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Daughter tracks down mum



After 54 years, British woman embraces her biological mother

INSIDE TODAY

November 29 - December 5, 2014

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■ 'TOURISTS PAY UNDER THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE'

Pressure

■ Island opposition to years of special treatment for jet-ski cowboys mounts

By **Isaac Stone Simonelli**

AUTHORITIES are under mounting pressure to rein in jet-ski operators, who remain free to continue renting out jet-skis at the island's beaches, while all other businesses on the sands have been torn down and banned.

The latest call to regulate the jet-ski cowboys – renowned for using violent intimidation to extort money from tourists – came at the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) forum, which focused on the future of Phuket's marine tourism industry.

No substantial progress has been made in regulating jet-skis or protecting tourists from the variety of scams jet-ski operators are known to employ, said Martin Carpenter, British Honorary Consul for Phuket.

"We now have another governor to speak to, and, unfortunately, the first subject is going to be jet-skis," he told the forum on November 21.

"What is going to be done about it? I believe absolutely nothing, at this moment. Unfortunately, there is no current evidence that anybody in government, except for here [at AMCHAM], is really taking this issue as seriously as many people want."

The call for action came just weeks after



A jet-ski operator talks with a tourist on Patong Beach last year. Photo: Gazette file

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, director of the local Marine Department office, granted jet-ski operators permission to continue working at the beaches.

The permission was granted on November 4, despite the death of a Russian tourist on a jet-ski at Patong and several dangerous encounters with jet-skis and their related equipment at Nai Harn and Surin beach – all

in that same week.

Mr Phuripat explained to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong that jet-ski operators could stay as long as they followed the new rules brought into effect on October 1.

If they failed to follow the rules, they faced the possibility of an island-wide ban...

Continued on Page 2

Officials jump to action over sea gypsy child prostitution

SEVERAL local government organizations are scrambling to tackle the recently revealed extent of prostitution and drug use among sea gypsy children in Rawai.

Local leaders believe the child prostitution is fuelled by a need to pay drug dealers. However, community members fear violent retribution for reporting dealers to police.

Full story on Page 8

Italian tourist cut in botched bag-snatch

AN ITALIAN tourist was injured while attempting to fight off a gang of bag-snatchers in Karon.

Herbert Wunderer, 49, was cut on the shoulder while trying to help Italian Karin Katherina Albert.

Full story on Page 5

South African missing for many months

A SOUTH African family has made a public appeal for any information that might lead to Ezra Jansen, 31.

Mr Jansen arrived in Phuket in June for what he said would be a one-week holiday. His worried family has heard nothing from him since.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



Business

Wine importer puts all efforts behind Riesling sales. **Page 29**



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Thalang's amenities are appealing to new developers. **Page 31**



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Paramotoring is taking the adventurous to new heights. **Page 34**



Boating

Sunshine's style shines through in its modern iteration. **Page 35**



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Divers don't have to go far to find a megafauna wonderland. **Page 36**



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Italian duo share first place at Laguna Phuket Triathlon. **Page 38**

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Demands made to rein in island's jet-ski cowboys

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...on all jet-skis, he said.

However, the ultimatum rang hollow, as it was Mr Phuripat's second "last chance" warning. He had earlier vowed to revoke the permits of any operators whose businesses or jet-skis were involved in any untoward incidents – that warning came ahead of the notorious week of death and mishaps involving jet-skis this month.

For years, jet-ski scams and the damage they have caused to the island's reputation have been at the forefront of the now-discontinued regular meetings of honorary consuls on the island with the governor of Phuket.

In 2012, Mr Carpenter asked Mr Phuripat to provide clear information warning tourists of the potential problems they may get into while renting a jet-ski. As a result, Mr Phuripat promulgated copies of the current insurance policies held by jet-ski renters.

The notorious reputation of jet-ski scams in Thailand, mainly of tourists being scammed by corrupt jet-ski operators, also prompted the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to announce a plan in August to work with the Department of Tourism, under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports,



Jet-ski operators on Patong Beach last year. Photo: Gazette file

to tackle the problem.

The move followed the NCPO issuing a command to clean up and regulate the jet-ski business operating at many of Thailand's major beach destinations.

Jet-ski scams have been damaging the reputation of Thailand's tourist sector for some time. Most often, having returned a rented jet-ski, tourists are told that they have damaged it and have to pay a hefty repair fee (up to 100,000 baht in some cases) for damage and scratches that were already present, reported the TAT.

