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Phuket Gazette



Son watches father killed

Rush-hour shooter claims self-defence

INSIDE TODAY

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November 8 - 14, 2014

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■ **'IT IS UP TO THE JET-SKI CLUBS TO SELF-REGULATE'**

Jet-skis stay

■ Despite the death of a Russian and running over a tourist on the beach, jet-ski operators remain in business

By **Chutharat Plerin**

JET-SKI operators will continue renting out their machines to tourists on the island's beaches despite mishaps, injuries and the death of a Russian tourist who was killed in a jet-ski accident this week.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut announced the news on Tuesday, when he explained to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong that jet-ski operators could stay as long as they followed the new rules brought into effect on November 1.

If they fail to follow the rules, they face invoking an island-wide ban on all jet-skis, he said.

However, the ultimatum was Mr Phuripat's second "last chance" warning. On October 28, he vowed to revoke the permits of any operators whose businesses or jet-skis were involved in any untoward incidents.

"If they fail to comply with the new regulations or are involved in any major accidents, they may lose their right to rent out jet-skis entirely," he said.

That warning came on the same day that a female tourist who was lying on a mat on Kata Beach was run over by a jeep towing a jet-ski trailer. The woman suffered only...



The Russian man was pulled from the water unconscious. Photo: Thawit Bilabduhar

Teacher arrested for rape of student, 12

POLICE arrested Jirasit Samakkarn, 29, for the rape of one of his 12-year-old students.

Mr Jirasit denied the charges. However, he has admitted to massaging the girl's arms because she looked unwell.



Jirasit Samakkarn

The man paid the family 150,000 baht immediately after the incident, but refused to make any further payments. The complaint against him was filed on August 6.

Full story on Page 2

No explanation for delays at Phuket Immigration Office

PHUKET Immigration chief Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij dodged questions about foreigners' complaints about slow services and long queues in Phuket Town.

Col Sunchai is also facing increased pressure from Phuket's governor about a formal complaint about extortion at the Patong branch.

Full story on Page 7

Asian Beach Games expected to bring in record numbers

The 4th Asian Beach Games will see record numbers of tourists arrive on the island as it coincides with the beginning of the high season in Phuket, said Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul.

The Beach Games are expected to generate between 800 million and 1 billion baht.

Full story on Page 4

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This Week



Business

Hock Hoe Lee has enjoyed 56 years in the coffee biz. **Page 29**



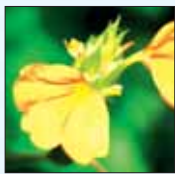
Property

The Mall Group's 20bn-baht Phuket project goes on. **Page 31**



Food

Get ready to go gourmet at JW Marriott Phuket. **Page 33**



Gardening

The firecracker flower and its exploding seed pods. **Page 34**



Cycling

Baz prepares for an epic ride to benefit kids in need. **Page 36**



Sport

SAT predicts Thailand to be on top at Asian Beach Games. **Page 38**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Teacher accused of raping student

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE arrested a 29-year-old teacher at Baan Kalim School on Tuesday for the alleged rape of one of his 12-year-old students.

The teacher, Jirasit Samakkarn, has denied the charges.

The family of the girl, given the pseudonym "A" by police, filed the complaint on August 6.

Mr Jirasit told police that he saw "A" looking unwell and went to check on her.

"I did massage her arms, but I was just trying to make her feel better – there was nothing else to it," Mr Jirasit told police.

"I then took the girl home and told her mother that I had touched the girl's arm. She asked me to pay 150,000 baht. I paid because I wanted that to be the end of the issue, and I was afraid that the school would fire me."

However, the girl's stepfather allegedly requested that Mr Jirasit pay an additional 100,000 baht,



Mr Jirasit was arrested for rape, but has denied the charges.

which he refused to do.

"They filed the complaint immediately after," Mr Jirasit said.

Mr Jirasit was charged with Section 277 of the Thai Criminal Code, which says: "Whoever has sexual intercourse with a girl not yet over fifteen years of age and not being his own wife, whether such girl shall consent or not, shall

be punished with imprisonment of four to twenty years and fined eight thousand to forty thousand baht."

"We still need a complete statement from 'A' and from officers working on the case. Because she is a minor, several departments are involved," Lt Col Sutthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police said.

Aussie owner of Patong's Octopus bar dies

A 63-YEAR-OLD Australian bar owner died on October 31 after returning to Phuket from a visa run to Malaysia. He was to turn 64 the next day.

Philip Gillham, owner of the Octopus bar in Soi Sea Dragon, off Patong's famed Soi Bangla, was found dead at his home.

"We received a report that Mr Gillham had died of a heart attack, so I led a team of officers to his home at about 20 minutes past midnight on [October 29]," said Patong Police Inspector



The Octopus bar. Photo: Gazette file

Sutthichai Tianpho.

"Phongsri Chiyangka, 52, was sitting beside his body on the bed crying."

Mr Gillham had returned from a visa run to Malaysia earlier that

day, and had told Ms Phongsri that he was tired. She told police she left him at home to rest when she went to the bar at 7:30pm.

Ms Phongsri also said Mr Gillham was known to be a habitual drinker and smoker.

Mr Gillham's body was transferred to Patong Hospital.

"We will investigate further in case we uncover anything suspicious, and we will check with doctors to confirm the cause of death," Lt Col Sutthichai said.

– Thawit Bilabdullar

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Shooter confesses

Man surrenders to police for rush-hour traffic murder

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE killer who gunned down a man in rush-hour traffic on October 30 has surrendered himself to Phuket police, claiming he shot the victim in self-defence.

Suwat Sae-jong, 62, was taken to the scene at the Wor Kor Intersection near Phuket Rajabhat University on November 2 to re-enact the fatal shooting, under the protection of about 50 police officers.

Mr Suwat acted out the incident, in which he shot dead Chaliaw Piyapanikul, 47, after the two became embroiled in an altercation over Mr Chaliaw attempting to overtake Mr Suwat on his motorbike. Mr Chaliaw was with his young son at the time.

"Mr Chaliaw cut me off on his motorcycle near the intersection. Once we reached a stop, I yelled over at him and told him that he was crazy. He shouted back at me, telling me that I was crazy, as he got off his motorbike," Mr Suwat explained.

"I warned him that if he came near me I would shoot him, but he still walked toward me. I shot him three times in self-defence



Mr Suwat re-enacts the shooting at the scene of the crime near Phuket Rajabhat University.

before I took off on my bike."

Mr Suwat then led police to a banana grove off Trang Road in Phuket Town, where he dumped his handgun after the shooting.

He explained to police that he was on his way home to Thalang to drop off the weapon when the fight occurred.

Mr Suwat also confessed to police that he lost his temper during the argument, leading to him

using his gun to shoot Mr Chaliaw.

"I am glad that police have taken the shooter into custody," said Kanya Piyapanikul, Mr Chaliaw's widow. "I would like him to face trial. People who cannot control their emotions are a danger to society."

"Cutting someone off in traffic should not end up like this... This incident has greatly affected my son, as it happened right in front

of him. He is not coping well with the loss of his father. It is going to take time before he starts to heal."

Mr Suwat has been charged with murder and for carrying a firearm in public without a licence.

He has been denied police bail and is being held at Phuket City Police Station.



The waterspout set social media sites abuzz. Photo: Supplied

Waterspout over Patong captivates spectators

A WATERSPOUT that emerged in Patong Bay set social media sites abuzz on October 31 with a flurry of comments, stunning photos and videos of the phenomenon.

Some people even expressed fear that the waterspout may turn into a fierce storm that could hit land and wreak havoc.

"There are no storm warnings. People don't need to panic. Waterspouts of this kind occur quite naturally – no one is in danger," Suntad Panbanpeaw, director of the Meteorological Department's Phuket office told the *Gazette*.

"They happen quite often in the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand."

Mr Suntad explained the lightning and electrical activity in the clouds that was also witnessed at the same time as the waterspout.

"During the northwesterly monsoon this year, there has been a lot of cloud formation, but this results in storms mostly at sea – not on the island," Mr Suntad said.

"We were monitoring the electrical activity – it's a natural phenomenon too," he said.

"Please stay calm. Nice weather for the high season is on its way."

– Chutharat Plerin

Man jumps from third-floor balcony of hospital

OFFICERS at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town were forced to restrain a patient in a maniacal fit after he jumped from a third-floor balcony to a balcony on the second floor, and threatened to jump again.

The man, who hospital officers declined to name, was preparing to jump from the second floor to the pavement below when officers were called in to subdue him.

"We arrived at the scene and saw the man with minor cuts and scratches, and a little bit of blood coming out of his mouth," a Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker told the *Gazette*.

"His family had tried but were unable to calm him down, which is why we had

to restrain him."

The rescue worker told the *Gazette* that the man was raving and trying to break free from officers' restraints all the way to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where he is under observation.

"He is now in the ICU under the control of six officers," added the worker.

Doctors have yet to confirm possible causes of the man's outburst. They did confirm, however, that they are assessing his mental condition.

The doctors declined to reveal why he was originally admitted to the hospital or any medical conditions he may have.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



The man was put under observation.

Gate crashers nabbed

POLICE arrested four armed men after the suspects crashed into the front gates of a mosque while attempting to dodge a police checkpoint on Wednesday.

Police began their pursuit of the Isuzu pick-up truck, bearing Trang license plates, after witnessing it turning around in order to avoid a checkpoint in Thalang.

"While we were in pursuit, they tried ramming us," said Lt Suchart Leucha of the Thalang Police. "We both lost control of our vehicles. The truck crashed into the gates in front of the mosque."

Police seized a pump-action shotgun, a homemade handgun with five cartridges and about 100 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) from the truck, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy

Commander Arayapan Pukbuakao.

The suspects were named as Detnarong Sangjan, 29, who drove the pickup; and his passengers Anurak Polpramool, 25; Shinawat Prempre, 24; and Pornchai Sae-ton, 32.

"We have yet to press charges as we are still conducting our investigation," Col Arayapan said.

One bystander narrowly escaped injury during the chase.

Nuliam Kaenphet saw the police chase in action, quickly parked her motorbike in front of the mosque and ran inside.

"Less than a minute later, the pickup crashed into the gates – and my motorbike," Ms Nuliam said.

Another motorbike was also damaged in the crash.

– Thawit Bilabduar



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30th Anniversary



Games to attract hordes of tourists: Minister

Asian Beach Games expected to bring unprecedented number of visitors to Phuket

By Woranut Pechdee

THE island will see an unprecedented number of visitors arriving this month due to the 4th Asian Beach Games, said Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul on her visit to Phuket on October 31.

The minister arrived in Phuket at 4:30pm to inspect preparations at Saphan Hin Stadium – the venue for the opening ceremony – and to see rehearsals for the volleyball tournament to be held on Karon Beach.

“We expect a large number of tourists during the Games, because this is an international sporting event that is taking place during the high season,” said Ms Kobkarn.

“There will be 2,700 athletes, 1,700 referees and about 100 members of international media

joining the event. We anticipate the event to generate between 800 million to 1 billion baht.”

The minister also praised the various organizers of the Games and applauded Phuket’s leaders for their efforts in putting together the international event.

“I am extremely impressed with the progress and am confident everything will be ready on time,” Ms Kobkarn said.

“I saw people rehearsing the medal ceremony, as well as practicing updates on the scoreboard on Karon Beach. I believe that together, we can make this a great event.”

The Game’s organizers will have IT teams at every sporting location to provide free WiFi during the tournaments, which will allow people to spread the word about the Games via social media sites, noted Ms Kobkarn.



Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul led an inspection of the Games venues on October 31.

Ms Kobkarn applauded the island’s police force for their work and expressed her confidence that they would carry out their duties to the best of their abilities during the event.

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

With 26 sports – ranging from air sports to beach basketball – and

168 gold medals up for grabs, the *Phuket Gazette* is proud to represent the island and take the lead in providing up-to-date coverage of the exciting happenings that will soon unfold before us.

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Officers parade down Soi Bangla in support of safety for tourists



Patong Mayor Chalermluck Ketsup (center left) stands beside Royal Thai Police Assistant Commissioner Korkiat Wongworachat (center right).

POLICE forces paraded down Soi Bangla on October 31 to welcome in tourism high season and promote public safety.

Police must remain vigilant over the next few months, as the high season and prominent international sporting events could act as magnets for criminals, said Royal Thai Police Assistant Commissioner Korkiat Wongworachat.

“Not only is this the high season, we also have many events coming up – including Loy Krathong and the 4th Asian Beach Games. These events will be used by criminals to target unsuspecting people,” said Lt Gen Korkiat.

“Police must be ready to keep the peace, and look out for any troublemakers. It’s also important that tourists feel that Phuket police have their well-being in mind.”

Gen Korkiat also said that the unprecedented number of tourists expected to visit the island could lead to traffic problems.

“Heavy traffic will need to be carefully managed by Phuket’s traffic police to avoid serious gridlock during upcoming events,” he said.

Gen Korkiat also took a moment to praise Phuket’s police officers for their hard work in combating island crime.

“I am impressed with the work of the Phuket police force. Preventing crime from happening is one thing, but when it happens, they have had a high rate of success in catching suspects,” he said.

“Please keep up the great work as this will make tourists happy and encourage them to return.”

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Cops crack down on crime in time for Loy Krathong

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A RECENT crackdown on drugs and guns resulted in mounting concern over muggings, especially during the Loy Krathong Festival, which took place this week.

"There will be a great number of tourists and locals participating in the festivities, and we know that criminals look to take advantage of people during events like this," Arayaphan Pukbuakao, a deputy commander of Phuket Provincial Police, explained to the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We are taking preemptive action to get drugs, guns and the criminals who use them off the streets to ensure tourists' safety."

As part of the move, four men were arrested on Tuesday night in possession of three illegal firearms in Patong.

Abhisit Maimard, 25; Akekachai Tohyoa, 28; Anan Wanjae, 26; and Dumree Mama, 24; were caught with the guns when busted for smoking mari-



Kirkchai Boonrit (left), 24, was one of the six arrested in possession of ya ice on Monday.

juana in a rental room.

The men were charged with the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, as well as possession of a Category 5 drug, confirmed Lt Col Suthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police.

Also in Patong, seven minors

were arrested in possession of ya ice (crystal methamphetamine). They were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug.

On Monday, three men and three minors were arrested for possession of ya ice. One was also charged for the possession of

illegal firearms and ammunition.

"We are doing our best to sweep the island clean and prevent any crime during the festival. Any crime or violence will have a negative effect on the tourism industry, and I don't want that to happen," Col Arayapan said.



Mr Prasit (center) was arrested. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Police prevent Patong kratom dealer shooting

PROVINCIAL Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit has praised the Patong Police for taking quick action in arresting an armed motorbike taxi driver preparing to take down a rival kratom drug dealer with a homemade handgun.

Patong Police Inspector Suthichai Tianpho explained that his officers arrested Prasit Punjapon, 34, on October 28.

Mr Prasit was arrested in possession of a homemade handgun loaded with one shotgun cartridge. He also had two other cartridges.

During questioning, Mr Prasit told officers that he was carrying the weapon as he intended to shoot his kratom supplier, 30-year-old Phuket native Sompop Nuanjan, over a drug deal that went wrong.

"We had Mr Prasit call Mr Sompop to arrange a deal, with officers pretending to be the buyers," Lt Col Suthichai explained.

Officers arrested Mr Sompop at the rendezvous on Prabaramee Road on October 29.

"Officers found he was carrying kratom, and he confessed that he had more stashed at his house," Col Suthichai said.

"He was charged with possession of a Category 5 drug and possession of an unlicensed firearm," he said.

Mr Prasit was charged with possession of an illegal firearm and carrying a gun in a public area.

— Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

Slew of injuries prompt Promthep Cape safety boost

FOLLOWING a slew of accidents causing injury, and sometimes death, to tourists at Promthep Cape, officials have decided to install fences in the area to enhance safety.

After refusing to post fences on the grounds that it would alter the natural beauty of the landscape, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos has confirmed that sling wire fences would be installed – pending budget approval – at the end of the year.

