All expenses paid. Must speak English. Tel: 093-728 1003 (English). Send resume / photo to jobs@seastaffing.com

Staff urgently required for all service / kitchen positions

- Thai applicants only, permanent residents of Phuket. Must have excellent written and spoken English skills and restaurant experience.
- Benefits: High salary.

**Khun Eddie Tel : 081-187 7242,
076-346271**

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to:
Email: whitebox@ugolinigroup.com

**SALES / OFFICE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Starting in August for 6 months at the Yacht Haven Phuket. Good computer / English skills. Yacht charter company, open to foreigners. Tel: 081-270 2449 (English), 081-978 6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: mel@phuket-yachts.com

**PROPERTY
MARKETING
MANAGER**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in Marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**HOUSEKEEPER
NEEDED**

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtissier@aqua master.net

EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

**ASSISTANT SALES
MANAGER**

Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

**THAI TEACHER
NEEDED**

I'm looking for a private teacher of Thai language for a six-year-old boy. Mobile: 090-957 1687 (English). Email: zaz.anna18@gmail.com



Phuket Square Co., Ltd. is looking for professionals for the following position:

**Administration-Purchasing Manager
2 positions**

- Female over 25 years old.
- Bachelor's degree in Administration, Marketing, Management or related field.
- Minimum 3-5 years of work experience in office management, document control, and letter writing
- Basic negotiation skills and well organized
- Good interpersonal skills, mature with Excellent written and spoken English

Benefit Package • Provident fund • Health insurance • Medical fee • Staff uniform • Social security • Workmen's compensation fund • New Year Party • Year-end bonus

Please contact: Human Resource Department, Phuket Square Co., Ltd.
175, 177, 181, 193, 195, 197, 201 Raj-U-Thid 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
K'Aom: Tel: 076-600111, ext. 600, 083-2956661. Email: natthaya@jungceylon.com

**RUSSIAN SALES REP.
WANTED**

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bay shoreprojects.com

**SALES ASSISTANT
WANTED**

Native English speaker to work as telephone sales assistant. Basic salary + apartment + commissions! Contact us now for more details. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**PROJECT SECRETARY
(THAI) WANTED**

At least 3 years experience in the construction industry. Able to speak, write and read English and Thai. Full understanding of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook and Word). Salary based on experience, excellent benefits. Send your CV to info@avcphuket.com

**AD SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**

We are currently seeking trusted, fluent in English, professional candidates for the position of advertising sales representative in Phuket. Level/salary range: up to 40,000 baht (first-full year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: info@phuketitaly.com

**HOUSEKEEPER
NEEDED**

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtissier@aqua master.net

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Live in Karon?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
**Khun Anand: 076-396911
081-536 5550**

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Business Products & Services



Accepting children 3 months old - 5 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Skill development activities

CALL NOW:
081-868 7676 (English).
080-525 3135 (Thai)
DINODAYCARECENTER

40FT SEA CONTAINER
For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. For more information Please call 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

VISA SERVICES
UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS
Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8:30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Tel: 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

INSURANCE SERVICE
Car, Motorbike, Health, Travel, Property Service at home, call to make appointment. Please call 087-267 4342(English). Email: agent.smithr@gmail.com

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE
Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Open daily 9am-10pm. For more information please call 092-464 8471.

SEO-SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNET
A customized campaign by our SEO specialists will improve your Google ranking and focus your internet marketing efforts. Free quote. Please contact by email: julian.burgess@myway.com

Club Memberships Available

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIP
Valid for 16 years. Asking 400,000 baht. Tel: (852) 028-577931, (852) 091-520346 (English). Email: case@everaert.net

BLUE CANYON CORPORATE
One third of corporate membership for sale. All fees paid up to date. Deceased estate. 500,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 3694 (English & Thai), 041-849 7348 (English). Email: webbjo10@bigpond.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB
The best value on the island. Lifetime family membership for 550,000 baht including transfer fee. Please call 086-682 7859. Email: tshades@aol.com

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB
Expires July 2026, 12 years remaining. Includes transfer fee. 400,000 baht. Please call 081-273 4212(English). Email: phuketcondo1@gmail.com

Personal Services Wanted

GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED
We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. Tel: 079-369 6535. Email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

Personal Services

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
Licensed US Counselor. Individual, children, couples. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON
Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

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

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS
Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. Price for sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280 074. Email: janne@rayadivers.com

Golf Stuff

CALLAWAY GOLF CLUBS
Big Bertha, 3 woods, 9 irons, putter and bag, 5 years old. Tel: 084-818 6045.

Computers

IMAC
21.5" / 13,000 baht. 4GB RAM / 500GB HD. Wireless keyboard & mouse. For more information please call 076-510143.



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week
Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.
Channel 1, with 28 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.
Channel 4, with 21 shows a week
Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.

- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
- Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
- Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
- Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
- Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
- Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
- Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
- Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
- Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
- Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
- Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
- Destination Patong: 390 rooms
- Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
- Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
- Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net or Gift@phuketgazette.net
On line: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

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► Grand Banks Aleutian 59 RP
\$1,595,000 USD

► Azimut 43S
349,000 Euro

► Sunseeker Manhattan 63
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► Cambria 50
\$125,000 USD

► Fusion 40
340,000 Euro

► Morgan 60
\$399,000 USD

► Luc Bouvet Custom 52
250,000 Euro

Martin Holmes
Mobile: 081 891 7057
Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 968 1437
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Email: jim@leemarine.com

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New main, beach wheels, mast float, cover, life jackets. 155,000 baht. Chalong. Tel: 087-976 0066(English). Email: peter fb999@yahoo.co.uk

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-6264969 (English) Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wana doo.fr

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER

2 new engines 300hp fitted 2013, includes trailer and covers. Price: 4,250,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 3118. Email: info@procarpentering.com

HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT

This 80-year-old solid teak boat is ideal for a Phang Nga Bay live aboard, or a land-based guest house. 1.5 million baht. Call John on 090-798 5605. Email: johne mango@yahoo.com For current pictures and finish out options, www.facebook.com/TeakBoatPhuket

NEW KARNIC 2052

Deep V Hull, Hydraulic steering, Bimini & marine heads. Full factory warranty special low season price 799,950 THB inc VAT. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH

The last of the Sparkman & Stevens Swans, a beautifully presented, elegant yacht with many recent upgrades. Only US\$349,000, will buy this top quality head turner. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshed phuket.com. Tel 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

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4.8 meter Rigid Inflatable Boat with center console. Fiberglass hull. Low hours on 40 HP Yamaha engine. Steel trailer. Just serviced and ready to get on the water. 160,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 080-432 4772(English & Thai). Email: mounne@westnet.com.au

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With high season just around the corner now is the right time to get her listed. Boat shed phuket.com is always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for competitively priced, quality boats. Contact Alan Giles on 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

BERTRAM 35 FLYBRIDGE (1982)

2 x 215hp Cummins Diesels, an inexpensive example of these quality sport fishers. Reduced to only 77,000 US\$ For details contact Alan Giles. Tel 084- 842 6146. www.Boatshedphuket.com

NORTHSHORE 46 (1987)

Well-maintained lifting keel sloop, 56hp Yanmar 4JH Diesel (2005), just reduced to 95,000 AU\$. For details contact Alan Giles. Tel 084- 842 6146. www.Boat shedphuket.com

VOLVO PENTA 380HP

Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAMD71B, 6 cylinder, 380hp, 2500 rpm, turbo charged. 1) Engine number 207112 4065, with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, 5M74752. 2) Engine number 2071 1240 64 with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, number 5M7 474. Net Weight: 850kg per engine. Two silencers: MGS IN /OUT 5', 45°. Price: 1 million baht per engine. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@food comthailand.com

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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**Cryptic crossword****COFFEE break**

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).

Normal spelling: lower case.

Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).

Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 8. BOLLARD: *droll*(A.B.) 9. PROFESSOR: *orofpress* 13. ANTIC: ant-I/C 14. START: flinch 15. ELEVATE: *leave*-T-E 16. PICCOLO: Pick a low 17. BASIC: *cabis* 18. IDIOM: *idoim* 20. RATES: *stare* 22. TENDON: *endnot* 23. CLEVER: *C-elver* 25. FACTION: *inactof* 27. PLAYERS: *replays* 30. ALPINE: a-L-pine 31. be-came 32. EVENT: even-T 35. SYRIA: *rayis* 36. NARAK: N-arak 37. NEEDFUL: *endfuel* 39. SERIOUS: *rouses*(1) 41. TIGHT: tight 42. MORSE: *mores* 43. DOWNBELOW: *newdeblow* 44. AVERAGE: aver-age
Down: 1. COPTIC: cop-tic 2. ELECTORS: *letscore* 3. SRISOONTHON: *nosirshotno* 4. PROTESTOR: pro-test-or 5. OFFENCE: of-fence 6. ESPECIALLY: *pieces-ally* 7. SODA: so-Da 10. TAMPER: *ampert* 11. CARBINE: *nicebar* 12. REAMER: Re.-a-M-E-R 19. INVERSE: in-verse 21. TRAPPER: *part-per* 24. ALTERNATIVE: alter-native 26. TANTAMOUNT: *taunttoman* 28. SERRATION: *soreirant* 29. PACKAGE: pack-age 32. EVERMORE: *eermover* 33. TALLER: (L)*later* 34. UNASKED: un-a-desk 38. FORAGE: for-age 40. ROOT: R-O-O-T.

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Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

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TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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Government and media football

Under the auspices of the NCPO, a friendly football match between government officers, police, navy and army staff, and members of the local media was organized with the aim of strengthening ties and building relationships within the Phuket community.



Players from various branches of government and local media pose for a photo before the match.

Laguna Phuket Golf Club

Within days of unveiling the front-nine holes' new look, Laguna Phuket Golf Club (LPGC) enjoyed another cheerful celebration when Juergen John, a long-time member at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, scored the first ever 'Hole in One' on the brand new 8th hole.



From left: John Jacobs; Kannika Janjuma, LPGC assistant club manger; Juergen John and Brian Dagnal celebrate Juergen's masterful stroke.

Emerald Phuket visits Singapore



Managing Director of Emerald Phuket Development Co Ltd Sawit Ketroj (right), along with PR and Marketing Manager Ekkawut Thanthawornwong, participated in the Thailand Property Show 2014 at Orchard Hotel in Singapore recently with the aim of drawing international attention and generating sales of the company's developments in Thailand.

National Safety Awards 2014

Big C Extra was recently presented with a National Safety Award for excellence in insuring a safe working environment for staff and patrons at the store.