"These large fines are often extracted under the threat of violence, and many tourists have taken the step of lodging complaints with their national embassies after being scammed by jet-ski operators," the TAT report explains.

To better gauge public opinion on whether jet-skis should stay, the latest *Gazette* poll asks readers: "Should jet-ski operators be allowed to operate on Phuket's beaches?" Visit PhuketGazette.net to vote and make your voice count.

Man killed instantly in high-speed accident

A MAN riding a motorbike at high speed died instantly, after he crashed into the back of a 10-wheeled truck on Monday night.

The accident, near Baan Mak Prok in Thalang, took place near a u-turn on Thepkasattri Road at about 9:30pm, said Lt Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

"According to witnesses, 37-year-old Ko Talaeluek was travelling at high speed and didn't appear to see the slower-moving truck until the last second," said Lt Thanom.

"He braked, but lost control of the bike and crashed into the rear,



The man was killed instantly when he crashed into the back of a truck.

right-hand side of the truck."

Mr Ko was not wearing a helmet when he crashed.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Illegal croc puts owner in hot water

AN ELEPHANT camp owner will be charged only for the illegal ownership of a crocodile, after confessing to police that he had also recently possessed a gibbon that died a few months ago.

A complaint was filed to a variety of departments about the Khao Lak Elephant Camp, which tourists claimed tortured a gibbon and a crocodile by keeping them in small confinements and treating them poorly.

There were also allegations of unfair entrance fees and an illegal Myanmar tour guide working at the camp.

"Our search of the place revealed no illegal tour guide or gibbon. However, we did find a large crocodile that the owner didn't



The camp didn't have the legal documents for the croc. Photo: MOTs PR

have the proper paperwork for," said Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) office based in Phuket.

"The manager confessed that he had owned a gibbon a couple of months ago, but without being able to find it on the premises, there was nothing

police could do about it."

The camp owner, who Mr Santi declined to publicly name, is to be charged with the illegal possession of a protected species.

"The camp will remain open for business, as their paperwork for the elephants is all in good order," said Mr Santi.

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South African goes missing

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE family of a South African man who went missing after arriving in Phuket in June is asking for any information about his whereabouts or safety.

Ezra Jansen, 31, last contacted his mother on June 11, the day after he arrived in Phuket.

"I tried to call him on his phone on June 11, but I could not get through. I then decided to email him, and he emailed me back on June 11 saying that he had made arrangements to be back on June 16," Ezra's mother, Zurayda Jansen, told the *Gazette* last week.

However, Ezra, a born-again Christian, had told his brother on the way to the airport in Pretoria, South Africa that he was thinking of becoming a missionary.

"Ezra was at a point in his life where he had to decide what he was going to do next," Mrs Jansen said.

Ezra, who studied Electrical Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, left his job of about six years in July last year. Afterward, he visited family



Ezra Jansen, 31, last contacted family on June 11. Photo: Supplied

frequently while staying with his brother in Pretoria and eventually got his own flat in the area, Mrs

Jansen explained.

On June 7, he decided to clear out his flat, and took his furniture

and car to his brother's place.

"I am worried because he could have been disappointed that nothing wanted to work out for him, then making the decision to go to Thailand. I am only speculating about his decision," Mrs Jansen said.

"I have no idea why he is not contacting us. Ezra is a born-again Christian, so he might have joined a church there in Phuket and gotten involved with their programs."

Mrs Jansen confirmed to the *Gazette* that the South African Embassy had been notified of Ezra's disappearance. The Embassy later confirmed with Immigration that Ezra was still in Thailand, Mrs Jansen said.

"We, as a family, are very concerned [by] not hearing from Ezra since June. As a mother, I feel sad and pray for Ezra every day," Mrs Jansen said.

Anyone with information about Ezra can contact his mother directly on +27 72 077-8527 or by email at jansenj@telkomsa.net; or the South African Embassy in Bangkok at 02 659-2900.



Stein Dokset has confessed to killing his ex-girlfriend, but claimed it was an accident. Photo: Gazette file

Norwegian on trial for murder to face verdict in January

STEIN Harvard Dokset, a retired car dealer from Norway and long-term Phuket expat on trial for the murder of his ex-girlfriend Runnana Suktong, will have his verdict handed down after the New Year.

The news came last week after Mr Dokset testified in court.

"Mr Dokset today gave his own testimony as a defence witness," said the public prosecutor involved in the proceedings, who asked not to be named, on November 21.