"We have come to the decision... that sling wire fences are essential in keeping people safe. They will be placed along the dangerous points of the cape," said Mayor Aroon.

"However, the fences will not affect

the beautiful landscape."

Warnings in Chinese have also been added to cautionary signs throughout the area.

Patrolling officers are also sent down to the cape at dusk each day to check for any tourists who might be lingering in the area.

"We currently have officers patrol the area and provide safety advice to tourists. At 6:30pm, they go down to the cape to bring back tourists before dark," Mayor Aroon said.

"I encourage everyone to read the warning signs and take what the officers say seriously, not only at Promthep Cape but all over Phuket, for your safety and happiness."

— Khumpee Prasertphol



Signs with warnings in Chinese. Photo: Rawai PR



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Jet-skis stay despite days of mayhem

From page 1

...minor injuries as the jeep drove over her, with its wheels plowing the sand on either side of her.

Four days later, a jet-ski came dangerously close to hitting a surfer and children playing in the water at Surin Beach, a dark precursor to a fatal jet-ski accident at Patong Beach on Monday.

Russian tourist Iliya Muryndin, 29, died after he fell and struck his head on the rented jet-ski he was riding in the strong surf in Patong Bay.

"He rented a jet-ski at about midday. He fell and hit his head on the jet-ski while riding large waves," said Maj Weerapong Rakito of the Patong Police.

Beach guards rushed into the surf and recovered Mr Muryndin, who was unconscious.

"He was rushed to Patong Hospital and then transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, but was pronounced dead on arrival," Maj Weerapong said.

At the meeting on Tuesday, Governor Nisit expressed sorrow

for the death of Mr Muryndin.

"It was a sad accident. We will continue to evaluate jet-ski safety to make sure they are doing a good job," he said.

Mr Phuriphat assured Governor Nisit that appropriate action would be taken on any further incidents.

"I have ordered the Bang Tao Jet-Ski Club not to allow jet-skis to operate on Surin Beach, as it is a no-jet-ski zone. I have also reiterated to other jet-ski operators on the island what I've said with regards to breaking the rules," Mr Phuriphat said.

"If jet-skis are seen on Surin Beach again, I will take the issue to Governor Nisit and ask him to revoke the licences of all jet-ski operators in Phuket," he warned.

"The rules have been put in place for a reason. If they are not adhered to, we will have no more jet-skis on the island."

"We cannot check up on operators all the time, so it is up to the jet-ski clubs to self-regulate and make sure operators are not breaking the rules."



Jet-ski operators are allowed to keep renting their machines to tourists at island beaches. Photo: Irfan Jamdukor



A jet-ski nearly collided with a surfer at Surin Beach. Photo: Supplied

A key condition of the rules is that jet-skis can no longer be parked on the beach. Instead, they must remain in the water or otherwise be removed completely from the sand.

"The operators will have 12 areas in Patong where jet-skis may remain in the water near the beach. These areas will lie between 16 roped off swimming zones," Mr Phuriphat explained.

"Each swimming zone will be 150 meters wide at the beach and extend 50m into the water."

"Buoys will be attached to the ropes to mark the outer boundaries of the swimming zones, which will be 100m wide."

Parasail operators will also be allowed to keep working from the island's beaches, but not in areas where jet-skis come and go, Mr Phuriphat confirmed.

"There are 286 jet-ski operators and 36 parasail operators registered with the Phuket Marine Office. All of these operators have insurance."

"There will be no more," he assured.

See editorial "Jet-skis must go – for good" on page 12.

Bangkok officials inspect controversial dolphin park

FISHERIES officials from Bangkok examined the controversial Nemo Dolphinarium in Chalong on Wednesday.

"Five officers came to inspect the facility and question the owners," said Suchart Youngsup of the Phuket Fisheries Office. "Everything is being taken care of by Bangkok officials. We are just supporting them as necessary."

A direct connection between five wild caught dolphins bound for the dolphinarium and the annual slaughter of thousands of dolphins at the Taiji cove in Japan has been confirmed by the Asia Director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Gary Stokes.

"The dolphinarium has become a sensitive issue. We are aware that such facilities are banned in some other countries," Mr Suchart said.



Nemo dolphinarium in Chalong. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Fishery Management Bureau Director Marnop Chaengkij earlier this year confirmed that if the facility did meet the department's standards, there would still be a "long way to go" before it would be able to open its doors.

"Even if they are allowed to operate the dolphinarium, we must ensure that all of their paperwork is legal [first]," Mr Marnop said.

– Chutharat Plerin

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Governor orders all Thai boats to carry AIS safety transceivers

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong called on the Phuket Marine Office on Tuesday to require all vessels, including speedboats and fishing trawlers, to be equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transceiver.

The use of an AIS device is standard safety policy in many places around the world, as they inform skippers of small craft of the location, direction and speed of larger vessels that are restricted in their ability to maneuver.

Governor Nisit's request came as Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut gave a tour of the "one-stop yacht center" at Chalong Pier, where the AIS monitoring system is housed.

"I like the idea of AIS being installed on all boats, especially if Phuket is to be known as a world-class boating destination," Gov Nisit said.

"If possible, I would like to see local tour boats and fishing boats using the system as well. At least, this way, we can know immediately about any accidents and who was at fault."

Last month, a speedboat driver crashed into a fishing trawler, killing two Koreans and injuring dozens of tourists.



Marine chief Phuriphat (center) explains the AIS vessel tracking system to Governor Nisit (right) at the 'one-stop yacht center' on Tuesday.



An official from the Marine Office holds up an AIS transceiver.

In September, Mr Phuriphat ordered all foreign-flagged vessels be fitted with AIS devices by October 1.

Mr Phuriphat later clarified that

all foreign-registered craft – including small, recreational yachts – would be required to carry an AIS transceiver, as is required of larger vessels.

"This is being done for safety reasons," he said.

Mr Phuriphat explained at the time that he would sign into effect the same order for all Thai boats that are registered to carry 25 or more passengers "as soon as possible".

However, the Marine Office has yet to issue any order requiring Thai vessels to carry AIS devices.

– Chutharat Plerin

The immigration waiting game

By Chutharat Plerin

Phuket immigration chief Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij has avoided answering questions regarding complaints from foreigners about slow service and long queues spilling out of the office in Phuket Town, with some foreigners having to return over several days in order for their applications to be processed.

One foreigner reported to the *Gazette* that he arrived at the office in Phuket Town at 9am on October 29 only to be told to come back that afternoon.

"I was told to come back after lunch, at about 12:55pm, otherwise I would not get a number for the afternoon session," he wrote.

"Thinking I was clever, I returned to immigration at 12:30pm. By then, the queue was already down to the bottom of the stairs outside the building. At 12:55pm, one of the immigration volunteer foreigners came out with 30 numbers to give out to long-stay visa applicants.

"There was a scramble for the numbered cards. I managed to get the last one by demanding, 'Give it to me!'

"The volunteer looked a bit sheepish and retreated into the office. For what it was worth, he might as well have scattered the 30 numbered cards that ensured you would be processed, like so many breadcrumbs."



Excessively slow service at Phuket Immigration has sparked complaints, while Governor Nisit Jansomwong (inset) awaits an explanation as to why a foreigner filed a formal complaint alleging extortion.

One elderly man who had been queuing since 9am just to get his passport given back to him with the appropriate visa finally received it at about 3:25pm, wrote the foreigner.

"I think he did anyway. I was the last and waited from 1pm until 3:25pm to be seen. The offi-

cial mumbled something about finding my old passport record and told me to come back tomorrow to have the passport processed," reported the expat, a Brit.

"It is chaos every day. I asked one of the volunteers what had caused this farce and he replied

that numbers of applicants had increased."

When asked about the issue, Col Sunchai replied only that the visitor lobby is currently undergoing renovations.

"The work will be finished within two weeks," he said.

Col Sunchai did not comment

when asked about the lack of officers on duty at the office, and did not provide any other explanation for the long queues.

He also declined to explain what would happen if a foreigner overstayed his or her visa because of the delay in passport processing.

The reports of exhaustive waits at the immigration office in Phuket Town come as Col Sunchai faces increasing pressure to explain to Governor Nisit Jansomwong as to why a foreigner filed a formal complaint about immigration officers at the Patong branch extorting cash payments from foreigners for services that are normally free.

If the explanation fails to demystify the incident, the governor said he would launch an investigation.

Governor Nisit confirmed with the *Gazette* earlier this week that Col Sunchai had until November 6 to file his report.

"I am not expecting any particular answer. However, I want to be told what is going on, and what the problems are. I will listen to everyone, both government officers and private individuals," he said.

"I would like to see more officers being sincere. Whether these allegations turn out to be true or false, this kind of news spreading is not good for the image of government officials."

Foreigners urged to report cases of corruption

THE National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) Phuket office announced that resident expats and tourists in Phuket should report cases of corruption to its officers.

"We are encouraging all foreigners on the island to come forward with any allegations of corruption involving local government officials," said Tawichat Nillakan of the NACC Phuket office.

Complaints were accepted at the NACC office at Provincial Hall from November 5-7, between 9am and 4pm.

"There are a lot of foreigners living in Phuket who have fallen victim to corrup-

tion. For this reason, my superiors at the Bureau of International Affairs in Bangkok agreed to provide us with interpreters," Mr Tawichat told the *Gazette* last week.

"This will ensure that we are able to get the facts straight and provide the best service possible."

Mr Tawichat said that opening the office to foreigners with complaints was also an important step in showing the world that Thailand was serious about dealing with corrupt officials.

"In the past year, Thailand has ranked poorly on Transparency International's

Corruption Perceptions Index. Therefore, it's necessary to hold this kind of event to show the world that our process is transparent and that we are genuinely trying to tackle the problem," he said.

The global watchdog released its annual report on corruption last year, which again showed Thailand ranking poorly.

"This time, we could only provide English-speaking officers, but in the future we will repeat this exercise and offer interpreters for other languages too – such as Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean," said Mr Tawichat.

– Chutharat Plerin



Tawichat Nillakan of the Phuket NACC.

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Marine chief demands tourists use life jackets

Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut has urged all boat operators to enforce the use of life jackets by tourists in an effort to increase safety

By Chutharat Plerin

MARINE officials are demanding that all Phuket boat passengers wear life jackets as efforts are ramped up to improve tourists' safety ahead of the incoming high season.

"Tour boats in Phuket take thousands of tourists out to sea every day. We have to do everything in our power to ensure that their passengers are safe," said Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut.

"We will be randomly checking boats to make sure that they are seaworthy and are following our regulations.

"I have hired 15 staff who will be stationed at each pier on the island to ensure that every single passenger is wearing a life jacket.

If they are not, the boat will not be allowed to leave the pier."

The Marine Office and Marine Police will also be on the lookout for overloaded boats and

intoxicated boat captains, Mr Phuripat added.

Despite the tightened security and stricter rules, Mr Phuripat admitted that his officers can only do so much.

"One problem we have encountered is tourists who take off their life jackets after the boat departs. We have to leave that responsibility to the captain," he said.

"We will, however, have officers on sea patrol. If any captain is caught with passengers not wearing life jackets, I will consider revoking his or her licence."

Mr Phuripat urged boat opera-



"We can only do so much to patrol and ensure safety at sea. This responsibility falls mainly on the boat crews... We ask all tour boat operators to take care and prioritize the safety of their passengers"

– Phuripat Theerakulpisut, Phuket Marine Office Chief



Officials are demanding that all tour boat passengers wear life jackets, or else the boat will not be able to leave the pier. Photo: Athip Karndee

tors to take passenger safety seriously.

"We can only do so much to patrol and ensure safety at sea. This responsibility falls mainly on the boat crews," he said.

"We ask all tour boat operators to take care and prioritize the safety of their passengers."

Last month, a speedboat driver crashed into a fishing trawler,

killing two Koreans and injuring dozens of tourists.

Following the horrific crash, Jiraporn Jantarasiri, deputy director of the Marine Department, led officials to Royal Phuket Marina for an unannounced safety spot check.

Officials found no safety violations during their inspection of the boats and passengers.



The boat was struck by lightning.

Tourist boat rescued safe after struck by lightning

A SPEEDBOAT, struck by lightning while returning from a day trip to the Similan Islands on Monday night, was recovered safely with all 32 tourists and five crew on board alive and well.

Officials lost contact with the boat at about 8:30pm.

"They were returning from Koh Tachai to Baan Nam Khem in Takuapa. At last report, they said they were about 11 nautical miles from Baan Nam Khem Pier," said Nat Kongkesorn, Similan Islands National Park chief.

"We immediately sent a team of officers to go find them, assisted by sailors from the Royal Thai Navy base at Tab Lamu."

The speedboat was first spotted by a fishing trawler, whose crew reported seeing the vessel west of Surin Island at 1:30am.

"We notified the search teams, which found the boat foundering in large waves about two miles from Surin Island," Mr Nat told the *Gazette*.

The boat was struck by lightning during an offshore storm.

"The lightning frazzled the boat's communications and navigation systems. The captain didn't know where to go," Mr Nat said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

AMCHAM forum will discuss future of Phuket's marine tourism industry

THE American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Thailand has organized a special forum event set for November 21 which will focus on the future of Phuket's marine tourism industry.

The event will take place starting at 4:30pm at Outrigger Laguna Beach Phuket. It will feature a diverse panel of speakers, all of whom have a stake in and hope for a bright future for the industry.

Phuket is widely known for its varied marine industry and aquatic life. The island boasts a vibrant yachting scene, healthy diving industry and is blessed with easily accessible snorkeling spots.

However, the reputation of the island's sparkling big blue is under attack. It is feeling the effects of diminishing fish stocks, boat accidents, poor safety maintenance, the keeping of wild dolphins in captivity, yachting restrictions and



Ric O'Barry. Photo: The Dolphin Project pressures put on the diving community by authorities.

Natasha Eldred, of Shine PR, will lead a discussion on the current challenges and what can be done to counter them.

Among the topics to be discussed will be how the introduction of new tourist attractions will affect the island's track record of marine conservation and how the fight against such places has brought communities together.

Joining the discussion with Ms

Eldred will be speakers such as Claude Sauter, the general manager of The Surin and president of SKAL; Ric O'Barry from The Dolphin Project and award-winning documentary *The Cove*; Vincent Tabuteau, owner of Asia Marine, who will comment on the recent new restrictions and regulations in the yachting industry; Parusu "Khun Por" Komaradat, a well-established instructor, trainer and technical diver, who will speak on behalf of the diving industry; and John Gray, a well-loved local environmental leader.

The forum is open to the public, with admission for non-AMCHAM members costing 100 baht.

– Phuket Gazette

To sign up for the forum, visit www.amchamthailand.com, contact Khun Orn at 02-2541041 ext 214 or eventbooking@amchamthailand.com




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AROUND THE nation

PM reaches out to lower-income communities

PRIME Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has promised to deliver "happiness" as New Year gifts to low-income people.

"Through projects to be launched by various ministries, people will get free stuff and access to low-priced products," PM Prayuth said on Monday.

He pointed out that relevant authorities had already begun working on projects to extend help to people affected by his government's efforts to better regulate land use and prevent forest encroachment.

If the prime minister gives a nod to preparations of the "community land plots for livelihoods" plan, a handout of more than 1 million rai of land to the landless will begin as early as January.

At a meeting between the Royal Forest Department (RFD), Agricultural Land Reform Office and the Land Department, the plan to allocate 1.05mn rai of land as "community land plots" to landless people was discussed.

Director-General Theerapat Prayunrasiddhi of the RFD said the land plots for handouts would be from degraded forest zones.

"Under the new scheme, land plots won't be given to individuals, but a community or a group of individuals," he explained.

Implementation would be done via the National Land Police Committee, which has PM Prayuth as its chair and Gen Dapong as the deputy chair.

Now, the RFD is in the process of examining who should be entitled to get land plots under the new scheme.

According to Mr Theerapat, the government is also preparing to hand out community forest to 260 communities across the country.

"It can begin in January," Mr Theerapat said.