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PHUKET GAZETTE 27

Words from the wise:

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."
— Nelson Mandela

"Freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it." — Pericles

Medium

5		3	9		6	2		7
	9						5	
6		4				3		9
7			2		9			4
				8				
4			7		1			6
8		6				4		2
	4						6	
2		9	6		4	8		1

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. ©Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

Hard

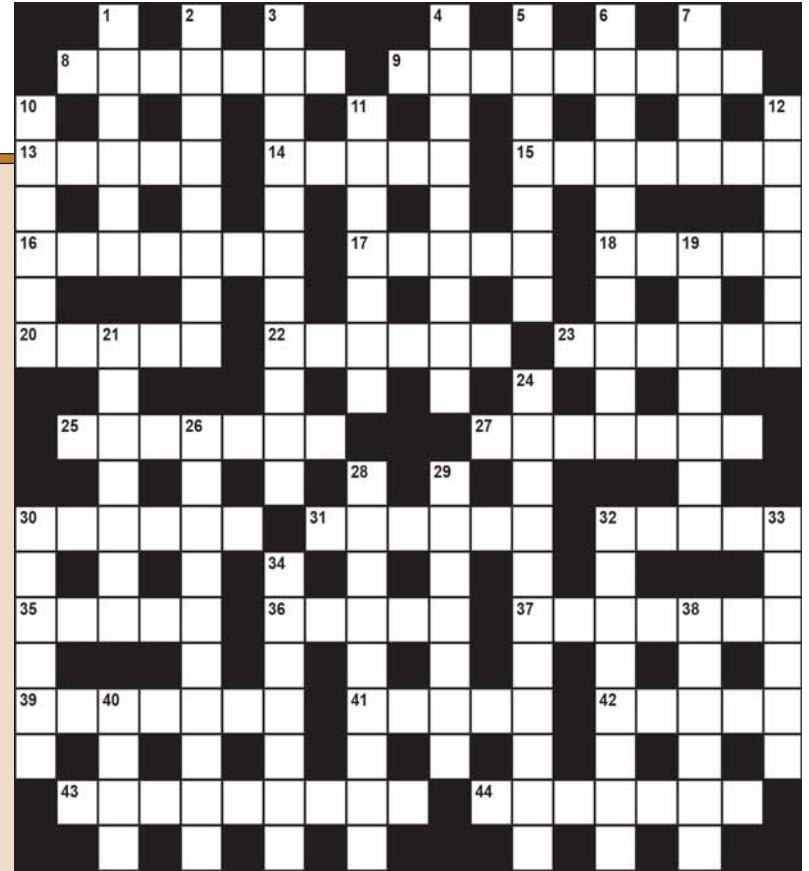
	1				4	9		
4		5	3					
	2							4
5						2	9	7
	9	1			6	3		
7	8	6						1
8							4	
				6	8			9
		4	5				2	

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

8. Droll A.B. destroyed post for securing mooring lines! (7)
9. Head of a University department, of Press or similar (9)
13. Grotesque worker in charge (5)
14. Begin to flinch (5)
15. Leave wrong time, note, move higher (7)
16. Pick a low sounding instrument (7)
17. Cab is possibly essential (5)
18. An expression I do, I'm changing (5)
20. Stare wildly at charges (5)
22. Sinew end not twisted (6)
23. Skilful, caught wriggling elver (6)
25. Clique in act of re-grouping (7)
27. Replays different musicians (7)
30. A large conifer of the high mountains (6)
31. Happened to exist, moved nearer (6)
32. Equal time in competition (5)
35. Ray is moving to a country in the Levant..... (5)
36.to get new Levantine liquor said to be cute in Thailand (2,3)
37. Necessary to end fuel disruption (7)
39. Important, maybe rouses about one (7)
41. Firm under the influence (5)
42. More's different in a method of transmission (5)
43. New Deb. low, upset under the surface (4,5)
44. Insist era is of the usual standard (7)



Down

1. Egyptian language gives policeman involuntary spasm (6)
2. Let score come from the voters! (8)
3. Maybe no Sir, shot no old Phuket heroine (11)
4. In favor of trial, or complainant (9)
5. Wrongdoing of one who deals in stolen goods (7)
6. Particularly arrange pieces, friend (10)
7. So, father, a fizzy drink? (4)
10. Am pert, arranging to interfere (6)
11. Nice bar destroyed by gun (7)
12. Concerning a mark, note right tool to enlarge hole (6)
19. Opposite in poetry (7)
21. Part arranged for each hunter (7)
24. Change local to either of two possibilities (11)
26. As good as taunt to man, perhaps (10)
28. Tooth sore, I rant wildly (9)
29. Box set of playing cards a long time (7)
30. Evaluate a vessel, note steamship (6)
32. Always in the future e'er mover disturbed (8)
33. Left later moving outside, higher (6)
34. French one arranged a desk, never put to question (7)
38. Root around for long time (6)
40. Right, love Old Testament origin (4)

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Though a tense conversation may cause concern, an upturn in finances will very likely improve your mood. As the Sun links with Jupiter, you might get a small windfall or find that a job you're qualified for comes with a bigger salary. Plus, as Mars drives into Scorpio, renewed enthusiasm for a creative project could spur you onwards and upwards.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



You'll be in your element as the Sun enters your sign, and find yourself feeling more in control and ready to tackle those projects that have been awaiting your attention. A Sun Jupiter link might encourage a decision to expand your options, as can the New Moon on Saturday, especially if you're ready to implement a positive and life-enhancing new direction.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Your social life continues to buzz with opportunities for fun and entertainment. In addition, an intense chat on Tuesday could be

the catalyst for a major decision. However, as the Sun eases into Leo, you'll enter that time of the year when it helps to ease back on the throttle and recharge your batteries, as doing so can bring many benefits.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



As Uranus reverts, a key relationship may change perhaps becoming unpredictable, yet in the process more exciting. Meetings or planned projects might also be subject to disruption, so you'll need to remain flexible. However, delightful social options can brighten your mood while renewed optimism around finances may well ease any anxious thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You might be inclined to speak your mind, leading to a positive improvement concerning an important matter. In addition, your place in the spotlight may be assured as a lovely line-up suggests you'll stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons. Later this week, as your co-ruler Mars enters your sign, your determination to succeed can kick in big time.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Though you'll still need to keep an eye on money matters, the desire to go places and take on challenges may fuel a decision to explore fresh options. Inspired by this week's blend of energies you might want to start a course of study or make some novel travel plans. Yet, analyzing your dreams and deeper motivations could be revealing too.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



A desire to look into a special opportunity may conflict with family and personal matters that require a different kind of response. Perhaps you'll need to employ intuitive awareness to get to the heart of issues which might not be easy to resolve. Yet, where finances are concerned, your confidence can reach a new high this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



This very sociable week can bring fun connections and invites that look promising. This kind of interaction could pave the way for new opportunities and see new options open up delightfully – with the New Moon on Saturday also helpful around any partnerships. In addition, career matters can get a boost with Mars enhancing motivation.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Though romance and creative ventures could be problematic, the same cannot be said about health and lifestyle issues, which have been significantly boosted by the presence of Jupiter. This week's alignments suggest that a sassy approach to seeking out employment, and to developing a routine that enables you to feel fit and fabulous, can both work wonders.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



As the Sun glides into Leo and joins with Jupiter, a positive and happy-go-lucky mood can take hold. With your confidence

stronger, exploring creative and romantic options can open doors. Furthermore, as Mars enters Scorpio, your resolve can deepen. Indeed, all round it seems you now have some traction which might push you to resolve a critical situation.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Go easy as a conversation could be rather intense early on this week, which might encourage sulky silences. Yet, such a temporary spat could quickly melt away as positive vibes on the home front bring a smile to your face. Indeed, this week can be excellent for entertaining or creative DIY. Plus, romance wise a new felt passion can enliven a key relationship.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



As Uranus rewinds, your friends can find new ways to inspire or ironically meddle in your plans on occasion. Yet, this long term influence could initiate a reunion with people you haven't seen in a while. Later, a New Moon in Leo might help to kick start negotiations or bring a more positive response to an advert or piece of news.

Phuket bars can pour profits by re-organizing

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

MANY bars and beach clubs in Phuket are tempted by the romance of gastronomic concoctions in the kitchen to bring the same flare to their drink menus as a way to boost profits. However, for the vast majority of them this isn't the solution, explains Richard Gillam, a world-renowned mixologist and regional on-trade channel manager at Remy Cointreau.

Mr Gillam, during his more than 15 years in almost every position, from bartender to operations manager, at venues ranging from small luxury lounges to 3,000 capacity nightclubs, has seen the full scope of attempts by bar owners to maximize profits.

"Even an average restaurant has a little touch [of gastronomy] here and there, which is great, because they have a little room in the back that's called a kitchen that's full of these people called chefs," Mr Gillam said.

"There is a whole team of them, and they are usually hidden away. And some idiot's going, 'Okay, right, let's do it on the bar.' Bearing in mind these guys [some bartenders] can hardly make a gin and tonic consistently."

The issue is that profit margins

over a standard cocktail are minimal when compared to the amount of work necessary to creating the gastronomic drinks.

"Sometimes it's an absolute failure. You have to pay more for it; it's a lot of work; and if the one guy on the bar who can make it is away, then you can't sell it."

Nonetheless, small touches that can be prepared ahead of time and techniques like suspensions, where the beverage is thick, so it can support berries, crispy chocolate balls or gold flakes at the surface, but is still drinkable can help improve the class of a venue.

However, to really boost bar profits during the low season, high season and coup season, Phuket nightlife venue operators need to determine what their top 10 best-selling drinks are, Mr Gillam said.

The best method is not elaborate scientific cocktails sold at prices to match their artistry. It's exactly what was done in England when the drinking hours were restricted – they made it a numbers game (and chucked the pool tables).

So back to the list.

"Print out your 10 best-selling drinks. Take all of your bottles, all of your juices [out of the

bartending area]. These are your top-selling drinks, these are the ingredients [you need], put them in your speed rail first," Mr Gillam said. "Everything you use day in and day out."

The goal is for the bartender not to have to move to make any of these drinks. They don't have to turn around to find the necessary tumbler or walk over to the fridge to get the limes. All the basics for the drinks sold by the dozens each day are at their finger tips, putting them in customers' hand minutes faster.

"If you only make five [different] drinks that sell more than 10 drinks a day, I say great. You've got extra space [in your speed rail]. Two bottles of rum for your mojitos, two bottles of gin for your gin and tonics."

With your speed rail set-up properly, the next step is organizing the items you use once a day – those are the ones put behind the bartender. Then the really odd balls, the ones that only hit a glass once a week, can go into the cupboard.

Every minute a customer is waiting on a drink adds to a minute they are not drinking – not by their choosing, but because it's taken that long for them to be served.

"It's like a kitchen. You come in and prep everything, and you have it right there. It's business. It's all it is."