"He maintained his innocence and again denied the charge of murder. He stood by his claim that an accident caused Ms Runnana's death."

Mr Dokset could face the death penalty under Section 288 of the Thai Criminal Code, which stipulates 15 to 20 years or death. He also faces charges of concealing a body and the illegal possession of a firearm.

— Chutharat Plerin

Deep South Army officer found dead in pond

POLICE will conduct an autopsy on the body of a Deep South Army officer whose remains were found in a Phuket pond on November 23.

Police and rescue workers were called to the scene, behind Rock Garden Village in Rassada, at about 3:45pm, where the body of Sgt Jassada Suton, 31, was found.

Sgt Jassada was stationed with the Army's 44th division, which is based in the insurgency-hotbed province of Yala.

"On the body was a belt bag containing two magazines of ammunition, 1,000 baht cash and his government ID card. There was an 11mm gun in his left pocket and he was holding a car key," said Lt Col Sien Kaewthong of the Phuket City Police.

Police found Sgt Jassada's black Mitsubishi pick-up truck parked near a warehouse not



Sgt Jassada Suton was found on November 23.

far from the pond.

"The vehicle was in good condition and did not appear to have been ransacked," Col Sien said.

Sgt Jassada's body was dressed in a black t-shirt and camouflage pants, and was float-

ing face down in the pond when it was discovered by local villagers.

"At this stage, we believe Sgt Jassada died about three days before his body was found. We found no signs of assault on the body," Col Sien said.

Police have yet to rule out foul play and will continue their investigation while awaiting confirmation of the cause of death.

"At the family's request, we have agreed to send Sgt Jassada's body to the Institute of Forensic Science in Surat Thani, where forensic officers at Region 8 Police headquarters will conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of death," Col Sien said.

Sgt Jassada's truck was impounded as evidence and taken to Phuket City Police Station.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Gone in 60 seconds: theft gang confesses

By Chutharat Plerin

IT TOOK a gang of motorbike thieves operating in Phuket less than one minute to make off with a single bike, a process which the criminals admitted to repeating hundreds of times.

The revelation comes as police netted four thieves that have managed to ride off with more than 200 motorbikes over the last year.

The gang leader, 27-year-old Seed Chidchua, who spent two years in prison for motorcycle theft before his release in September 2013, was arrested again on November 21.

"We were told that five motorcycles had been reported stolen in Phuket Town on Wednesday between midnight and 1am," Patong Police Inspector Suttichai Tianpho said on Tuesday.

"We checked CCTV and saw that the thief was using a specially made key to start the bikes. After investigating, we were able to identify the suspect as Mr Seed."

Police also learned that Mr Seed and three accomplices – Adam Yousri, Anna Chuaychart and Suradet Khunphakdee – would drive to the Ranong border the



The motorbike-theft gang (from left): Suradet Khunphakdee, Adam Yousri, Anna Chuaychart and Seed Chidchua.

next morning to sell the bikes to a Myanmar gang.

"We suspected that Mr Seed would come back and try to steal more bikes on Friday night, so we set up police teams to monitor areas in Phuket Town and Patong that we thought he might target," Lt Col Suttichai explained.

"We caught him red-handed in

Patong that night."

Mr Seed told police that he and his gang targeted multilevel apartment buildings because of the number of people living in them and the decreased chance that tenants might know their neighbors.

Mr Seed also said that they always stole the motorcycles after midnight, when there were less

people in the parking lots.

"The 'order' from Myanmar is for Honda Waves, as they are popular there," Mr Seed told police.

He explained that the customers would pay between 20,000 and 35,000 baht per bike, depending on its condition. The delivery person would get 5,000 baht per bike.

The suspects told police they

avoided being caught at checkpoints by remaining relaxed and doing nothing suspicious as they drove through, Col Suttichai said.

"The process happens so quickly that some victims do not realize that their bikes have been stolen before the bikes have already been driven through the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint," he said.

Police told the *Gazette* that Mr Seed, Mr Adam, Ms Anna and Mr Suradet are all Myanmar nationals who also hold Thai ID cards, and that they are not the only motorbike gang of their kind.

"We believe that there are more of them who are also connected to similar gangs in Myanmar. We will hunt them down," vowed Col Suttichai.

The four suspects confessed and were charged with theft.

Col Suttichai urged all residents to take care when parking their bikes for the night.

"When you park your bike, please make sure you have locked it," he said.

"Moreover, if you suspect someone is attempting to steal a motorbike please call 191 immediately. We cannot be everywhere at all times. We need your help."