DNA tests clear Koh Tao headman's son of murder

A DNA test result from the Police General Hospital's Institute of Forensic Medicine has cleared the 22-year-old son of a Koh Tao village headman, watched closely by many Thai social-media users, in the murder of two British tourists on the popular holiday island.

The institute compared the DNA of Warot Tuwichien to evidence at the scene, as well as a DNA sample found on the female tourist's body, and reported back to police that it didn't match any of them, a source reported on October 31.

Police had arranged for the test by medical teams from four institutes on Mr Warot – in front of the media – so as to boost public confidence in the police handling of the case, reported *The Nation*. They were trying to clear skepticism amid claims that the two Myanmar men charged with the murders were scapegoats.

The murder of the two Britons on Koh Tao in September made headlines both locally and internationally, and received close attention from the public, especially social-media users.

With the two Myanmar workers arrested for the killings claiming they were tortured into confessing, social-media users



Warot Tuwichien underwent DNA testing by four medical institutions in front of the press.

urged that Mr Warot – son of Woraphan Tuwichien, a village headman on Koh Tao and owner of a bar there – should be treated as a person of interest, despite police ruling him out as a suspect.

Police arranged for the DNA test on Mr Warot but have made clear that the results will not be part of their official investigation report on the murder case. National Police Commissioner

Somyot Poompanmoung said at a press conference last week that the report had already reached public prosecutors and police could not add anything to it unless told to by the prosecutors.

"Police initially did not interrogate or require Warot to undergo DNA testing because he offered proof he was not on Koh Tao at the time the crimes took place," Mr Somyot explained.

Mr Somyot warned social-media users to think twice before making claims about the case on the Internet.

"This sharing can affect society. It can cause social division and hurt Thailand's and Koh Tao's tourism economy," he said, adding that sharing false information on the Internet was an offence punishable under the Computer Crimes Act.

Moves underway to remove Thai police from Koh Tao probe

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will discuss next week what action should be taken after police again failed to answer a summons related to the much-publicized murders of two Britons on Koh Tao, reported *The Nation* on Tuesday.

Despite the summons, police failed to come before an NHRC subcommittee last week and also on Monday.

The subcommittee's chairman Dr Niran Pitakwatchara, who is also an NHRC commissioner, said on Monday he would raise the issue during a meeting on November 12.

"By law, we can lodge a complaint with police against those who ignore our summons," Dr Niran said.

His subcommittee is looking into allegations

that two Myanmar suspects, who were arrested for the gruesome murders, were tortured into confessing to the killing.

The suspects' parents are now in Thailand trying to seek help from various authorities as they believe their sons are innocent.

The parents called on the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) to take over from police the probe into the murders.

Surapong Kongchantuk, who heads a panel extending help to the Myanmar suspects, said given that police were now a party in the conflict with the suspects, who accused them of torture, they should not be in charge of investigating the case anymore.

DSI chief Suwana Suwanjuta said her department would look into the petition.



The suspects' parents are seeking help from relevant Thai authorities.

B7.79bn set aside for deep South development in bid to curb insurgency

A HUGE budget has been approved for development projects in the deep South, as part of the government's efforts to win over the local Muslim population and subdue the decade-long insurgency.

Col Banphot Phoolphan, a military spokesman, said on Monday that spending of the 7.79-billion-baht budget would be supervised by a new ad-hoc administrative center and overseen by Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, who is also the defence minister.

The scheme would be jointly carried out under a high-profile policy by 55 government agencies next year, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Prawit has issued a strict policy for military units in the southernmost provinces to keep in mind that they are stationed there to serve and look after the local people – not to fight against them.

Some 1.7bn baht was also approved to create a Navy paramilitary regiment to eventually replace Army regulars in the strife-torn region.

The regiment would have 16 companies of male rangers, a platoon of female rangers, and would be set up in two years' time, said Col Banphot.

Also acknowledged was the Army's delivery of 3,700 HK-33 assault rifles to the Interior Ministry for distribution to civil defence volunteers acting as self-defence village-protection units on guard duty.

There is a plan to recruit 3,000 volun-



Schools have re-opened in the deep South.

teers from 2,000 of those based in the far South and 1,000 from elsewhere across the country.

Mr Prawit has said the surge in violence was possibly intended by militants to push for a new round of talks between active insurgent cells and security au-

thorities, but he disapproved of such an approach, saying future talks should start with peace from the insurgents.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has ordered tactical readjustments to the Army's routine operations aimed at coping with the spike in violence over the past few weeks,

based mainly on proactive and counterintelligence, and more road checkpoints.

PM Prayuth said other military or civilian measures including psychological and outreach projects should be utilized further to win over the local population.

Differentiation between insurgents and local Muslims should be done more efficiently, along encouraging locals to denounce violence and the distortion of Islam by insurgent ideologists, PM Prayuth said.

Meanwhile, a Princess of Narathiwat University student who was shot last Sunday remains in critical condition. The woman will soon undergo surgery to remove a bullet from the back of her head.

Many schools, including 369 in all 13 districts in Narathiwat, reopened for the new semester under especially tight security by soldiers, police and defence volunteers.

Phuket: a sports tourism hot spot

FIRST PERSON

ALL of the 16 sponsors of the 4th Annual Asian Beach Games have been working hard to make this the greatest event possible. We thank them for that. We believe that this event will reveal a new Phuket, and moreover, a new Thailand, to the world.

This event is very important because it will be televised around the world. There are about five sports that will definitely be televised, including volleyball, football and Muay Thai.

People from around the world – not only the athletes, the families and the referees – will see Phuket, and hopefully Thailand, in a new light. Even with a new government, the interim government, Thailand is at peace and more beautiful than before.

After the military and government regulated our beautiful beaches, we were able to return them to the tourists, as well as to the Thais, in the same condition that they used to be and should always be: clean and beautiful.

As a result, I believe that people who have been to Phuket before will have the urge to return to our country and visit again.

We are promoting the Asian Beach Games not just for the sports aspect, but for tourism in general. We believe that coming together to watch this event will

The Asian Beach Games is one of the ways we can start to showcase Phuket as a world-class sporting destination.



Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, 54, is the Tourism and Sports Minister of Thailand. She was appointed by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha in August. She studied in the United States, graduating from Rhode Island School of Design. Before becoming minister, Ms Kobkarn was a chairperson at Toshiba Thailand.

Here, she expresses excitement for the upcoming 4th Asian Beach Games and hopes that the event will open up Thailand to the world, attract more people to the island's beautiful beaches, and provide a springboard from which to launch Phuket as a world-class sports destination.

allow people to learn more about other places – other countries involved in the games.

The people watching, whether they are here or at home, will have the chance to explore many places through the event.

We hope that the athletes and their families will want to come to the island earlier and stay longer. Moreover, we hope that the people who have seen the event on television and who have read about it in the news will want to come visit Phuket as well.

We also want to encourage the use of social media. We will have high-quality WiFi at every venue,

which is very important nowadays.

The attendees will be able to chat, take pictures and share their experiences.

I think this will be very powerful. Spectators will be able to show the world that they, and their friends and families, are in Phuket and enjoying themselves.

A sports tourism destination is one of the things that Phuket is more than capable of becoming. Phuket has all of the facilities needed and is ready to promote this segment of tourism. In terms of the many kinds of tourism that already exist, Phuket is a great location for dive tourism, among many others.

The Asian Beach Games is one of the ways we can start to showcase Phuket as a world-class sporting destination.



The Taiji Cove dolphin slaughter is happening now. Photo: Dolphin Project

Dolphin disaster

Island View

By Lou Mouille

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

MY NAME is Lou. I am 10 years old and I am passionate about dolphins. I have been working on a "passion project" about dolphins with Vicki from the Dolphin Project and Gecko Community Phuket.

Do you know what is happening in Taiji, Japan at this moment?

Dolphins are being captured in a small bay called "The Cove". The beautiful ones are sent to dolphinariums in an airplane. Ones that are not suitable for eating or not beautiful enough for dolphinariums are released. The rest are killed for food.

Dolphins are suffering and being drowned when fishermen put iron rods and sharp pieces of wood in their blowholes! These dolphins die in a panicked state.

This dolphin slaughter takes place from September 1 to March 31 in Taiji every year. The people that kill the dolphins sell the meat, but label it as whale meat. Many people in Japan are not aware of this dire situation or that dolphin meat contains mercury, which can cause brain damage.

About 20,000 dolphins are being slaughtered worldwide every year, 2,000 of which are killed in Taiji.

In Phuket, people are opening a dolphinarium. These dolphins were caught in Taiji, and have already been transported to the Ukraine.

As you know, dolphins stick together in a pod, so the dolphins bound for the park watched their family being slaughtered before

they were brutally captured.

We know that keeping dolphins in captivity is cruel. Dolphins swim about a hundred miles per day in the sea. In a single pool at the dolphinarium, they would be swimming in circles in front of a screaming crowd.

Their sonar – the way they communicate – will rebound off the walls of the pool. Imagine when they are angry, all that anger is hitting the walls of the pool and coming back at them.

Imagine if you and your family were captured, your brother taken to a dolphinarium, your parents killed for food and you were released hearing their screams and seeing their blood.

You can help stop this dolphin slaughter by signing a petition on www.blooddolphins.net and by spreading the word. You can help stop the Phuket dolphinarium by making your friends aware and by refusing to buy a ticket to a dolphin show anywhere in the world, because if we do go to a show, we are supporting them.

Whenever people speak about environmental problems, they say that the "new generation" will be the ones to fix it. Well, we are the new generation – so let's fix it!

Thank you.

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

When is the next Australian Embassy outreach clinic coming to Phuket?

I WAS unable to attend the recent consular outreach clinic in Phuket. I need to renew my Australian passport and I will be applying for a renewal in the coming months.

Will the consular section be returning to Phuket any time soon? If so, do you have any idea when that might be?

I'd like to thank the Aussie Embassy for launching these outreach clinics – they are extremely helpful.

Damian Evans,
Chalong

Trudy McGowan, the Australian Embassy in Bangkok's First Secretary and Consul, replies:

Thank you for your comments on the usefulness of these visits.

We will be coming to Phuket again some time in December, but I am not sure exactly when. At this stage we have yet to set a date or a venue.

Keep an eye on both our website and our Facebook page, where we will post details regarding any planned outreach clinic as soon as they become available.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Searching for pet-friendly lodging

WE WILL soon travel from Sweden to Bangkok. After spending a few days in the Pratunam area, we will travel to our house in Phuket.

This time we will bring our dog with us. He is specialized in helping my handicapped daughter. He has a certificate, passport, all necessary vaccinations and, of course, he is house trained.

We have not been able to find any list of pet-friendly hotels in Bangkok. I am afraid to book from Sweden only to be refused check-in because of our dog. What should we do? I can't find any solution from here.

Vivi-Anne,
Sweden

A staffer at the Reservations Department at Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok replies:

Our hotel is pet-friendly. We are located on Rama I Road, not far from the Pratunam area.

We usually allow pets that do not weigh more than five to six kilograms, but we do not enforce any weight restrictions on assistance pets. However, pets are only allowed in guests' rooms and in assisting their owners to and from their rooms.

In addition, we levy an accommodation fee for your pet of 1,150++ baht per night.

For information, call us +66 (0)2 162-9000 or email us through our website: www.kempinski.com/en/bangkok/

A staffer at the Reservations Department at the Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok replies:

We are a pet-friendly hotel lo-

cated on Ratchadamri Road and not far from the Pratunam area.

We can accommodate pets that do not weigh more than 7kg. However, there might be an exception for assistance pets.

If you are bringing a pet, please notify us before arriving.

There will be no charge.

For more information, call us at +66 (0)2-126-8866 or email us through our website at www.fourseasons.com/bangkok



Bring her too. Photo: Liability Wildflower

Jet-skis must go – for good

THE *Gazette* joins its online readers in expressing outrage at the recent announcement by the Marine Office that jet-ski rental operators will be allowed to remain on island beaches.

The dumbfounding news comes despite a woman being run over by a jet-ski trailer on Kata Beach, children nearly being hit by a jet-ski at Surin Beach and a Russian tourist killed while riding one of the machines at Patong – all in the same week.

Thanks to the brilliance of the Marine Office, not only are operators permitted to continue renting out jet-skis at Phuket's key tourist beaches, but they will do so under a set of new "rules" that will be even harder to enforce than those that preceded them.

When the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) took power in May, few people in Phuket were prepared for the overhaul that transformed the island's beaches, elevated tourist safety to a top priority and sent a signal that the days of tourism-killing corruption would no longer be tolerated.

The subsequent arrest of several prominent local politicians and their protégés on corruption charges were telling first signs that the NCPO meant business. The subsequent bombshell announcement that key officials at local administrative bodies were to be charged with illegally divvying up public beach land to rake in untold millions from beach vendor concessions over the years seemed to be a coup de grâce in returning beaches to the public.

After such milestone events as the arrest of two longstanding mayors and the clearing of beaches of all vendors, allowing jet-ski operators to continue running their businesses beggars belief.

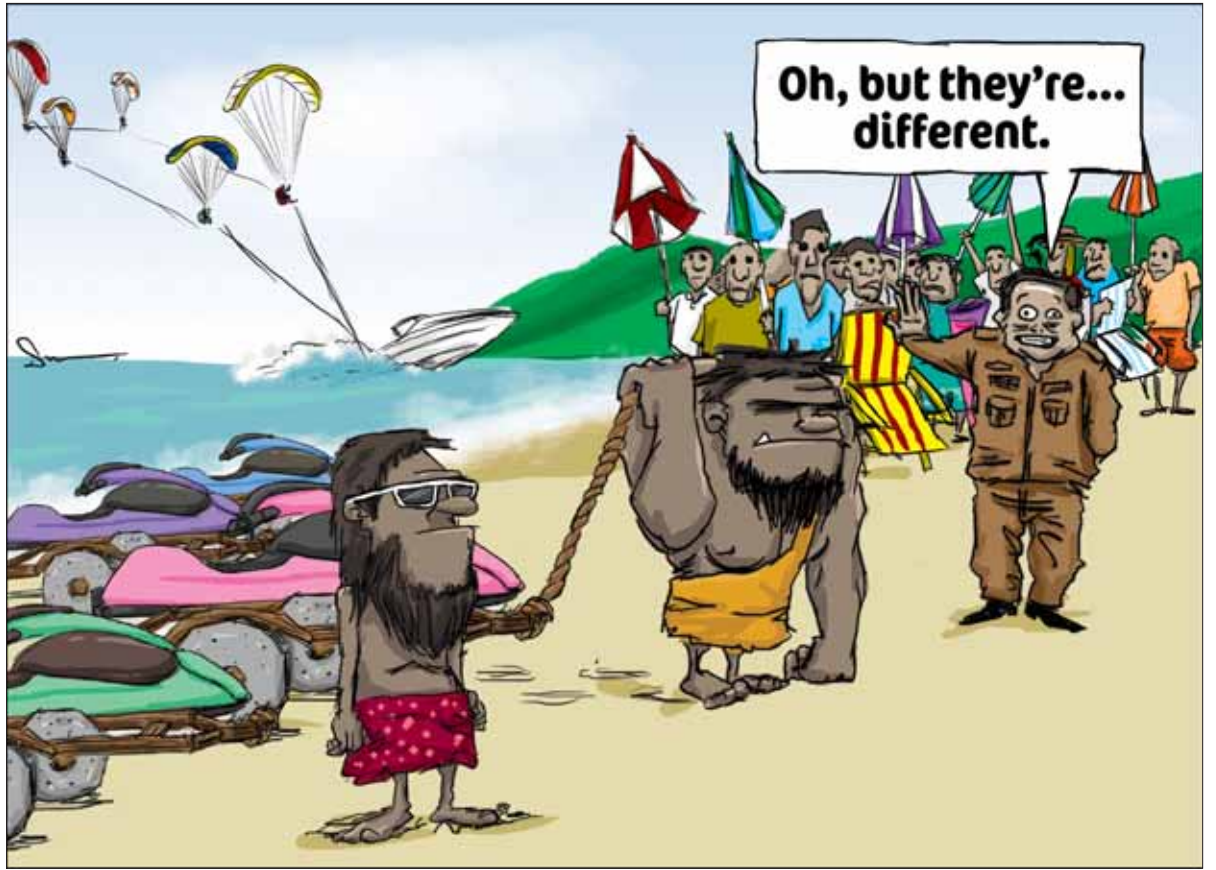
It also flies in the face of the NCPO itself, which ordered that jet-ski operators come under closer scrutiny as part of the cleanup campaign. In Phuket, these operators are one of the few allowed to bring their machines across the sands each morning and night in order to keep operating at the beach.