Gastronomic drinks are popular in a niche market, but the fancy, and often expensive, drinks may not make your bar successful. Photo: Cocktailmasters

Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort's fresh new faces

DENIS Martin, general manager of Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort recently announced three key executive appointments at the property. Aom Patmanee was appointed as the director of sales, Kitchanuch Khaosamruai as the event and sales manager and Naruemol Thierkaronchanakul as the public relations manager.

Ms Aom holds a bachelor's degree from Ramkhamhaeng University and has more than 12 years of experience at leading hotels, including the Royal Paradise Hotel Phuket, Horizon Patong Beach Resort Hotel Phuket and Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Prior to joining Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort, she was director of sales at The Racha Resort.

Ms Kitchanuch earned a degree from the

International Hotel & Tourism Industry Management School Bangkok (I-TIM). She has more than 10 years of experience at leading hotels such as the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers, InterContinental Dubai Festival City, Sheraton Pattaya Resort and Holiday Inn Bangkok Sukhumvit 22. Prior to joining Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort, she was the assistant sales and service manager at Siam@Siam Design Hotel & Spa Bangkok.

Ms Naruemol holds a bachelor's degree from Bangkok University. She carries with her extensive experience in sales and marketing. Most of her experience was gained at leading hotels, including Amari Atrium Bangkok, Windsor Suites Bangkok, Centara Grand Beach Resort



PR manager Naruemol Thierkaronchanakul.



Director of sales Aom Patmanee.



Event and sales manager Kitchanuch Khaosamruai.

Samui, Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin and Hard Rock Café Phuket. Prior to joining Phuket Panwa Beachfront

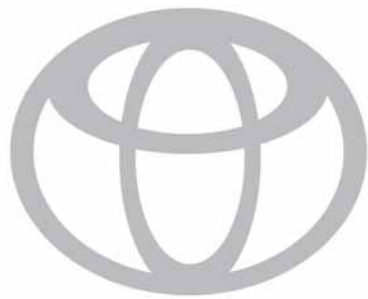
Resort, she was sales and public relations manager at Panwa Beach Resort Phuket. – *Phuket Gazette*

Toyota races into Saphan Hin

TOYOTA Pearl Phuket hosted their annual racing event, the "Toyota Motorsport Fast Fun Fest 2014" in Saphan Hin on July 12 and 13.

The promotional event featured a series of races and demonstrations including the Vigo champ stunt show and the Toyota Supra drift show.

Toyota also invited well-known Thai celebrities for a meet-and-greet, including such movie stars as Jirayu Thaangrisuk and Pirat Nitipisankul, as well as pop



music star Sirisin Chotvijit.

Live music was performed by the Big Ass Band, who travelled from Bangkok to entertain at the popular event.

Marketing Manager of Toyota Pearl Phuket Anusorn Kosasang said, "This event happens every year because we want to show the abilities of Toyota vehicles. Many people like to see racing and we can promote Toyota vehicles at the same time."

Toyota Thailand is eager for opportunities to promote their vehicles as sales are down 30 per cent this year as a result of the termination of the government's first-car buyer campaign, said Mr Anusorn. – *Phuket Gazette*

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FlipLingo's flipping tweets

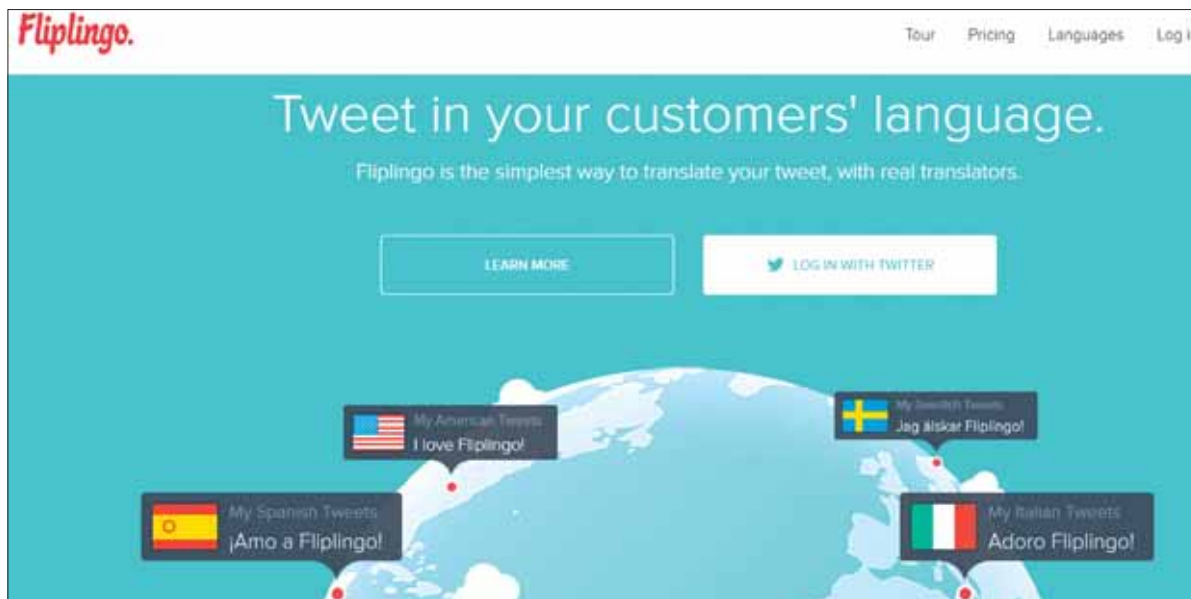
By Jeremie Schatz

FOLLOWING an extensive period of beta testing, a Chiang Mai-based tech startup's new translation service, FlipLingo, was set to go live on June 26.

The company, also called FlipLingo, has searched out a distinct niche in the translation market by offering live translation of Twitter messages in – as of this time – up to 32 languages. That's right, actual multilingual human beings somewhere out in the ether will read your tweets, translate them and post them.

In an interview with *The Nation*, FlipLingo founder Matthieu Aussaguel said, "Before we started developing FlipLingo, when we were at the idea validation stage, we completed a series of face-to-face interviews with potential customers. This allowed us to really understand what customers expected FlipLingo to do for them."

So what *does* FlipLingo do for them? Once the quick account setup process is complete, it can be configured so tweets are



Chiang Mai-based tech startup FlipLingo offers a customizable twitter translation service.

automatically fired over to FlipLingo which then translates them into the requested language and posts the message. They call the process a flip.

It is easy to see how this service can benefit a business. Picture a resort in, say, Phuket which wants to send tantalizing tweets to

potential customers in, say, Korea or Russia. FlipLingo affords businesses another avenue to extend their brand awareness into new markets globally.

A thoughtful quality of FlipLingo is that it is more than a one-size-fits-all service. For instance, they offer two levels of translation

depending on the client's needs and budget. Instantaneous machine translation is also available as a free service for circumstances where perfect accuracy or tone aren't paramount.

When FlipLingo customers are paying the US\$0.07 per word charge, they can expect "a 99.9%

satisfaction rate", an average translation time of 15 minutes, perfect formatting as well as whatever revisions or edits are necessary to complete that masterpiece tweet.

Customers can also relay specific instructions to the translator to maintain a tone of voice or clarify a term or idiom which may otherwise get lost in translation.

Payment is based on a credit scheme where users charge up their accounts and the cost of the tweets is automatically deducted. Accounts can be set to automatically top-up so crucial tweeting opportunities are not lost.

FlipLingo offers a variety of other features such as a simplified one-page interface to help facilitate a painless Twitter translation experience, a "Followers Language Analysis" to help target your tweets and a dashboard that shows the journey your tweets have taken.

If it sounds like something that your business or organization could benefit from, head over to their website at fliplingo.com for more information.

New registration required for vans

STARTING July 21, passenger vans plying the streets are required to obtain stickers showing they have registered to provide service, following the National Council for Peace and Order



Photo: Gazette File

(NCPO)'s policy to regulate van services for road safety.

The Department of Land Transport (DLT) was extremely busy as passenger van operators rushed to meet the deadline for vehicle inspections on July 21 in order to obtain a sticker certifying that they are properly licensed. Under the tightened regulations, all passenger vans that are in service must not be more than 10 years old and must pass all safety inspection tests.

DLT Director-General Adsathai Rattanadilok Na Phuket revealed

that out of the 1,000 vans that underwent vehicle inspection, 600 failed because they were in poor condition. Many vans failed the inspection because safety belts were not installed in all passenger seats.

From now on, van operators who do not have their vans properly registered could receive a jail term of up to five years and pay a fine of 20,000 to 100,000 baht.

Van operators who drive recklessly, go over the speed limit or drive off their service routes will have their licence revoked and have charges filed against them.

Should anybody encounter illegal passenger vans or feel dissatisfied with their services, he or she is urged to call the hotline at 1584 at any time. – NNT

Know if you're protected

Finance

By David Mayes

THIS is a topic I have written about on previous occasions but one I think cannot be stressed enough. For many expats in the region, getting assaulted by cold calls from financial advisers is just a part of life in Southeast Asia. Bangkok especially has a glut of ex-car salesman types, with no formal financial education, who push whatever their firm wants them to regardless if it is the right thing for the client or not. Many of them hide behind the regulation their firm has in some third party jurisdiction to gain credibility, but does this really protect you if something goes wrong?

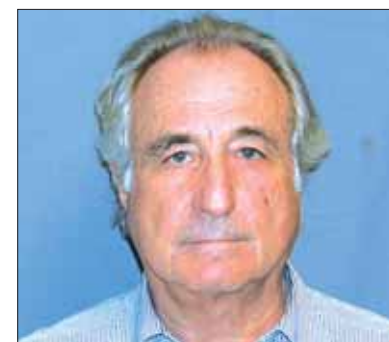
Sadly, for the most part, the answer is no. I had to find this out the hard way and hopefully you can learn from my mistakes. There are jurisdiction issues that come into play that work against you, unless you have made an investment through a Thai SEC regulated firm. Unfortunately, in Thailand, the laws don't allow foreigners to get regulated to provide financial advice, they can only work as "support" to the foreign organization and all advice must be sourced from abroad. The international segment of advice is not regulated since most Thais invest domestically, so you really are on your own as an international investor here.

That said, there are ways to drastically reduce your risk and ensure there is some accountability. Most people fall into the trap of believing that since they are investing via a multinational company in a jurisdiction such as

the Isle of Man, which is regulated, they are protected. This is half true, as you don't need to worry about the insurance company going bust or running off with your money. They have an investor protection scheme to cover that. However, the underlying investments you make is where the real danger lies. These can be run from many different jurisdictions, and each one will have its own set of security laws and regulations. Investing in funds run out of jurisdictions such as the UK or the USA, where there are strong regulatory bodies, can help reduce your risk.

