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Immigration faces extortion allegations

Governor demands explanation from Patong Immigration chief before pursuing investigation

INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'AN OFFICER WILL ARRIVE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES'

Report crime to a 7-Eleven

■ Kata-Karon 7-Eleven staff trained by police to deal with crime reports

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

VICTIMS of crime in Kata and Karon can now file reports with police by visiting any 7-Eleven convenience store in the area.

"Tourists in Kata-Karon now have an alternative and easy way to reach police. Our hope is that this will boost tourists' confidence in their safety during their stay on the island," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee told the Gazette this week.

Stickers promoting the service have been provided to each of the beach towns' 7-Eleven stores, and signs have been installed in various locations in the area. The stickers and signs are written in Thai, Chinese, English and Russian.

The signs read: "If you were a victim of snatching, robbery or theft while in Kata-Karon, please report it to the Karon Police by calling 076-396393 or at any 7-Eleven in Kata-Karon".

Karon Police Inspector Pornnarong Karnonchai has been credited with the idea.

"We have wanted to launch this campaign for a long time. We started training 7-Eleven staff..."

Continued on Page 3



Police believe that the regular interactions 7-Eleven staffers have with foreigners will pay dividends when it comes to receiving crime reports.

SPECIAL REPORT

Officials scramble to untangle human trafficking network

OFFICERS in Phang Nga, north of Phuket, have arrested three men for their involvement in a human trafficking ring that is moving people from the Bangladesh-Myanmar border into Malaysia.

More than 150 refugees have been detained since October 11, and officers have begun to investigate how deeply entrenched the local community is in the human smuggling industry.

Full story Page 9

Chalong Pier boats told to move out for marina renovations

THE more than 50 boats moored in Chalong Bay Marina have been ordered to move out.

Vessels will be prohibited from mooring within 200 meters of the marina while a new seawall is built and the facility undergoes renovations.

Full story Page 2

Phuket plagued by illegal elephants, say island officials

SIX elephants being illegal kept on Phuket, which has a provincial cap on the number of pachyderms allowed, will be forced off the island soon, said Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak.

The move kicks off a campaign to rid the island of all illegal elephants and ensure that there are no more than the 210 legally allowed.

Full story Page 8

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This Week



Business

RPM's dynamic duo plan to buoy the marina's popularity. **Page 29**



Property

After seven and a half years, Property Watch retires. **Page 31**



Well-being

Good fat, bad fat – find out which is which, and why. **Page 36**



Boating

The regal Superyacht Rendezvous to bring glitz and glamor. **Page 35**



History

How Prince Abhakara revitalized the Royal Thai Navy. **Page 37**



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Triathlon legends to defend their titles at Laguna. **Page 38**

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Chalong Pier closed, all boats get the boot

By Chutharat Plerin

BOATS are prohibited from mooring within 200 meters of Chalong Bay Marina for one year, effective Wednesday, as seawall construction and renovations take place, confirmed the Phuket Marine Office chief.

The order handed down and signed off by Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut, was followed by the expulsion of all boats moored in the marina.

"The marina will be closed for one year while the renovations take place. After construction is complete, we will have a much better marina and a strong seawall," said Mr Phuripat.

Vessels will be allowed to utilize the newly-opened one-stop yacht service center at the pier – but only temporarily.

The one-stop yacht shop finally opened in July after years of delays and technical setbacks.

"All boats must get permission before they can enter the marina to use the service center," Mr Phuripat noted.

Mr Phuripat explained that all vessels previously moored at the pier are to find somewhere else to go, or else face charges.



About 50 vessels mooring in Chalong will have to move. Photo: Gazette file

"There are about 50 vessels that used to moor at the pier. The boat owners can move wherever they want, to any other marina on the island," he said.

"Anyone who breaks the new regulations will be charged with defying an official order, which carries a penalty of up to six months in jail."

Gazette poll asks: Do you feel safe on the streets after dark?

THE gruesome murder of two British backpackers on the holiday island of Koh Tao has drawn international media attention to safety concerns in major Thai tourist destinations, such as Phuket.

In the wake of the murders, the Region 8 Police commander ramped up security in all areas under his watch, including Phuket and Koh Tao.

At about the same time, a British motorist and his wife were ambushed on a dark, empty stretch of road in northern Phuket, prompting police to issue warnings about driving the island's streets at night.

Phuket's newest top cop later



Where and when do you feel safe?

vowed to boost the island's volunteer police force in an effort to improve tourists' safety.

In our latest poll we ask *Phuket Gazette* readers: "Do you feel safe on the streets of Phuket after dark?"

Go online at PhuketGazette.net and have your say!

Russian ATM skimmer busted

POLICE nabbed a Russian ATM skimmer for stealing more than 100,000 baht from foreigners' bank accounts just before he was set to leave the island on October 10.

Nicolai Petrishin, 27, was arrested at Novotel Resort in Kamala in possession of equipment used for the scam.

"We received three complaints from Kasikorn Bank between September 29 and October 5 stating that funds from accounts of K-Bank clients were being withdrawn inappropriately in the Kamala area," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit told the *Gazette*.

"We launched an investigation and found that a man had been



Nicolai Petrishin, 27.

frequently withdrawing money from ATMs in the area, usually after 2am. We were able to gather evidence about him and find out where he was staying by using

nearby CCTV footage."

Mr Petrishin told police that he had arrived to Phuket on September 28 with the intention of skimming ATMs. He brought 50 electronic ATM cards to Phuket with him for this purpose, explained Maj Gen Patchara.

"Once he used a card, he dumped it into the canal in Kamala," Gen Patchara said.

Dozens of ditched cards were recovered by police.

Officers are looking into whether or not any other suspects were involved in the possible skimming network.

Mr Petrishin is facing charges for skimming the accounts, confirmed Gen Patchara.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*



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Police push Russian rape case over to public prosecutor

POLICE have concluded their investigation into a man who confessed to tying up a tourist and having sex with her, but denied rape charges.

Police arrested Somdet Srisai, 33, on September 27, after a 29-year-old Russian woman filed a complaint with Karon Police.

"We have completed our investigation. The victim has given us all relevant information

that can be used in court," said Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borrirak.

"The victim does not need to be present during the proceedings."

The case has been handed over to the public prosecutor, Lt Col Sophon added.

Mr Somdet has been transferred to the jailhouse in the Phuket Provincial Court.

— *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*



Mr Somdet signs a confession admitting he tied a woman up. However, he denied raping her.



Store staff have been trained in police report filing procedures.

7-Eleven robber arrested after exchange of gunfire

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE arrested a man suspected of several armed robberies of 7-Eleven stores after a shootout in Phuket on October 9.

Phuket Town native Piriya Tangbunjerd, 41, was slightly injured in the short gun battle.

"Mr Piriya was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital with a gunshot wound to the hip. The two officers involved in the incident suffered no serious injuries," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit said.

Mr Piriya opened fire on police after he was caught in a sting operation.

"Based on the pattern of 7-Eleven robberies, we placed undercover officers at stores that we suspected the robber would hit next," Maj Gen Patchara said.

"We got lucky, the sting operation worked on its first day."

Police posing as 7-Eleven staffers confronted the robber after he entered a store in Srisoonthorn and threatened employees behind the counter with a gun.

"While he was ordering staff in the store to empty the cash register, I trained my gun on him and



Piriya Tangbunjerd fired on undercover officers and attempted to flee the scene, but was shot and apprehended.

ordered him to surrender," said Thalang Police Sub Lt Winit Chealam.

"But instead, he shot at me. Luckily, he missed and my colleague shot him."

Despite his injury, Mr Piriya attempted to flee the scene, but the police apprehended him as he tried to get into a car parked 20

meters away.

Police found a number of items in Mr Piriya's possession believed to have been used in previous robberies.

"We found a handgun, a helmet, a mask, a green jacket and a Civil Defense Volunteer shirt," said Gen Patchara.

"The suspect is now under

heavy guard at the hospital. We will question him once he has been treated, but I am confident we have our man."

Mr Piriya is believed by police to be the same man caught on CCTV footage robbing two 7-Elevens on October 5 and could also have been involved in other 7-Eleven robberies last month.

Kata-Karon 7-Elevens can now process crime reports

From Page 1

...in July in basic police report procedure," Maj Pornnarong said.

"There are 10 stores total in Kata-Karon. When tourists report a crime to 7-Eleven staff, the staff will call us right away. It will take less than five minutes for an officer to arrive at the store."

Police are soliciting more 7-Elevens on the island to join the campaign.

"Police Region 8 Commander Decha Budnampetch likes the idea. We now want to convince every other 7-Eleven on the island to take part," said Col Peerayuth.

"There are about 340 branches in total. If all of them join us, it will be a great step forward for the community's fight against crime."

"The more co-operation we have, the better we can do."

Col Peerayuth is confident that the project will be a success.

"This campaign is great because it is as if there are 10 more police boxes, and they are very easy to spot," he said. "Many tourists have no idea where Karon Police Station is located."

"Also, most 7-Eleven staff can speak some English as they are used to working with foreign customers. Language barriers should not be a big problem."



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Fish autopsy results inconclusive

Officials unsure why dozens of fish are dying around Koh Racha Yai

By Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

AUTOPSY results of dead fish collected at Koh Racha Yai island off the southern coast of Phuket have yielded no clues as to why scores of reef fish are being found dead in the area.

"A parrot fish was swimming in slow circles close to death... at Ao Konkare [Bay 1] [earlier this month]. What would cause its eyes to bulge out like that?" local diver and marine conservationist Joe Blasy asked after having noticed a multitude of dead fish a few weeks ago.

Reports of dead fish at Koh Racha Noi have also surfaced, however, similar sightings have not been made at other well-known dive locations such as Shark Point, Koh Bida Nok, Palong Wall or Phi Phi, confirmed Mr Blasy.

"We have yet to determine the cause of death. Experts conducted autopsies, but the results were inconclusive," Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) Director Ukkrit Satapoomin told the *Gazette*,



Koh Racha Yai beaches have seen dead fish washing ashore from inexplicable causes. Photo: Gazette file

after officers investigated the area around Koh Racha Yai, especially in Bay 1 (Ao Konkare) and Bay 3 (Ao Ter), where the fish were found.

"Also, we checked the water

conditions thinking perhaps an influx of cold, less-oxygenated water transferred with more oxygenated water in the reef areas. However, that was not the case."

The other possibility is humans, Mr Ukkrit said.

"We have contacted people within our network to keep an eye open for any possible illegal fishing that might have caused the

deaths. At this point, however, we do not want to make any unsubstantiated allegations," he said.

"I have also contacted the Phuket Office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources [DMCR] for additional ideas on what can be done to prevent the deaths from continuing."

After the reports concerning the dead fish off Koh Racha Yai, reports of dozens of dead fish found along Nai Harn Beach surfaced.

A similar case occurred in the same area just over a year ago, in which several dead reef fish were found and brought to the PMBC amid worries that the sea creatures had been poisoned.

"We cannot do this alone. People should not be afraid to contact us if they are able to document illegal fishing," said DMCR Region 5 Chief Tanet Munnoy.

"I am available 24-7, so call me on my mobile if you witness fishermen fishing in restricted areas, or using illegal fishing practices. My number is 081 636-8099."



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Krabi protesters heated over power plant project



Protesters gathered outside of the public hearing in Krabi.

HUNDREDS of residents stood together against Krabi's coal-fired power plant at a public hearing for the project last Sunday. Protesters claimed that the meetings were setups and locals were not heard.

The hearing, led by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and guarded by a brigade of armed soldiers and police officers, was held at Nua Khlong Community Hall.

Not long after the meeting started, about 500 protesters showed up with green flags displaying a picture of a dugong and posters calling for "No coal".

"This is yet another public hearing being held with hundreds of armed officers standing outside. Why would the EGAT ask for armed personnel if they are being honest and have nothing to hide?" said Somsak Nobnob, one of the protesters.

"We will do everything it takes within our rights to stop the project. I want EGAT to know that they can't force this on us."

"They have been dishonest and

are not following the law."

Many protesters told the *Gazette* that they were worried about the environmental effects the project would have on the province.

Kittichai Engchuan, Krabi Administration Organization (OrBorTor) vice president, believes that construction of the plant will damage Krabi's wetlands. This area is protected under the Ramsar Convention, reported *The Nation* last month.

"If the plant is established, it will affect the province and the world, as Krabi would no longer be a part of the world's wetlands," he said.

"EGAT must listen to us, to the locals, when we say no."

Another protester said that Krabi is slated to become a green province and a coal plant would go directly against the initiative.

"The US and many countries in Europe are eliminating coal plants. Krabi is meant to be a green place. It doesn't make sense to allow one here," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Lifeguards point to booze for drowning of 18-year-old man

By Chutharat Plerin

LIFEGUARDS are blaming heavy drinking for the drowning of an 18-year-old on Phuket's Kata Beach on October 12.

"There were about six men and one woman drinking on the beach after work. At about 9:20am three of them were swimming in a closed-off section of the beach. They were dragged out by the waves," Kata-Karon Chief Lifeguard Uten Singsom told the *Gazette* on Monday.

Lifeguards were able to rescue two of them: Thongchai Haijaran, 25, and Phatpong Banlang, 34.

However, Supachai Madorod, 18, drowned.

"Mr Thongchai and Mr Phatpong were both drunk and exhausted, but fine. Nonetheless, we had them taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital," said Mr Uten.

"We spent about two hours searching for Mr Supachai. I eventually found his body and brought him back to shore. I could smell



A group of three were swimming in a closed-off section of Kata Beach when they were dragged out to sea by the waves. Photo: Supplied

the alcohol on him."

Though the beach was closed, Mr Uten said that the waves were not too strong that day.

"I think they had too much alcohol, and weren't able to help themselves," Mr Uten said.

"We had a tough time making

the two rescues. We put our lives at risk every time we have to go out and save someone. Swimmers need to obey the red flags and not swim when they are drunk."

Later that day, four men faced a similar threat on Bang Tao Beach when they also ignored red warning flags.

"They were dragged out by chest-high waves. Two of them were able to make it back to shore. However, two went missing," said Lt Peerasit Nhupayan of Cherng Talay Police.

Wanchalerm Buasaard, 16, and Ano Tanamai, 20, were spotted alive and floating a couple hundred meters from the safety of the sands.

"Lifeguards spent less than 10 minutes getting them back. They were taken to Thalang Hospital," Lt Peerasit said.

"Fortunately, this did not become another sad story."

Additional reporting by Thawit Bilabdullar



Mr. Kla (center) confessed to stealing an iPad from a Korean family while they were swimming.

Patong beach thief arrested for stealing from tourists

POLICE arrested a snatch-and-dash beach thief in Phuket on October 9.

The 20-year-old Myanmar national named by police only as "Mr Kla" was arrested at 8:30pm after Patong Police caught up with him on the island's main party strip – Soi Bangla.

"Mr Kla confessed that he had stolen an iPad from a family of Korean tourists when he saw them leave it on the beach to go play in the water," said Lt Col Sutthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police.

Mr Kla slightly injured his left foot while attempting to evade police.

He was charged with theft and for staying in Thailand illegally, Col Sutthichai confirmed.

– Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

Mayor rewards honest Tesco employee with cash

A 10,000-BAHT reward was handed over to an honest Tesco Lotus employee after she returned a cash-stuffed wallet to a Phuket mayor who had left it behind.

"I was helping a Burmese person translate the language on the ATM outside the Cafe Amazon at the gas station in Chalong when I noticed the wallet," said Sorada Toiparn, 47.

"There was no contact information inside and I didn't recognize the name, so I held

onto it for about an hour, waiting for the owner to return. Eventually, I handed it over to my manager."

The next morning, Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol returned to look for his wallet – the contents were still there, including credit cards and 70,000 baht cash.

Mayor Samran tracked down Ms Sorada and gave her a 10,000-baht reward.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Mayor Samran rewards Ms Sorada.





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Police arrest shooter for drive-by

POLICE have arrested nine suspects, eight of whom are minors, for a drive-by revenge shooting which left two men injured on October 3.

Wattana Suebsak, 18, was shot in the face and seriously injured, while Prasert Chanthip, 35, was also shot and wounded when a group of masked suspects rode by on motorbikes and opened fire.