Equally irrational is the pronouncement that would-be swimmers in Patong, now deprived of the right to rent a lounge and umbrella, will be segregated like aquarium fish into 16 de-facto "swimming pens", each of which will taper down to a width of just 100 meters just 50 meters offshore.

A pen and a napkin quickly reveal just how favorable the plan is to jet-ski operators, as well as parasail operators whose welfare also seems to be of high importance to the Marine Office.

One can only speculate on possible motives for the Phuket Marine chief's vigorous, long-term support of an industry that has brought so much disrepute to the island over the years.

The *Gazette* would like to call on the NCPO, which includes the national police headquarters in Bangkok as one of its pillars, to fully review the jet-ski plan – and the real rationale behind it.



Phuket is going to the jet-skis

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket jet-skis face new rules for tourism high season, November 1*

The Marine office has given Phuket to the jet-ski mob.

They've approved 286 jet-skis for the island, which is a ridiculous amount. It more than doubles the number of jet-skis on the beaches now.

In the past week, the jet-ski boys have run over a tourist with a jeep and pulled off another in the long line of tourist scams, fleecing a tourist family of 50,000 baht.

They remain an international embarrassment.

Kamalala
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

I've never commented on this forum before, but after reading the issue of the late delivery of mail or no delivery at all, especially of parcels, I felt motivated to write.

We live in Chalong – a house, not a secure villa – and very rarely get our bills before the due date of payment, if at all.

We never receive parcels unless they are registered, which is at the extra expense of our friends and family who have been so kind already as to send us something.

We have constantly complained and still have received no better service. I think the whole postal system needs an overhaul to eradicate theft.

Chris
Chalong

Not sure if the fences will increase safety

Re: *Gazette online, Slew of tourist injuries prompt Phuket cape safety boost, October 30*

I wonder how many people will be injured or drowned climbing over, or going around, the wire fences to take better photos.

There are signs and red flags on the beaches advising people not to swim during the wet monsoon season – but the signs' presence hasn't reduced fatalities.

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Tired of the island's postal system...

Re: *Gazette online, I & A: Mail missing in Phuket? The answer is in the post, October 29*

I too have sent several cards and parcels from the UK to Chalong Bay, Phuket. Now, I have given up sending greetings cards completely because they never arrive, which is infuriating.

I have also sent parcels. Two out of three did not arrive. Luckily, I was entitled to compensation, but this is just not good enough.

Even when things are delivered they usually take at least a week, sometimes two.

I also send post to Australia, which is often delivered within three to four days – and it's twice as far!

Anita Lacey
UK

... it's either snail mail, or nothing at all

Re: *Gazette online, I & A: Mail missing in Phuket? The answer is in the post, October 29*

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket expats, tourists called upon to report corrupt officials, October 31*

Corruption works both ways. People with no legal right to a visa are happy to pay for one. It's not only staff extorting the vulnerable.

There is always temptation which can easily be exacerbated by the poor pay of civil servants.

Any attempt to control it should be hailed as a step forward.

Anon
Gazette forum

Save the plastic – and the tomatoes

Re: *Gazette online, Bag it up, Phuket, November 2*

I almost always reuse plastic bags at the grocery and it has never failed to bring on snickers and snide comments from the cashiers, even when I offer to pack it myself – which I do anyway.

They cannot seem to fathom that putting tomatoes at the bottom under canned goods is not a good idea.

The Night Mare
Gazette forum

Another reason to ban

Re: *Gazette online, Russian tourist dies after fall from Phuket jet-ski, November 3*

Marine Office "unaware" – no change there then.

A weather warning and these idiots are still renting out their machines in conditions too rough for safe areas to be designated yet.

This speaks volumes about the level of influence it takes to allow them to remain.

They should be banned at the earliest opportunity as they seem to take delight in flouting the law.

How many more have to be injured, die or be scammed?

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

November 7-8, 9am-9pm. BISP International seven-a-side Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host, for the thirteenth consecutive year, its International seven-a-side Football Tournament on November 7-8, 2014. Again this year we are expecting more than 1,000 young football players from all over Asia, and we are looking forward to another year of exciting competition.

For the second year in a row, we acknowledge the generous support of our major event sponsor, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort and media partner *Phuket Gazette*/PGTV.

If you would like more information about the tournament, please email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia.

November 8-9, 10am-4pm. The Jungle Book Puppet Theater comes to Phuket

The Jungle Book Puppet Theater travels from London to Phuket. It will be hosted at Kajonkietsuksa International School.

Tickets are available at the school. There is limited seating, so hurry and get your tickets now!

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's



EVENTS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
A PHUKET GAZETTE HEADLINE EVENT

DIRECT FROM LONDON, A TRIBUTE TO
BEYONCE
MICHAEL JACKSON
RIHANNA
AT LAGUNA PHUKET

"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 10, 6:30-10pm. Cloudy Bay Wine Dinner at Le Meridien Phuket

An unforgettable evening of select Cloudy Bay Wines from New Zealand paired with an exquisite five-course degustation menu prepared by Le Meridien Phuket's culinary masters, led by Executive Chef Thomas Smith. THB 2,360 net per adult.

November 14, 6-11:30pm. Beatles tribute night

Beatles tribute night @ Two Chefs Karon. The famous Two Chefs house band will be doing a full 20-song set featuring the most famous Beatles classics.

A special set menu will be served at 6pm, then at 9pm the Two Chefs Beatles Tribute show will begin.

Make your reservation now! Only 995 baht, including the show, the set menu and a welcome drink.

For more information, visit our website, or call us. Come for the food, and stay for the fun!

November 15, 7:30-10pm. Triple Tribute: Beyonce / Michael Jackson / Rihanna

Triple Tribute from London brings

Beyonce, Rihanna and Michael Jackson hits to Phuket. It comes with a twist! Ticket price – 1,500 baht concert style, or 1,800 baht for seating (limited).

Three shows for the price of one! Buy your tickets now.

November 19-22, 6am-midnight. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST)

Registration is on the evening of November 19 from 6pm onwards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weigh station will be at the Tamarind on all three fishing days. The final evening and prize-giving party will also be held at the Tamarind. In an effort to show-

case individual team skills, the rules of the tournament this year have been designed to allow teams to fish the event as they would while fun fishing.

This annual event, now in its 10th year, is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show.


November 21 4-6pm. Amcham Marine Tourism Forum: The Challenges of Change

Phuket has been widely known and respected for its diverse marine industry and aquatic life. We have a vibrant yachting scene and a healthy scuba diving industry – vital ingredients in 'Brand Phuket'. But now our reputation for marine tourism is under attack on many fronts – dwindling fish stocks, boat accidents, poor safety standards, yachting restrictions, low respect for marine life and prejudicial treatment of the foreign diving community by government authorities.

Join Natasha Eldred of Shine PR as she leads a discussion of these and other threats to Phuket's reputation as a friendly destination for marine tourists.

Special guest speaker, Ric O'Barry of 'The Dolphin Project' and the award-winning documentary *The Cove*, will elaborate on his well known views with regard to dolphins in captivity.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Free for members of AMCHAM, 100 baht for non-members. Networking drinks will follow the formal program.



Chef Tim
Eat Me

Chef Peter
Incontro Restaurant

Chef Nooror
Blue Elephant Cooking School & Restaurants

Chef Dietmar
JW Marriott Phuket

Chef Norio
JW Marriott Bangkok

JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT & SPA
GOURMET WEEKEND

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5 Master Chefs, 3 Days, 1 Destination.

JW Marriott Phuket's Gourmet Weekend

For the first time ever, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa presents our exclusive Gourmet Weekend. Five internationally renowned chefs will be serving their finest dishes over three days of flavour indulgence at our Ginja Taste, Kabuki Japanese Cuisine Theatre, Marriott Café, Cucina and Andaman Grill restaurants. Learn from each chef in their exceptional cooking classes before our grand Charity Dinner on 16th November, where the chefs will be combining their expertise for a truly exquisite dinner cooked by all five culinary stars. All profits from the Charity Dinner will be donated to the Turtle Shelter & Education Center, protecting and conserving Phuket's endangered sea turtles.

14th – 15th November 2014:
Cooking Class:
THB 1,900++ per person
Dinner:
THB 2,500++ per person

16th November 2014:
Cooking Class:
THB 1,900++ per person
Charity Dinner:
THB 2,900++ per person

Reserve your table and Cooking Class now, places will be going fast!

Contact the Restaurant Reservations Department, call +66 76 338 000 or e-mail mhrs.hktjw.fbdiningexperience@marriott.com

For more information, please visit our website at jwmarriottphuketresort.com

JW MARRIOTT
PHUKET



231 Moo 3, Mai Khao, Talang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: (66)76 338 000 | Fax: (66)76 348 348 | jwmarriottphuketresort.com

YOUR Phuket

Gazette sponsors Asian Beach Games

The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) recently cemented an exclusive Media Partnership Agreement with the *Phuket Gazette*, making it the official media sponsor of the 4th Annual Asian Beach Games.



From left: Montri Chaipun, Acting Governor, Sports Authority of Thailand; Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports, Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul; and Gazette Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand.

Building strong ties with Russia

Media partners *The Nation* and the *Phuket Gazette* met last week with Ambassador Kirill Barsky, the Russian Federation's recently appointed envoy to Thailand. The group discussed the longstanding and growing relationship between Russia and Thailand, as well as the *Gazette/Nation* relationship with Moscow-based media giant *Rossiskaya Gazetta*, publishers of the worldwide English-language newspaper *Russia Beyond the Headlines* (RBTH).



From left: John Magee, publisher of the *Gazette*; His Excellency the Ambassador; Irina Vinokurova, RBTH representative for Thailand; and Pana Janviroj, president of The Nation Multimedia Group. Photo: Russian Embassy, Bangkok.

An Enchanted Evening at Centara

The *Phuket Gazette* recently sponsored 'An Enchanted Evening' at Centara Grand Beach Resort in Karon – a delightful evening of jazz, fine wine and gourmet dining, with proceeds going to the Home & Life Orphanage.



From left: Chef Umberto Piccolini from Anantara Phuket Layan; Chef Laurent Valette of the Centara Karon Blue; Chef Lee Alan Wood from Radisson Blue; Chef Belinda Tuckwell of The Pavilion Resort; and Chef Sandro Aguilera from Iniala Beach House.

91.5 FM PHUKET RADIO.COM

Skal International PHUKET & SOUTH THAILAND

Phuket Gazette PRESENTS

Phuket today

BEACH CHARITY PARTY SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

on a Friday!

28 November 2014 at 19:00h

At TUKKI BEACH – Layan Beach

TICKETS BAHT 2,500 PER PERSON

Including cocktail, dinner and free flow of wine and beer

Unique Showcase: "Christian Develter – Art Fashion Show & Gallery"

DEVELTER

BAND – DJ – MID-AIR CIRCUS ARTS – AUCTION...

...and another hot performance by the famous Skal dancers!

In support of the Phuket Sunshine Village, Barnhem Home for Children, PIWC and SKAL scholarship funds.

RSVP before 20 November at contact@skalphuket.org

In Partnership with:

CHALONG BAY

CHICKEN FOODS

Gourmet One

PERONI ITALY

UBER

wine PRO



Saksri Kerdphol, general manager of Auto Express Phuket.



Eric Smulders and his wife Uraiphan Sae-Sin.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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November 8 - 14, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 16

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week



See page 19

JOB of the week



See page 21

BOAT of the week



See page 25

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Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Questions?
Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

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

Properties For Sale

LAND FOR SALE



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

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.

FIRST TO SEE
WILL BUY

Fantastic value property in Land and House Chalong. Very spacious 6-bedroom pool villa, immaculate property selling for a very low price. First person genuinely looking to buy will want to own this property. 12.9MB. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.com

PLUS CONDO KATHU

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

LARGE SEAVIEW
HOUSE AT LAYAN

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

RAWAI VIP VILLAS
WITH PARK

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

CHALONG
BEACHFRONT
POOL VILLA

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

From Phuket 100km. Between Tubpud and Panom



Near Khao Sok National Park. Land 1 rai, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircon, price: 2.2 million baht. Please call: 081-667 1637 (Thai), 082-539 6433 (English).

LUXURY
POOL VILLA

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

FREEHOLD
POOL VILLA

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

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.

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

LAND PLOTS



Several land plots for sale in Rawai and Nai Harn. Very nice pieces. Some sea view. Chanote. Large and small. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.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.

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.



Condo for Rent/Sale

Rawai Condominium 60sqm., 1 bed, 1 bathroom, Great kitchen, fully furnished, European style, first floor, swimming pool view, price for sale 3.9 million baht, price for rent 30,000 baht for long-term.

For more information

English: Denis 082-539 6433,

Sue 087-897 4421, Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.



LAND & RESORT IN YOUR BUDGET

"The Andaburee Phuket"

Seaview, Mountain View, Mission Hill Golf Course View Project

- Land from 120 sq wah up to 490 sq wah
- Price 15,000 baht per sq wah
- Bali House 7.5 million baht (Can be revised)

Contact: 076-350118, 083-389 7799.

Email: Pee_bang56@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

RESORT

For sale or rent in Patong, 1200sqm land, 20 rooms, pool, restaurant, fully furnished, equipment. Contact email: guidolan do2@hotmail.com

ZCAPE
1-BEDROOM CONDO
LAGUNA

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

KARON BEACH
CONDO

This 1 bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net www.phuketcondo.net

Properties For Rent

DETACHED HOUSE FOR RENT

3-bedroom detached house near Phuket Academy. Tel: 081-719 0014. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR LONG-TERM RENT

23/62, Boat Lagoon. 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, fully furnished. Tel: 084-629 3244. Contact Ms Fon Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

KARON BEACHFRONT APARTMENT

Luxury 5-star 1 BR, pools. 30,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English & Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com www.karonhill.altervista.org

PATONG EXECUTIVE CONDO

Ocean Views, Fully furnished, aircon, parking, security, lift to your door, new WST kitchen. 55" TV, outdoor spa, washing machine, 2bed 2bath, 6mth 35k pmth 12 mth 25k pmth + bond with call John. Tel: 093-752 3642.

KATA BEACHFRONT APARTMENT

Luxury 5-star, 1 Br, pools. 30,000 baht per month. Avail now. www.katasala.com

2 BED, 2 BATH POOL VILLA

Fully furnished, A/C, secure garden, electric gate, car port. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-470 9257 (English & Thai). Email: franapat@gmail.com

DLX SEAVIEW APT

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

BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 bed furnished, WiFi, TV, kitchen, 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

7 BEDROOMS, GOLF VIEW

7 AC bedrooms with private swimming pool in Anuphas Golf Ville, Kathu, close to all Shopping malls and International school. Available for rent from Nov 2014. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpen tering.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Serviced apartment: 66sqm, 2nd floor, 1 living room with pull-out sofa, 1 bedroom. Fully equipped European kitchen, WiFi internet access, cable LCD TV, DVD, stereo system. Maid cleaning, shuttle service to Nai Harn beach, fitness center, spa, poolside restaurant and bar, children's playground. Price: 3,200 baht per night. Contact: 081-550 7379.