That said, many of the biggest frauds actually take place in these heavily regulated environments, although even the victims of Bernie Madoff appear to be getting about 75 per cent of their money back due to the safeguards in the system. Sadly, if an adviser had recommended you put your money into markets right before a crash and you lost 40 per cent, an honest mistake is not covered by regulations. This is a strange effect of how regulations play out in reality. You actually are more protected if you have invested with a crook than if you invest with a firm who loses your money by the rules.

The problem internationally is that each regulator only cares about what happens in their jurisdiction, and many unscrupulous advisers lie by omission when they use a foreign regulator to trick a prospective client into thinking that this somehow offers them any protection whatsoever. While my firm is regulated in the UK by the FCA, I have to source the advice from them on behalf of my clients. This does not mean that a Thailand based client would be able to



Madoff's victims are being repaid as a result of system safeguards. Photo: US Department of Justice

make a claim with the British regulator however, and I always make sure clients understand that.

I can't count the number of clients I have taken over who had mistakenly believed they were protected by the American SEC, the British FCA, the MAS in Singapore, etc. As a resident who received advice here, you fall outside of their jurisdiction and the fact that an adviser or advisory firm is regulated by them offers you absolutely no protection. Please make sure you understand that. This does not mean that you will receive bad advice, but that a much higher level of care on your end is needed to make sure you have done your homework on the investments and strategy. At the end of the day it is your life savings; don't be fooled into thinking that a level of protection exists where, in fact, it doesn't.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on taxation and pensions. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335 8573.



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MBK hotels in final phase of rebranding

MBK Hotel & Tourism, which operates the Tinidee Golf Resort Phuket in Kathu, has been rebranding its six properties in order to deal with a changing business environment and market demand.

"Hotel & Tourism is one of MBK's eight business units. The group is in the final phase of rebranding, which is expected to be complete next year. The hotel unit is generating the third most revenue, following the shopping complex and rice business," Supanit Vimooktanon, deputy managing director for operations and marketing, told *The Nation* recently.

He said hotels in Bangkok had suffered for about eight months since political forces caused a crisis. Average occupancy at hotels in the capital was 40 per cent during

PROPERTY
Gazette

the first six months, down from 75 per cent during the same period last year. Moreover, lengths of stay in Bangkok were only 2.7 days per trip, compared with five days in Pattaya and 10-15 days in Phuket, Samui and Krabi.

He said a lot of tourists shortened their stays in Bangkok and stayed longer in destinations in the provinces for fear of security and safety in the capital. Moreover, foreign tourists are making reservations at the very last minute as they are waiting for special offers or low-priced packages from hotels now that the crisis has ended.

"This is not good for hotels in the long term, but may be needed for survival," Supanit said.

In Phuket, it is promoting the 160-million baht Tinidee Resort to golfers, both



Photo: Mark Knowles

Tinidee Golf Resort in Kathu, includes both Red Mountain and Loch Palm golf courses.

locals and foreigners. It will soon add conference rooms, outdoor activities, and wedding facilities to attract niche customers. The resort features the Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf courses.

Pathumwan Princess Hotel in Bangkok, which brought in 60 per cent, or 180 mn baht to 200 mn baht, of revenue to the unit in the first half of this year, is featuring discounts of six to 10 per cent to lure visitors back.

The group has also rebranded its Princess Ranong to Tinidee Hotel@Ranong to

focus on the local market as well as government officers. The occupancy rate is 40-50 per cent during low season and up to 75-80 per cent in high season.

Another property is Layana Resort and Spa in Koh Lanta, which the group took over from a foreigner for 450 billion baht, and turned it into an exclusive hotel with an average room rate of 8,000 baht per night. The group spent 80 mn baht on refurbishment. The group also owns the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Lower end of Phuket residential market still buoyant

REAL estate consultancy firm CBRE Thailand recently released its first-quarter report on the Phuket residential property market. The report highlights an improvement in the number of villas sold in the lower-end of the market, with 89 villas reported sold in the first quarter of 2014, compared to 67 villas in Q4 2013.

Despite this improvement, CBRE says the luxury villa market (over 90 million baht) remains slow, with only 10 sold last year, and launches in over two years.

"The good news is that we expect to see two luxury villa projects launched later this year in the central west coast area," stated the report.

"The total sales performance by value was around 1.4 billion baht in Q1 2014 decreasing from 1.6 bn in Q4 2013."

CBRE said it is continuing to see growing demand for affordable resort properties – villas priced between five to 15 million baht was the best performing sector. Laguna Park Villa and Laguna Park Townhome were the hottest projects in this segment with 28 units sold for each.

"The nationalities of villa buyers in this quarter included Russian, British, German and some Hong Kong and Singapore nationals. These buyers mainly focused on affordable villas with prices less than 30 mn baht (entry-level and mid-range segments)," stated the report.

"Developers have focused more on launching lower end villa projects with two new entry-level projects (5-15 mn baht) and two new mid-range projects (15-35 mn

baht) launched in this quarter."

Condos and Apartments

According to the report, the condominium market has been more active in terms of new launches and sales volume. With seven new resort condominium projects launched, compared to only two projects in the previous quarter.

"Developers have been trying to keep the unit price below five mn baht to capture market demand by building smaller unit size.

This resulted in a higher price per square meter," states the report.

"There were two new projects completed which were Kata Rocks; luxury leasehold apartment (unit price over 30 mn baht) and Chic Condominium Phase 1 (unit price between 2.5 and 6 mn baht) located at Kata and Karon beach, respectively. The completed supply grew by 21 per cent year-on-year.

"There are more than 3,000 resort units in the pipeline which are expected to be completed by

the end of 2016."

The most active condominium segment was units priced between three to five mn baht.

"We have seen a growing presence of Thai buyers in Phuket off-plan sales notably at Dinso

Residence Patong. Most have bought for investment. Projects situated in the center of the tourist area with strong rental potential and affordable selling prices have received a positive response from Thai buyers." – *Phuket Gazette*

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Phuket: To be or not to be?

The island's property market could be facing an existential crisis



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WHENEVER a property column starts out with Billy Shakes and the talk turns to slings and arrows, you'd best buckle up the seat belts. Yes, we are again turning our eyes to Phuket real estate after an extended hiatus into the arcane and zig-zag run for the goal posts. Sadly, like Brazil, there is always hope in another four years.

As the island's collective wavelength has heads spinning 360 degrees, not unlike the classic scene from the Exorcist, Phuket's current clean up is now headed down an altogether too familiar pathway – into the real estate sector.

While the emotional epicenter for lounge-land is Surin Beach, in the case of property it's the ultra-villas alleged to be located in Sirinath National Park. Multi-million dollar properties and hotels, which banter has it, may be at risk of revocation of titles and at the

worst, eventual demolition.

Ah yes, it was not that long ago when the man tagged as "The Demolisher" wagged a finger at high fliers and threatened a fast track down the karma road. That now seems to be a distant memory, yet land scandals have been repeated on the front pages of newspapers long before the decade since I've lived here.

The question hanging over us, is of course, will this time be any different? I'm not even going to attempt answering that one. One of the most entertaining comments I've heard recently was from a high priced Bangkok legal adviser who said, "there has never been a better time to be a lawyer."

Certainly, that sums things up pretty well, but for a broader property perspective on where the current regime is headed on the property front, news from the capital has it that changes in the tax regime are being looked at – both for real estate developers and also a longer-term plan of increasing the VAT (value added tax) to 10 per cent.

Neither financial markets, investors, nor the property market are keen supporters of volatility. When you draw the line, the consensus usually settles on stabilized marketplaces or developing economies. Uncertainty, while inevitable in political disruptions, simply stalls the business of business. There is little doubt that reforms and the much anticipated AEC initiative (Asean Economic Community) coming up in 2015 will potentially bring game-changing ideas to the fore.

Or will they? While the EU is not merely an economic ploy, but an organization with actual political teeth, the AEC seems to be little understood in the far corners of Southeast Asia. Don't call me a pessimist yet, but one thing is for sure, there is little clarity on the impact of the AEC initiatives. For most tax and legal experts I've spoken to, the future is a wait-and-see proposition.

Ah yes, wait and see is a familiar tune for the property sector here in Phuket as well, as the night turns black and the classic rock



Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Is the disappearance of beach loungers the harbinger of doom?

station beams out *Don't Fear the Reaper*. It's always darkest before dawn and the only certainty in the Sirinath National Park debacle seems to be that it's going to be fun finding out what happens next.

As for Billy's Hamlet, things did not exactly work out for him, with a poison dagger to the back. And yes the body is taken away with honor. What about Phuket's prop-

erty market? To be or not to be? It looks like old times are back again and it seems that this current age of uncertainty will be best interpreted through the tracks in the sand where the sun loungers once stood tall and defiant.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks, he can be contacted through c9hotelworks.com

Developers striving to help rejected customers

PROPERTY companies have been trying to find ways to boost the number of homes transferred to customers since the beginning of the year, when commercial banks started to restrict the approval of housing loans.

"We help our customers to revise their financial statements in order to meet the commercial banks' standards when they come up against the tighter restrictions on the provision of housing loans," said NC Housing CEO Somchao Tanterdtham.

The developer had a rejection rate of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent in the first half of the year, when the banks began to tighten their lending criteria. This was well above last year's average rate of 15 per cent.

Sansiri CEO Apichart Chutrakul acknowledged that the company's rejection rate in terms of failed transfers to customers had risen from 6-7 per cent last year to between 8 and 10 per cent in the first half of this year.

He cited the same reason as NC Housing's chief executive.

Pruksa Real Estate, meanwhile, had a rejection rate of 25 per cent due to the banks' tighter restrictions, forcing it to find ways to help its customers revise their financial status in order to get a housing loan, said president and CEO Thongma Vjittpongpan.

Developers, for example, help unsalaried customers that have other forms of regular income, such as entrepreneurs or shop owners, to present their takings in a form that gives them a better chance of securing a bank mortgage.

Pikun Srimahunt, first executive vice president of Siam Commercial Bank, said the bank would tap buyers of condominiums in the B-plus segment – those priced around 2.5 million baht – because potential buyers in this segment were low risk.

The bank estimates that some 70,000 condominium units worth about 140 billion baht will be transferred to customers this year. These are condos in projects that have been launched over the past one or two years and whose construction will be completed this year.

Krung Thai Bank, the second-largest mortgage provider, which faced a 25 per cent drop in new lending in the first quarter, is less enthusiastic about the condominium segment than Siam Commercial Bank, as it is concerned about oversupply.

However, it will grant loans to buyers in this segment if the projects are owned by leading property developers, as this would ensure there is low risk, said Weidt Nuchjalearn, first senior executive vice president of the bank.