Police revealed on October 10 that the group of nine were led by a 17-year-old, who has since confessed to being the sole shooter on the night of the attack.

"The two groups of teens – from Baan Don and Baan Liporn – had a conflict on the last night of the Vegetarian Festival," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit said.

Chatr Hirunwadee, 19, one of the nine, explained to police that the shooting was an act of revenge on the men from Baan Liporn.

"The nine suspects are now in custody," said Maj Gen Patchara. – *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*

Gov demands explanation for extortion allegations

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Governor has demanded that the Patong Immigration chief clarify why a foreigner filed a complaint alleging that his officers had asked the person to pay for free services.

The immigration chief has been given 15 days to respond.

"A foreigner filed a complaint at the Damrongtham Center [ombudsman's office] at Phuket Provincial Hall – the complaint is now in my hands," Governor Nisit Jansomwong told the *Gazette*.

"The complaint claims that immigration officers are charging foreigners fees for services that are supposed to be free, such as address confirmation letters."

If the explanation for why a foreigner might have misunderstood the situation fails to demystify the incident, the governor said he would establish a standing committee to investigate.

"When we get complaints, es-



Gov Nisit has given the Patong Immigration chief 15 days to explain.

pecially from foreigners, we must act swiftly. If they do not understand and get upset, they could tarnish Phuket's name. The kind of bad reputation created from these situations can spread quickly

through social networks," Gov Nisit said.

Phuket Immigration earlier denied claims that officers were charging fees for its service after a similar complaint was published

on the *Phuket Forum*.

It read: "I just bought a new motorcycle, so I had to do the address confirmation."

"Patong [Immigration] charged me 500 baht. Is this supposed to be free?"

Phuket's top-ranking immigration officer confirmed on October 10 that there were no official fees for this service.

"Both address verification and 90-day reporting for foreigners are services that we provide free-of-charge. There is only a fee for tourists extending their permits-to-stay, which is 1,900 baht," said Phuket Immigration chief Sunchai Chokkajaykij.

However, the chief said he would bring the extortion allegation to the attention of his staff.

"Any foreigner who is asked to pay for these services by one of our officers can report the matter directly to me at our office, which is open from 10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday."

Pythons captured while relieving hunger pangs

TWO massive pythons have been caught in the act of gobbling up prized poultry in Phuket this week.

First, a 20-kilogram python was caught eating a rooster inside a chicken coop on Monday.

Frightened Thalang residents called Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers to the scene when they found the large python with the half-consumed bird.

Workers spent 15 minutes capturing the reptile, which was between 2.5 and three meters long.

An even bigger four-meter-long python was discovered devouring a duck a few days later.

"My duck had already been eaten by the time I got there. I didn't know what to do, so I called the police," said the duck owner.

Police arrived and immediately spotted the python, whose belly was engorged from its meal, said Sen Sgt Maj Somboon Khanpet of



The snakes. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong/Thawit Bilabdujar

the Chalong Police. Sgt Maj Somboon took the chance to urge island residents to beware of snakes during the monsoon season, as they tend to search for shelter during heavy rain. – *Phuket Gazette*



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Floating market slated for island

PHUKET Town will soon be the home to the island's first floating market, the opening of which is slated for early next year.

The floating market will be set up on part of the Bang Yai canal – the longest canal in Phuket – which begins in Saphan Hin and winds throughout the city.

"We believe this project will boost Phuket's economy and tourism industry, especially in Phuket Town. This is a good way for us to build up tourism businesses in this particular area," said Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office.

"We do not have many details about the market, as experts are drawing up the plan. We will release more information as soon as it is made available."

The funds needed for the market will come from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports' 2015 fiscal budget, said Mr Santi; however, the project is under the control of the Phuket Municipality.

The project is slated to launch in early 2015.

– **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

Undocumented elephants to be banished from the island soon

By **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

SIX elephants with no valid documentation to stay in Phuket are to be booted off the island within the next few weeks, Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak said.

Phuket Livestock Office personnel will re-check documents which were presented by the owner of the elephants to officers at the Phuket Animal Quarantine Station at Tah Chat Chai that allowed the elephants' entry into Phuket.

"Our records show that the animals passed through the quarantine station on October 2 at about 10pm," said Vice Governor Somkiet.

"It's always at night when people sneak unregistered elephants onto the island, because there are fewer officers around to thoroughly check papers."

Officials were notified of the elephants after complaints were filed by members of the Kathu community.

"There are many different laws



The elephants will have to be removed from Phuket. Photo: Barbara Piuma

and organizations involved in elephant regulation, but at the end of the day, owners must respect that there is a limit on the number that Phuket can effectively manage," Phuket Livestock Chief Weerasit Putthipairoj said.

"While owners may have the legal right to transport their animals to the island, they don't necessarily have a permit from authorities allowing them to keep them here."

Under Phuket's 1999 elephant control regulations, signed into

law by former governor Chadet Insawang, only 210 elephants can be legally kept on the island.

"Until further notice, these regulations still apply," Mr Weerasit noted.

V/Gov Somkiet confirmed that the owner of the six elephants would likely be given 15-17 days to remove them from the province, or face charges.

"We have to act quickly – this case must be an example to other owners who try to illegally bring their animals to the island," he said.

"It's time for us to take control of the problem and start reducing the number of elephants that don't have permission to stay here."

Once this issue is resolved, a meeting will be planned to look at reviewing permits for all 210 pachyderms legally residing on the island.

"This will make it easier for us to pinpoint owners that have illegally brought elephants here," said V/Gov Somkiet.

A date for the meeting has yet to be set.

Phuket gets gold for Asian Beach Games preparation efforts

THE Minister of Tourism and Sports has praised Phuket's leaders for the progress made in prepping the island for the upcoming 4th Asian Beach Games.

"Phuket has made great progress, but we must remember that besides competing, athletes will also be experiencing Phuket for themselves. We must take this opportunity to impress them," said Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul.

"We want to push the sports-tourism image of Phuket and make sure that visitors form fond memories of the island to ensure that they will return."

Ms Kobkarn also applauded the island's police force for their work, and expressed her confidence that they will carry out their duties well during the event.

"I want to thank officers from every station in Phuket for their determination to uphold public safety. I feel assured that Phuket will be a fantastic host during the games," she said.

During her visit, Ms Kobkarn asked that private businesses get more involved, a wish which was taken on by Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

"Hotel operators have been very co-operative. We expect that tourists will experience great service, as we are making sure that they will be offered deals and transportation options to the event," Governor Nisit said.



Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul was impressed with Phuket.

Local residents are also getting involved, explained Gov Nisit.

"More than two thousand volunteers from schools and universities in Phuket will be on hand for various tasks during the games," he said.

The 4th Asia Beach Games will get underway on November 14 and continue until November 23.

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 4th Asian Beach Games.

– **Woranut Pechdee**

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Human trafficking network

More than 150 refugees detained in raids as officials scramble to dismantle network

SPECIAL REPORT

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS north of Phuket are attempting to unravel a human trafficking network after the arrest of a Thai "caretaker" and two Thai lookouts, and the detention of more than 150 refugees.

"Two Thai nationals were on guard to keep an eye out for officials. They have been arrested for their role in the human trafficking network," Takupa District Chief Mani Pianthong said on October 11.

The lookouts, Prakob Mard-Ardum, 43, and another Thai national, who police declined to name as he is a minor, both confessed to police that they had been paid 500 baht to watch out for officers.

"They told us that they had done this many times in the past few months," Mr Mani said.

Songphol Klaimee, 20, confessed to police on Tuesday that he had been assigned the task of looking after refugees when they were in the camp and hiding in the woods of Baan Bang Yai.

"It is clear that locals are part of this human smuggling network. We will dismantle it," vowed Acting Phang Nga Governor Prayoon



The first group of human trafficking victims were caught in the early hours of October 11.

Rattanasene.

Officers are attempting to determine the extent to which the human trafficking network has infiltrated the local community.

"We found some school milk containers in the camp, which makes it clear that locals must be involved in the process," Governor Prayoon said.

"We will start questioning local government officers to determine how they could allow the refugees to stay in the area without reporting it to us."

The first group of more than 80 human trafficking victims fleeing Bangladesh were detained on October 11.

"All of them came from Bangladesh, where they found it too difficult to survive in the refugee camp, so they decided to come to Malaysia," said Htoo Chit, executive director and founder of the Foundation for Education and Development (FED).

"They have not all said that they are Rohingya, most of them confirmed to us that they are Bengali.

However, some did mention that they are Rohingya and had been living in UNHCR's refugee camp near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border."

FED has been working on human trafficking issues for almost nine years, providing translation services as well as some humanitarian assistance. An FED team was on site helping the refugees on October 11, Mr Htoo explained.

"Thai and Bengali brokers were handling them. Some of them were beaten due to language barriers," Mr Htoo said.

The refugees told Mr Htoo's team that they paid about 180,000 taka (about 75,000 baht) to be smuggled into Malaysia.

The more than 80 individuals detained were caught in two groups – no women or children were part of either of the groups, Mr Htoo confirmed.

"A source told us that a group of Rohingya were sneaking through a rubber tree plantation," Mr Mani said.

Counter to information provided by translators on site, Mr Mani believes that the men detained are all Rohingya from the war-torn Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Two days later, a group of 72 human refugees were caught in another raid in Phang Nga.

"Human trafficking has existed in Thai society for a long time. I believe that there are very powerful people behind all of this," said one Thai official who declined to be named.

Earlier this year, the US State Department downgraded Thailand to the lowest level in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

"The downgrade to Tier 3 is affecting Thailand's reputation," Gov Prayoon said on Tuesday. "We have to stop the smuggling of Rohingya – whoever is involved will face justice."

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School strike 'act of revenge': Army

Military spokesman claims attacks response to arrests of key separatist leaders

THE burning of six schools in Pattani in the early hours of October 12 was described by the military as an act of revenge for recent arrests of key figures in the southern insurgency.

Army spokesman Col Winthai Suvari said that it was likely the separatist movement in the southern border region wanted to attack authorities in response to their recent arrest of some key leaders. He did not identify which leaders, reported *The Nation*.

"Authorities recently arrested some important leaders of the insurgent movement in our proactive operations," said Col Winthai.

"There were searches and sieges at some sites, and seizures of items used in attacks."

Col Banpot Poonpian, spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command, agreed with Col Winthai, explaining that units working in the area believe that the authorities' recent operations that led to the arrests could have caused the militants to torch schools in retaliation.

More than 40 assailants suspected to be insurgents set fire to



A young girl walks among the wreckage of what military officials are calling a revenge attack. Photo: The Nation

eight school buildings, some of which were badly damaged, police and witnesses said.

Village defense volunteers and residents managed to extinguish the blazes at some schools and save the buildings from being com-

pletely burned to the ground.

No injuries were reported in the incidents that took place between 2am and 2:30am in Thung Yang Daeng and Ma-yor districts.

No group has claimed responsibility.

Army chief Gen Udomdej Sitabutr, who is also deputy defense minister, has instructed the Fourth Army Area Command to survey the damage caused to the schools targeted in the apparently concerted arson attacks, so those

affected could get necessary assistance, Col Banpot said.

The general also urged authorities to find the perpetrators.

Gen Udomdej has said he wants a warning system that can be remotely operated from a communications center to be installed at all schools throughout the region, reported Col Banphot.

Col Banphot added that more volunteers would be used as night security at schools on top of the volunteers currently guarding villages, while teams of volunteers at the tambon level would patrol routes and roads between villages.

Speaking after Army officials met in Bangkok to discuss the incident, he said the military would set up quick-reaction teams and regular units would provide constant patrols to be on the lookout for insurgents to hunt them down.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has instructed the Army to come up with clear measures to prevent more arson attacks on schools in the southernmost provinces, as the new semester is about to begin, said Maj Gen Sansern Kaewkamnerd, a deputy government spokesman.

Crackdown on ivory trade amid threats of sanctions

AROUND THE nation

THE Commerce Ministry is now "stringently" regulating ivory traders, encouraging them to register, in order to prevent illegal trading and protect Thailand from international sanctions.

The crackdown follows a warning from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that Thailand could face an international wildlife-trade ban unless it reins in its ivory sector, which is a magnet for traffickers.

CITES has set a deadline of next March for Thailand to fall into line or risk wide-ranging sanctions, reported *The Nation*.

"We intend to prevent illegal ivory trading and create better understanding about trade regulations," the department's Director-General Pongpun Gearaviriyapun said on Monday.

Mr Pongpun said the ministry is now closely co-operating with the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to solve legal problems and protect Thailand from the possibility of international sanctions, which could lead to billion-baht losses.

In Thailand, ivory from domesticated elephants can be sold, but ivory from wild pachyderms is considered illegal.

Officials stepping up measures to prevent illegal influx of Rohingya

AUTHORITIES are stepping up measures to prevent an illegal inflow of Rohingya from neighboring Myanmar.

Illegal entries by members of this ethnic group usually soar between November and April every year – after the monsoon period has ended, reported *The Nation*.

"Security agencies have estimated that more than 10,000 Rohingya people will arrive in Thailand via Ranong and nearby provinces between next month and April next year," Ranong Deputy Governor Pinij Boonlert said on Monday.

Mr Pinij was acting for the Ranong governor, who is the ex-officio chief of Ranong's Internal



Rohingya, among other illegal migrants, have been arrested in Southern Thailand. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Security Operations Command, in instructing local authorities on how to address the problem.

The Rohingya – who are Muslim – have been fleeing for years from Myanmar's western Rakhine State, where they face

severe repression in most facets of daily life.

Mr Pinij noted that Thai law clearly stipulates that illegal migrants must be deported. The presence of illegal migrants could threaten national security and increase other risks.

Mr Pinij said the ISOC had laid down guidelines to handle Rohingya issues.

"We shall treat them in line with humanitarian principles, respect for their human rights and international laws. But we will have to deport them," he said.

At the beginning of this week, officials had already arrested more than 200 Rohingya in southern Thailand (see page 9).

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Planning the future – even if it's morbid

FIRST PERSON

ONE of the items auctioned off at the Rotary Club of Patong Beach fundraiser earlier this month was a last will and testament. It is such an important document for island expats to have. If you don't have some instructions for after your demise, a last will and testament being the most common, then it's very possible that your estate will be tied up after your death, leaving your wife and children in limbo. It can also make it hard for those left behind to decide what is to happen with your body.

A lot of people in Phuket are young – not myself – and they say, "Ah, that's something I'll worry about later in life." But at the same time, people drown, fall off motorbikes and kill themselves – it's not wise to say, "I'll put that off until I reach Larry's age."

If I was here at the age of 20 or 25 years old, I would address the possibility that something might happen to me. The more you can prepare for it, the easier it's going to be for your family and children.

I was one of those that put it off. I think I drew up my Thai will [Larry has both a Thai will and a United States of America will to handle separate assets] maybe five years ago or less – even then I wasn't exactly young. I finally decided that it was time to address the possibility. If you are in a situation like myself,

'People do put it off, because there is a state of denial. If I don't do anything, then I've denied the possibility of my death. However, last I heard, we all face it at some point in time.'



Larry Amsden, 76, is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Patong, which was started in 2000 and chartered in 2001. He has been a witness to the tragedies and joys that have developed on the island over the last 19 years.

Here, he talks about the importance of a last will and testament for all adult expats – even those who have yet to come to terms with the inevitability of death.

married to a Thai, it's important to draw up your wills together so they are compatible.

It took me maybe a few hours over two or three days, but it will be invaluable if I pass on. There are many kits and programs online that can walk you through all the steps, passwords for computers and bank information – these can be nightmares for someone trying to manage your estate.

People do put it off, because there is a state of denial. If I don't do anything, then I've denied the possibility of my death. However, last I heard, we all face it at some point in time. No matter what, you'll want an attorney to draw up the last will and testimony to ensure it is legal.

If you have wishes as to how your body should be disposed of, they should be spelled out.

As is pretty well-known here,

the Thai court system isn't the fastest in the world. So things can sit in limbo for a long period of time. Last will and testimony will expedite that process.

Another issue is what happens if you become incapacitated, mentally unable to make decisions. What do you want to happen? Is there someone you trust to step in and make that decision?