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

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

2-BED BEACH CONDOS NAI HARN

Spacious, kitchen, terrace, shared pool, beach 3 minute walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

KATA NOI, 2 BED SEAVIEW

Kata Noi Beach 3 minute walk, 1 & 2 bed apartments with and w / out pool. Email: resortgm@gmail.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

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

FOR RENT NAI YANG / AIRPORT

House for rent near Nai Yang / Airport. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT IN KAMALA

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

URGENT LEASE

Prime location 2 shop houses, special price. Ideal for massage and restaurant. 2 baths / beds. Tel: 095-076 4010 (English & Thai). Email: janum 0012@hotmail.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

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

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

PRIVATE RENTAL PATONG CONDO

1 bed, furn apt, living room, balcony, pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable. Avail now. Want reliable, trustworthy LT tenant, good rate for right person. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: neiln 5nh6@gmail.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

10 UNITS CONDO FOR RENT

In Patong, seaview 7-storey condo with rooftop swimming pool, good lobby, elevator, parking, fully furnished with 1&2 bedrooms, living room, well-equipped kitchen, 4-star property, with cheap rent. Call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786 Email: highstyle condominium@gmail.com

KATA SEAVIEW HOUSE

2 storey, fully furnished, seaview from bedroom, bathroom, livingroom, kitchen, air-con, 3BB and Cable TV. Long term, 16,000. Tel: 088-761 2492 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO IN PATONG

For rent 1 & 2 bedroom, fully furnished, rent daily, monthly & yearly. Contact no. 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786. Email: highstyle condominium@gmail.com

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

Furnished, quiet, good exercise area, 10K baht/month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

Condo, pool, security, 46sqm fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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Household Items

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.



AKA THAILAND Phuket's most innovative fitness, Muay Thai and MMA Camp is looking to expand our family to achieve our mission of helping people train better and live healthier, happier lives. Through our AKA Thailand Family, we are changing the face of fitness, Muay Thai and MMA on the beautiful island of Phuket and the world.

We are looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

Position:

Operations Manager
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Qualifications:

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Thai citizen or foreign national with work permit
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Minimum 3 years' experience in tourism
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Good people skills
Hospitality or customer relations field

Competitive salary for the right candidate. Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV email to info@akathailand.com Tel: 076 604004

TEACHING AT PSU

Prince of Songkla University International College Hat Yai Campus is looking for 4 lecturers for 3D Animation / English and Science Lecturer. Please send CV to psuic@psu.ac.th www.uic.psu.ac.th

OFFICE STAFF

Trading company in Kamala looking for office staff. Female and Thai only. Salary from 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-322663, 086-7734538 (English). Email: skgf@skgf.asia

FRONT OFFICE GIRL WANTED

Patong area, Thai National, good English, hotel experience. Start from 25K. Tel: 085-694 6463 (English & Thai). Email: so litude 001@aol.com

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: ritalouised obson@hotmail.com

HOTEL COOK NEEDED

Filipino cook wanted for western food and Thai food. Must be able to speak and write English. Tel: 076-345670, 083-392 8462. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

MARKETING X REAL ESTATE

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now looking for 2 new marketing executives to join our successful company. We have positions available in Kata and Kamala beach. High salaries and commissions are offered to the right candidates. Please send us your CV at info@phuket-condos-homes.com and we will call you back for an interview. Thai nationals only! Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com

British International School, Phuket

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

Secretary of Administration Office

Building & Ground Coordinator

Qualifications

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments

Maintenance Staff

Qualifications

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree or High Vocational Education in related field of electronic and electrical systems
- Honest and hardworking

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel. 076 335555 # 2113 Fax. 076 335573
E-mail : kojchapant@bisphuket.ac.th,
sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

SALES OFFICE MANAGER

Prime Real Estate is seeking an enthusiastic Sales Office Manager for the Boat Avenue Chermthalay office. Written and spoken English a must. Experience is a plus, but not necessary. Good remuneration package available for the right candidate. To apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email. Tel: 087-893 5052. Email: sales@primerealestate-phuket.com www.primerealestate-phuket.com

HOTEL RECEPTION

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

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.

HEAD OF FINANCE

Live Phuket, the leading online real estate platform, requires a head of finance / finance manager to manage all related to accountancy / finance department. Must speak good English. Excellent pay. www.livephuket.com

HÄFELE

Häfele is one of the leading system suppliers in the fields of furniture fittings, architectural hardware, home appliance, sanitary, tooling, LED lighting and electronic locking systems. Competent, dedicated and responsible employees are the essential basis for our global corporate success.

Sales Rep. - Home Appliance Project Showroom Phuket

Requirements :

1. Male or Female; Thai nationality 24-30 years of age
2. Experienced Sales Professional with a proven track record
3. Good customer service skills & previous experience in a field sales role with home appliances or technology.
4. Making appointments with customers, present product, generate quotes & close the sales.
5. The roles require a good level of spoken and written English, and have PC skills.
6. 6-days work weeks.
7. Good salary, commission & benefits ++
8. Must have own car. Petrol paid by company.

Responsibilities:

Responsible for all sales activities including maintaining clients/memberships, promotion, customer relations etc.

If you would like to contribute to this success in the future we would be pleased to receive your application. Interested candidates please submit your application letter with academic transcript and detailed resume in English to:

sureerat@hafele.co.th

Häfele Design Center Phuket (Branch Office)

Opposite Big C, 81 Moo 5, Chalermprikiet Ror-9 Road, Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000

For any call Tel: 076 304-460 or 0-2728 7103

E-mail: sureerat@hafele.co.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

SALES OFFICER - AQUA MASTER

Leading distributor of scuba diving equipment. We are currently looking for two sales officers based in Chalong. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English), 081-270 4819 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281076. Email: jtissier@aquamaster.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)**

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: **076-388144**

KARON

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

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!



HOOTERS IS HIRING

Hooters, the American-themed sports bar famous for its wings, beer and iconic Hooters Girls, with over 400 locations worldwide, has opened its first legendary Hooters in Patong, Phuket. We are now looking for talented, fun & energetic people for all positions.



1. Assistant General Manager 1 Position

- Thai nationality only / สัญชาติไทย
- Good English, written and spoken. / สามารถ พูด อ่าน เขียน ภาษาอังกฤษได้ดี
- Male / Female / เพศ ชาย หรือ หญิง
- Minimum 4 years' experience in F&B / ประสบการณ์ขั้นต่ำ 4 ปี สายงานอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม
- F&B experience in minimum supervisory capacity / มีประสบการณ์ด้านหัวหน้างานอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม
- Have a track record of evaluation & promotion / มีประวัติด้านการประเมินผล และโปรโมชัน

2. Sales & Marketing 1 Position

- Female / หญิง
- Age 25-40 / อายุ 25-40 ปี
- Speak English well / สื่อสารภาษาอังกฤษได้ดี
- Outgoing & tenacious personality / บุคลิกภาพดี สามารถทำงานนอกออฟฟิศได้
- Capable of creating sales strategies / สร้างกลยุทธ์ทางการตลาดได้
- Create & complete marketing plans / วางแผนเพื่อสร้างผลกำไรให้กับองค์กรได้
- Minimum 2 years' experience in position / ประสบการณ์ด้านการตลาดอย่างน้อย 2 ปี

3. Hooters Girl (Waitress / Bartender)

- Female Only / หญิง
- Age 21-35 / อายุระหว่าง 21-35 ปี
- Good English / สื่อสารภาษาอังกฤษได้ดี
- Outgoing personality / บุคลิกภาพดี
- Hardworking / ขยัน
- Fit / รูปร่างดี
- Have pride in appearance / มีใจรักด้านงานบริการ
- Great Customer Service skills / มีพื้นฐานด้านงานบริการ
- Food & Beverage knowledge / มีความรู้เรื่องอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม
- Experience in F&B field / มีประสบการณ์ด้านอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม

Hooters

48/2 Ruam Jal Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket
Thailand 83150

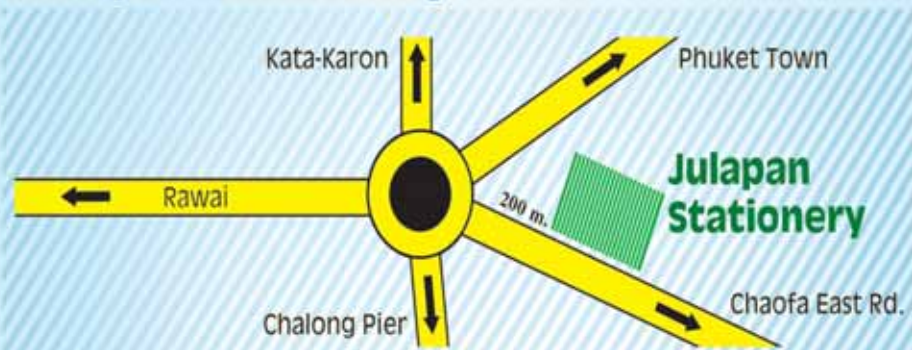
Tel : 076-349850 Fax : 076-349818



Send your full CV, in English and attach photo Via e-mail:

admin@hootersphuket.com

Live in Chalong? Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Aoi: (076-282254)

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

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

SHOP MANAGER

We have a position for a manager to run our busy massage shop to a high standard. You must be self motivated, a good communicator with good Thai / English language skills and good staff management skills. Good salary + bonus. Call for an interview. Tel: 084-247 2935(English). Email: Peter.ritchie@hotmail.co.nz

TO AND REP

DVC: English Reps and TO wanted. Contact: 088-450 1833 and speak with George.076-342794. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

EUROPEAN CHEFS

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

Join an International Team, Princess Yachts Phuket

1 Position: Yacht Charter Assistant;
Excellent written and spoken English, computer and internet skills, secretarial experience, Thai national

1 Position: Marketing Assistant;
Video, Photo, Adobe and internet skills and good English, Thai national

Please call Rico Stapel at: 0866900444 and send resume to rico@princessyachtssea.com



Boat Lagoon Yaching Co., Ltd.
Phone: 0 7623 9739 | Fax: 0 7623 9739
Princess Yachts South East Asia - Phuket Office
22/1 Thepkasattri Rd. Koh Kaew, Phuket, 83000, Thailand

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

Employment Wanted

RECEPTIONIST PART-TIME

Need receptionist from 5pm to 9pm. Must speak basic English. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Business Opportunities

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

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.vikingdivershiphi.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 Cha long. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai).

Personals

JOIN RAWAI BACKGAMMON CLUB

For free. Tel: 081-370 9661.

Personal Services

ENGLISH TEACHER

Find anything online with Qismi Marijossan, like facebook. tel: 081-415 1894.

BRIDE AND HAIR STYLIST

Professional hair stylist. Nail color service at the shop or at your place. Tel: 089-288 1629 (English & Thai).

BACKGAMMON

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

Personal Services Wanted

THAI TRANSLATOR/COMPANION

International company director requires the assistance of a lady 27-32 years old with basic English as a Thai translator and travelling companion. Five-star accommodation and good salary offered. No previous experience required. Tel: (27) 082-821 4775, (27) 082-821 4775. Fax: 031-700 1282. Email: brian.miraclemould@gmail.com www.miraclemould.com

Mobile Phones

IPHONE 4S CALL NOW

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

Business Products & Services

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Software development, website construction, Windows/Mac OS desktop software, outsourcing. PHP, Java, C++/Qt, MySQL, Magento, Drupal & Wordpress CMS. Professional work by Scandinavian software developer. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@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

INSURANCE SERVICE

Car, Motorbike, Health, Travel, Property Service at home, call to make appointment. Tel: 087-267 4342 (English). Email: agentsmithr@gmail.com

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

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

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.

Golf Stuff

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.

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

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)



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

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

CALL NOW:

081-868 7676 (English).

080-525 3135 (Thai)

DINODAYCARECENTER

Computers

SAMSUNG COMPUTER

2 years old, complete with printer. 18-inch screen. Price: 12,000 baht ONO. Tel: 084-818 6045.

IMAC

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



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**VW BEETLE 4 SALE**

2004 model, Cabriolet, automatic, 83,000km, B 790,000. Tel: 091-040 8869.

CHEVROLET CAPTIVA

Red SUV, 7 seats, 2007 model, 2.4i V6, Tiptronic / Automatic. Excellent Condition. One farang owner since new. 500,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-837 5774. Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

Automatic. 2007. Regularly serviced. 1 Owner. 93,000km. 1st class Insurance. 280,000 baht. Tel: 089-874 2942. Email: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com

NISSAN TEANA 2.5 XV

For sale November 2013, only one year, 15,000km. White color with full options. Price new: 1,700,000. Now: 1,200,000 THB. Tel: 081-788 8280 (Thai), 090-163 2140(Thai). Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIOS 1.5L, 2005

4 door; 5 speed. Auto windows, new air conditioning and clutch, one foreigner lady. 225,000 baht o.b.o. Call the number above. For more information, please call 089-970 5795. Email: free mancapi@gmail.com

HYUNDAI ELANTRA

Superb cond. Manual, aircon, power windows. Price: 145,000. Tel: 080-041 4240.

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Will trade for Big Bike or 4x4. Tel: 087-983 4815. Email: gregorfanton@gmail.com

BENZ 220 E 2-DOOR

Year 1995 Benzine LPG, leather BBS wheel, excellent condition 660,000 baht. Tel: 087-890 8554 (English&Thai).

2003 BMW X5 BLACK

Electric, LPG, leather. Tel: 084-054 8122.

CAPTIVA LSX DIESEL

Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 LSX Diesel for sale, 73,500km, 05/2012, 163hp, black, 1st owner. 730,000 baht o.n.o. Email: jhor2000@yahoo.de

NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE

Nissan Teana For Sale THB 1,350,000. Finance available. 11 months old. 2.5L. Full options. Contact owner 087-893 8747.

2011 PAJERO 4X4

Mitsubishi Pajero 2.5GT 4x4 model. Expat owned for 3 years. 60,000 kilo metres. Recent service and new turbo. Usual GT refinements, aircon front and back, electric everything. Good condition. Green book, etc. Price: 720,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 6055, 081-787 6055 (English&Thai). Email: wheelykingzoom@hotmail.com

Rentals**CHEAP CAR FOR RENT**

Vios, Jazz. More information. Tel: 099-306 5757, 093-648 2464.

NEW CAR RENT VIOS 899

New 2014 Toyota Vios for rent, automatic 1.5T. For rent day and month. Tel: 091-527 6862.

NEW CARS FOR RENT

Jazz, Vios, SUV, good price with insurance. Delivery service. Call 081-607 8567. Email: Suk savat@hotmail.com, Line ID: 246phuketline

CAR FOR RENT

Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. Please call 086-690 0626. Email: bcurrent@hotmail.com

Pick-ups**2005 ISUZU D MAX D**

Rawai. 1 owner. Full service hist. Reg / Ins July 2015. Excellent condition. Price: 285,000 baht ONO. Tel: 086-944 1640.

ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z

Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. For more information, please call 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapestate@mail.ru

Motorbikes**HONDA CB500F**

Year 2012, 12,000km. Excellent condition, sell at 165,000 baht Tel: 081-550 7379(English & Thai).

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice. Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact **Khun Lerd**
Tel: 087-263 6706
(Proton Showroom)

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Euro style tailors



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

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

2008 BAYLINER 190

15 HP Mercury 4-stroke with only 130 hours on it. New auxiliary 15 HP engine. Trailer. Thai licence, blue book. Nai Harn. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

DIVING - SNORKELLING BOAT

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

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 Boatshed phuket.com Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

AVON 400 JET RIB

2006 Avon 400 Seasport Jet RIB. Seats 6, 80HP, trailer and custom covers included. 300,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 082-288 0668 (English). Email: david.crammond@msn.com

VESSEL "SANITY"

1989 Princess Riviera 36, Direct sale by owner 2,000,000 baht only. Roger: 089-871 2940. Email: Info@villea.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

GULFCRAFT 31 KHE SC 31

Quick sale, Thai Regis, excellent condition. Twin Suzuki DF 225, 200 H only. With trailer, Price new 5.9 MB. Asking price: 3 MB. Tel: 081-416 0333. Email: Lemcloe@gmail.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

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

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

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 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@wanadoo.fr

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006, price baht 140,000. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total baht 70,000. Both in working condition. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280074.