Chatchai Payuhanaveechai, executive vice president of Kasikornbank, said his bank was focused on detached-housing projects more than condominiums, and around 70 per cent of its new mortgages would be for detached homes.

He added that the political uncertainty was having an impact on the launch of new housing projects this year, which would mean lower housing transfers next year, with a consequent large reduction in new mortgages. – *The Nation*

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A slack memoir of the sixties

THE great American writer Robert Stone has published seven novels in 50 years. This is a modest output compared to, say, John Updike or Philip Roth. He attributes this to "laziness and perfectionism".

Thus it comes as a surprise to read his slack, casual *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties* (HarperCollins, New York, 2008, 229pp). Stone is not striving for perfection here, as the narrative meanders where it will, with little color and no humor. It seems that he attaches nowhere near as much importance to the memoir form as he does to his novels.

That is not to say that his memoir is without interest. Stone was indeed in the red hot nexus of what would come to be known as the decade of sex, drugs and rock and roll as one of Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters. Immortalized by Tom Wolfe in his *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, the pioneering band of proto-hippies crossed the United States in a psychedelic-painted school bus in the summer of 1964, a jour-

Books

By James Eckardt

Stone was indeed in the red hot nexus of what would come to be known as the decade of sex, drugs and rock and roll: one of Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters. /

ney from northern California to New York City so Kesey could deliver to his publisher the manuscript of his epic second novel *Sometimes a Great Notion* and the Merry Pranksters could frolic at the newly opened New York World's Fair. Robert Stone wasn't on the bus, but his apartment was the first stop the bus made in New York.

Stone was nearly 30, married with two kids, and struggling to finish his first novel, *Hall of Mirrors*. Like Ken Kesey, he was an alumni of Wallace Stegner's writing class at Stanford. This opened him up to a whole new world of intelligent discourse about literature, music and philosophy that hadn't been available to him, growing up as poor and Irish Catholic in New York.

Following a four year Navy hitch after high school, he worked on the tabloid *New York Daily News*, then moved with his bride Janice to the French Quarter of New Orleans, the scene of his first novel. Then came California and LSD. The drug



The bus used by the iconic Merry Pranksters to travel from LA to New York. Photo: Joe Mabel

takes hold in a North Beach club during an Ornette Coleman set:

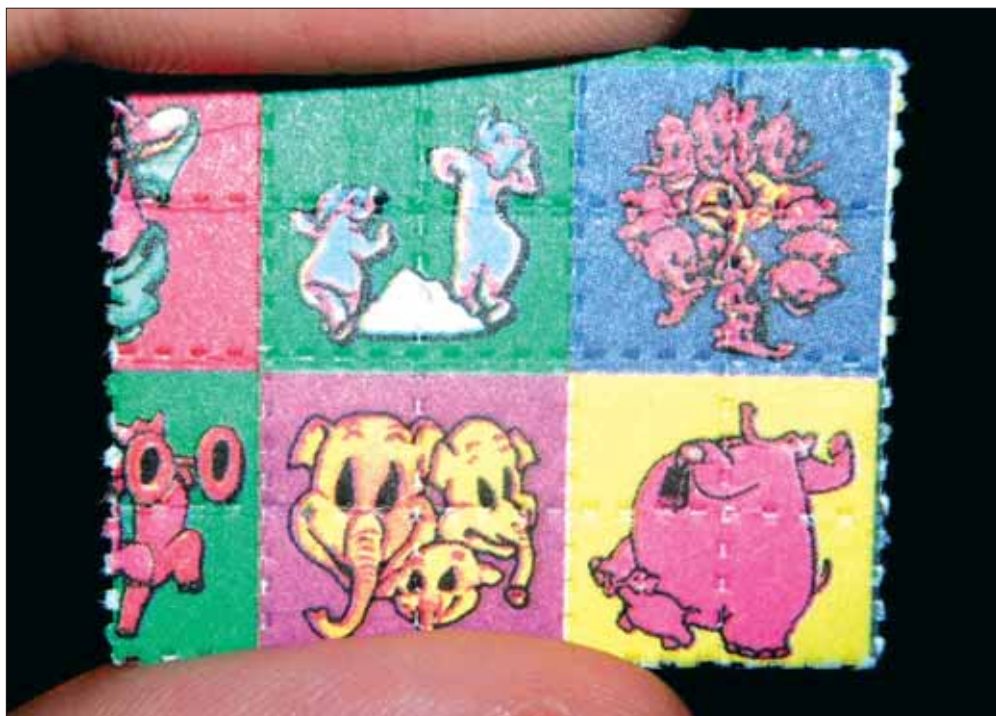
"From the tenor sax issued festive, gorgeous silk bands of the brightest, richest red, whirling and dancing and filling the space with scarlet bows and furls. The brass produced great fat waves of frost, ice-lightning it appeared, with a razor-sharp serrated edge – the waves expanding and contracting marvelously along the bass line. . . Stepping carefully over the bright music that was piling up on the floor, I made for the street. I tried to be cool, and showed everyone who glanced at my walkout a grinning rictus of terror."

As long as such pioneering mental adventures were confined to a small circle friends, they made eminent sense. When LSD became a mass movement of spaced-out young hippies in the 1967 Summer of Love, it spelled catastrophe. Stone fled with his family to London where he stayed for the better part of four years till in 1971 he put in a short, drugged-out stint in Vietnam that led him to his

second novel *Dog Soldiers*, a panorama of end-of-decade violence and paranoia that won the National Book Award.

But by that time Ken Kesey had stopped writing; his hero Jack Kerouac had turned into a nasty right-wing drunk, and his hero, Neal Cassady of *On the Road* fame and driver of the Kesey bus, was found dead next to a Mexican railroad track. There was one last stand of glory in 1966 when Stone joined Kesey, Cassady and friends who were on the lam in the Mexican beach town of Manzanillo. A peculiar green light at dawn over the rainforest – the prime green of the title – seemed to promise a bright future free of repression. But it was not to be.

Looking back, Stone turns reflective: "We were one of the generations to which the word 'Romantic' might be applied... In some ways the world profited and will continue to profit by what we succeeded in doing. We were the chief victims of our own mistakes. Measuring ourselves against the masters of the present, we regret nothing except our failure to prevail."



LSD was a key part of the counterculture movement Stone was part of. Photo: Psychonaught







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Hormonal diet habits

I WAS relaxing in a sauna recently and happened to overhear a conversation going on between two people behind me. A woman was talking about her new calorie-controlled diet. She started describing her great-tasting breakfast of natural, whole grain muesli, yogurt and sliced banana with a little bit of cinnamon on top.

After a while, though, she started to sound disappointed. She concluded her diet debrief with, "But it's been over three weeks and I still haven't lost any weight. Maybe I just need to do more running."

So, what is this woman doing wrong? Muesli is healthy, right? So say the Swiss, at least.

What could be the real reason behind her struggle to shed a few pounds? Was it really because she wasn't engaging in enough sports activities?

Probably not. My guess is that she is coming off of a high-carb diet. Perhaps she was eating bread and marmalade for breakfast and then pasta, or other starchy carbs, for lunch and dinner.

This government-recommended diet (the food pyramid) can affect your hormones. Switching from one carb to another, as she most likely did, will not yield results, even if done in tandem with calorie reduction.

If I had been her sounding board that day, I would have told her to start by reducing her overall carbohydrate intake by 30-40 per cent. Then, I would recommend starting the day with more protein and fat. So,



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

I believe fat loss is a side effect of achieving optimal health, especially in regards to hormones

instead of muesli, go for an omelet with vegetables or a protein shake, and maybe some yogurt with sliced almonds and berries.

This will bring her one step closer to successful weight loss and balanced hormones.

Glucagon and insulin are two hormones that work in opposition to keep blood-sugar levels in balance. Insulin is secreted when you have high blood-sugar levels and transports glucose (or sugar) to the muscles, liver or fat cells. Too much insulin from carb-heavy meals can lead to excess fat storage.

Glucagon, on the other hand, activates the enzyme lipase which breaks down fat into fatty acids and glycerol.

These are then released into the bloodstream and sent to the liver to be broken down into energy. Activating your glucagon often is key for eliminating fat.

I believe fat loss is a side effect of achieving optimal health, especially in regards to hormones. Balancing your hormones, which you can do with a healthy diet, is a good place to start when working toward weight-loss and a healthy body.

STEP 1: RECOGNIZE WHAT IS IMPORTANT

Research shows insulin and cortisol imbalances lead to gaining fat around the waist – the dangerous fat. My advice is to stop using scales and take a waist measurement instead. Do this by using a roll of tailor's tape to measure your waist. Ensure the tape is level and stand tall, but re-



Opt for tailor's tape to monitor your weight rather than a scale. Photo: PublicDomainPictures

laxed – no sucking in or pushing out. Repeat three times and check that your results are always within 1 centimeter to ensure accuracy.

STEP 2: GAIN DIET AWARENESS

Start recording your current diet – these are the eating habits that got you where you are today. Look at your current calorie intake, macronutrient percentages (protein, carbohydrate and fat), sugar amounts and the types of foods you eat. Record as you move forward and alter your diet according to results.

STEP 3: MAKE CHANGES

First, reduce consumption of processed, fried and high-sugar foods. Try to eliminate highly inflammatory foods such as wheat; rice is a much better option, and just so happens to be very easy to find here. Next, eat your vegetables. Also, if you eat out a lot here – as most people do – ask the cook not to add sugar. If you find that MSG

affects you, tell them to leave it out.

Another strategy I recommend is to reduce macronutrient intake to about 30-40 per cent per day. Most people's intake is about 60 per cent per day, which is too much. Try to replace bad fats with good fats like avocado, coconut oil, nuts, seeds, eggs and fish. Also, try to keep your sugar intake below 30 grams per day from all sources – this includes fruits!

These few, simple changes often result in a natural 10-20 per cent reduction in daily calorie intake.

Finally, slow down. It will benefit you more in the long run if you sit down for your meal and pay attention to how much you need to feel satisfied.

Craig Burton is a nutritional expert with more than 15 years of experience at the forefront of the health and well-being field. He offers a high-level of expertise in functional training and nutrition, focusing on detoxification, food intolerance and nutrient deficiency. For more information about Craig and his services, visit thevitruvianmethod.com

Keeping an eye out for our youngsters

A DISEASE that inevitably strikes fear in the hearts of parents whenever an outbreak occurs, Hand-Foot-Mouth disease (HFMD) is a contagious viral condition affecting children under the age of 10 that has rare but potentially severe complications.

Thailand sees an outbreak almost every year, with the Public Health Ministry recording some 18,000 cases in early 2013.

HFMD is prevalent everywhere but it is more frequent in tropical countries. Infestation arises from person-to-person contact with an infected individual either from hands stained with faeces or through inhalation of infected droplets from coughing.