For example, there was a man here from Singapore who wasn't wearing a helmet when he crashed his motorcycle and bashed his head. He was in a coma, and the prognosis was uncertain. Meanwhile, medical expenses piled up, which had to become somebody's responsibility eventually. You need someone in a situation like that to step in and say, "His desires were that he not be held on a life-support system for an indefinite period of time." Or whatever your choice may be.

If you don't have these things legally written out, then someone could step up and make a decision you wouldn't have made yourself.



The unnecessary use of plastic should be curbed. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Bag it up, please

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THIS island seems willing to bag, and double bag, almost anything – except what's most important.

The speed with which a single bottle of cola is dropped into a completely unnecessary plastic bag is astonishing.

Simply asking a customer if they need a bag would show a much needed, and improved, awareness of the amount of packaging products we already have.

The Thai phrase, "*Mai sai thung krap*," which means "don't put it in a bag," however, is a double-edged sword. It's perfect at the nearest 7-Eleven or 24-hour SuperCheap, though it will occasionally get you a small smile – yes, it's also a double entendre.

The one thing people in Thailand seem hesitant to bag up is found between their legs. Perhaps nowhere is this more of a concern than in communities that don't have to worry about accidental impregnation.

Thailand is now faced with infection rates in its gay population comparable to those in Africa's AIDS hot spots, according to a recent Reuters' report.

Though the report focused on the gay men in the party scene and male sex-workers in Bangkok, it should have implications for those in Phuket, which is home to a large, proud gay population.

"For the government to take a stand in this epidemic and stand up for the rights of a minority population, I thought this was a

big move," Frits van Griensven, an HIV researcher and adviser to the Thai Red Cross told Reuters.

However, much to Thailand's credit, the HIV epidemic that took hold in the late 80s was successfully tackled in the 90s.

"In Thailand, explicit messages to men about the risks of STIs from unprotected commercial sex resulted in higher reported condom use, lower reported numbers of sex-worker visits and lower infection rates," reported the World Health Organization, based off the research of R Hanberg and W Rojanapithayakorn.

The ability for long-term educational campaigns to make a difference should come as a relief to both environmentalists and the sexually active. The attitude that nothing will ever change, especially when it comes to deeply rooted habits, is prevalent in Phuket.

However, as the National Council for Peace and Order has shown, change can come swiftly. Let us hope for both the island's environment and our prevalent gay population that the efforts to educate the public about when to bag it and when to skip the bag comes just as quickly.

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

Do foreigners need any type of licence to fish in Phuket?

UNDER what circumstances must foreigners acquire a fishing license for spearfishing or off-shore fishing?

Where can they obtain the license and how much does it cost?

JS
Chalong

Uwe Schitteck, manager at Andaman Hooker - Phuket Sportfishing Charter and Weightmaster at the annual Phuket Sport Fishing Tournament, replies:

No licences are required for sport fishing or spearfishing in the waters around Phuket.

Of course, fishing in protected areas is prohibited.

Fishing for any protected species is prohibited as well, but other

than that you are free to enjoy the sport of fishing wherever you may be on Phuket or in the waters around the island.

For more information, feel free to contact me through the website Phuket-sport-fishing.com or through the website Phuket-International-Sportfishing-Tournament.com.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

What to do with storm-fallen trees

THE recent storms knocked down a tree in front of my house. The tree narrowly missed my car and some of the thinner branches fell onto the power cables to my and my neighbors' homes.

Thankfully we suffered no power outage and there was no fire, but what do I do about the tree? I don't have a chainsaw or a pick-up truck to carry it away in. Even then, where would I dump the cut-up tree?

I have no idea who to call to clear it away.

Damian Evans
Chalong

Samran Jindapol, Mayor of Chalong, replies:

Chalong Municipality is responsible for safely clearing away any trees that fall in the Chalong area.

We have the right workmen,



Workmen armed with tools will remove a fallen tree. Photo: Sutharat Husted

tools and everything else needed to solve this problem very quickly without any charge for the service.

People can call me directly at 076-282255 or 089-7247187 so I can send a team as quickly as pos-

sible. We received reports of about 10 fallen trees during the recent storms, and they were dealt with promptly.

If any person is injured by a fallen tree, call the Ruamjai Rescue Foundation at 076-283346.

Games to glorify 'new' Phuket

THERE has been a great deal of discussion and debate recently about how Phuket should "rebrand" itself as a world-class tourist destination in the wake of the National Council for Peace and Order's unprecedented anti-corruption drive.

Hopefully, the 4th Asian Beach Games next month will serve as the perfect showcase for the so-called "new" Phuket, spreading the message far and wide that the island is a better destination than ever – now that it is largely unfettered of the systemic corruption that until recently pervaded so much of the tourism industry here, especially the public transport sector.

Coinciding almost perfectly with the traditional start of Phuket's tourism high season, the Games could not be coming at a better time. Hopefully the weather gods will cooperate, easing off on the monsoon just in time to bring in clear blue skies and show the world just how alluring our recently reclaimed beaches and lush tropical landscapes can be – just as a cold, dark winter rapidly descends on most of the Northern hemisphere.

For island residents with free time, the games will offer a wide variety of interesting competitions to watch live – all free of charge and, in most cases, with front-row seating. Island residents will get the chance to learn more about little-known disciplines like woodball and kabaddi, as performed by world-class competitors playing for all the marbles.

At the other end of the spectrum, we will be given a chance to see some of the region's top athletes perform in highly-competitive marquee events such as beach volleyball and bodybuilding.

While the Beach Games are perfect for Phuket, so is the island almost perfectly suited to host them. Phuket boasts what is probably the best tourism infrastructure of any resort destination in Asia: scores of excellent beaches, a major international airport, as well as a private airfield; hundreds of accommodation establishments capable of meeting the needs visitors of about every income level; unparalleled nightlife – and the list goes on.

In addition, Phuket also has a large and highly diversified expatriate community that includes thousands of people from across Asia who will no doubt be inspired to cheer on the their fellow countrymen – an essential ingredient to the success of any international sporting competition.

The *Gazette* is proud to work together with event organizers, the Olympic Council of Asia and the Sports Authority of Thailand under an exclusive Media Partnership Agreement to bring our readers the most comprehensive and entertaining coverage possible for this major event.

We hope our readers will join us in catching the spirit of the games, turning out to cheer on competitors and encouraging friends to visit Phuket and enjoy the competitions as well.



Hearts go out to the lifeguards

Re: Gazette online, Phuket blood-moon surf sees German drowned, Patong tourists saved, October 9

My sympathy goes to the lifeguards, who, on a daily basis, put their own lives at risk for very little remuneration.

The only way this madness is ever going to stop is if all the west coast beaches are closed from May to November.

But let's face it, that's unlikely to ever happen.

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Cheers for honesty

Re: Gazette online, Mayor gives reward for return of cash-stuffed wallet in Phuket, October 13

What an extremely refreshing and uplifting story.

Two thumbs up to that honest, trustworthy employee. I hope others are inspired to behave as admirably.

David Tuson
Facebook

Where's the contract?

Re: Gazette online, Krabi shrimpers claim buyer cheated them of B30mn, October 14.

I read this story with amazement. Why would shrimp business operators make a deal amounting to 30 million baht without so much as a whisper of a contract? The mind boggles!

In a country where there is so much greed and corruption, one would think that they would have the nous to draw up some kind of legally-binding contract – they are after all, in business!

Without any kind of evidence of the deal – and if the trading company refuses to come clean – this case could get tied up in the courts for years.

Andy
Chalong

Letters to the Editor

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

Don't cry mafia

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Foul play not suspected in Pian Keesin's death, autopsy ordered as precaution, October 7

Pian Keesin worked many years as the mayor of Patong – shouting insults and crying mafia from behind your keyboard is easy, but many forget all the work that's been done.

Pim Hoogeveen
Facebook

Urgently needed: reliable public transport

Re: Gazette online, Traffic expert says underpasses not enough for Phuket, October 12

Good article. Now, what does it need to convince the Phuket authorities that they need reliable public transport urgently?

Who wants to holiday in Phuket to sit for hours in traffic jams on a supposed "paradise island"? Or risk their lives driving over Patong Hill?

Not only is this problem dangerous for Thais and tourists alike, it is going to be the death of Phuket! Wake up, officials!

Elizabeth
Gazette forum

How is this still going on around here?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Immigration denies allegations foreigners must pay for services, October 10

I am amazed that all of this alleged silliness is continuing at immigration with such sweeping success by the National Council of Peace and Order to shake out other major issues facing Phuket.

There is a certain point at which time the head of immigration has to wonder: "Why would so many foreigners be saying the exact same thing about their experience, if there wasn't something to it?"

Your average tourist gets absolutely no benefit for tarnishing the reputation of Phuket or Thailand.

So, why would allegations of being told to pay officials money either at the border or for services that are free be so similar and frequent?

Equally important – how dumb do officials believe the general public is?

Even for a disappearing-wallet magic trick, this is less than impressive.

Over to you big guy.

Tony Kleinshmidt
Chalong

Ophidiophobia

Re: Gazette online, Phuket python caught gobbling up gamecock, October 13

Considering that the Burmese python is indigenous to this part of the world, it's incredible that so many Thais have a real phobia of this and other snakes.

In Bangkok, I used to get pythons coming into our open-air kitchen at the back of our house on a regular basis to look for food. They are very shy creatures – we just shooed them away with a large broom!

I really hope that this one was truly transferred to somewhere safe. More often than not, they end up in a large stewing pot as an aphrodisiac appetizer – to be enjoyed with a tippie of the local lao khao malt.

Frank
Phuket

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Oct 18, 23, 30 6-10:30pm. Andaman Seafood BBQ Buffet at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket
Every Thursday and Saturday night Casuarina Beach Restaurant & Pub invites you to enjoy a stunning sunset view of Bang Tao Beach while delighting yourself in the freshest seafood BBQ dining experience, accompanied by a wide selection of salads, appetizers and hot and cold Asian dishes. Be sure to save some room for our decadent desserts. 1,190++ baht per person (food only). 595++ baht per child, aged from 6-12 years old (food plus free flow of soft drinks). Prices are subject to 10 per cent service charge and 7 per cent government tax. For reservations call 076-362999 and dial 7303.

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

The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Maggy Wigman on 086-594 1758, email info@piwc-phuket.com

October 17, 11am-11pm. Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal

Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant presents Curry Fridays. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Buffet highlights include tandoori chicken, mutton vindaloo, butter chicken, matat paneer, bombay aloo, garlic naan, basmati rice, vegetable samosa, aloo tikka and more. All you can eat for only 449 baht net! Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, only at Karon Branch. Open Daily: 11am to 11pm. For reservations, please call 076-286464 or visit the

Surf and Turf BBQ Night at Two Chefs Kata Beach



October 17, 6-11:30pm

website: navrangmahal.com

Oct 17, 6-11:30pm. Surf and Turf BBQ night @ Two Chefs Kata Beach

Two Chefs Kata Beach is serving a large BBQ buffet with Aussie favorites including prawn cocktails, BBQ pork ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken drum sticks, Wagyu-Aussie beef burgers, salt & pepper calamari, kiwi marinated Australian ribeye, fish and chips, meat pies, Caesar salad, coleslaw, lamingtons, pavlova, cupcakes, chocolate brownies and much more. All this for only 695 baht, children under 12 years 350 baht (under 3 free). Two Chefs' house band will entertain you until the late hours. There will be a sing-along competition with the band, with some nice prizes for the winners! Come for the food and stay for the fun. For more information call 076-333370 or email kata@twochefs.com

Oct 22, 6-10:30pm. Royal Thai Buffet at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Experience the taste of authentic Thai cuisine. Presenting a delicious range of Thai starters, soups, salads, live-cooking stations, main dishes and mouth-watering desserts. 890++ baht per person (food only), with 50% off for children aged 6-12 years (food plus free-flow soft drinks). Note: Four-course Thai set dinner "Royal Thai Highlights" is also available every day from 6-10:30pm at our Ruen Thai restaurant. For reservations and more information, please call 076-362999, ext 7303/0

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V. This is a public holiday in Thailand.

Oct 31, 6-11:30pm. Halloween

Party @ Two Chefs Kata center

It's time for a Halloween Party again. Two Chefs Kata is serving a large buffet with a wide range of international favorites, including pumpkin soup, Lucifer's roast pork, salmon with devil sauce, bloody mary mussels, grilled ribeye steaks and a wide range of desserts from our in-house bakery. All this for only 795 baht, children under 12 years 395 baht (under 3 free). Great prizes for the guests with the best costumes of the evening. Two Chefs' house band will entertain you until the late hours. It's always more fun at Two Chefs! For more information call 076-330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com

Freaky Friday at FatBoy's Grill

At FatBoy's Grill, we are holding a Halloween Freaky Friday Dinner Party. Join us if you dare. October 31, 2014 at the deadly hour

of 7pm. Three course bewitched meal. Wicked Witch Salsa Dancing (now you can learn how). 950 baht per adult and 650 baht per child (under 12). RSVP now if you dare: 085-089 7942.

Nov 1, 7pm-midnight. An Enchanted Evening

An unforgettable evening of art, entertainment, fine wine and gourmet dining prepared by five of Phuket's top chefs, with all proceeds going to the Home & Life Orphanage. Tickets: 3,500 baht, or 3,900 baht at the door. Better yet, book a table of eight for 3,000 baht per person.

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, aired six times daily on True Visions - nationwide.

November 1-2, 10am-4pm. The Jungle Book Puppet Theater travels from London to Phuket

The Jungle Book Puppet Theater travels from London to Phuket. The Puppet Theater will be hosted at the British International School, Headstart International School and Kajonkietsuksa International School. Tickets are available at the schools. There is limited seating, so hurry and get your tickets now!

These events are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired six times daily on True Visions and three local Phuket cable networks).

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 Maggy Wigman on 086-594 1758, email info@piwcphuket.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.

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YOUR Phuket

High-end dining at Movenpick's El Gaucho

Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket hosted a high-end 5-course whiskey dinner at the hotel's Brazilian El Gaucho restaurant on October 12, highlighting the luxury lifestyle that draws tourists to the island.



From left: Andreas Mattmuller, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts chief operating officer – Middle East/Asia; Roland Kaiser, the hotel's executive chef; Sham Rahman, director of food and beverage; Victor Bolt, vice president of ABB.

Top Hotels of the World

The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa was recently voted one of the "Top Hotels of the World" by customers of the internet-based travel website Expedia.



Kewalin Sukumjittanon (right), senior marketing and communications manager for the hotel, accepts the annual Expedia Insiders' Select 2014 Award from Expedia's area manager, Wasan Poontananiwatkul.

Thanyapura welcomes London Olympics gold medalist

Thanyapura recently welcomed Hungarian Daniel Gyurta, the 2012 London Olympics gold medalist for 200-meter breaststroke. He was joined by his brother, Gergely Gyurta, and two coaches for a series of training sessions in preparation for his next competition in China.



From left: Daniel's coach, Balazs Virth; Daniel; Thanyapura Sales Manager, Darika Lhaotriyanon; Gergely; and Daniel's second coach, Ferenc Kovacshegyi.

Jyoshitabi.com models dine at Amari's La Gritta Restaurant

Pierre-Andre Pelletier, vice president and area GM for Amari Phuket (3rd from right) recently welcomed two well-known Japanese models from Jyoshitabi.com, the number one website for women in Japan.



Models Miyoshi Rina (2nd right) and Tomita Chiho (center) with Mr. Pelletier and members of the website's production team during their visit to La Gritta Restaurant.