AIS CLASS B DEAL

AIS DEAL by Electrical Marine Co, Ltd. Has the Simrad Class BNAIS-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

CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH

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

NEW YACHTSMAN TENDERS

Aluminium hull RIB's and "Air Floor" inflatables Welded PVC and Hypalon options. Good quality at very competitive prices. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: boat@andamanboat sales.com

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We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non-exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE**Privilege 43 (1992)**

Asking \$235,000 AUD

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SOLUTION TO THIS**Cryptic crossword****COFFEE break**

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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. SIRINART: *artsirin* 10. HOE: h-0-e 11. OUTLAW: *lout-a-W* 12. ESTATE: *taste(E)* 13. TUMBLED: tum-bled 14. PODS: P.O.-D-S 15. INTERACTED: *trainedetc* 17. GODSPEED: go-D-speed 18. ANISEED: *andisee* 19. USER: *ruse* 21. REBATE: *ratebe* 24. EVERYONCEINAWHILE: *heyiadleveronewin* 27. MADDOG: mad-dog 29. EARN: Ea.-R.N. 30. RESTATE: *restate* 33. CLIMBSUP: c-limbs-up 35. SWEETHEART: *setatwhere* 36. USED: U.S.-Ed. 37. AVENUES: *suave(E)(N)* 38. AERIAL: A-E-rail 40. BONSAI: *biason* 41. ERA: *are* 42. ACTUALLY: act-U-ally

Down: 1. DISSONANCE: *danessonnic* 2. LIMA: *mail* 3. BASERATE: *rebatesa* 4. STATUTE: (T)*astute* 5. BELLIGERENT: *beltingreel* 6. HOODEDCROW: *ohocrowded* 7. STEPUP: *upset(P)* 8. HANDIEST: *heistand* 10. HUMID: hum-I'd 16. EASTEND: Ea.-S-tend 20. STEER: steer 22. BRISTLE: *letsrib* 23. INTERPRETER: *errepentit* 25. YUGOSLAVIA: *yougals-via* 26. EXTERNALLY: *nextreally* 28. ALLUSION: (U)*allsoni* 31. ENTRACTE: *atcenter* 32. HESSIAN: *shesina* 34. MODEST: mo-de-st 35. STUPA: puts[up]-a 39. REAL: R-ale

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100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

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Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430
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TECNAM P-92

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

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Crazy hats for The Melbourne Cup

Once again, the Phuket International Women's Club held its 'The Melbourne Cup' event at the Underwood Art Factory, with the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's *Phuket Today* show were proud to be sponsors of the annual charity event.



From left: Sue McGoldrick, Suneetha Raghunath and Tracey Samantha Burr.



From left: Annita Mangsuree, Marrissa Grimes, Rona Hosking, Hanna Van Royen, Rinsin Reading and Editha Tritippika.



From left: Melisa Ueckermann and Elaine Hayward.

Neon Night Run



Thanyapura recently held its Halloween Neon Night Run with over 250 participants taking part in Halloween costumes.

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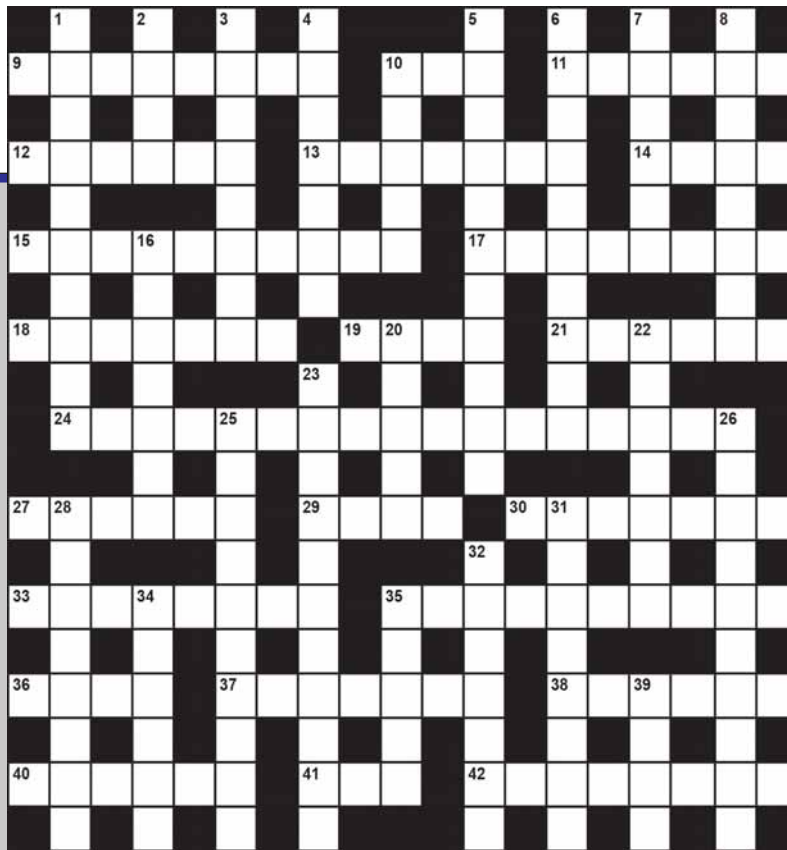
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COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Art, Sir, in new National park in Phuket (8)
 10. He covers nothing with garden implement (3)
 11. Wanted criminal lout maybe a wife (6)
 12. Taste out East in property (6)
 13. Fell down, stomach bled (7)
 14. In aircraft detachable units, Pilot Officer died second (4)
 15. Trained, etc., mixed together, worked with each other (10)
 17. A wish for a good journey. Go, daughter, hurry! (8)
 18. And I see mixed flavoring (7)
 19. Complex ruse as employer (4)
 21. Rate be changed for discount (6)
 24. Hey, I, a clever one, win perhaps occasionally! (5,4,2,1,5)
 27. Crazy to follow insane person (3,3)
 29. Merit each British service initially (4)
 30. Affirm again, rest, eat, move (7)
 33. Mounts in Cup having limbs hidden (6,2)
 35. Maybe set at where, darling? (10)
 36. States editor took advantage (4)
 37. Ways to approach suave move, covering two separate points (7)
 38. Note echo rail distorted in antenna (6)
 40. Odd bias on small trees (6)
 41. Are shifting in time (3)
 42. Really act, socially



acceptable friend (8)

Down

1. Discord from Danes sonic! (10)
 2. Revised mail from S. American city (4)
 3. Different rebates around a basic charge (4,4)
 4. About time, astute new law (7)
 5. Aggressive belting, reel about (11)
 6. Oho! crowded out by a large gray and black bird (6,4)
 7. Maybe upset about past increase in pace (4,2)
 8. Most capable, he, I, stand combined (8)
 10. Buzzing sound I'd find oppressive (5)
 16. Each small care for a part of London (4,3)
 20. Guide a young animal (5)
 22. Look for a confrontation, lets rib indiscriminately! (7)
 23. Badly err, repent it one who translates (11)
 25. You gals travel by way of a bygone country (10)
 26. Next, really move round the outside (10)
 28. Uniform in all, son, I arranged reference (8)
 31. At center, renew performance in the interval (8)
 32. She's in a woven strong coarse cloth (7)
 34. Most out of French are self-effacing (6)
 35. Puts up a structure in a Wat (5)
 39. Right, ale could be genuine (4)

Words from the wise:

"You either run from things or you face them."
 – Jesse Pinkman, *Breaking Bad*

"When facing a difficult task, act as though it is impossible to fail. If you are going after Moby Dick, take along the tartar sauce."
 – H. Jackson Brown, Jr

Medium

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

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

Hard

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

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



It looks like a busy week for you Scorpio, with a focus on personal projects and self-expression. In

addition, the developing full moon reaches its luminous peak on Thursday. As a result, relationships could get rocky if feelings spill over, so do try to choose your words carefully, particularly if you're passionate about something or someone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Despite loving action and adventure, you may feel like taking time out to think about your priorities and future goals. The week ahead seems

to involve a need for introspection, particularly around midweek when a certain issue might require extra attention. Yet, a fresh perspective could offer reassurance.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Attending social events brings lively opportunities to connect with an important group of people. Whether you're looking for busi-

ness or plenty of fun, the week ahead supplies a range of options. Later, a surge of feeling could entice a romantic liaison to develop in strength and passion – or bring inspiration for a creative project.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Your focus is likely to be on pushing ahead with goals and ambitions, and in an efficient a way as possible. In this regard, a sun-Pluto link early on may coincide with a decision that makes a positive difference. Meanwhile, Thursday's full moon puts the focus on home affairs, and is excellent for a party or celebration with friends and family.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Experiences that involve radical change may really draw you, Pisces. Whether this means taking a course, travelling or adopting a new belief system, deep down you might feel it's time to throw off the old and embrace something new and refreshing. However, you could find it hard to abandon some of your more comforting and most loved habits.

YOUR horoscope By Patrick Arundell

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Although you may be in the mood for fun and pleasure, the week ahead brims with things that could lead you on something of a merry dance. Why? Well, you could have things to accomplish, but emotional issues might vie for your attention too. A reduced schedule on Thursday, at the time of the full moon, might help you keep calm and stay on top of things.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Is your partner, or someone else, trying to and push you into following their lead against your better judgment? Tensions may escalate this week, with a full moon in your sign bringing things to a head. However, Mercury's move into Scorpio on Saturday can pave the way for healing and some rather enlightening conversations.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Expect a little pressure at work, or to be busier than usual when it comes to everyday tasks and chores.

This week's backdrop suggests it's a good time to pare down your routines, removing activities that waste time and serve no real purpose. By way of a contrast, the weekend brings much greater potential for fun and relaxation.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Romantic opportunities sizzle this week, as a lively line-up makes for a very sociable few days ahead.

Feelings flow and your sensitivity to others may increase, encouraging you to be open and honest with family and friends. However, don't get too carried away, as there could be certain things which are actually best left unsaid.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



Though there is a good possibility that you will be in a playful mood, you need to be conscious of responsibilities that need your urgent attention. Some

of these may be less than exciting, and might even involve an element of discomfort. Still, tackling these should leave you with a sense of accomplishment and more than enough time to focus on more personal and engaging projects.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Is a plan or idea taking up a lot of your time or resources? This week, decisions may need to be

made, and feelings of pressure acknowledged. Be especially careful around the time of the lunation on Thursday, when a conversation could put you on edge. However, if this can wait until the weekend, you might find yourself having a more fruitful discussion.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



It may be time to take a look at your natural abilities or hobbies and consider whether any of them could be useful. It's possible you might earn extra cash or get a better job by using a talent that's lain dormant for a while. Later, the full moon in Taurus could encourage you to splurge on a few small, yet well deserved, luxuries.

When persistence pays off

ASK just about any prosperous entrepreneur what the key to success is, and the one consistent answer is persistence. It seems that a successful business is not about catching a break; it's about years of slow growth. The *Phuket Gazette* talks to Ruengrit "Oh" Petchvorakul, the co-owner of Phuket's own coffee brand Hock Hoe Lee, to learn more about the ups and downs of coffee business on the island.

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT HAS been 56 years since Cheng Long, the grandfather of Mr Ruengrit's wife, opened his coffee store in Phuket Town – and according to Mr Ruengrit, the beginnings weren't that difficult.

"All you had to do was to sell good coffee. There wasn't much competition and we quickly established our brand," he explains.

Mr Ruengrit cites three factors as key to keeping a business up and running for over five decades. First is the quality of the produce, which continues to be a top priority.

"The market changed a lot over the years. Coffee comes in different grades of quality and we observed a big change in people's tastes. People's preferences are moving from low quality to high-quality products.

"Customers today look for the best coffee available; they know more about coffee. This is good for us, it allows us to sell high-quality coffee at better prices," Mr Ruengrit explains.

The second key factor is customer relations.

"The founder of the company took great care of his customers," says Mr Ruengrit. "We can't just put coffee or tea on a shelf and wait for customers to buy it. We have to learn what the cus-

tomers like and teach them about coffee too. We ask the customers what coffee they like. We want them to be our partners, someone who we learn from while they learn from us."

The third factor is more practical and has a lot to do with the kind of produce Hock Hoe Lee deals in. Coffee is a fragile commodity, something that cannot be kept in stock forever. As a result, managing the piles of coffee bags is crucial.

Exactly how crucial stock management is was something Mr Ruengrit learned the hard way when he and his wife decided to introduce western-style, fresh-roasted coffee to the company's line-up.

"It was a disaster. At the very beginning the demand for our western-style fresh coffee was very low and people were complaining that it was too expensive. We actually had a big stock of fresh beans, maybe three tonnes, and it all was wasted, nobody wanted to buy it."

Mr Ruengrit took care of the quality and wanted to sell it at an appropriate price, but had yet to learn about the importance of customer relations in coffee business.

"We thought we would just put the product on the shelf and it would sell, but it didn't work



Ruengrit Petchvorakul's grandfather-in-law established Hock Hoe Lee 56 years ago. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

like that," he recalls.

What helped was every successful entrepreneur's secret weapon: persistence.

"We decided to keep the price and keep going. We knew that we had a great product and we didn't want to compromise on the quality. Over time, people slowly got to know our coffee and the demand started growing.

"Now we have a strong customer base and we sell around 10 tonnes of our fresh Arabica a year, compared to maybe one or two tonnes a year four years ago," he said.

It took time and determination to make it happen but in the end, it paid off.

"We started with just two kinds of fresh-roasted coffee, but with the growing demand we will be introducing a third one soon. I see it as a cycle. We develop a better

product, introduce it to customers, they learn to like it and come back for more and for even better quality, and so it continues."

When Mr Ruengrit revisits the difficult times before his new coffee took off, he recalls one particular, game-changing moment. It was when Voradech Maneesri, the general manager of the foto Hotel in Kata, and Wirachai Pranveerapaiboon, CEO of The Attitude Club, paid a visit to his shop and decided to buy his product.

"They said they will buy my coffee because they want to support me, support local business. I don't think I had ever heard anybody say that before. It was a great boost of confidence," Mr Ruengrit notes.

With this experience behind his belt, Mr Ruengrit confidently runs the business, sourcing coffee from a number of locations in Thailand,

including Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Ranong, which he then sells at his two shops in Phuket: one in Phuket Town and one in Rawai. And he looks to the future with more confidence, believing that it's the past that's Hock Hoe Lee's greatest strength.

"My mission is not about how much we sell. It may sound strange, but now it's more about the legacy. I want this place to remain a part of Phuket. It's more fun than just doing business," he said.

With his persistence, Hock Hoe Lee is here to stay.

To try Hock Hoe Lee coffee, visit the Hock Hoe Lee Coffee Factory at 28/9 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130. To shop for coffee visit the company's store at 183 Ranong Rd in Phuket Town. For more information and to buy coffee online, visit hockhoelee.com.

It took time and determination to make it happen but in the end, it paid off.

BKK Airways' Phuket-Chiang Mai direct flights hit the skies

BANGKOK Airways has launched a non-stop daily service linking Phuket and Chiang Mai as one of four new services for destinations in Thailand and Myanmar.

Previously, passengers travelling between Phuket and Chiang Mai had to connect at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

Served by an Airbus A320 aircraft with a seat capacity of 162, Flight PG247 departs Phuket at 11:30am and arrives Chiang Mai at 1:40pm, while Flight PG248 departs Chiang Mai at 2:20pm and arrives in Phuket at 4:25pm.

The new service launched on October 26.

Meanwhile, new direct flights between Chiang Mai and Udon Thani operate twice daily. New flights from Chiang Mai to Mandalay run three times a week,

and those to Yangon four times a week.

"We consider Chiang Mai a major commercial city in the Northern region and also a gateway to Indochina," said Ariya Prasarttong-Osoth, vice president of sales for Bangkok Airways.

As Chiang Mai is one of the busiest tourist destinations in Thailand, Ms Ariya believes that using the northern city as a hub will enhance the airline's ability to support growing demand for air travel.

"It will also allow us to provide better flight connections for our passengers who wish to continue their travel to the northeastern and southern parts of Thailand, as well as neighboring Myanmar, without having to fly back to Suvarnabhumi Airport to connect to those destinations."