HFMD symptoms usually begin with minor cold-like symptoms including moderate fever with sore throat and loss of appetite. Typical signs of HFMD then appear

and consist of painful mouth ulcers and a red rash characterized by small liquid-filled blisters mainly found on the hands and feet. In most cases and as long as the child can eat and drink normally, all signs and symptoms usually disappear within a week.

In epidemics and especially in tropical areas, more aggressive virus strains known as enterovirus 71 (EV71) can occasionally cause neurological complications.

In most cases, though, symptoms improve without treatment within five to seven days.

No effective vaccine is available today against HFMD and the prevention essentially relies on proper cleanliness. Children should be trained early to practice good hygiene, such as washing hands after going to the toilet, and avoiding placing their fingers in their mouths.

– The Nation

Thai youth and ya bah

THE second most popular high next to cannabis among young people in many countries, amphetamines today are posing a major public health threat.

The highly addictive, synthetic drug methamphetamine is often referred to as speed, crank and meth in the west and *ya bah* ("crazy med" in Thai) and *shabu* in Asia.

Precursors such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are contained in common cold preparations and though these have recently been banned in Thailand, they continue to be available on the black market, making for a cheap high among kids as young as 12.

In Asia, methamphetamine is likely the most popular drug choice. Statistics from the Thailand Office of the Narcotics Control board showed that 82 per cent of drug-related cases in 2011 involved methamphetamine, making *ya bah* the most prevalent drug.



Amphetamine is an ingredient in the party drug ecstasy. Photo: Rickdoble

Amphetamine derivatives are all potent stimulants of the central nervous system and highly addictive. Initial oral intake produces short-term euphoria, renewed energy and "socializing" effects, which appear within 30 minutes and last for at least eight hours. The stimulation leads to the release of brain neurotransmitters that increase blood pressure and heartbeat, suppress appetite – making amphetamines popular

with figure-conscious girls – and cause insomnia and hallucinations.

Prevention relies on heightened awareness of the dangers of psychotropic drugs among children, parents and school personnel. At any rate, young individuals at risk will benefit from strengthening protective factors in their lives such as enhancing personal and social skills and reinforcing connections with family, school and the community.

– The Nation

Chasing Hooters

By Maciek Klimowicz

SOME people don't need any reason to travel. They just pack their bags and hit the road. Wanderlust, they call it. But for most of us, there has to be a reason behind the journey. Be it business people who travel for the money, holiday makers who travel to have a break, or pilgrims who travel for their souls. No reason is better than the other right? Meet Harry Susemmihl who's reason to travel is... Hooters.

"I have visited 561 Hooters restaurants on five continents, including the one in Phuket," he told me when I met him at, naturally, Hooters in Patong. Sitting straight up, German style, over a glass of non-German beer he looked a bit out of place, maybe a bit stiff. But it took two minutes of our conversation for him to relax and I was flooded with a river

of hooters-inspired stories.

"In January I was in Sao Paulo, in February I was in Cyprus, in March I went to Bogota, in April I visited California, Hollywood area, north of San Francisco, Hooters Casino Hotel in Vegas as well as three new Hooters restaurants in Phoenix, Arizona. Now I'm here, in August I'll be in Tokyo and Osaka and then in September in Manila. That's my year," he told me, and the only question I was left with at that moment was "Why? Why Hooters?"

"The first time I heard about Hooters was from a friend of mine who told me that I have to visit that restaurant that is different than others. 'How different?' I asked. 'You will see,' he replied.

"Later, when I visited Newport Beach in California in 1998 I saw a Hooters restaurant, so I stepped in. I saw the waitresses, I saw other people taking pictures with



Harry enjoys the food at Hooters, but that's not why he's obsessed with the restaurant chain. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Harry takes a photo in each Hooters he visits – 561 and counting.

them and I thought "Hallelujah!"

"In all other restaurants the rules are simple – here is your food, eat, pay, leave. But at Hooters the girls have time to come to your table and talk to you and I think it's great." At this moment, as if to prove his point, a Hooters girl appeared to chat us up and serve us a plate of onion rings.

Harry ensured me that he is not sponsored by Hooters and all he ever got from them was a free beer or two. "It's my hobby!" he exclaimed.

And quite a collection he's got. While showing me photographs from different Hooters restaurants from around the globe, he presented me with one memory after another. Like the time when he flew from Germany to Israel just for one day, four hours in fact, only to eat in Hooters.

"I flew to Tel Aviv and the immigration officer asked me how long I was staying, to which I replied 'four hours.'

"You fly from Germany to Israel

for four hours?"

"Yes"

"Why?"

"I want to eat something"

"Why?"

"I'm hungry."

The immigration officer didn't find that reply as amusing as I did and 10 of his colleagues interrogated Harry for two and a half hours, asking him a dozen questions including the World War II history of his family. And once this ordeal was over and Harry finally arrived at Hooters, all he could do was to turn back and go home – the restaurant was closed on Sabbath.

"Three months later I came back and I made it to Hooters, I took some pictures and all was great," Harry told me. He also got a Hooters Polo shirt, he has 71 of them now.

Yes, people do think he's crazy. Including his colleagues from the post office in Germany where he works. Some of them (I'd guess most) thought he went mad when he spent 6,000 euros (260,000

bath) on a week-long trip to Central and South America during which he visited a different country (and different Hooters, of course) every single day. Six thousand euros is enough to pay for a two-week holiday for a whole family in an exotic destination.

"But I love Hooters, it's my collection and this is what I do," explained Harry.

Now, maybe there are some hungry people out there who visit Hooters just for the food, but I think it's a safe bet to say that most guests come there for the girls. Harry is no different, so the inevitable question had to be asked – where are the most beautiful Hooters girls?

"The most beautiful Hooters girls are in the US, it's like Baywatch. But go outside to the beach and it's not Baywatch at all. On the street I'd say the girls are the most beautiful in Hungary, in Venezuela and in Russia. It must be easy to open a Hooters there."

Yes, most of us have reasons to travel. But some are indeed better than others.

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East meets west in Siam

Portugal's role in the rise and fall of the Ayutthaya kingdom



The ruins of Ayutthaya, the ancient capital of Siam which was destroyed by Burmese invaders in 1767, remain a popular tourist destination to this day. Photo: Justin Vidamo

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE Portuguese were the first Westerners to arrive in Southeast Asia, as early as the 15th Century. They sailed here, braving dangerous seas and came as traders, wanting nothing more than to simply take back the spices that were grown here. During the 15th century, spices from Southeast Asia were arguably as rare and valuable as gold and Portuguese merchants, brave enough to travel to the "Ends of the Earth" were rewarded generously for bringing these rare commodities back to Europe from the Far East.

During the early 16th century, the city of Ayutthaya, the seat of power of the kingdom of Siam, was a thriving center of trade. During this period, there were many foreigners already residing in Ayutthaya, including Japanese, Persians, Chinese and Portuguese merchants. Further south of the Malay Peninsula, Portuguese ambition in the region was shifting from simply trading to controlling the trade routes within the region. In the year 1511, following a row with the Sultan of Malacca, the Portuguese attacked and captured the city, securing its first colony in Southeast Asia.

The capture of Malacca not only marked the beginning of European colonialism in the region, but it was also the first war that put the locals up against European firearms, gunpowder and maritime technology that they had never seen before. Over the next century or so, the number of Portuguese traders and mercenaries in Siam increased. Many wanted a slice of the riches promised by this new world.

As soon as Malacca was



The Portuguese possessed naval and military technology that was unparalleled in the east. Photo: Public Domain

turned into a Portuguese colony, Alfonso de Albuquerque, the Portuguese general who led the attack and eventual capture of the city, sought to restore peace and trade with the Siamese king. He sent Portuguese envoys to the court of King Ramathibodi II in Ayutthaya. The king returned the friendly gesture by sending his own Siamese envoys.

In the year 1518, the Portuguese governor of Goa, Lopes Soares de Albergaria, sent an envoy by the name of Duarte Coelho to Ayutthaya once again in order to solidify the peace and commercial treaty that had been in place since the Portuguese arrived on the peninsula. Coelho was granted an audience with King Ramathobodi II. Under the terms of an expanded treaty, the Portuguese were allowed to both live and trade freely in Ayutthaya, Mergui, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Pattani and other important trading ports in Siam. They were allowed to practice their religion freely. In return, the

/ Many Portuguese soldiers were recruited into the Siamese army during the 16th century as mercenaries. These European mercenaries were loyal as long as they were paid, but they soon made up an important part of the Siamese army because of their firearms. /

Portuguese were to provide Ayutthaya's royal army with cannons and ammunition to support Siam's wars with Chiang Mai.

Shortly after the conclusion of the treaty, Portuguese military advisers and instructors were enrolled in the Siamese army in order to reorganize the soldiers and train them in the use of European

firearms and cannons. It is believed that Portuguese military support led to the crushing defeat of Chiang Mai by Siamese troops, which brought the northern city back into Ayutthaya's dominion.

Many Portuguese soldiers were recruited into the Siamese army during the 16th century as mercenaries. These European mercenaries were loyal as long as they were paid, but they soon made up an important part of the Siamese army because of their firearms.

Harquebuses (early guns) used by Portuguese mercenaries during the 16th century were a novelty in warfare. Although European guns and firearms improved throughout the 16th century, they were still inaccurate, cumbersome to reload and often useless in rain, a problem that was greatly exacerbated in the tropics. Despite the fact that their modern weapons were not exactly game-changing during that time, Portuguese mercenaries still grew to become an integral part of the Siamese army. Many scholars

of Southeast Asian history have speculated that perhaps in addition to their weapons, it was also their willingness to inflict bloody damage on opposing troops and their hunger for violent conflict that propelled them into one of the most dangerous and effective units in the Siamese army.

In fact, Portuguese mercenaries may have been more effective in combat beyond the ability of their weapons. Accounts from Mendez Pinto, a Portuguese explorer and writer from the mid-16th century, mentioned that King Chairacha employed 120 Portuguese mercenaries as his personal bodyguards. In the middle of Chairacha's reign, King Tabinshwehti of Burma began campaigning into Siamese territory in the north, causing Siam significant losses on its borders.

During that time, King Chairacha gave orders that all men who could bear arms and fight, including all foreigners in Ayutthaya would have to appear in 12 days time and march with the royal army in order to push the Burmese out of the kingdom. According to Pinto, there were 130 Portuguese merchants residing in Ayutthaya during that time. 120 of them chose to join the royal army's campaign rather than leave the city.

During the campaign, King Chairacha was wounded and had to return to Ayutthaya. Whilst recovering from his wounds, according to Pinto's accounts, the king was poisoned. On his deathbed, he granted the 120 Portuguese guards a certain portion of royal revenues and exclusion from customs duties for three years, as a result of their dedicated service. Portuguese priests were also given the freedom to preach throughout the kingdom.