Event Promoter
EVENTS INTERNATIONAL

LONDON TO PHUKET

The Jungle Book

Puppet Theater

Phuket Gazette

IGTV

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

PROPERTY of the week



**FOR SALE
APARTMENT**

See page 17

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

phuket
home
services

phuket
property
inspections

See page 19

JOB of the week



Seduction

See page 21

BOAT of the week

LEE MARINE
International Marine Services



See page 25

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Properties For Sale

RESORT

For sale or rent in Patong, 1200sqm land, 20 rooms, pool, restaurant, fully furnished, equipment. Contact email: guidolando2@hotmail.com

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

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

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN

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

KATHU GOLF CONDO

99.30sqm, 4 fl, views of Phuket country club golf course. 2 bed, 2 bath, kitchen, fully furnished (3 aircons, hot water, refrigerator, TV, microwave, security and internet provided). Price for sale: 6.5 million. For more information please contact: 081 536 9252, email: sppcnx@gmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 090-487 8084. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA

Seaview over Chalong Bay marina. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, private pool. Chanote. Size: 800sqm. Price: 25 million baht. Tel: 084-868 1732. or 084-933 9829. Email: kigwd@hotmail.com

LAND PLOTS

Several land plots for sale in Rawai and Nai Ham. Very nice pieces. Some sea view. Chanote. Large and small. 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

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270 degree view of Patong beach and town, 10th floor, 54.35sqm. 11 million baht ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, Fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom23781@msn.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

2BDR BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2bdr / 2bath ens, huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant, in 5* resort with access to gym, spa, ideal for family, separate storage, furniture incl, fast owner sale, leaving Asia, 13.9MM neg. Tel: 096-532849(English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, land 350sqm, Chanote. Only 3.3 MB. Tel: 093-713 2278, after 5pm.

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

2 POOL VILLAS NEXT TO PIA

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

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm. Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircon, swimming pool, Sale 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4831.

PLUS CONDO KATHU

1 Bedroom, custom furnished, 30 sqm, balcony. 1.59 mn baht. New Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

RETIREMENT SALE KATA

6 apts, office, spa, great location. makeoffer. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: kataari@yahoo.com for photos.

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

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.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Between Amphur Tubpud-Amphur Panom near Khao Sok National Park. Land: 1 rai, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 air conditioner Price: 2.2 million baht. Please call. Tel: 081-667 1637 (Thai), 082-539 6433(English).

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41.7 wah. 166.8 Sqm.

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167 wah. 699 Sqm.

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Land for sale (Kathu)

By - 081 370 0162 Thai/Eng
owner - 083 396 0884 Eng/German

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

For sale / rent 3 bedrooms. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@chang-runner.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE

Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community, Chanote title, 1100sqm, flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only B3.5mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

URGENT KARON PENTHOUSE

4 bedrooms, sudden departure, fire sale price. Directly from owner. Penthouse 260sqm. Clear seaview, Last Floor Freehold only 21 Million / Estimated 25MB. Please call 080-3165434 or 089-004 6948.

RAWAI VIP VILLAS WITH PARK

Unique project with Private Park. 300m from Rawai Beach. Pool villas from 7.9 million baht. 4 villas left! WebBest selling villas in Rawai. Tel: 085-575 3300, 092-979 7899 (English & Thai). Email: an_drey@phuket9.com see more details: http://phuket9.com/rawai-vip-villas-new/

LAND FOR SALE

73 square wah with Chanote titles. 15 minutes to Panwa Beach (Ao Makham bay). Conveniently located, road frontage. Please contact 081-6912526. Email: s_jump on@yahoo.com

Properties For Rent



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). PIs contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT

5-star, 1 bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 24,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English&Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com, www.karonhill.altervista.org/

HOUSE FOR RENT



3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircon. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

CONDO IN PATONG

37sqm studio condo for rent in Patong. Fully furnished, 500 meters to the beach. Brand new unit! Only 20,000 baht a month!. Tel: 087-892 3876(English). Email: info @phuketcondo.net www.phuketcondo.net

SEAVIEW CONDO RENT KAMALA

Stunning modern seaview condo, 2 Bed, 2 Bath+ Jacuzzi. 6-12months at 42,000 baht. Tel: 086-951 9969. Email: paul@livephuket.com

ONE OF A KIND OFFICE

One of a kind retail space for rent! 50 square meters in road-front building. Only 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-823 4627, Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying @phuketpoolsales.com

NEW HOUSE - NAI YANG

Quiet, modern, furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath with AC, internet, TV. 700m from the beach. Available Oct-Nov at 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-837 5774(English), 092-431 5962(English & Thai). Email: slarti @onthe.net.com.au

3BD MODERN+ SEAVIEW CONDO SURIN

Seaview, modern villa in Surin. 300m to beach, perfect for families/couples. 6-12 month rental at 95,000 baht. Tel: 086-951 9969. Email: paul@livephuket.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 air cons. Tel: 087-266 7191.

SURIN CONDO

1-2 B/R, Pool, 400m from beach. Tel: 081-835 0158 (English). Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

SERVICE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Fully furnished, swimming pool, daily and monthly rate. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivilla phuket@gmail.com www.nanaivilla.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

DLX SEAVIEW APT

2 bdrm in Kata, quiet location, Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

2-BED APT PATONG

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

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished and colorful, Rang Hill Area. Tel: 089-668 3639. Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com www.BaanPhitakTawee.com

KATA BEACH APARTMENT

Nice 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-595 8512 081-970 4638 Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

FOR RENT, RAWAI / NAI HARN



Vassana Residence and Palm Breeze resort. Starting at 30,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Sea view rooftop deck and bar overlooking the Andaman Sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. LCD TV in every room, swimming pool, washing machine in every apartment. 160sqm in size, free WiFi. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com, www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Selling 13 year lease on 15 room guesthouse in Patong with bar and kitchen. 3.5 mn baht key money B60,000 / month rent. Tel: 081-958 1055 (English), 081-606 5772 (Thai). Email: pauljames @expathotel.com

VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG

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

3- BED KATHU GOLF VILLA

For rent 3 bed 3 and half bath on top of private hill overlooking Loch Palm golf course. Big pool, 4km to BIS and HeadStart International School. Quiet, new furniture, maid, WIFI, security. Long-term 75,000 per month call 087-269 8492.

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

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW RAWAI

Quiet, fully furnished, WiFi, TV, kitchen, 9,000 baht per month. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA EXCLUSIVE AREA

Luxury villa in exclusive security estate. 3 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms fully furnished. Air con, timber and tiled floors + heaps more. 35,000 baht per month, very cheap. Tel: 084-838 7434 (English & Thai). Email: n.chrisos@gmail.com

MODERN SEAVIEW APARTMENT

Kata, quiet location, 2-bdrm, from 1,900 per night (1-year contract). Please call 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

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

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



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

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A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

MARKETING MANAGER

Real estate company looking for foreign-national manager with good English skills. Basic salary + commission + work permit. Tel: 089-594 6888. Email: info@arthouse.asia

OPC MANAGER

Real estate company looking for OPC manager. Good English skills. Tel: 089-564 6888. Email: info@arthouse.asia

LIVE IN HOUSEKEEPER

Thai lady to live in with small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, pets, some childcare and cooking. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: ritalouisedobson@hotmail.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

OPC'S WANTED. KOH SAMUI.

OPCs wanted for Koh Samui. Good sales people. Must speak English. Good salary. Tel: 077-413598, 093-680 2498. Email: opcbigs@yahoo.com

COOKS URGENTLY NEEDED

Busy farang style restaurant needs 2 full time cooks. Some experience necessary but training given. Good salary and can start immediately. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English & Thai), 087-283 6074.

The Pantry Bistro & Bakery

Would you like to be part of The Pantry Bistro & Bakery team? We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

1. Restaurant Manager-English speaking
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3. Barrista
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Please send your resume to rbv@royalperspective.com
or Call 087-657-9989 (Khun Bird)
Royal Lighthouse Villa Boat Lagoon Resort

QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

Wanted for a 6 month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Pls email your resume with boating experience and skills, along with phone number. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Female, Thai nationality, good command of written and spoken English, good computer knowledge (Word and Excel programs), good attitude and positive person. Benefit: salary 12,000-15,000 baht per month + commission 10-20%, social fee, public holiday, vacation. Tel: 086-940 5187, 081-415 7774. Email: sales@phuketislandrealestate.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for an Office Assistant. Must have good knowledge of spoken and written English. Basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Require English-speaking Thai women for part-time staff at specialty beer shop. Monthly salary, social security, bonus. Tel: 094-868 2928.

ENGLISH TEACHERS

Full / part-time NES English teachers wanted. If you have a degree and/or a TEFL / TESOL qualification then please contact: The Head Teacher, ECC Phuket. Tel: 076-307 0579, 089-139 8453 (English & Thai), 091-647 5465 (English). Email: Giles@ecc.ac.th

OFFICE ADMIN - REAL ESTATE

LivePhuket, leading holiday rental company in Kamala. Office admin position available. Must have work experience and read and write English as we work with many farang! Great salary. Tel: 092-474 6157. Email: paul@livephuket.com www.livephuket.com

The PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi Island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket.

Our eco-chic environment is complemented by our "conscious living" ethos and barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complemented by a yoga and well-being center.

We are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team.

Executive Sous Chef / Host Chef (1 position)

Chef personality with guest relation skills – interaction with guests, hosting chef table and assisting executive chef in menu innovations/promotions

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Fluent in English language / command of German an advantage
- Leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai or Foreign National
- 25- 35 years of age

Executive Housekeeper (1 position)

Leading the HK team to cater to highest room/service standards expected by our discerned clientele—environmentally compatible operator, with concern to local community

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Good command of English language
- Leader personality, open to new product innovations (environmentally compatible)
- Thai National

Comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – We are looking for the best team leaders – Please send your resume with picture to

joeraess@theparadisekohyao.com

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HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

CENTURY 21 BOAT LAGOON

We hire: sales / rental agents + office assistant requirements: highly motivated, experience in Phuket property, ability to work independently, flexible, good English, driver's licence. Tel: 086-747 9292. Send CV to century21@smartproperty.net

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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CHALONG

- ▶ **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: **076-282254**
Tel: **076-280400**
Tel: **076-282403**

PATONG

- NEW** ▶ **Andy's Real Estate Agency** (Opp. Savoy Seafood)
- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: **076-341644**
Tel: **076-344521-2**
Tel: **076-290468**

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: **076-232398**
Tel: **076-258369**
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**

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

HOTEL RECEPTION

Thai only needed. Speak English, can use computer. Good wages and commission, holidays. Tel: 088-444 7801.

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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: hr.bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

RUSSIAN SALES PERSON

Siam Real Estate require an experienced Russian speaking sales person to sell property. Must speak good English, be computer literate, and have an international driving license. Salary plus commissions, and Work Permit provided. No calls; send CV only. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF NEEDED

The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with hotel experience of a minimum of 7 years. Tel: (60) 03-5569 2211, +60 016-227 7610. Email: cal. een@chakri.com.my www.chakri.com.my

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: woman to clean, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com or call 083-105 2707 (12.00-20.00) . www.home-phuket-service.com

BOAT SUPERVISOR / SAFETY STAFF

Established Phuket company with over 10 years experience. Looking for a stable, long term Phuket resident to join our team for high-end trips to Phi Phi, Phang Nga and Krabi. Job includes supervising boat staff, hands-on customer safety, and liaising with owners/managers. Applicants should have experience of local sea conditions. Diving experience would be a big plus. Thais with strong English language skills or foreign nationals. A work permit will be provided for the successful candidate (if a foreigner). Tel: 076-289044, 081-787 7702(English & Thai). Email: simbaseatrips@gmail.com

**REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED****Real Estate Staff Wanted**

We are looking for staff to join our team in the progressing and increasing branches in Rawai and Bang Tao.

1. Secretary / Receptionist: Thai female.
2. Rental Manager : Thai or foreigner

Require: Good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good computer skills. Good Salary and Commission!

please send resume and recent photo to contact@harvest-property.com
Tel: 076-388 801



Welcome Phuket Co Ltd, is a new company providing Tour Desk Services in Phuket, is looking for:

TOUR DESK SALES TEAM

EDUCATION: University Degree

LANGUAGES: Excellent command of English and sufficient written knowledge to deal with suppliers/vouchers/brochures

ATTITUDE: We are looking for active and fun loving people who are keen to connect with our guests & who love to sell/ learn

AGE: Roughly 23-30 years old, but if older & confident, and have interesting work experience, please apply

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TOURISM/HOSPITALITY: Appreciated but not required

IT: Must be knowledgeable with internet, basic wordprocessing such as Microsoft Office

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES: We are especially looking for one or 2 of following languages Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, French and German

WE OFFER

REMUNERATION: Commensurate with experience and consisting of a fixed and commissionable part.

LOCATION: Various hotels in Phuket

FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY: To interact with an international clientele from all over the world. Improve your spoken languages, gain in confidence and experience, grow with us

RESPONSIBILITY: To act and take charge and prove to yourself that you are good at sales and reap the rewards, learn to manage the administrative part of the business in addition to the hands on part

STARTING DATE: November 1st, 2014 or before

Interested candidates are invited to send their applications by email to info@welcomephuket.com before October 15th 2014

ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

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

DIGITAL CONTENT / MEDIA ASST.

Knowledge in Graphic Design/ VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred) - Fluent in written and spoken English (Native-Level Preferred Thai national) - Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Please send your CV to aey @princessyachtssea.com or call 076-238060.

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.

PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

Native speaker for English, Chinese and Japanese. Bachelor's degree or higher. Must be able to teach various ages of students. Tel: 076-219337, 095-429 5251(English & Thai). Email: nycphuket@gmail.com

**SEDUCTION GROUP**

The Seduction Group has five floors of entertainment including the biggest & best night club in Phuket.

Due to its success, the complex is expanding and opening an exclusive rooftop restaurant/bar for its VIP clientele.

The most talked about venue in Phuket is looking for hospitality professionals to lead the expansion.

Do you have what it takes to fill one of the following positions?

HR Coordinator -1 Position

- Candidate should have a good command of English & Thai
- Extremely honest, reliable and professional within the role
- 3 year's experience or more, preferably in a hotel environment
- A degree would be an advantage for the position
- A strong desire to work and be proactive without supervision

Training & Development Manager -1 Position

- Candidate should have a good command of English & Thai
- Extremely honest, reliable and professional within the role
- 3 year's experience or more, preferably in a hotel environment
- A degree would be an advantage for the position
- A strong desire to work and be proactive without supervision

Assistant Restaurant Manager -1 Position

- Candidate should have a good command of English & Thai
- Extremely honest, reliable and professional within the role
- 3 year's experience or more, preferably in a restaurant environment
- A degree would be an advantage for the position
- A strong desire to work and be proactive without supervision

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to recruit@seductiondisco.com

SK Restaurant Co.,Ltd.
70/3 Bangla Rd., Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Tel.076 345 709-10 Fax: 076 345 712

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Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

Business Opportunities

BAR & RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Clubhouse within a private apartment estate in Bang Tao is looking for a tenant to operate a restaurant or coffee shop facility. Full kitchen and seating area on-site. Please see our website at www.barrestaurant.simplesite.com for Tender Requirements. Email: aey@aclegadvisors.com

PATONG MASSAGE SHOP NANAI

8-beds, 5 chairs, staff accommodation. Wide shop front, rear access. Quick sale needed. 350,000 baht or best offer. Email: roy_baldman@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE SOI FREEDOM

1st bar inside soi. 3 year lease. 5.5 million baht. Rent 48,000 baht per month. Reduction for 6 or 9 year lease! Phone for more details. Tel: 087-676 1926 (English & Thai) or 088-820 2725 (English).

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).

HOTEL FOR RENT AT PATONG BEACH

18 rooms, the ground floor is a restaurant, bar, massage. Rent together or separately. Tel: 087-554 6872. Email: bookpatong01@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR LEASE

Well-located guesthouse for lease in Patong. 3rd building, 5 rooms. All rooms fully furnished. Key money: 1.5 million baht. Lease: 3+3+3 years. Deposit: 3months. Rent: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-342374, 087-266 7140(English & Thai). Email: mary9543@hotmail.com

BANGLA ROAD BAR FOR SALE



BAR FOR SALE : MID BANGLA ROAD. 1st row, beside Tiger 1 - opposite Séduction and Tiger discothèque. Contract: 3 years. Monthly rent: 80,000 baht. Asking price: 5.9 million baht. Please call. Tel: 061-216 2881. (English & Thai). Email: momo_f@hotmail.com

MINI MART FOR SALE

Patong Beach. Well established business. Regular customers daily. Two new hotels opening soon within 50 meters. Sell with all fixtures, fittings and stock. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-469 4105 or email hswaine@hotmail.com

RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermusuk. 2 rai. Chanote. 8 bungalows, 22 rooms, restaurant, pool, well, company, reduced to 26mn. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th, www.bigasailing.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE



2 mins walk to beach, located on the tourist road, 5 storeys, 7 furnished bedrooms. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-171 9705.