— The Nation



Travellers on Bangkok Airways no longer need to make a connection in Bangkok when flying from Phuket to Chiang Mai. Photo: Supplied



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Patience is a virtue

OVER the past several weeks, my phone has been ringing off the hook from clients wanting to get in on the Alibaba IPO. I told each client the same thing: "wait". There was a lot of hype leading up to the IPO, and it's the same situation as when Facebook went public.

Being patient and waiting are two of the hardest things for investors to do. Legendary investor Warren Buffett likes to compare investing to being a baseball batter at the plate. Investors won't like every pitch, but when they get one right down the middle, they swing for the fences.

That's what they did after the Facebook IPO on May 18, 2012. There was so much hype involved and everyone wanted a piece of the company. Shares were priced at US\$38 and after an initial jump to US\$45, shares ended their first day of trading at US\$38.23.

What happened was that as demand increased, the brokerage firms bringing Facebook public increased the number of shares in the IPO. In other words, to meet the demand, they flooded the market with shares. When there was the pop to US\$45, the investors who got shares at US\$38 rushed to cash in and book their profits.

After the first day, things only got worse for investors. The stock closed the next day at US\$34.03 and US\$31.00 on the third day of trading. After the second full week of trading, shares of Facebook closed at US\$27.22 and investors had lost a combined US\$40 billion.

On August 20, 2012, shares closed at US\$20. This is when I got interested in shares for Facebook. The business wasn't broken and the stock market was acting like Facebook was finished. However, as anyone who uses Facebook on a regular basis knows, this wasn't the case. Investor expectations had been too high and Facebook was still a young company. There were bound to be hiccups along the way.

For investors who were patient and



Finance

By Don Freeman

bought Facebook after the share price went down, it has been one of the best investments over the last two years. Shares are now US\$79 and have more than tripled in price. Waiting for a young company to prove itself is important and requires patience holding onto the stock. Follow Warren Buffett's advice, wait for the pitch and then swing for the fences.

So far, Alibaba has traded just like Facebook. Shares were priced at US\$68 and opened at US\$92.70. After peaking at US\$99.70, shares closed at US\$92.14 on their first day of trading. Shares are now trading around US\$87.

Just like Facebook, there was the pop and then shares sold off as investors who bought on the open are now panicking. They bought between US\$92.70 and \$99.70. As shares have dropped, they're getting out and the lucky institutions that got stock at the IPO price of \$68 are selling as well. We could easily see shares of Alibaba trade down to US\$68, or below, just like Facebook did. That's why it's time to exercise patience and refrain from buying Alibaba just yet.

There is still a lot of news to digest and it will be difficult to have a better understanding of their business until the company issues its first quarterly earnings report as a public company. Sure, it could bolt higher like Google did early on, but even Google corrected 50 per cent in the 2008 recession, giving clients a great entry price.

Besides buying shares of Alibaba directly, investors can also buy shares of



Warren Buffet likes to compare investing to being a batter at the plate. Photo: SecondPrint Productions

Yahoo! or Softbank. Both companies have large stakes in Alibaba and got in early. Softbank is actually Alibaba's largest shareholder with its 32.9 per cent stake. By owning shares of Softbank, you not only get a piece of Alibaba, but you also get Softbank's ownership of Sprint in the US and its mobile phone business in Japan.

Shares of Yahoo! are trading around US\$40, yet it owns 383 million shares of Alibaba that currently account for US\$34 of its US\$40 share price. That makes its core business worth only US\$6 a share. That's why activist investors are now pressuring the company to boost shareholder value. If Yahoo! were broken up, it would be worth more than the US\$40 it's currently trading at.

However, if shares of Alibaba head lower, that will bring shares of Softbank and Yahoo! down as well. That's why investors should wait before pulling the trigger on any of the three, as Alibaba will likely see more selling pressure just like Facebook did. For those interested in Alibaba, feel free to give me a call, email or Skype and we can discuss when the timing is right for all of us.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, an independent US Registered Investment Advisor. He has over 20 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970 5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

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Travel industry eyes online middle class

TRAVEL operators are urged to eye emerging middle-class (EMC) tourists, including those from Thailand, according to a tourism survey.

The results from the Asia Emerging Middle Class Survey were unveiled at TravelRave in Singapore, showing that the number of EMC tourists is growing rapidly in many countries around the world.

The worldwide EMC population is about 565 million and is expected to rocket to 3.5 billion by 2030. About 8.5 per cent of the population will be in the Southeast Asia region.

According to the survey, China is speculated to become a sizable EMC market in the near future. Unlike the traditional middle class, new EMC tourists have irregular income flows. They are also highly concerned about their purchasing power. An average of 42 per cent of EMC tourists own a mobile phone, computer or tablet in India, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia. Myanmar



The survey says to market to the online middle class. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

is following this trend.

The study urged travel operators to catch the attention of online users, create more attractive activities through social media and design applications to meet travellers' demands.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation estimates that more than 500 million general tourists will travel to Asia, with China leading the surge. There are more

inbound and outbound tourists in Asia-Pacific. Tourist arrivals in Asia are increasing by 6.3 per cent, faster than the world average of 5.3 per cent.

This indicates that the industry has room to expand, but it also means that new business strategies need to be formulated to cater to the higher demand and new consumer segments such as the Asian Millennial Traveller. – *The Nation*

BluPearl project still on track

B20bn shopping mall pushes forward despite political issues

PROPERTY Gazette

By Maciek Klimowicz

NOT concerned about the current economic slowdown and full of hope about the changes that Phuket is undergoing, the Mall Group will drive forward with its plan to invest as much as 20 billion baht in a new, multi-purpose retail and entertainment center in Phuket.

Speaking during a recent seminar organized by the Phuket Real Estate Association, Supaluck Umpujh, the Mall Group's vice-chairwoman, confirmed the group's plans to develop a new center on the island, plans that were originally announced just two weeks before the coup on May 22.

"We are lucky to have around 150 rai of beautiful land on which we will develop a world-class retail and entertainment destination," said Ms Supaluck.

"Our vision is to turn Phuket into a world-class resort destination in Asia."

The project, named the BluPearl, is set for a grand opening in 2017. The mixed-use project will comprise a shopping mall of almost 200,000sqm, a convention center,

an arts-and-crafts center with a resort hotel, as well as a theme park.

"Phuket is lacking a world-class shopping mall, the kind that we [The Mall Group] have built in Bangkok, such as Siam Paragon or The Emporium," explained Ms Supaluck.

"We have been looking at Phuket for many years, but in the past the infrastructure was lacking. Things are improving now, an extension of the airport is taking place, the formation of the Asean Economic Community [AEC]; it all can help Phuket become a playground of Southeast Asia."

Ms Supaluck said that the Mall Group expects the number of tourist arrivals to Phuket to grow rapidly, to as many as 20 million, once the airport extension has been completed.

"Most tourists come for five to seven days, and they cannot stay on the beach all the time," she noted.

Asked about the economic slowdown, Ms Supaluck reconfirmed her faith in Phuket as a tourism destination, citing the introduction of the AEC late next year as one of the main reasons for the expected strong economic performance of Thailand in the region.

"Despite the global slowdown, Thailand remains a destination with great value for money. Even if there is a slowdown, it's short term," she said.

"With the introduction of AEC, things will improve further, and



Supaluck Umpujh, the Mall Group's vice-chairwoman spoke at a recent PREA seminar. Photo: Supplied

The mixed-use project will comprise of a shopping mall of almost 200,000sqm, a convention center, an arts-and-crafts center with a resort hotel, as well as a theme park.



Dusit Thani breaks into Viet market

HOT on the heels of announcing an AUD\$550 million (15.6 billion baht) multi-use resort in Australia, leading Asian hospitality group Dusit International continues its expansion plans with the signing of the first Dusit Thani hotel to be developed in Vietnam as part of the Cam Ranh Flowers Resort.

Executives from Dusit International and State Development Company Ltd were in attendance at the signing ceremony, held on October 20 at the Khanh Hoa Center of Political and Cultural Events in Nha Trang.

Slated to open late 2016, the beachfront hotel and branded residences will house 266 rooms of deluxe, suite and bungalow categories with a further 117 apartments and 56 residential villas available for purchase or rent.

— The Nation

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Sansiri's Baan Mai Khao aims high

By Maciek Klimowicz

WITH prices starting from 8 million baht and reaching up to 52mn baht, Sansiri's latest Phuket development, the Baan Mai Khao seaside condominium in the island's north, is targeting the high-end market.

"The high-end market begins at prices of more than 100,000 baht per square meter," explained Uthai Uthaisangsuk, senior executive vice president, Business Development and Project Development division of Sansiri, who was present at the new project's unveiling. "Here in Baan Mai Khao, the average price for a square meter is 140,000 baht, so we're targeting the high-end market, as well as the second home and holiday residence market."

Of the Baan Mai Khao's 206 condominium units in nine low-rise buildings, which have been developed on 13-2-90 rai of premium beachfront land, 50 per cent have already sold out; 40 per cent were sold to Thai buyers and 20 per cent to Russians, with buyers from Singapore and Hong Kong also featuring prominently.

"In Thailand, the purchasing



Sansiri's latest Phuket development, Baan Mai Khao, is targeting the high-end market. Photo: Supplied

power is also increasing. At Baan Mai Khao we target 50 per cent Thai customers, but the other half is aimed at people from abroad. The Chinese and Russians who come here find the property more affordable than in their home countries," said Mr Uthai.

Asked about other reasons for the growing prices of condominium units in Phuket, and Thailand as a whole, Mr Uthai quoted rising costs of construction and labor, as well as land.

"It's simple economics. The costs grow and the prices have to

grow too. The land prices are still increasing, and so are construction costs and labor costs, so I think the prices will keep on growing," he explained.

However, Baan Mai Khao has one more advantage over its competitors, which allows the

developer to dictate prices – the location. Not only is it located in an area hailed as Phuket's luxury enclave, it's home to a number of high-end 5-star hotels and resorts. In addition, it is built directly on the beachfront.

"Baan Mai Khao has no competitor in Phuket. It is the only project with direct access to the beach. Other condominiums might be within walking distance of the beach, but only Baan Mai Khao is situated directly in front of it," explained Mr Uthai.

Potential buyers can choose from a number of options, including 1 bedroom/1 bathroom (59.5-72 sq m); 2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms (79-98 sq m); 2 bedrooms/3 bathrooms duplex (115-137.5 sq m); and 3 bedrooms/3 bathrooms (134-162.5 sq m); with the largest units being the six spectacular penthouses (260-263.50 sq m).

Additionally, eight unique interior design and furniture packages will be available, which include a selection created by Chanintr Living and two designs created specifically for buyers who wish to join the "Rental for the Holidays" program.

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Gov Nisit Jansomwong spoke at the PREA seminar. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Realtors align strategy with Phuket market slowdown

REALTORS throughout Phuket are re-aligning their strategies to counter the slowdown in market activity this year, which has been attributed to saturation.

Thanusak Phungdet, president of the Phuket Real Estate Association (PREA), revealed the news after the PREA property seminar in Phuket Town on October 29.

The seminar, which featured a number of high-profile speakers, reviewed the passing year in the island's real estate sector, as well as what preparations might be necessary for the future.

Mr Thanusak cited the saturation of the market as the main issue developers and real estate agents need to address in the upcoming months.

"The property market in Phuket has slowed down a bit. We have a lot of completed projects and plenty of rooms to sell. This year, we don't need many new investments, and we can focus on selling

what we have," he said.

Among the seminar's speakers were representatives of respectable developers such as Sansiri and The Mall Group.

"We held this seminar to talk about the economy as it is now, and as it will be in the future. We invited a number of speakers, all professionals from the real estate industry, who will shed some light on our problems," Mr Thanusak explained.

"It's good to have a seminar now, as the year is coming to an end and we have a lot of data to work with. We know what problems we have faced, and we can plan for the future."

Remaining highly active and establishing itself as the go-to organization for Phuket property experts, the PREA is already planning more events. Next will be an exhibition at Central Festival Phuket which will take place on February 26.

– Maciek Klimowicz

Gear up for gourmet

JW Marriott's Gourmet Weekend will bring five world-class chefs together to thrill Phuket's foodies

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE is an ancient Thai tradition of allowing oneself one weekend of gluttony, hedonism and feasting in a year. Unfortunately, the first sentence of this story is untrue – no such tradition exists. But if it did, JW Marriott's Gourmet Weekend, which will take place from November 14 to 16, would be the perfect opportunity to bring it to life.

Phuket gourmets: prepare your pallets and stomachs, a true culinary extravaganza is coming your way. With names such as Chef Peter Manifis of InContro restaurant in Perth, Chef Norio Nomoto of JW Marriott Bangkok, Chef Nooror Somany-Steppe from Blue Elephant International cooking school and restaurants, Chef Tim Butler of Eat Me restaurant in Bangkok as well as JW Marriott Phuket's own Chef Dietmar Spitzer on the bill, the Gourmet Weekend is set to rock the worlds of the island's foodies.

Simply take a glance at the menu of the Weekend's final charity dinner: Organic prawn yuzu miso foam, warm rabbit rillettes with heirloom carrot and jalapeno comfit or hot-smoked Glacier 51 gumbo-inspired

risotto. These are just a few from a long list of dishes that the event's guests will enjoy. The funds raised during the charity dinner will benefit the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation.

But, before the Gourmet Weekend comes to its memorable finale, the island's culinary connoisseurs will be able to take part in a series of specialist-led cooking demonstrations and set dinners, and learn from the world-class chefs how to prepare dishes such as Tumee orange curry with sea snake-head fish, pearl shell ceviche with Yuzu granite, chilled avocado soup with king crab and more. In fact, the list of food events and dishes on the Weekend's agenda is simply too long to print.

The presentations, set dinners and the charity dinner will be held at JW Marriott's restaurants: Ginja Taste, Cucina, Kabuki Japanese Cuisine Theater and Andaman Grill, as well as the resort's Marriott Cafe.

For those willing to take full advantage of the event's offering, a special four nights/ five days package was introduced, combining selected cooking demonstrations and set dinners, and the charity dinner, along with accommodation in a Deluxe Sala Garden View room. It also includes daily



A number of tantalizing gourmet dishes are on the weekend's menu. Photo: Supplied

breakfast, and is priced from 8,750 baht +++ per night for one-person single accommodation and 10,750 baht +++ per night for two-person double accommodation. Tickets to the charity dinner only are priced at 2,900 baht ++ per person while the cooking demonstrations and the set dinners are

priced at 1,900 baht ++ and 2,500 baht ++ respectively.

To book your ticket for the weekend, email bookmarriott@marriotthotels.com or call 076 338000. For more information, go to jwmarriottphuketresort.com.





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Fine firecracker flowers



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ONE shrub I have consistently failed to mention in dispatches is the firecracker flower. In part, that omission relates to its tongue-twisting Latin name (*crossandra infundibuliformis*). However, the main reason is that not only is it absent from my garden, but I have rarely seen the shrub in Thailand.

Despite its small stature (up to four feet) it's a very showy plant – producing fan-shaped flowers that explode above the stalk's four-sided, greenish thorns. Though some horticulturalists believe the name comes from the ripe seeds' propensity to explode, I prefer the visual explanation. In any event, the name "firecracker" is not at all inappropriate.

I recently saw

one, competing with a chalice vine outside a modest property in Nabon. Both shrubs were in full flower, but the firecracker was not at all fazed by its larger neighbor. Though many varieties are apparently orange, the one that occurs in Thailand is predominantly yellow, and this one was no exception.

A native of Sri Lanka and southern India, the firecracker plant can be grown as an exotic house specimen outside the tropics, but in a Phuket garden it will prefer well-drained, rich soil and a position in full sun or partial shade. Because of its neat shape, it looks good in a container. While

C. nocturnum (the night jessamine) is valued for its haunting fragrance at night-time, when the pale, greenish-yellow tubular flowers come into their own. /

the long stalked thorns and the unusually-shaped flowers (with three to five asymmetrical petals) are the main attraction, the firecracker also boasts glossy, evergreen foliage. And another bonus: the flowers are produced more-or-less continuously in

favorable conditions and – unlike so many tropical bloomers – they stay on the bush for several days. Propagated by seeds or cuttings, the firecracker is not a big shrub, but makes a dramatic appearance in a small garden – if you can find it.