Pershing the limits

By Chris Husted

IF BOATING enthusiasts know one thing, they know there is cruising in style, and then there is Pershing. The range of high-end yachts from Italian boatbuilder Ferretti, from the baby 50.1 to the silver bullet 115ft, deliver exactly what is expected of a yacht dubbed the “Lamborghini of the sea”.

Hand-stitched leather interior by Poltrona Frau, the exclusive leather supplier to Ferrari and Maserati, sleek lines and sublime wood finishing throughout whisper elegance – but lurking beneath the beauty is the beast: twin-turbo V12 engines each producing up to 1,640hp that rocket the boat up to speeds of 45 knots.

“Owners in Thailand have embraced the Pershing brand,” said Martin Holmes, general manager at Lee Marine, based at Phuket Boat Lagoon.

“When they go out, they do not go out for a week – time is precious. With a boat like this, you can go from Amanpuri to the Similans in about 40 minutes in absolute comfort.

“And when everyone turns up – you can take off for another destination. You can go twice as far, twice as fast, up to about 300 nautical miles in a day.”

Taking ownership of a Pershing can be an emotional experience. “These boats are the very stuff dreams are made of. They are the personification of passion on water,” Martin explained.

“I wouldn’t say I’ve seen a grown man cry, but if you tell people to be at the handover at 8am, they’ll be there at 6.

“It’s the realization of a dream to own a boat like this. To know that so much goes into building one of these from the ground that what results is a work of art, that happens to be the best, fastest boat on the water – that you will never be overtaken.

“I recently took a client to the factory in Mondolfo, Italy, to see boats being built. He said it was just like visiting Maranello to buy a Ferrari.”



The limitations of the helmsman are far lower than the limitations of the yacht, says Martin Holmes of Lee Marine. Photo: Pershing Yachts

As Pershings have their own distinctive character, the owners must have the personality to match and being young at heart is a good start, explained Martin.

The whole boat is driven by the one little joystick on the bridge, so captains of nearly any caliber can experience a 100-ton yacht going 45kts in open water. The automatic trim system, developed by Ferretti’s Advanced Yacht Technology & Design (AYT&D), kicks in and the vibration is non-existent as every form of power is transmitted down the back to the surface-drive propellers.

The “surface drive” has become the signature of Pershing yachts. The propellers are only half-submerged, providing much less drag, much sharper turning circles and

the distinctive “rooster’s tail” as the yacht autographs its wake on the sea.

“These are not showpieces just to look good in the marina, they are made to go to sea. The entire range are all class A off-shore certified, extremely well-built machines manufactured for use at sea.

“As hard as you try you won’t break it, the limitations of the helmsman are far lower than the limitations of the yacht.”

Lee Marine, which has been a dedicated Ferretti dealer since 2002, received a delivery in December and have a three-cabin Pershing 64 currently in Singapore.

“It’s a three-cabin layout, with a full beam master cabin. At 20m long, it is arguably the perfect day boat,” Mr Holmes said.

The yacht comes complete with a 3.2m tender powered by jet water propulsion, a fully retractable sunroof over the rear deck and a full glass retractable partition which at the touch of a button quickly, quietly and completely disappears into the floor. The “disappearing window” opens the boat right up, allowing guests to enjoy the indoor entertaining area and the adjoining deck as one.

“It’s about the freedom and knowing that privacy is luxury,” Martin explained. “When you’re on your boat, it’s just you and the ones you love around you.”

For more details contact Lee Marine at The Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-239729. Email: martin@leemarine.com Website: www.leemarine.com

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Foxy Lady breezes to victory

By Chris Husted

BILL Bremner's *Foxy Lady VI* breezed around the course off the east coast of Phuket on Sunday July 20 to win the IRC Racing I Class of the 2014 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek Regatta.

Placing fourth in the final race was little more than a formality for the too-hot-to-handle *Foxy Lady* crew to ensure they had enough points to allow one discard after racing was abandoned on Saturday due to lack of wind.

Foxy Lady's nearest rival, Paul Winkelmann's *Island Fling*, out of Hong Kong, finally climbed to the top of the podium for their win on Sunday to finish the regatta in second place overall in the class.

Peter Ahern's *Oi!* placed third on Sunday on corrected time to close the regatta in third place overall.

Red Bull Racing Australia Principal Roland Dane's *Jessandra II* secured top honors in the IRC Racing 2 class with a clean sweep. After amassing an unassailable lead in the first two days of racing, the crew rounded off the regatta on Sunday with their fifth win in five races.

To guarantee second place in the class overall, all Greg Reynolds' *Foreign Affair* had to do was cover John Vause's *Ruby Tuesday*, and that they did with the boats crossing the finish line in fifth and seventh places, respectively.

However, Stuart Williamson's *Skandia Endeavour of Whitby* from Malaysia placed fourth in Sunday's race in an interesting twist. A third-place finish would have drawn them level with *Ruby Tuesday* in the final standings.

Instead, the third-place overall

podium place went to *Ruby Tuesday* by a single point.

Phuket yachting Alan Carwardine and his crew on *Asia Catamarans Hurricane* secured top honors in the Multihull Racing class with a third-place finish.

Zam Bevan's Corsair trimaran *Bullet* closed the regatta with a win to give the crew's first outing in an international regatta a third place overall.

Consistent quality sailing by John Coffin's *Java*, scoring one first and four second-place finishes, staked their claim to second place overall with a second-place finish on Sunday.

In the Firefly 850 class, John Newnham's *Twin Sharks* lost their second race in the regatta, coughing up first place to Hans Rahmann's *Voodoo* in the outing.

However, *Twin Sharks* scoring three wins and a second in the first four races in the regatta was enough carry them to victory and successfully defend the title of champions in the Firefly class.

Neil Ayre's *Advanced Racing Mamba*, although disqualified from Race 4 after a protest, placed third on Sunday to secure second place overall in the class with eight points, with *Voodoo* placing third overall on nine points.

Yet the scuttlebutt of the regatta is sure to be the final day commotion in the Cruising class. Despite a win on Sunday, totaling three wins in four races, Mike Downard's *Sail in Asia Pinocchio* did not win the class.

Top honors instead went to Richard Barnhurst's *Hedonist*, which scored three second places and one first in the four days of racing.

! This year's edition attracted a fleet of 33 yachts and more than 400 racers and support members from at least 11 countries, including Russia, China, Australia and Germany. !



Placing fourth in the final race was a formality for the winner of the IRC Racing I Class, *Foxy Lady*. Photo: Supplied.

After scoring two firsts in the first two races, Downard and his crew of youngsters on *Sail in Asia Pinocchio* retired after finishing (RTF) in Race 3.

As ISAF rules require five races to be completed in order to be able to discard a team's worst result, *Sail in Asia Pinocchio* was awarded full points for Race 3 – which handed first place overall to *Hedonist*.

Transpac racer Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom on *Sansiri Windstar* placed third overall.

Patience and practice proved a challenge for the crews on the final day of racing. Light winds finally pushed in from the east – very unusual at this time of year

– to allow racing to start at midday, after a two-day delay to race start.

Regardless, Principal Race Officer Simon James still managed to send the cruisers on a passage race around the outlying islands off the east coast, with classic yachts heading out on a longer windward mark, and the rest of the classes racing windward-lee-ward legs around the cans to the south of Koh Lone.

"It was a especially difficult to organize races with winds shifting like this, but in all it was a successful regatta," James said.

Organized by Media Business Services, the Cape Panwa Hotel

Phuket Raceweek Regatta, now in its 11th year, has become a benchmark yachting event on the Asian yachting circuit.

This year's edition attracted a fleet of 33 yachts and more than 400 racers and support members from at least 11 countries, including Russia, China, Australia and Germany.

For more information go to phuketraceweek.com.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels HD-79 and SD-107), are proud to sponsor the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2014.

First Hole-in-One at new course

SOON after Laguna Phuket Golf Club unveiled the first half of their completely redesigned golf course, a new opportunity to celebrate presented itself. This time it was thanks to German golf player Juergen John who scored a hole-in-one on July 9 – both his and the course's first.

Stepping onto the Blue Tee, Juergen flushed an 8 iron on the 125-yard par 3 hole and send the ball flying high and far. Seconds later it landed softly on the green and rolled straight into the hole. Juergen and his friends exploded into celebration, and for good reason: few golfers are fortunate



Juergen John (2nd from right) celebrates with his playing partners Jan Jacobs (left) and Brian Dagnall.

enough to ever score a hole-in-one.

Juergen was proud of his achievement and also found words of praise for the new Laguna Phuket Golf Club layout, saying he loves the new layout and is looking forward to the club's full course

upgrade completion.

The redesigned Laguna Phuket Golf Club course will have its grand opening on January 1, 2015. As of now, nine of the 18 holes undergoing renovation are open. Thai residents and Phuket expats can take advantage of Laguna Phuket Golf Club's special green fee promotion and enjoy an 18-hole game (2x9) for 1,800 baht, excluding caddy fee and equipment rental, until October 31, 2014.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit lagunaphuketgolf.com. For bookings, email golf@lagunaphuket.com or call the Pro Shop at 076-270991.

Next Fixture			
Samut Sakhon			
Jul 27 6pm			
@ Plaibang Gymnasium, Nonthaburi			
FTPL TABLE			
TEAM	P	PTS	
1 Chonburi Blue Wave	25	70	
2 Phuket United	24	53	
3 Royal Navy	25	51	
4 Thai Port FC	24	49	
5 CAT FC	25	46	
6 Ayutthaya City	24	41	
7 Samut Sakhon	25	39	
8 Sri Pathum Si Saket	25	38	
9 Nonthaburi	25	37	
10 Khon Kaen	25	36	
11 Bangkok FC	24	34	
12 Pattaya Arena FC	25	33	
13 Highways Department	25	17	
14 Chiangmai	25	12	
15 Uthai Thani	25	10	
16 Suphanburi	25	3	

*dates subject to change **Last Update: 22/07/2014

NEXT FIXTURE			
BBCU FC			
JUL 27			
@ Surakul Stadium 6.30 pm			
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	21	45
2	Royal Navy	21	41
3	Bangkok FC	21	38
4	Saraburi FC	21	36
5	Angthong FC	21	35
6	BBCU	21	32
7	Chiangmai FC	21	30
8	TTM Customs	21	30
9	Ayutthaya FC	21	30
10	Phuket	21	29
11	Roi Et Utd	21	28
12	Krabi FC	21	28
13	Pattaya Utd	21	28
14	Phitsanulok FC	21	25
15	NakhonPathom	21	24
16	Trat FC	21	19
17	Khon Kaen FC	21	14
18	Sri Racha FC	21	2

*dates subject to change **Last Update: 22/07/2014

Rungrawee wants peace with coach she accused of attacking her

THAI raekwondo fighter Rungrawee Khurasa wants to hold peace talks with the coach she accused of assaulting her so she can return to the national fold in time for the Asian Games.