BAR RAWAI FOR SALE

Busy garden bar- rest 6x6 year lease 5 year left on lease now 2 bedroom house attached rent 20,000 month paid to April 2015 sell 990,000 bath. Tel: 080-026 6704 (English). Email: breggmorgan1968@hotmail.com

SMALL RESORT COMPLEX KAMALA

Available from January 1, 2015. Lease: 1 year minimum. Total 7 apartments of different types: 1-bed, 2-bed and studio apartments. Swimming pool and separate Jacuzzi, landscaped gardens. Private road. Established business with ongoing occupancy bookings in place which transfer to the lessee. Contact for details. Tel: 084-837 5985. Email: robbiesfant@gmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. For more information please call 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matt.hew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Selling 13 year lease on 15 room guesthouse in Patong with bar and kitchen. B3.5M key money B60,000 / month rent. Tel: 081-958 1055 (English), 081-606 5772 (Thai). Email: paul.james@expathotel.com

LUMPOON'S COFFEE HOUSE

For sale, Fully equipped. Great location at Chalong Circle. 081-476 5808.

CHINESE PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Please send your resume to the email address below. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: info@phuket-condos-homes.com

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with red headline	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with black background	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with color background	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	650 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

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Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week 350 baht ☐

Total cost of your classified baht

Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.
Email: kookai@phuketgazette.net

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TOYOTA HILUX HERO

Pick-up. 4-door. 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

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I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok

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.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

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IPHONE 4S CALL NOW

Call 091-161 0868 for quality secondhand iPhone 4s (16GB).

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.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. For more information, please call (41) 079-3696 535.

HOUSE BAND & DJ WANTED

House Band & DJ wanted for Beer Garden Restaurant in Khao Lak for high season. Contact Joe or Oot on 085-808 7363 (English & Thai). Email: kolaz58@gmail.com

Audio / Video Equipment

HI-FI AV RECEIVER

Cambridge Audio 540R V.20, excellent cond: 7,900 baht. 9-inch Acer monitor: 18,506 baht. Tel: 080-041 4240.

Computer

IMAC

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

Golf Stuff

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Family Membership. Maintenance paid through 2014. 760,000 baht, including Transfer Fee. Tel: 091-224 1773 (English). Email: smolar@hotmail.com

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. For more information, please call (41) 079-3696 535.

Dive Gear

DIVE SHOP CLEARANCE

Due to Dive centre closure on PP Island we have a large amount of 2nd hand Bcd's and regulators for bulk sale, please call or email for details. Email: precarious_phil@hotmail.com www.vikingdiversphiphi.com

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. 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).

Education

LEARN ENGLISH

20% off all courses this month only. Promotion code - Happy Birthday. Includes free student pack. Courses include: Conversation, Business, Law and Medical English. Tel: 076-350110, 092-894 9089. www.luckydragonlearning.com

Pool Tables

STYLISH POOL TABLES

Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak. White 'Tokyo' model pool table. Tel: 085-797 0005, 085-797 0303. Fax: 076-264461. www.thailandpooltables.com/index.php/tokyo-white-billiard-table.html. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.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)

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

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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.

VISA SERVICES

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

Camera & Equipment

WANTED CAMERA MAN

Real Estate company requires an amateur cameraman to take 360 property views on regular basis. Have equipment. Tel: 089-472 4925. Email: jones.o.broberg@gmail.com

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroo@gmail.com

40FT SEA CONTAINER

For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

On line: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket

Saloon Cars

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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
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

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FRASER 41 (1988)

Solid construction by De Kleer Brothers in Canada and a successful competitor on the local racing scene. Perkins 4108 50hp auxiliary diesel, For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

DECK HAND

For 31m motor yacht. Yacht Haven Marina. To handle lines and anchor, clean inside and out. Live aboard. Thai National. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-417 8715 (English).

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

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

SALE BY OWNER

Due to low usage – 2007 Gulf Craft 33/F W/A, 2x225 Suzuki (300 hours), aircon, generator, jack plates, RIB dinghy, many extras. 6.1 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.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. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)

The owner has spent a fortune on her, New teak decks, B&G instruments, leisure furl in boom furling, upholstery and head linings, new stove, battery charger and inverter, a 42" flat screen TV and much much more. A great boat and good value at US\$260,000 FIRM. Tel: 084 842 6146 alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

SEA RAY 310 SUNDANCER (2008)

Clean, well-presented boat. Twin 260 HP Mercruisers, generator, air conditioning. For sale below market price at 3.5mn baht. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com 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

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, 084-626 4969 (English) Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wana doo.fr

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M

Brand-new, UV cover, storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 110,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

BAVARIA 390 LAGOON (1990)

Just re-fitted, professional full engine re-build, new sail drive, new LED lights inside and out, decks sanded and re-caulked, interior re-varnished, new upholstery and much more. Realistically priced at US\$89,000 Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

BAYLINER 190

115hp Mercury 4-stroke. 15hp auxiliary 4-stroke, new 300W stereo, GPS, trailer, Thai registered. 2009, price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE

2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, Bose sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hrs. Brand-new condition. Price: 335,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

2.8M SAILING DINGHY

BIC Open, excellent condition. 75,000 baht includes trailer and cover. Tel: 081-837 5774 (English). Email: slarti@ont henet.com.au

DIVING BOAT FOR SALE

All new renovation in April 2014. Price is 2,500,000 baht. 15.6m x 4.2m x 25.7m. Hino EK100-34291. Carries 28 pax. Tel: 076-342374, 087-266 7140 (English & Thai), 081-891 3072 (English & Thai). Email: mary9543@hotmail.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

FIBERGLASS ONE ENGINE BOAT

Speedboat for sale. Made in 2012, engine 115hp overhauled in 2013, excellent condition. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-897 0076 (English). Email: kp@ppc.cz

AIS CLASS B DEAL

AIS DEAL by Electrical Marine Co, Ltd. Has the Simrad Class B NAIS-400 complete with GPS and VHF antennas that will interface with all marine systems with NMEA2000 & NMEA 0183. 32,500 baht+VAT sales @electrical-marine.com Tel: 076-272177, 081-892 0534 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-272178. Email: sales@electrical-marine.com

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Fully operational 45-person scuba diving boat. Just finished a 400,000 baht full boat refit. Twin engines. Reduced price 2,900,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-293052, 090-030 8965 (English), 086-942 6883 (Thai). Email: charlesbird@me.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

Just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

HOBIE CAT 16

New mainsail, beach wheels, mast float, boat cover, racing harness, lifejackets. 150,000. Tel: 087-976 0066 (English). Email: peterfb999@yahoo.co.uk

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

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: 9. REITERATE: *retreatie* 10. POLLUTER: *truepoll* 12. AVER: *rave* 13. ENTAIL: *inlate* 14. MINUTES: *minu-T.E.-s* 15. BUTTERCUP: *but-crept(U)* 17. ANNOUNCER: *hannouncertain* 18. EXPENSE: *Ex.-pens-E* 20. CREATE: *Cr.-E-E.T.A.[rev.]* 21. ACID: *A.C.-I.D.* 24. CROSSING: *C-R-O-S-sign* 26. CODRIVER: *Co.-Dr.-ive-R* 28. ARAI: *a-R-A.I.* 29. OVERDO: *over-do* 31. BANGTAO: *boatnag* 34. STRATAGEM: *marisgate* 36. MOUSETRAP: *(U)some-part* 38. VISITOR: *V-isit-or* 39. MONACO: *moon-[Ac.]* 40. INNS: *in-N.S.* 41. RESETTLE: *letrest-E* 42. CORMORANT: *C-or-atmorn*
Down: 1. PREAMBLE: *pre-ample* 2. DIRECT: *credit* 3. BARNACLE: *bar-can[rev]-le* 4. DECAMP: *Dec.-a-M.P.* 5. SPILLAGE: *S-pillage* 6. ELIMINATED: *meantiled* 7. QUANTUM: *quant-U-M* 8. SEPTIC: *pest-I.C.* 11. ASTRIDE: *raidset* 16. ERNEST: *stern(E)* 19. PARMA: *par-ma* 20. COG: *Co.-G* 22. CHEAT: *Ch.-eat* 23. FIANCER: *finace* 25. INVIGORATE: *givenatrio* 26. COO: *coo* 27. PASSIVE: *pass-ive* 30. REMEMBER: *re-member* 31. BOUNCERS: *scrubone* 32. OPPOSITE: *Op.- poseit* 33. STUTTER: *St.-utter* 35. ROSTER: *restor* 36. MENACE: *men-ace* 37. RENTAL: *R-lenta*

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Specs:

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Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
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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

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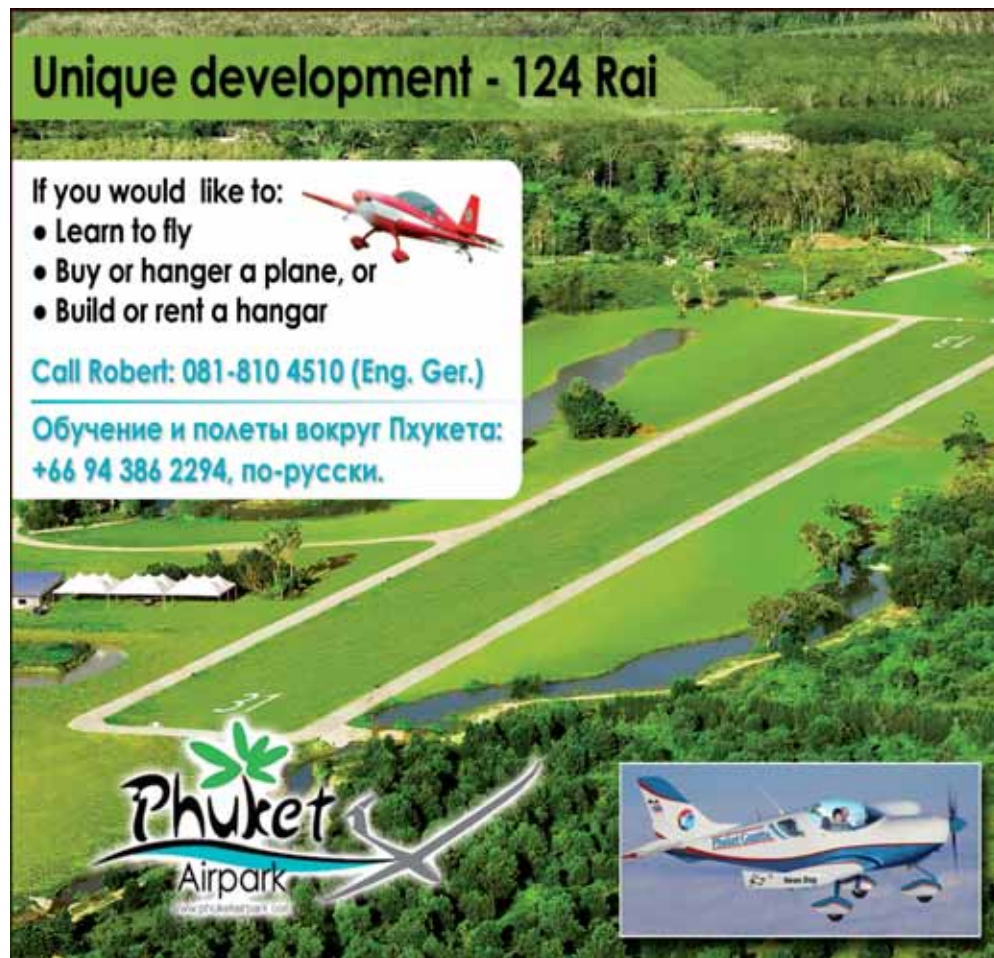
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Diving season opens in Chalong



Carl Webb, Dive Supply sales & marketing manager, had dive industry professionals walk the plank as they plunged into the diving high-season.



The dive season got underway on October 12 with the Aqua Master Pro Dive Show.

Wine tasting at Dusit

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket together with Ambrose Wine held a wine-tasting event at its award-winning Italian restaurant, La Trattoria, on October 9, featuring five Oyster Bay wines from New Zealand.



From right: Joe Tan, regional sales manager, Southeast Asia Delegat (Singapore), distributors of Oyster Bay wines; and Denis Thouvart, GM, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.



Dusit Thani's Executive Chef Silvano Amolini (1st left), with guests at the hotel's Oyster Bay wine-tasting event.

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Words from the wise:

"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance." – Samuel Johnson

"Only those who have patience to do simple things perfectly ever acquire the skill to do difficult things easily." – James J. Corbett

Medium

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

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

Hard

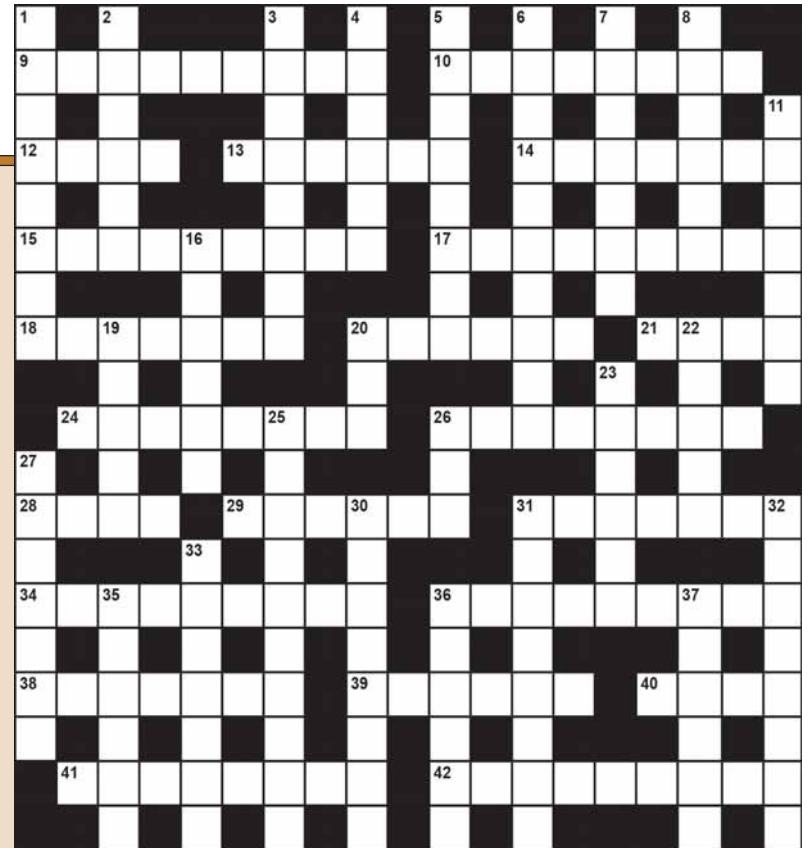
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COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Say again retreat, i.e. move (9)
 10. True poll reveals destroyer of the environment (8)
 12. State firmly, rave about (4)
 13. Involve in late change (6)
 14. Record of meeting minus time note covered (7)
 15. But maybe crept around turn to find wild flower (9)
 17. Ban noun certainly concealed by presenter (9)
 18. Previous wife writes note for outlay (7)
 20. Produce credit note, estimated time of arrival put back (6)
 21. Sharply critical of type of current Identity Document (4)
 24. Caught right round second new sign for intersection (8)
 26. Company doctor I've run as navigator in rally (2-6)
 28. In Thailand, what a river, first class (4)
 29. Exaggerate concerning party (6)
 31. In boat, nag about Phuket beach (7)
 34. Open mart's gate as a tactic (9)
 36. Turn in some new part broken in the pest catcher (9)
 38. Victor is it? Or a guest? (7)
 39. Maybe moon about account of Principality (6)
 40. Pubs in two directions (4)
 41. Let rest move East to colonize again (8)
 42. Caught or at morn moved bird (9)



Down

1. Introduction before stroll (8)
 2. Credit can be straight (6)
 3. Pub can turn up the French shellfish (8)
 4. December, a Member of Parliament to leave hurriedly (6)
 5. Son, plunder the overflow (8)
 6. Put an end to, meant I lied wildly (10)
 7. Punting pole uniform, mark required amount (7)
 8. New pest in command is putrid (6)
 11. Raid set out extending across both sides (7)
 16. Man could be stern out East (6)
 19. Normal, Mother, for a place in Italy (5)
 20. Company noted for gear (3)
 22. Church put away a swindler (5)
 23. Prospective groom, no new finance! (6)
 25. Given at Rio, dancing to liven up! (10)
 26. Gosh, another coup? (3)
 27. Miss my turn, I've become inactive (7)
 30. Recall about person in a club (8)
 31. Club doormen scrub one out (8)
 32. Work arranged? Pose it facing (8)
 33. Second time, give out in a stammer (7)
 35. Rest or produce list of duties (6)
 36. Danger from crew service that cannot be sent back (6)
 37. In Rupees lent a different amount for the lease (6)

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your helpful suggestions and tactful way of dealing with all kinds of folk may earn you brownie

points, especially if you have to deal with issues that take up a lot of your time and attention. It's your willingness to go that extra mile that endears you to people. By the weekend though, you'll be ready to treat yourself to a little pampering.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Though you're keen to showcase your skills and abilities and take your rightful place on the

stage of life, the potential for success may be linked to your ability to keep your cool. Avoid the temptation to get caught up in dramas and tiffs that don't involve you, and save your energy for discussing and implementing ideas that do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Liaising with the right people plays a big part in helping you forge ahead. However, with Mars in

your sign encouraging you to say it like it is, you might find it difficult to tiptoe around other people's sensitivities. Yet, it would be to your advantage to think before you speak, as you could secure yourself a special opportunity if you do.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



A fortunate Venus-Jupiter link brings potential for rapid and fruitful progress early on. How-

ever, as Mercury in its rewind phase engages both the sun and Mars, you could experience a few delays. The pace can certainly slow if you're having trouble with a decision that's necessary to the successful and positive outcome you desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



If you're feeling indecisive, see it as a blessing in disguise, as any plans you make may have to be

revised anyway. Despite this, a romantic set of influences hints that you'll have no problem persuading a significant other to accompany you on a trip or even a vacation. There's a chance it could significantly enhance your bond too.