Cestrum aurantiacum may pose less of a problem for a gardener on the prowl for new plants. Native to the Americas, the yellow or orange jessamine (the name is a corruption of jasmine due to its fragrance) has adapted well to conditions in Southeast Asia.

In common with the firecracker, it possesses tubular, or funnel-shaped, yellow flowers, but the similarity ends there. This is because the small blooms are borne in dense clusters of 10 to 15 florets – a bit like honeysuckle – and the shrub has a distinct tendency to climb. The flowers are followed



The firecracker flower's name may come from the seeds' propensity to explode. Photo: Tanaka Juuyoh

by white berries.

Unsurprisingly, as a paid-up member of the *solanaceae* family, these are likely to be poisonous. A good choice for the inexperienced gardener, less so for one with a young family. The *cestrum* will tolerate most climatic conditions and responds well to pruning. Young shoots should be pinched back to encourage bushy growth. Propagation is from soft tip cuttings.

There are a large number of other *cestrums*. *C. elegans* comes from Mexico. A vigorous shrub with arching branches, it bears the characteristic tubular flowers, though in this case they are red to purple. Produced in dense panicles, they appear at the end of young shoots. The narrow leaves are olive-colored and hairy.

C. nocturnum (the night

jessamine) is valued for its haunting fragrance at night-time, when the pale, greenish-yellow tubular flowers come into their own. In contrast, the day jessamine (*C. diurnum*) has pale white clusters of flowers held on slender, upright stems, which exude their perfume during the day.

The dark berries give the shrub another name – inkberry.

All jessamines are robust and can quickly become rambling:

indeed *C. parqui* from Chile has become invasive in some mild regions of the world where it is now regarded as a weed – not likely to be a problem in Phuket.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com. Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com



Tip of the week: Micro-climates

A MICRO-climate is defined as the climate of a small area which is different from that of surrounding areas. It may be wetter or drier, warmer or colder, sunnier or shadier. Even a small island such as Phuket has considerable variations in climate.

For example, the prevailing winds are from the southwest from May to November and come from the Indian Ocean. This phenomenon increases precipitation on the western side. From December to April, the



Southwest winds increase Phuket's precipitation. Photo: Andy Melton

northeast winds come in from China bringing cooler, drier air. Since Phuket has a spine of hills,

the windward side is most affected by these climatic patterns.

More temperate micro-climates can be created by the presence of large bodies of water. Moreover, urban areas are generally hotter than "green" areas because of the generation and retention of heat.

If your garden slopes, the south-facing parts will get more sun – think of the different character of wine that can be produced from one twin-sloped vineyard.



Cestrum aurantiacum has adapted well to conditions here. Photo: Stan Shebs



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In it for the long haul

Benevolent bicyclist going the distance to benefit school for the needy



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

WHEN I started writing the Blazing Saddles column two years ago, I had no idea of the eventful journey upon which it would take me. My two-wheeled companion has led me into many fascinating corners of the Andaman region; none more so than when I found myself a guest of Yaowawit School for underprivileged kids near the small town of Kapong in Phang Nga province last month.

I'd gone there to learn more about the wonderful work they do, helping and teaching less fortunate kids, and also to explore the local cycling options they offer to visitors who stay with them in their guest quarters.

BEAUTIFUL CYCLING COUNTRY

Kapong is a traditional village influenced by Chinese culture and rooted in Buddhism, having two temples whose monks support Yaowawit School by teaching the children meditation and sometimes accompanying them on trips.

There are several waterfalls nearby, as well as some famous hot springs. The cycling opportunities are glorious, with quiet, traffic-free riverside trails, local markets and abundant unspoiled rain forest and wildlife – the perfect antidote to hectic Phuket.

Yaowawit School itself is situated in a fruit orchard five kilometers from Kapong village. The surrounding fertile land supplies much of Thailand with mangosteen, durian, rambutan and other kinds of fruit. The beauty of the countryside,

with its tropical forests, green hills, lakes and rivers, makes it an ideal location for cycling.

YAOWAWIT SCHOOL

Yaowawit School is a government-approved boarding school for children from underprivileged families. It was initially founded to help children who were the victims of the 2004 tsunami. Over the years, the school has expanded its mission and goals to help children who have suffered from poverty and abuse. Some of the children are orphans, while others were simply left uncared for, abandoned and exposed to violence, prostitution and even human trafficking.

The central ethos of Yaowawit School is to give kids who've had such a raw deal at the start of their lives empowerment through a practical education, so that they can gain the skills and the knowledge needed to get a job, or to continue their education on a higher level.

FOUNDER AND MANAGEMENT

Yaowawit School was founded by German philanthropist Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, an entrepreneur who is involved in many honorary educational projects, as well as managing both private and boarding schools, such as Steven Spielberg's "Shoah Foundation" in Germany.

He was recently appointed president and CEO of Thanyapura Phuket – a sports and education complex in Thalang.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn opened the school in April 2006 for 80 children. Today, Yaowawit is home to 120 children from different

The central ethos of Yaowawit School is to give kids who've had such a raw deal at the start of their lives empowerment through a practical education...



Originally founded to help children who were victims of the 2014 tsunami, the school now offers refuge and provides an education for kids who have suffered from poverty and abuse.

isolated areas in Southern Thailand, ranging in age from three to 18 years old. These kids have had no access to education, health care or proper accommodation, and most of them have been subjected to abandonment and abuse.

A SCHOOL AND A HOME

Yaowawit aims to provide skills-based education and teach traditional human values. As soon as I arrived, I realized that they'd succeeded in creating an inspiring and motivating environment to help the children achieve their individual goals in a playful and professional way.

Thailand's rich cultural heritage is also part of the curriculum. The school has its own theater which

is used for Thai music, dance and presentations. It also has its own temple for daily meditation, and through the international volunteers and guests who work with the school, students are introduced to the traditions and values of other cultures as well.

Another thing that impressed me was that the school has been highly proactive in generating funding through its own visitors' lodge, organic farm produce and other social enterprises.

Yaowawit is a happy, fun-filled sanctuary, which most importantly, gives children a place to call home where they have friends and can play and learn with dedicated teachers who give them the best education possible, and with international volunteers from whom

they can learn English.

CYCLING TO SUPPORT YAOWAWIT'S CHILDREN

I was so impressed with my visit that I've decided to cycle from Bangkok to Phuket from December 6 to 14 to raise funds for Yaowawit School.

Please drop me a line at baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com.au to let me know if you are supporting the kids at Yaowawit. You will be helping a wonderful cause and providing me with the motivation to keep pushing my pedals for the 800-plus kilometers from Bangkok to Phuket in December.

For more information, visit: www.yaowawit.com

Bikes fly for free

BANGKOK Airways recently announced its "Bike on Board" campaign, which offers free bicycle transport throughout almost its entire network, with the exception of flights operated by ATR aircraft.

The service allows customers to check one bicycle per person in addition to the normal allotted baggage allowance. Running from October 15 to March 29, the campaign seeks to promote



Channel 3 actress and celebrity cyclist Aroonnapa Panichjaroon. Photo: Supplied

ecotourism by providing an incentive for travellers who wish to

explore destinations on their own two wheels.

Fliers are required to make a reservation 24 hours prior to departure time. Bicycles must be collapsible with tires deflated and suitably packed with dimensions not exceeding 145x160x110 centimeters.

For more information, visit: www.bangkokair.com, call +66 (2) 134 3895 or email reservation@bangkokair.com



The area offers abundant cycling along riverside trails.

How to help

If readers would like to sponsor Baz in his journey to benefit an honorable cause, funds can be directly transferred to the school as follows:

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Photo by Guy Nowell

Sport

SAT expects Thais to take first at Asian Beach Games



THE Sports Reporters-Photographers Association of Thailand recently held a "Meet the Press" conference to review Thai athletes' preparation and assess their chances at bringing home gold from the 4th Asian Beach Games, with representatives from 26 sports associations taking part.

According to the assessment, Thai athletes from those associations have targeted 51 gold medals in the Games in the following sports: Jet-ski; Windsurfing; Woodball; Beach Sepak Takraw; Foot-Volley; Handball; Extreme Sports, land and water-based; Flag Football; Athletics; Kabaddi; Bodybuilding; Yuyitsu; Muay Thai; Petanque; Sailing; Wrestling; Kurash and Aeronautic Sports.

The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) has set aside a 106-million-baht budget for the athletes' training and preparation, and an additional 49mn baht for the competition, for a total Games budget of 155mn baht.

SAT's caretaker Governor Montri



The SAT predicts Thai athletes will claim 44 of 51 gold medals. Photo: Gazette file

Chaiphan revealed that after evaluating the plans and preparations presented by all sports associations, the SAT predicts Thai athletes will win 44 medals in the Asian Beach Games.

Thailand's chief-de-mission Thana Chaiprasit disclosed that at last year's Games in China, the Thai athletes' delegation

captured a total of 13 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals, only one gold short of the overall champions. This time, Thailand will play host to the Asian Beach Games and Mr Thana expects Thai athletes to perform well on home soil and rule the roost.

— *Phuket Gazette*



The winners of the ITF Pro Circuit.

French athlete takes the win at ITF Pro Circuit

THE International Tennis Federation (ITF) brought some serious tennis to Phuket recently, as young hopefuls gathered at Thanyapura looking to drive up their rankings, in the hopes of one day qualifying to compete against the big boys and girls at Wimbledon and elsewhere on the pro circuit.

The second Chang ITF Pro Circuit women's tournament ended at Thanyapura on November 1, with 285th ITF ranked Irina Ramialison of France beating 427th ranked Katie Boulter of Great Britain in a 6-3, 6-0 match, to grab her second consecutive Singles Title championship.

In the doubles competition, Nicha Lertpitaksinchai and Plipuech Peangtarn of Thailand beat Kamonwan Buayam and Lee Pei Chi 4-6, 6-4, 10-6.

Next up on the courts of Thanyapura will be the SUPERKIDZ Junior Tennis Championship 2014, on November 15 and 16.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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Tri-Fest to attract thousands

By Gazette reporters

THE annual Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest this year will see thousands of international athletes from around the world arrive on the island for the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) on November 23, followed by the 2nd Challenge Laguna Phuket a week later on November 30.

"The enduring appeal of Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the unique challenges of Challenge Laguna Phuket are attracting entries from leading international pro athlete personalities, as well as age groupers worldwide," said Prapa Hemmin, Event Director and Laguna Phuket's Director of Sales-MICE & Corporate Events. "To date, a combined 1,500 athletes have signed up for the two main races."

A strong professional line-up promises to make for two week-ends of exciting races, Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong heard at the monthly "Phuket Governor Meets the Press" session on Tuesday.

Headlining the men's field are 2013 Challenge Laguna Phuket Champion Rasmus Petraeus, four-time World Champion Chris "Macca" McCormack and Luke McKenzie (second in the Ironman World Championships 2013).



The Challenge Laguna Tri-Fest will be the last race for women's triathlon legend Belinda Granger, who is retiring from professional racing. Photo: Laguna Phuket

They will be challenged by the 2013 LPT Champion Ruedi Wild, three-time LPT Champion Massimo Cigana and fellow Italian Alberto Casadei.

Spectators will also get a glimpse of world-famous Formula One driver Jenson Button and Thai pop star Navin Tar, who both have a passion for the sport

of triathlon.

The women's field is led by last year's LPT and Challenge Laguna Phuket Champion Melissa Hauschildt and three-time LPT Champion Radka Vodickova, who, in recent years, has become a crowd favorite in Phuket.

They are joined in the women's line-up by triathlon legend Belinda

Granger, who is retiring from professional racing after the Challenge Laguna Phuket; multiple half-distance winner Rebekah Keat; and Gina Crawford.

The professional athletes are competing for a prize purse of more than 1 million baht.

As with every year, Laguna Phuket will be raising funds for

its Laguna Phuket Foundation during the Tri-Fest week. Athletes competing in Laguna Phuket sports events are being asked to raise funds through donations and sponsorships for the foundation, which aims to raise 500,000 baht each year for its various charity programs.

The foundation's latest project, the "Fully Booked!" Mobile Learning Centre, will be showcased at the Tri-Fest event this year. The center began providing services to schoolchildren in rural areas of Phuket in July.

In December, the foundation will launch a special education service in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the tsunami. The new Laguna Phuket Community Learning Centre (CLC) will complement the current community English-learning center that has been providing free English courses to interested learners of all ages since 2007.

To date, nearly 8,000 learners have enrolled and the new CLC will become a center where people can develop their skills and further their knowledge. Donations made to the Laguna Phuket Foundation this year will be used for this new initiative.

Athletes can make donations via online event registration and at the donation booth at the event.

Phuket dominates Petanque Challenge once again

PHUKET emerged as the clear winners of the Phuket-Dubai-France Petanque Challenge held at Saphan Hin last weekend, winning 52 of its games.

Six pairs from each team played 12 opponents – six from each side – for a total of 108 matches throughout the two-day tournament. France came second, winning 32 games, and Dubai came third, with 24 victories.

The tournament was an expanded version of last year's Phuket-Dubai Grand Slam, which the home team also won convincingly 48-20.

Dubai largely failed to contend with skilled opponents from both camps, firmly ending up with the wooden spoon in the new-format, three-way event.

Phuket's top pairing of Thanyawath Inglob and Thumrong Khumphet won all 12 of their games to take the title, beating

each of their adversaries by an average score of 13-5.

Day one came to a nail-biting close, drawing a big crowd, as Nittra Phateard's pairing turned the screws on Dubai star Karim Kahla's doubles unit. The Tunisian marksman's normally unerring shooting went awry, and the ladies won the match by a convincing 13-8 margin.

But the real spectacle was the day two battle between Inglob and Khumphet against the eventual runners-up, Manu and Laurent of France, who won 11 of their games in a tussle that went down to the wire – leaving the packed house riveted.

Phuket also took third place, with pair Wanlee Singtonyam and Club Captain Lung Tormor going 10 out of 12.

Based on the same principles as lawn



Phuket Petanque Club President Nigorn Supanam raises the trophy with members of his winning team. Photo: Peter Shaw-Smith

bowling and curling, the game of petanque involves throwing the ball through the air rather than along the ground, to land as close to a wooden

jack as possible.

Pointers try to establish accurately placed balls close to the jack, while shooting is an attempt to displace the balls of well-positioned opponents, by throwing the metal boules with which the game is played, at high velocity.

"We had more victories than last year, but the Phuket club still won," said Marc Molatte, president of Dubai Petanque.

"The atmosphere was great, and the weekend was superbly organized. This event is growing. Next year will be even bigger and better."

In commiserating with his Dubai opponents, Saphan Hin team captain Lung Tormor said "I was happy to see the level of Phuket's opponents has improved."

– Peter Shaw-Smith

Phuket Dinghy Series sets sail

A FLEET of 25 Optimist and seven Laser dinghies set sail off Cape Panwa last weekend as the Phuket Dinghy Series 2014 got underway, ahead of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta to be held in December.

Racing began in front of the Sailing Club of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command Base at 11am, with breezes of eight to 12 knots filling in and clear skies above giving the young sailors the picture-postcard views that Phuket has become renowned for.

The series finale will be held at Kata Beach on November 29 and 30, the first two registration days of the King's Cup Regatta.

The standings so far are:

Laser class: 1) Teerapong Torkrathok (PYSC); 2) Kittitach Chavykeaw (SSC); 3) Winai Sukkasem (SSC).

Optimist class – Boys: 1) Nattapong Yoang-ngam (PYSC); 2) Katoon Jumdet (PYSC); 3) Sarawuth Kulak (PYSC).

Optimist class – Girls: 1) Nalinmas Nitsuwan (NAC3SC);



The next race will be held on November 29 and 30. Photo: Supplied

2) Natnicha Maneecharoen (NAC3SC); 3) Keeratika Krongbun (NAC3SC).

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