Rungrawee had said she would quit the national team after accusing Choi Young-seok of hitting her in the stomach several times and also in the face following a first-round defeat at the Korea Open in Gyeongju earlier this month.

The 23-year-old, who won a bronze in the 62 kilogram class in the Asian Championship last year, made the allegations on television before going silent on the issue.

South Korean Choi, credited with helping Thailand win three Olympic medals in the sport during his decade in the country, had also threatened to quit amid the allegations.

The Thailand Taekwondo Association opened an investigation into proceedings, but Rungrawee failed to show up for the inquiry over the weekend, sparking online criticism.

The athlete, who had also contemplated filing a police report at one point, said she just wanted to speak with Choi and try and move on by attempting to qualify for the Asian Games which takes place in South Korea.

"Of course, I want to return to the national team and I'm ready to clear everything for better understanding with coach Choi," Rungrawee told the Nation newspaper on Wednesday.

"I don't want to say much at this stage. I would like to talk with the coach first. If everything pans out well, I'm ready for the trial for the Asian Games in September."

Thailand Taekwondo Association vice

president Pricha Tortrakul welcomed the athlete's comments and was optimistic of a "happy ending" for all parties after Choi had shown remorse for the incident.

The 40-year-old Korean said on Monday that he had already apologized to Rungrawee, also known by her nickname 'Koi', and that the door was open for her to return.

"I would like to apologize to the Thai people for the incident. I didn't think it would come this far. I really regret the things that had happened over the last week," he told reporters at a packed news conference.

"I did punish her but it was not as serious as punching her 10 times as made out to be. The punishment had nothing to do with winning or losing. I just wanted her to be more determined and put more focus on fights."

— Reuters



Coach Choi Young-seok. Photo: The Nation

English FA keeps pressure on FIFA

By Keith Weir

FIFA should review the decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar if an investigation shows that corruption played a part in the winning bid, English Football Association Chairman Greg Dyke said on Tuesday.

Appearing before a parliamentary committee, Dyke said FIFA should publish in full a report into the bidding process for 2018 and 2022 being compiled by American lawyer Michael Garcia.

However, Dyke played down talk of stripping Russia of the 2018 tournament because of political tensions over Ukraine.

Garcia, who has been leading a FIFA ethics committee investigation into allegations of corruption surrounding the award of the 2022 World Cup to the Gulf state, will submit his report in September.

"If Mr Garcia shows that there have been corrupt activities, the whole thing should be reconsidered," Dyke said.

Dyke said he was convinced

that the tournament would not be held in June or July if it was played in Qatar because of the intense heat, with a move to a cooler time of the year like November or December a certainty.

Dyke played down suggestions that Russia could be stripped of the World Cup as a punishment for the downing of a passenger plane over Ukraine last week which Western nations have blamed on separatists backed by Moscow.

"I think there will be a World Cup in Russia," Dyke told reporters after the hearing.

He had earlier told lawmakers that a decision to move a World Cup should not be based on "one week's events".

Blatter to stay

Dyke said he believe that FIFA President Sepp Blatter would be re-elected if he stands again next year despite corruption allegations surrounding world football's governing body.

Blatter has been head of FIFA since 1998 and is expected to

seek another term.

"If he runs again he will win," Dyke said, adding that European distaste for the methods of the 78-year-old Swiss was not shared in other parts of the world.

Dyke said that England, which lost out to Russia in the bidding for 2018, would focus on hosting European events for the time being.

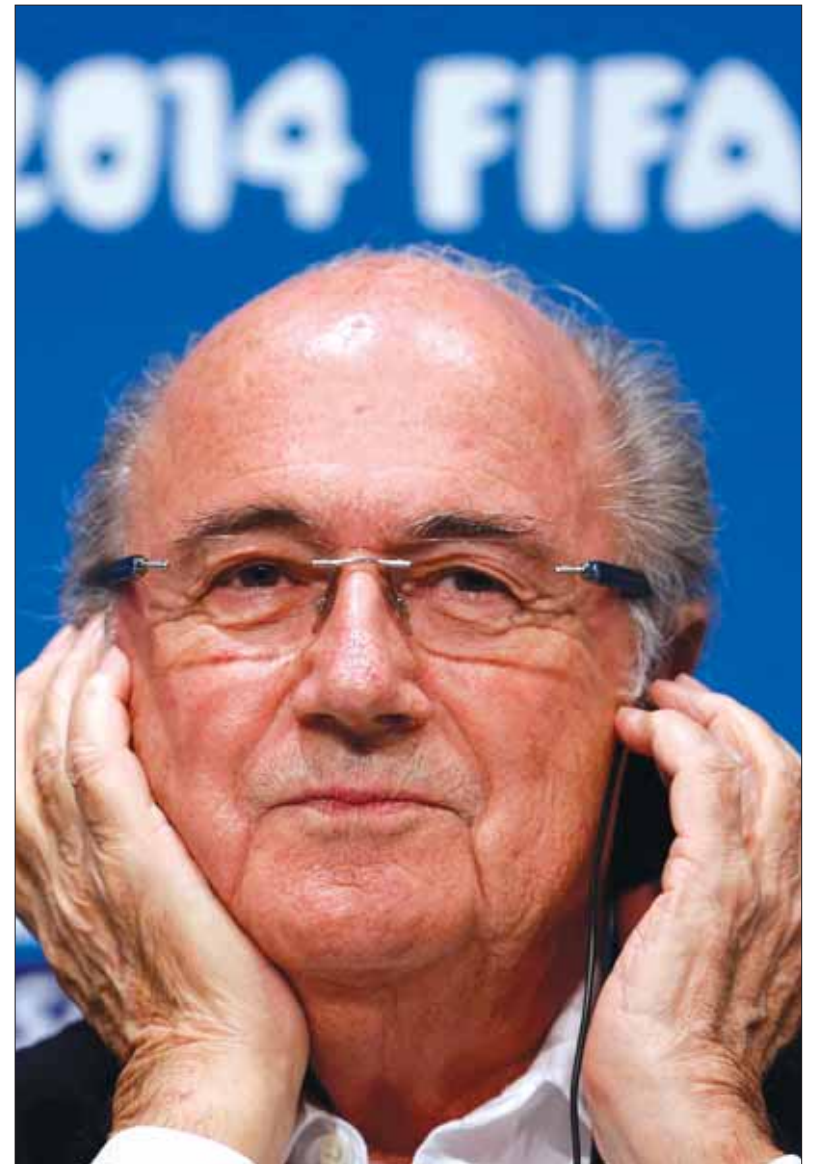
He said Blatter's dislike for the British media, which has led campaigns to expose FIFA corruption, made it impossible to win a World Cup bid.

"Mr Blatter's view of the English media is such that he says why would you want to take it to England?" the former head of the BBC said.

The plain-speaking Dyke jokingly compared FIFA to a one-party state, in comments unlikely to endear him to Blatter.

Referring to a meeting of FIFA's congress in Sao Paulo he attended in June, Dyke said it was "like something out of North Korea at times – hail to the leader."

— Reuters



FIFA President Sepp Blatter attends a news conference at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Photo: Pilar Olivares/Reuters

Queen Elizabeth's horse tests positive for morphine

QUEEN Elizabeth's racehorse Estimate, the 2013 Ascot Gold Cup winner, has tested positive for the banned substance morphine, Buckingham Palace said on Tuesday.

Estimate was one of five horses under various trainers who were found by the British Horseracing Authority to be affected.

"On Thursday 17th July the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) announced

that a number of post-race samples, obtained from recent race meetings, had been found to indicate the presence of morphine, which is a prohibited substance on race days," John Warren, the Queen's bloodstock and racing advisor, said in a statement.

"Initial indications are that the positive test resulted from the consumption of a contaminated feed product."

Warren added: "(Trainer) Sir Michael (Stoute) is working closely with the feed company involved to discover how the product may have become contaminated prior to delivery to his stables.

"As the BHA investigates this matter, including potential links between the different cases, Sir Michael continues to offer his full co-operation."

— Reuters



Britain's Queen Elizabeth with her horse after it won the Gold Cup at the Royal Ascot horse racing festival. Photo: Toby Melville/Reuters

SPORT

ITF Pro Circuit winners rejoice

WITH the Chang SAT International Tennis Federation (ITF) Pro Circuit doubles event at Phuket's Thanyapura half way through, as this paper went to print, the first-round winners were celebrating their results.

Ya-Fan Wang of China played from the qualifying round to win the Women's Singles event. In the final round Wang survived five match points to come back to defeat Yi-Fan Xu 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

In the doubles, Korean duo Han Na-Lae and Yoo Mi defeated Akari Inoue of Japan and Lee Ya Hsuan of Taiwan 6-4, 6-3 to secure the title.

Each of the two tournament's prize pools are valued at US\$25,000.

Thanyapura Phuket was recently listed as one of the top 50 Best Tennis Resorts in the world and many of this year's tournament participants have taken part in several competitions at Thanyapura over the past few years.

As this issue of the Gazette went to print the second leg of the tournament was underway, and will be concluded on Saturday, July 26.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels HD-79 and SD-107), are proud to sponsor this event.



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Series results (top three in each class) - Full results are available at www.phuketraceweek.com/results.

IRC Racing I Foxy Lady VI, Bill Bremner (4) Island Fling, Paul E. Winklemann (8) Oil, Peter Ahern/ Scott Bailey/ Fergus Wilmer (12)	IRC Racing II Jessandra II, Roland Dane (4) Foreign Affair, Greg Reynolds (11) Ruby Tuesday, John Vause (13)	Cruising Hedonist, Richard Barnhurst (7) Sail in Asia Pinocchio, Mike Downard (9) Sansiri Windstar, Potinyakorn Buranrom (11)	Charter/Bareboat Little Eva, Jonathan King (5) Venture, Ian Lodewyckx (6) Anchalai (Rotana), Simon Oliver (7)	Multihull Racing Asia Catamarans Hurricane, Alan Carwardine (5) Java, John Coffin (7) Bullet, Zam Bevan (12)	Firefly 850 Twin Sharks, John Newnham (5) Advanced Racing Mamba, Richard Ayre (8) Voodoo, Hans Rahmann (9)	Classic Seraph, Captain Bao (5) Aventura, Michael Zircon (6) Sirius, Simon Morris (8)
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Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek is owned and organised by Media Business Services Co Ltd (MBS) 113/167 Anupas Golf Villa, Kathu, Phuket 83120. Call 08 9000 4664 for enquires.

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