YOUR
horoscope
By Patrick Arundell

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Financial matters have been important for some time, but continue to need care as Mercury's influence suggests potential delays. It may be an idea to keep documents handy, especially if they're linked to purchases or contracts you've committed to, or are about to.

There's a chance you'll require a refund or need to review a decision.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Your social life seems busy and fun, while romance provides a delightful interlude, particularly on Tuesday. In the meantime, the option to collaborate and the chance to finalize important discussions can boost your chances of success.

Though delays may hold you back, they're more about minor adjustment than major change.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Shared finances look positive with a chance you'll benefit from your sweetheart's

good fortune. Plus, any other news about a loan or extra cash coming in might also put a smile on your face. Concerning your well-being, it seems that modifying or tweaking your everyday habits and routines could enhance energy levels and mood.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



There's no end to the fun you can have, whether this includes exercising your artistic abilities or

enjoying a romantic liaison. Plus, Mars in Sagittarius suggests you'll be quite competitive, particularly if you're playing on a team or hoping to win a prize. Your social life sparkles too, with the potential for a friendly reunion on the cards.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



There's a chance for some juicy action regarding goals or ambitions, helped along by the

advice of someone who could act as a guide or mentor. Their ability to motivate you when you need it might mean the difference between a little success or a lot. Meanwhile, family matters also flourish, bringing you the best of both worlds.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



A congenial atmosphere can help you resolve petty arguments, sort out any bugaboos in

your day-to-day affairs and help you connect with friends. In addition, Mercury's retro phase means you'll likely have another chance of resolving issues that have been dragging on. This week, a change of perspective could be all it takes.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



An intuitive idea concerning a birthday, anniversary present or other gift may seem like a stroke

of genius. Someone you're close to might really appreciate your thoughtfulness. On another note, when it comes to money and finances, bartering one of your skills for something you need in return could become a regular form of payment.

RPM's new dynamic duo

By Maciek Klimowicz

A DUO of marketing experts have joined the ranks of Royal Phuket Marina to put it back on the Phuket map and in the mind's of the island's residents.

"I have forgotten about RPM," says RPM's new Director of Sales and Marketing for Luxury Property Ian Spurdle. "I've been in Phuket for 12 years, and I have known RPM since it's initial days, since the launch. Most of the developments that I've been involved with in Phuket have been on the west coast, and frankly, I have forgotten about RPM. And many other people have as well. But RPM is a hidden gem."

Jay Walker, appointed director of Marketing and Operations confirms.

"The initial stage is to promote the Marina back to locals of Phuket, both Thais and foreigners, and we'll move on from there."

"We want people to come here and enjoy themselves. I'm not talking about the mass tourism market, but locals who can enjoy a place like this. Take a look at Clarke Quay in Singapore, a place that has got a great atmosphere,

where people can come and hang out. That's what I'm trying to create here," explains Jay.

And even though he only joined the RPM ranks in August, he has already conjured up some ideas of how to make it happen.

"I think we were pitching ourselves a bit too high and what I want to do is bring it down a step or two. Instead of having brands like Gucci or Prada, we will have something a bit more accessible. Phuket has both the mega-rich people and the not-so-rich people, we need to find a middle ground."

Ian, who came to RPM to head up the property side of the Marina and all of its aspects, believes his side of the business will greatly benefit from Jay's efforts.

"We will bring more people here, more families, and will remind people what a wonderful place RPM is. Currently, there aren't many people who are full-time residents here. We have a lot of space for restaurants, but the restaurants are never really fully occupied. So me and Jay are here to get RPM back on the map."

Both managers have great faith in their product, prizing its beauty, convenience and location.

Both managers have great faith in their product, prizing its beauty, convenience and location.



Royal Phuket Marina's new Director of Sales and Marketing for Luxury Property Ian Spurdle (right) and Director of Marketing and Operations Jay Walker aim to buoy the marina's popularity. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

"It's beautiful, we've got an underground car park, the impressive driveway, the great boardwalk. It's a stunning place to have as your address," says Jay.

Ian adds, "Here at RPM we are in a very controlled environment – once you cross the gate and go down our long, sweeping drive, it feels like a little bit of Europe in Phuket. And for people who are

past being a holiday maker, it's very attractive," he adds.

And there is still 150 rai of land which makes for 75 per cent of the project, waiting to be built up.

Jay regards his task at RPM in the context of the recent changes on Phuket's west coast and perceives them as a chance not only for RPM, but for the whole of the east coast.

"There are great places to spend time on the east coast. I want to get this place into gear and work to drive business here. I want to promote the east coast as a destination and I'm open to working with other establishments to make it happen," explains Jay

"The east coast is a sleeping giant."

National Reform Council pushes to end energy price distortion

SOME MEMBERS of the National Reform Council's energy sector reform team plan to focus on ending price distortion, promoting efficient energy use and sustainable supply, and affordability.

Meanwhile, PTT President Pailin Chuchottaworn said he hoped to see the reform result in energy prices that reflected actual cost in line with the market

mechanism, while the policies that created market distortion should be revoked and the reform process should also promote energy efficiency.

Kurujit Nakornthap, the NRC member in charge of energy reform, will propose that the country promote a common public understanding involving Thailand's total consumed energy, of which more than

half is imported.

He said that as Thailand was mainly dependent on imported energy, prices should be in line with the market mechanism and free-market competition should be promoted.

He said that capping the prices of some energy types at low rates had distorted the mechanism and had burdened users of other energy types.

The NRC would reform 11 areas, ranging from energy to education.

Kurujit said that Thailand should also promote the use of alternative energy and energy conservation as part of the national agenda.

A forecast should be made on energy consumption over the next 50 years and plans should be laid out to ensure sustainable supply.

– The Nation

Sixt Car Rental beefs up its fleet leading up to tourist high-season

SIXT Thailand is expanding its fleet from 700 vehicles to 1,000 due to a rise in the car rental market, thanks to the upcoming tourist season.

Sukolkarn Thamchuanviriya, director at Master Group Corporation (Asia), which operates the Sixt franchise in Thailand, said the company will spend 250 million baht to expand its fleet with new vehicle segments including MPVs.

"Now that the political situation has settled down and the public sector has clearly seen the state policies as well as the economic direction, we must be able to catch up with business trends," she said. "So we are expanding our portfolio to include long-term Master Car Rental [3,000 vehicles] and short-term Sixt Thailand [1,000 vehicles], to have a combined total of 4,000 vehicles," she revealed.

Master Car Rental is the country's number five car-rental company with an income of 1.2 billion baht per year (85 per cent Master Car

Rental and 15 per cent Sixt).

"We are also checking on the requirements of customers in each region so that we can offer them a more complete service," she added.

Sukolkarn said adjusting vehicle types to suit customer preference is being carried out, for example with the purchase of a fleet of Honda Mobilio sub-compact MPVs.

"We found out that more families are using rental cars due to the growth of low-cost airlines, and this has greatly benefited the car rental business," she said, adding that by the year-end the company would offer at least 50 Mobilios for rent.

Sixt is already offering a promotion for the Mobilio, with a rental fee as low as 899 baht per day.

By the end of the year Sixt plans to expand the number of its outlets to 20. The 18th branch has been opened at Donmueang airport, while two more branches will open in Patong (Phuket) and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

– The Nation

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Enjoy exponential earnings

Finding roads that lead to financial freedom and free time

Finance

By David Mayes

I RECENTLY became involved in marketing products for the health and wellness industry, which follows a very different business model than any I have previously encountered. In fact, the investment consists mainly of time, as start-up capital required is extremely limited. "Human capital" is developed rather than the standard brick-and-mortar business. The great thing about this style of investing is that it can generate long-term, stable, passive income that grows exponentially along with the team.

The opportunity was offered to me by an alumnus from my business school, and since he had been working as a top-tier management consultant for many years, he was able to identify a good business model when he saw one. It took quite some time to actually understand how it worked though, since – like most people – my presumed knowledge of direct-selling and the reality are very different.

Here in Thailand's developing economy, the company I work with has made many millionaires who now drive luxury cars like Lamborghini or Ferrari that get hit with that 300 per cent luxury import tax. Many come from poor backgrounds with little edu-

cation, and yet they have still managed to achieve massive success in a relatively short period of time. One of my partners earns more than a million baht every month, and he built his business up in less than four years.

How is this possible? By creating an asset base comprised of people who also want to develop their own businesses as well. With this kind of turnkey approach, nobody has to reinvent the wheel. Thus, the main key to success is duplicating your knowledge of the system and passing it on to others. Anybody who understands exponential math, and how it can create rapid growth, will be able to see why the business can be very scalable as long as duplication is made very simple.

The key to this duplication is to get everyone singing from the same song sheet, as anyone who has ever led a team of salespeople will know this is vital to achieving success. Everyone must attend the same seminars, read the same books, and in the end, all speak the same "language".

There are many businesses that can make people wealthy, but most often they need to continuously trade their time for money. The great thing about a systematic approach to building a large distribution network is that, eventually, you can remove yourself from it and have pure passive income. From working

The key to duplication is to get everyone singing from the same song sheet, as anyone who has ever led a team of salespeople will know this is vital to achieving success.



Discovering and implementing a clever business model can put you in the driver's seat. Photo: Damian Morys

with high-net worth individuals for so long, I know very well the difference between those with plenty of free time and those caught in what I call the "golden handcuffs".

Donald Trump was once asked on Oprah what he would do if he suddenly lost all his fortune. He responded without hesitation that he would find a good network marketing company and get to work. The crowd laughed, to which he replied, "That's why I am sitting up here and all of you are paying to be

sitting out there". I know of no other investment or business strategy that has the potential to create such rapid success, as is demonstrated by so many rags-to-riches stories in Thailand alone.

Robert Kiyosaki, author of the best-selling personal finance book of all-time, *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*, agrees. In fact, he believes so strongly about it that he wrote another book called, *The Business of the 21st Century*. I don't know about you, but I don't think of myself as cleverer than Mr Trump

or Mr Kiyosaki.

If you're looking for a way to earn real money in Thailand, maybe it's time to step out of your comfort zone and try something new.

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.

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																								
<p>Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p>Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p>KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Chermg Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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Reaching the end of an era



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE older I get, the more the concept of time simply seems to accelerate at a fast and furious pace. Does all that caffeine I'm drinking bring me closer to the end of days, or did someone mysteriously pump up the pace?

Over the past seven and a half years I have written this property column, I've witnessed the world around me change. Who could have known those three letters "GFC" would be the shot heard around the globe. Phuket's real-estate fortunes have likewise shifted through cycles marketed by all those "B's" – booms, busts and, at times, the bizarre. Hoping on Fortuna's property wheel has never been dull.

Granted, in the last few years my eyes have strayed far and wide in reporting on the island's property – taking on other destinations, trends – and even the odd piece of storytelling here and there. I've learned over the years that writing a column gives you the opportunity to reach out to readers and let them know what makes you tick – and yes – relay those dark, often searching, questions that elude us. At the end of the day it's like a naked lunch, displaying the goods for all to see.

But the time has come to pass the column over to new ideas, new blood and different views. I remain of the opinion that Phuket is absolutely the best place in the world to

live. In its imperfection is beauty, humanity and a pace of life which is coveted. Yes, the island has changed, as has the country, but at the end of the day, find me a corner of the world that hasn't.

For Phuket's hospitality and property trade it's all too easy to view the bad, the ugly, and forget about the good. Today as you drive from north to south, east to west, there remain real estate options for all buyers, from entry level to the ultra rich. A secondary market and rentals exist in great abundance – and a once infant-terrible has grown into adulthood. With the coming of age – as we all know – comes an entirely new set of problems and rewards.

Property remains a strong component of our island and is increasingly important in attracting new buyers to Phuket, either to come and live, or to invest. Its economic significance is important to the population given the jobs and overflow to the expanded goods and services sector. Putting a roof over people's heads is an aspiration mankind has had since coming out of the cave, and there has never been a better selection of housing than right now.

Over time, I've also seen investments lost and projects going bust. To this day, I receive heartbreaking letters from those who have parted with their hard-earned money and have no hope of clawing it back, even at a few cents on the dollar. Life's tragedies are no more evident than in the business world, and Phuket is not immune to this.



TIME FLIES: After seven and a half years, the Property Watch column comes to an end. Photo: Siavash Ghazvinian

To close things out, I hope I have given some insight, some much needed humor, intelligent thought and ideas through this column over the many years that my contributions have stacked up. Yes, the journey often has gone sideways and into strange lands of whimsy, but at the end of our

trip, I hope you have learned a little bit more about Phuket – and perhaps a little more about me than you really wanted to know.

I remain optimistic about Fortuna's next turn of the wheel here in Phuket's real estate market. Thank you for being a part of my world these past years. I will still be

appearing in the *Gazette* from time to time, so you won't be able to get rid of me that easily. Thanks for reading Property Watch and stay tuned for the next exciting chapter.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com

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All about location at THE BASE

By Maciek Klimowicz

LOCATION, location, location is every property expert's mantra, and Sansiri knows it well. They prove it with their latest Phuket project – THE BASE, located in the very heart of the island.

Situated on five rai of land on the bypass road, THE BASE Uptown-Phuket is in the middle of Phuket action, just a stone's throw away from the island's commercial center comprised of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, Phuket International Hospital, Tesco Lotus, Big C and a number of other retail centers.

Phuket Town is just a short ride to the south and a nearby major thoroughway provides convenient access to the airport. All this is aimed at delivering an urban lifestyle on a tropical island.

All of the 387 units spread across three seven-storey buildings are 100 per cent complete and ready to move in, and 60 per cent have been sold already. The units

come in two types with 351 one-room apartments of 32.5 to 33.5 square meters and 36 two-bedroom units ranging between 55.5 and 57sqm.

To boost sales further, Sansiri has introduced special offers for three upgraded room types with furniture packages, and two room types completely furnished with prices starting at 1.89 million baht. Show units are open to visitors at the site.

Owners of the units at the new condominium will gain access to a number of facilities that include a swimming pool with kid's pool, fitness center, landscaped gardens, courtyard as well as Wi-Fi in the main lobby and in the swimming pool area. Twenty-two per cent of the project's footprint is dedicated to parking space capable of accommodating up to 84 cars.

The safety of the project's inhabitants is guarded by a 24-hour security system and CCTVs, as well as a key-card access system.

The project has a fresh, modern



Besides its world-class facilities, THE BASE boasts a hard-to-beat central location. Photos: Supplied

design described by the developer as "modern simplicity" and "vibrant individuality". The straight lines, clean-cut edges and toned down colors make THE BASE stand out from

Phuket's natural surroundings.

For business-minded buyers, Sansiri offers a "rental for the holidays" program through which owners can receive approximately 6 per cent gross yield from rental

revenue, depending on length of stay.

For more information visit sansiri.com/condominium/thebase_uptown_phuket/

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Thailand Property Awards honor Phuket developers

OUTSIDE of Bangkok, Phuket developers and developments claimed the lion's share of acclaim at this year's Thailand Property Awards with four award wins and six Highly Commended.

Most notable among award winners was Point Yamu Villas by COMO Hotels & Resorts who won Best Villa Development and Best Hotel Architectural Design, and were Highly Commended for Best Residential Interior Design.

Setting a benchmark for excellence in the region's property sector, the 2014 Thailand Property Awards welcomed over 500 industry leaders to celebrate the winners at a lavish Gala Dinner held September 11 at Bangkok's Conrad Hotel.

"There were many exceptional entries for the 22 awards this year and the judges had a tough time in whittling down thousands of nominations, hundreds of entries and visiting more than 40 short-listed developments around the country to finally reach their decisions," said Terry Blackburn, CEO, Ensign Media Co Ltd, organizers of the awards.

"This year's Winners and Highly Commended developers and developments should be rightly proud of their achievements."

The Thailand Property Awards recognize quality in architecture, design, construction and development, with rewards going to the best condominiums, housing developments, villas, commercial buildings and hotels. Promoting Thai real estate to the world, the fair, transparent and fully audited judging process with an international judging panel

lead by Chairman Sunchai Nuengsit, managing director of BuilderSmart PCL, has been fundamental to the Awards' success.

As the industry evolves, so have the Awards. Organizers this year opted for no agency awards with the focus being on developers, development, design and architecture in residential and commercial real estate nationwide, including specific regional awards for Bangkok, Phuket, the Eastern Seaboard, Samui, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai and Khao Yai.

The Best Developer Thailand award – past winners of which reads like a who's who of Thailand's real estate industry – this year went to Major Development PCL whose more than 15-year track record of real estate development in the Kingdom is exemplary.

Big winners on the night were Magnolia Quality Development Corporation who took home three awards and were Highly Commended in two other categories, while Pace Development Corporation took home the Best Luxury Condo Development (Bangkok) award against some tough competition from the Ritz-Carlton Residences at MahaNakhon.

Recognizing the growing social and community responsibility that developers have, the Special Recognition in CSR award was introduced this year, and was awarded to two companies who have excelled in their corporate and social responsibilities: Magnolia Quality Development Corporation and Absolute World Group.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The age of innocence

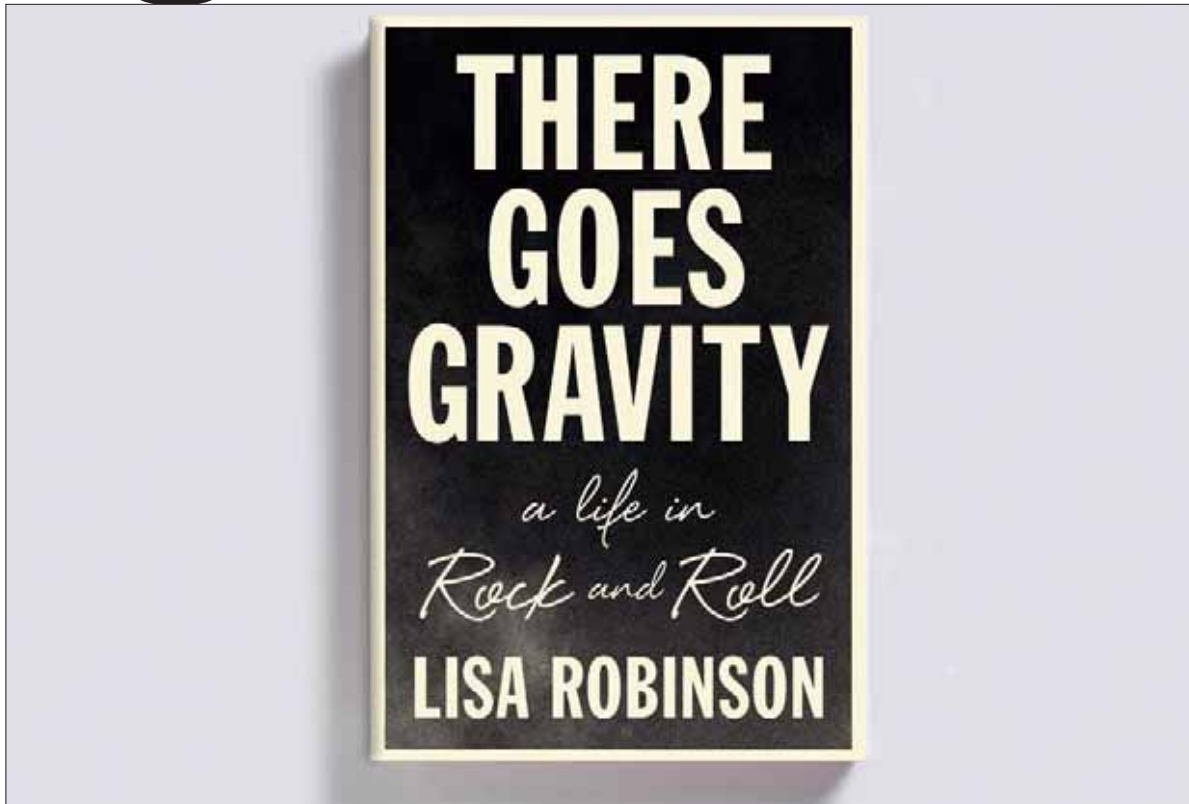
Books

By James Eckardt

LISA Robinson lived a groupie's dream, travelling on coast-to-coast tours with rock bands such as the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. Except she was unavailable. Long-married to a DJ, she hardly did drugs and had a job. She was a rock journalist for a series of second-tier music magazines. Also, she wasn't particularly impressed with the company.

A native New Yorker, daughter of Upper West Side Jewish left-wing intellectuals, she had a sophisticated adolescence, sneaking out of the family apartment and into jazz clubs in the Village.

"I went to see rock and roll shows starring Little Richard and Chuck Berry and Screamin' Jay Hawkins at the Brooklyn Fox," she recounts. "So, in 1973, by the time I met Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant, adorable as he was and despite his band's superstar status, I thought he was a bit provincial. He was, after all, from some farm in the north of England. Even the Rolling Stones, with the worldly and urbane Mick Jagger, were from England, which is, let's face it, the size of Rhode Island. All those



Lisa Robinson's first book 'There Goes Gravity' is an intimate account of characters in an innocent age.

English boys had really bad teeth, were slightly ingenuelike, and were enamored of American black music – a subject I knew well."

An elfin five-foot-two, adopted by "the boys", Robinson parlayed those early transcontinental rock tours into friendships with just

about every major musician in Britain and America. A notable exception was Madonna – the two of them took an instant dislike to each other.

In between road trips, Lisa Robinson was a central figure in the New York 1970s underground rock scene.

"In those days, no one went to the gym. We all smoked. No one went to Brooklyn; there was no reason to. We didn't talk about money except to bemoan not having any..."

She was also imbued with plenty of New York *chutzpah*.

"In 1976, I was travelling to

London on a regular basis to do interviews with Rod Stewart or Pete Townsend or Peter Gabriel or Freddie Mercury for my Inside Track syndicated radio show," she reports.

Seated in business class, who does she see entering the plane's first-class cabin but Rupert Murdoch, the new owner of the *New York Post*.

"I asked the stewardess (they were definitely called stewardesses then) to bring him a note that said some of his newspapers carried my column, and if he wasn't sleeping or working on the flight, I would like to buy him a drink. He came back to my section and sat down next to me. He ordered a bottle of champagne. He drank and talked our way across the Atlantic."

There Goes Gravity (Riverhead Books, New York, 2014, 347pp), subtitled "A Life in Rock and Roll", is Lisa Robinson's first book. She is primarily a columnist and her book suffers from two flaws. First, as she admits herself, she is not a musicologist. Don't expect intelligent rock criticism. She knows what she likes, but doesn't have the literary chops to describe it. Secondly, the narrative sags badly in the disorganized second half as she covers the three decades after her youthful heyday.



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A dose of relaxation

Sensual spa escape to calm a crime reporter's mind



The receptionist presents three aroma options for the treatment: orange, eucalyptous and pine. The calmness of the tropical spa embraces my entire body as I walk into the treatment room. I change into a soft, loose robe and am led to the massage table.

By Chutharat Plerin

AS A hard news reporter, who witnesses the dirty side of Phuket daily, a good massage and spa treatment is essential after a week on the beat.

A spa is the one place that everyone, including me, can escape the stress of the outside world and enjoy an hour or two of being under the spell of a masseuse as she guides us into a deep sleep.

The mixture of smells of butterfly pea and lime rise up to me from the cold glass the receptionist of Angsana Spa Laguna Phuket hands me. A cold cloth, smelling of love tree oil, is delivered on a tray so I can begin to wipe away the worries of the week.

Relaxing back into my chair, I browse the treatment options: Aroma Thai, Ayurvedic Hot Stones, Deep Tissue Massage and Siam, just to name a few.

Today, the Javanese treatment, which is 90 minutes of

intense massaging followed by 30 minutes of peaceful reflection time complemented by refreshments, is exactly what my body and mind need. After hours of chasing stories and sitting in front of a computer typing them up, a strong massage focusing on my back, shoulders and scalp was going to be perfect.

The treatment is, in fact, Asian-inspired, as can be guessed from its name. It's a combination of aromatherapy and wellness practices adopted from ancient Balinese techniques. The blend of natural aromas and deep tissue massage relieves body tension and promotes better sleep patterns – something I desperately need. The kind of phone calls a crime reporter gets in the middle of the night would give most people nightmares.

The receptionist presents three aroma options for the treatment: orange, eucalyptus and pine.

I investigate the matter. A

The massage rooms at Angsana Spa Laguna Phuket exude a sense of serenity. Photos: Supplied

small description of the therapeutic qualities of each is written on the top of the cute containers. Orange works as an anti-depressant and stimulates the body; eucalyptus invigorates the body and creates clarity of mind; and pine refreshes a person, inspires them and clears their mind – pine would do the trick.

The calmness of the tropical spa embraces my entire body as I walk into the treatment room. I change into a soft, loose robe and am led to the massage table.

Face down on the firm, com-

forting table, the scent of pine begins to break down the clutter of crime stories zipping through my mind. A deep breath in and my body starts to relax as my mind lets go.

Strong, firm hands begin on my neck and work their way down my back. It's unbelievable how much tension you can develop in those areas after hours in front of the computer. I surrender myself to the scents and soft voice of the masseuse as every worry I walked in with dissipates.

The 90-minute session flies by. After a shower, hot tea, dried

berries and cashews are waiting for me, rounding off the sensual experience.

I can see the Laguna lagoon through the enormous glass window as I sip my tea. With my body relaxed and mind at ease, a deep calmness takes hold of me.

It isn't until I'm caught in traffic on the way home that I realize my mind is already back to buzzing with reports – at least I was able to escape crazy Phuket for a few hours.

For more information, visit: www.angsanaspaspa.com



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Floating in fine fettle

By Phuket Gazette

THE exquisite waters of the Andaman Sea surrounding Phuket will once again usher in stunning superyachts from Asia and around the world at the 14th annual Asia Superyacht Rendezvous from December 16-18.

The largest gathering of boat and motor superyachts in Asia, the Rendezvous will soon welcome some of the world's most captivating vessels, which can also be seen moored in some of the region's best cruising hotspots during the holiday season.

Glitzy but not overly crowded in a 'Med-style' way, Phuket offers a location not only tailor-made for superyachts, but also a base from which to explore the region's famed islands. As a gateway to Southeast Asia exploration, it's hardly surprising that Phuket has hosted every single Asia Superyacht Rendezvous since the inaugural event in 2000.

Delighted with this year's response from superyachts, organizers report early entrants to include such stunning vessels as the 40-meter *SY Si Datu Bua* by Konjo Boat Builders and the 50-meter luxury *SY Silolona*. These two



boats are modern incarnations of those glorious traditional Indonesian sailing ships, originally built for trade along the historic spice routes. The gaff-rigged *Silolona* in particular will no doubt impress VIP guests stepping aboard at the opening party.

"Having hosted the onboard yachting cocktail party in 2012, *Silolona* is sure to impress returning guests and prove to be a wondrous setting for new guests to enjoy," noted Rendezvous organizers. "Speedboats will deliver our guests to this luxury yacht moored in Kata Bay."

Other early superyacht entrants include: the 33-meter *SY Shamoun* by Claassen Shipyards, launched in 1999; the 37-meter *SY Escapade*, a spectacularly fast cruising sloop built by the prominent NZ shipyard Fitzroy Yachts; the 36-meter *SY Yanneke Too*, launched in 1996 by Camper & Nicholsons, a modern schooner; and the sleek Lago 92 catamaran, *Ciliam*.

The prestigious gathering will once again be hosted by the luxury residential resort, Kata Rocks. Winning 16 international property awards, the iconic resort and residence is a perfect location for those taking part in Rendezvous.

"Our guests enjoy staying in the award-winning 'Sky Villas' which provide fantastic sunset views of their anchored superyachts on beau-

tiful Kata Bay," said the organizers.

Highly regarded skipper and Phuket's PIMEX Boat Show director, Andy Dowden, will again set forth the courses for the two days of friendly, yet competitive, "Superyacht Sailing Races". The first day's sailing race will present an impressive lineup of sleek sailing vessels with glistening mammoth motor yachts following close behind, for the friendly, but highly competitive, race. The afternoon is then free for owners, guests, captains and crews to enjoy Phuket's beaches or to mentally prepare for the evening's "Challenge".

In the evening, principal sponsor Feadship Royal Dutch Shipyards will head up the "Friendship Challenge", a signature since 2000, which takes place during a sumptuous buffet at Kata Rocks. The location will awe guests, the drinks will be free-flowing and the "Challenge" model boat racing, wonderfully ridiculous.

Team crews from the superyachts are given a good-sized bag of various "stuff" (sticks, paper, material, etc) to design, build and race a miniature yacht from the bag's contents. The team needs lung power as well as brainpower, as a member must blow the yacht down a trough and back. Another potential hazard is that a beer must be downed quickly by members before turning to blow back up the course as the crowds wildly cheer on their favorite.

The second day's race begins with the incredible sight of the vessels lining up outside Kata Bay in "dress parade" formation. Later in the day, the "Rendezvous Booty" takes place. Though clearly appealing to younger family guests, crews will also don pirate garb as they get into the spirit of the land and sea-based treasure hunt.

The final event is the exclusive Gala Dinner at Kata Rocks, a mouth-watering cuisine experience with flowing wine and a wide diversity of entertainment in addition to the excellent socialization at tables, ending another spectacular superyacht event in Phuket.

Phuket's reputation as a yachting hub and gateway to further exploration of Southeast Asia is going from strength to strength and attracting more yachts whose presence aids the region's development. Organizers report that the Phuket area is now receiving the largest number of superyachts annually in Southeast Asia – an average of 50 vessels per year.

"Many Mediterranean-based



The second day's race will begin with a 'dress parade' outside Kata Bay. Photo: Supplied

yacht owners and captains are seeing Phuket as an increasingly popular winter destination, home to four full-service marinas – with peak cruising season beginning in November and staying on

until March before they head over to Koh Samui and the Gulf of Siam for the April to September cruising season," reports Gordon Fernandes and Captain Charlie Dwyer.

The organizers are pleased to invite vessels of 100 feet and longer to visit: www.asia-superyachts-rendezvous.com for more details or email charlie@asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com

Delighted with this year's response from superyachts, organizers report early entrants to include such stunning vessels as the 40-meter *SY Si Datu Bua* and *SY Silolona*. These two boats are modern incarnations of those glorious traditional Indonesian sailing ships, originally built for trade along the historic spice routes. /



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Get the skinny on fats

RECENTLY, the Public Health Ministry published a report warning of the dangers of heart disease, claiming that six Thais an

hour succumb to it. Similarly, a World Health Organization (WHO) report proclaimed heart disease as the leading cause of premature death in Thailand.

A diet of high-fat foods has often been named as the culprit for the spike in and severity of such diseases.

However, fats and oils are essential to health. They are important building blocks for your body's cells, are a source of energy and they provide a variety of hormones.

Meanwhile, respected medical journals have commented that low-fat diets are actually associated with increased rates of depression, psychological problems, fatigue, violence and suicide.

So why all the bad fat publicity? Before 1920, Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) was rare in the world, but by the mid-fifties it was the leading cause of death in Western countries, and now the world.

What changed? In 1953, American doctor Ancel Keys believed that high-fat food was the culprit. He set out to prove this by comparing death rates from CHD and the amount of fats eaten in certain countries to suggest a positive correlation.

However, it seems Dr Keys was very selective as to which countries he chose. Out of the 22 countries with available data, he chose six that supported his hypothesis.

Dr Uffe Ravnskov, in his book *The Cho-*



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

lesterol Myths, exposed the fallacy that saturated fats and cholesterol cause heart disease, and shows Dr Keys' graph of

six countries side by side with one of all 22 countries, showing no correlation at all.

However, Dr Keys proved to be very persuasive at the time and the diet/heart hypothesis was born. How, with such a dramatic flaw, could this hypothesis, recommending a reduction in saturated fats and cholesterol, have gathered strength one may ask? Opponents of the diet/heart hypothesis point the finger at the beneficiaries.

The main beneficiaries of the research were vegetable oil and food processing industries, who, consequently, began funding further research designed to support the diet/heart hypothesis.

One of the most respected investigations into heart disease was carried out by the Harvard University Medical School and, after 22 years, researchers concluded that, "There is, in short, no suggestion of any relation between diet and the subsequent development of CHD in the study group."

Currently, most Western governments and dieticians recommend reducing saturated fats. However, saturated fats constitute at least 50 per cent of all cell membranes, enhance the immune system and protect from harmful micro-organisms that try to enter the digestive track.

Excess consumption of polyunsaturated oils (highly recommended by the government), however, has been shown to cause



At the market, spring for coconut oil – a healthy source of saturated fat. Photo: Easa Shami

many problems like heart disease, cancer, immune system dysfunction, liver damage and weight gain.

So, why does the government persist in recommending them?

The short answer is that the government listens to its advisers, who look to the research. These findings are sometimes flawed, as they can be influenced by whichever industry funds the study. Knowing where the money comes from is always a good indication of how reliable the information is.

When viewing all the research, the cur-

rent recommendations for fat consumption reads like a comedy of errors, or, considering that we have not made a dent in the statistics for preventable diseases, a horror movie.

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

One man's struggle to shed a few kilos

MOVING to Phuket has taken its toll on my body. Almost 10 kilograms is what I have gained since I moved here over one year ago.

It doesn't take a nutritionist to figure out that stuffing yourself with heaps of rice, pork, greasy curries, fatty coconut milk, and sweet Thai tea day after day isn't exactly a sustainable diet... and I do love Thai food. Who doesn't?

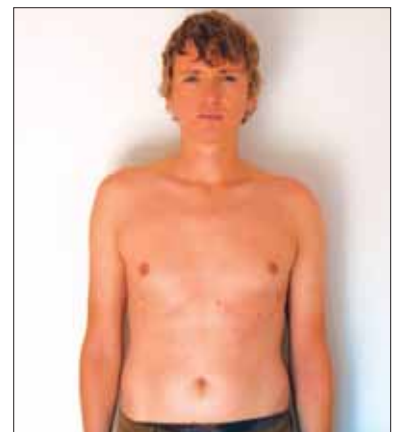
There are literally hundreds of quality restaurants around, leaving one with little time to dine at home. In the last 12 months I must have gulped down more foie gras, t-bone steaks and crème brulee than ever before in my life.

Tourists can spend entire days in Phuket indulging in their favorite sports: cycling, surfing, tuk tuk chasing. For working expats, things are different. The sun sets at around 6:30pm everyday, leaving little time to go outside and move once free from the office.

So, here I am, 15 months later and 10kg heavier. As of today, I weigh 93kg.

I'm by no means fat. That is mostly thanks to my above average height of 196cm. But I do feel heavy, lazy, constantly tired and, at times, depressed and frustrated.

Help came from Thanyapura's Total Body Transformation Program: eight weeks of exercise and diet under the guidance of the cen-



Maciek's 'before' photo.

ters' pros. I decided to commit.

For the next eight weeks I will:

- Exercise at Thanyapura three times per week under the guidance of a professional coach.

- Avoid some of my favorite, but harmful, foods, including soda, bread, cheese... just looking at that list makes me sad.

- Exercise at home according to the guidance provided by Thanyapura coaches.

It won't be easy, and there will be pain and sweat – though I'm not expecting any tears – but I'm willing to take the plunge.

I will be regularly reporting on my progress, stumbles, falls and successes, and eight weeks from now, there will hopefully be one less fat foreigner in Phuket.

– Maciek Klimowicz

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Building the navy

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

HRH Prince Abhakara Kiartiwongse is fondly revered as the "Father of the Royal Thai Navy". He was the 28th child of HM King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), born on December 19, 1880.

Prince Abhakara gained a reputation in Thai history for re-organizing and modernizing the Royal Thai Navy in line with Western norms. As with many of the King's sons, the prince was educated in the Grand Palace by Siamese nobles.

King Rama V knew that his sons would one day become the rulers of Siam. If they were going to continue his reforms and modernize the country, they had to be given the best education. It became tradition that the King's sons would be sent to the best schools in Europe and Russia.

Toward the end of the 19th century, England had the most powerful navy in the world and the Royal Navy had a proud tradition. In 1895, Prince Abhakara enrolled in the Seines in Greenwich. In 1896, he was accepted into the

Royal Naval Academy, where he studied naval warfare for six years.

In the year 1900, Prince Abhakara returned to Bangkok where he joined the Royal Siamese Navy, under the command of Admiral Prince Prachak Silpakorn.

In 1905, King Rama V appointed Prince Abhakara as head of the Siamese Naval Academy, with the responsibility of training new naval officers. The prince was known to be highly focused, strict and quick tempered, but he cared deeply for his new role. He designed a new syllabus along English naval practices, which raised standards at the Siamese Naval Academy to the point where naval officers could graduate with the skills necessary to sail the high seas.

The prince founded many naval academies that trained cadets in the art of naval warfare, navigation and naval engineering. Even though he was a strict disciplinarian, Prince Abhakara was beloved by his cadets and naval subordinates.

Although Prince Abhakara was loved and trusted by his father, he soon fell out of favor when King Rama VI ascended the throne. In 1911, a few naval officers were caught in a brawl with soldiers of the King's Guard. When King



HRH Prince Abhakara started to modernize and reform the Siamese Naval Academy in 1900. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

Rama VI heard about this, he was displeased and immediately asked to see Prince Abhakara. The King demanded that Prince Abhakara hand over the naval officers so they could be punished. The prince, ever protective of his officers, refused and suggested the navy deal with this matter internally. The King was furious and dismissed Prince Abhakara

from service in the navy.

After his dismissal from the navy, Prince Abhakara studied herbal medicine and began practicing as a traditional doctor.

In 1917, Siam entered the First World War. King Rama VI was in need of experienced naval officers and decreed that Prince Abhakara was to return to service as a senior naval officer.

By 1923, however, the prince's health was deteriorating. Prince Abhakara retired from the navy. On April 21, he left Bangkok and sailed to Chumphon province. While in Chumphon, Prince Abhakara came down with the flu. Due to his already deteriorating health, the prince passed away after just three days. He was only 44 years old.

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Phuket Gazette

Triathlon starts to defend titles in annual races

REGISTRATION is still open for the 2014 half-distance Challenge Laguna Phuket in Thailand – and the opportunity still exists to compete in this unique destination event that has captured the hearts of triathletes all over the world.

The race, set for November 30, will be the second Challenge Family series race to be staged on this paradise tropical island a week after the celebrated 21st annual Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT).

The days between the two events in Phuket will be filled with a Tri-Fest of training and social events held in and around the luxurious Laguna Phuket destination resort.

This triathlon carnival has proved a popular attraction for international athletes eager to sample the delights of Thailand, while rubbing shoulders with the likes of Rasmus Petraeus (DEN) and Melissa Hauschildt (AUS), last year's Challenge Laguna Phuket champions.

Rasmus Petraeus triumphed at Laguna Phuket last year in 04:05:06. Following Petraeus home were an elite field of seasoned athletes including Alberto Casadei (ITA), Alberto Alessandrini (ITA), Ruedi

Wild (SUI) and Massimo Cigana (ITA).

The 2013 women's field top finishers were Melissa Hauschildt (AUS), Radka Vodickova (CZE), Tamsin Lewis (GBR), Belinda Granger (AUS) and Ange Castle (AUS).

This year, both Petraeus and Hauschildt will return to defend their titles. They are set to face strong challenges from a field that will include many of their competitors from last year; Ruedi Wild, Massimo Cigana, Radka Vodickova, Belinda Granger and Ange Castle have all confirmed to race the 2014 Challenge Laguna Phuket on November 30.

CHALLENGE LAGUNA PHUKET RETURNS

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon is the longest running triathlon in Asia, attracting the sports' legends and age groupers alike to the island for two decades. This year, Laguna Phuket will once again welcome Challenge Laguna Phuket to the week-long celebration of sport, incorporating the iconic Laguna Phuket Triathlon (Nov 23) and half-distance Challenge Laguna Phuket. – *Phuket Gazette*



The Challenge Laguna Phuket is heading into its second year. Photo: Supplied

Laguna Phuket Triathlon

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Next Pencak Silat competition will be hosted in Saphan Hin

PHUKET will host the 16th World Pencak Silat Championship next year, touted to be the biggest gathering of martial arts competitors ever held in the sport, with more than 600 athletes from 47 countries.

"Thailand has hosted many international sporting events in the past with great success. We expect this to be the biggest gathering of athletes yet for the Championship," said Panu Uthairat, president of Pencak Silat Association of Thailand (PSAT).

"We want to ensure that athletes, guests and those who come to watch the competition, leave with great memories of their time in Phuket," he added.

Eddie Mardjoeki Nalapraya, adviser and former president of the International Pencak Silat Federation (PERSILAT), said he was confident Phuket was well prepared to host the competition.

"Phuket has good roads and good transport as well as plenty of comfortable hotels – not to mention some beautiful places to

visit and enjoy," he said.

"I believe Phuket is ready to make this a great competition."

Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong, who attended the

press conference held in Queen Sirikit Park to announce the event, said the island was happy to welcome all those taking part.

"Phuket is ready for this competition. We will do our best to make everyone joining the event feel happy and

at home during their stay here."

Pencak Silat world champion Abdulloh Malee and two gold medal winners from the 27th Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar, Nantachai Khansakorn and Rewadee Damsri, were on hand to demonstrate some of the traditional Indonesian martial art's fighting techniques.

The 16th World Pencak Silat Championship will be held from January 7-17 in Phuket Town's 4,000-seat indoor gymnasium, located in Saphan Hin.

– *Phuket Gazette*



The upcoming World Pencak Silat Championship, held in Saphan Hin will be the biggest yet. Photo: Frédéric Michel

International Sport

Phuket Classic gains strength

By Jeremie Schatz

SHOPPERS at Central Festival were surprised to find more than 150 oiled-up bodybuilders strutting their stuff for the "Phuket Classic" bodybuilding and modeling competition last Sunday.

In its second year, the competition was organized by Wilaiporn Wannaklang, president of the Phuket Bodybuilding Club and reigning Women's World Champion.

Ms Wilaiporn took a moment during Saturday's hectic weigh-in at the Dara Hotel Phuket to discuss her introduction and evolution in the world of bodybuilding, which has led to her role as the driving force behind Phuket Classic.

"I started training seven years ago after I saw some guys with big muscles. I thought they looked nice and when a friend asked, 'hey, you want to go do something to keep healthy', it sounded really appealing."

Like many others, Ms Wilaiporn was prone to the addiction of working out.

"Every day that I missed going to the gym, I would think, 'I miss that feeling'," she said.

"My first competition – after I trained for about three months – was at the Thai National Games and I got third place because there were only four girls! I thought, 'I'm not last, that's amazing!'"



Saksri Kerdphol (right), Phuket Classic organizer Wilaiporn Wannaklang (third from right) and Rewat Watayaung (third from left) pose with four competitors. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

She thrived on the personal challenge and basked in the spotlight.

"On stage, you get another feeling and I felt like this was my world, this was my place and I was proud of myself."

She admits to her misconceptions of the bodybuilding culture, saying she found a nurturing environment.

"The big muscleman in my thoughts before had to be crazy, but no, all of them

spoke so nicely and were so kind to me – they try to help and support you, and to give you knowledge," she said.

After four years of training, she was number one in Thailand and now has 21 awards to her credit.

Ms Wilaiporn explained that organizing the Phuket Classic is more of a labor-of-love than anything. She has volunteered countless hours of her time to

put Phuket on the map for bodybuilding events in the Kingdom.

"I think the future will be better because there are more people and we are getting more support and sponsors," she explains.

One such sponsor is the recently completed Dara Hotel Phuket. Located at the Darasamuth intersection near Central Festival, the hotel finished a new building about four months ago, while their existing structure is undergoing renovations that will be completed by the end of this month.

The hotel's new general manager, Rewat Watayaung, recently relocated from Bangkok to be the fresh face of the hotel.

"The team [Phuket Classic organizers], came to ask my boss if the hotel would consider sponsoring the event and he said 'yes' immediately," explained Mr Rewat.

The hotel, which mostly caters to businesspeople and tourists from China, provided discounted rooms for those taking part in the event, as well as use of its facilities and catering support for Saturday's busy weigh-in.

"We thought that this is a great event... and is becoming more recognized by guests and visitors around Phuket. It is a great opportunity for us to be associated with this event and provide sponsorship," Mr Rewat said.

Gentle winds result in slow ACYC race

SPLENDID weather greeted sailors last Sunday, but as glorious as the day was, there was little wind for Ao Chalong Yacht Club's Race 6, Series 2. A slow down-wind start with a four-knot tailwind got the boats on their way, popping spinnakers as they crossed the start line.

Fluky winds tested the group as they sailed around Koh Lon and onwards toward Koh Bon for a portside rounding. *Hurricane* and *Adrenaline* were doing their usual battle, while *Galeforce* and *Nina* had their own competition for 3rd place on the water.

Wind shifts continued to test the fleet and some found themselves virtually parked with back runners closed-in, the breeze filling in from behind or spinnakers flying. *Galeforce* nearly ran down *Adrenaline* from behind until she joined the group parking herself.

Nina was not affected by that particular wind shadow due to a smart decision by skipper Grenville Fordham to favor the other side of the bay and ignore the effects of the outgoing tide. This paid dividends with a sixty-degree run toward the finish line under spinnaker, sometimes sailing at eight knots boat speed, which was somewhat of an achievement considering the conditions.

In the monohull division, *Sansiri*, after a late start, exchanged positions with *Aqua* a number of times around the course. However, both suffered from the light winds and were not



Light winds made for difficult race-day conditions. Photo: Helicam Asia

able to complete the full course.

In the ever-changing conditions, no one was guaranteed a position on the podium. Light winds, wind shifts, tidal flow and a big slice of luck played their parts – especially the latter.

The final "lottery" results saw *Galeforce* slip into 1st with a 10-second gap to *Nina* in 2nd place after handicaps were applied, with a more substantial gap to 3rd placed *Hurricane*. In the monohull divisions, skippers on *Sansiri* and *Aqua* had a phone conference to discuss finishing early, observed and confirmed by the club's regular race officer Chandren.

– Bob Mots

If anyone is interested in trying their hand on one of the boats racing, meet at Ao Chalong Yacht Club at 10:30am for the briefing for race seven on the October 26 and meet the skippers. The club has a special interest in more dinghy sailing, as well as training children in the sport. For non-sailors who are interested in giving it a try, it's worth it just for the views on the way around the course. As usual, the club's restaurant will be in full swing with the usual Sunday Roast special on the menu.

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