One injured in boat engine explosion off Surin Island

NAVY officers conducted a helicopter rescue mission north of Phuket after a man was injured in an engine room explosion on November 22 aboard a boat transporting olive oil.

"We were notified that crew member Pariwat Chuadchum had been severely injured in an explosion and needed medical attention," Capt Pongjak Uraiman of Royal Thai Navy told the *Gazette*.

"We dispatched a speedboat to meet the transport boat at sea. It was about 132 nautical miles away from Koh Surin when the explosion occurred."

The speedboat rescue team had to wait until the boat came closer to shore before they could safely



Mr Pariwat was taken to a Phuket hospital. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

depart for the mission. Mr Pariwat sustained serious injuries to his chest and was having trouble breathing and unable to move when the team arrived.

"It took about 40 minutes to fly him to Phuket. He was then immediately transferred to Vachira Hospital," Capt Pongjak said.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*

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Italian tourist slashed in botched teen bag-snatch

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE have arrested three teenagers and are searching for the gang's alleged female ringleader after a failed bag-snatch attempt in Karon left an Italian tourist injured on Monday.

Italian tourists Herbert Wunderer, 49, and Karin Katherina Albert, 54, were walking back to their hotel after midnight when five youths on two motorbikes pulled up alongside them, explained Lt Col Sophon Borirak of the Karon Police.

"One of them [a teenager] tried to take Karin's bag," Mr Wunderer said in his statement recounting the attack.

"I tried to stop them, but one of them used a knife to slash my left shoulder."

People nearby ran to assist the Italians, forcing the teenagers to flee, Col Sophon explained.

"We checked CCTV footage, and could see the suspects heading toward Chalong Circle after the crime," he said.

By 3am, the officers had three of the teenagers in custody, for whom police used the monikers



The teens arrested face charges of gang robbery at night and assault.

Mr Benz, 16; Mr Pond and Mr Johnson, both 17.

Mr Benz and Mr Pond were arrested at separate addresses in Rassada, while Mr Johnson was arrested in front of Muang Phuket Municipal School in Phuket Town.

Mr Johnson, who police identified by CCTV footage as the one who slashed Mr Wunderer, was

found in possession of a knife believed to have been the one used in the crime, Col Sophon noted.

"The three teens confessed to committing the attempted snatch," Col Sophon said.

"They also named Suktanya Saetiew, 25, as their ringleader."

The teens face charges of gang robbery at night and assault, Col Sophon confirmed.

"Although five suspects were initially wanted for the attack, we have since confirmed that one of the five was only a witness to the crime," he said.

"We are now searching for Ms Suktanya."

The attack on Monday closely resembled a botched bag-snatch in Kata in 2012 in which Australian tourist Michelle Smith died after being stabbed while defending her bag.

Mrs Smith, a 60-year-old mother of three from the city of Perth, Western Australia, was in Phuket on a "familiarization tour" of the island when she was attacked about 100 meters from the resort where she was staying.

With a punctured heart and lung, she collapsed and died in the arms of her friend and compatriot Tammee Lee Lynn, who suffered a lacerated right arm in the attack.

The two men found guilty for that attack – Surasak Suwannachote, who confessed to stabbing Mrs Smith, and Surin Tadthong, who confessed to operating the motorbike used in the attack – were both sentenced to life in prison.



Do you feel safe in Phuket after dark? Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Public safety takes a hit in online survey

ONLY 11% of respondents in a *Phuket Gazette* online poll said that they felt "completely safe" anywhere in Phuket.

The month-long poll garnered 3,266 votes, with just over 12% responding that they "rarely feel safe anywhere in Phuket", while 18% said "I don't feel safe anywhere in Phuket".

Despite recent police efforts to improve safety in tourist areas, a total of 21% of Thai respondents said that they didn't feel safe anywhere on the island, compared with 15% of foreign residents and 18% of tourists who took part.

Meanwhile, tourists said that they felt marginally safer than Thais in Phuket, with 12% of visitors to the island who voted saying that they felt safe anywhere on the island, compared with 11% of Thai respondents.

Only 9% of expats who voted said that they felt safe anywhere in Phuket. – *Phuket Gazette*



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Officials consider changing date of Christmas Day tsunami drill

OFFICIALS are considering postponing the Christmas Day tsunami drill in Phuket after receiving complaints from tsunami victims preparing for the 10th anniversary of the tragedy.

"Several foreigners filed complaints directly to me saying that they don't want to witness the full-scale tsunami drill so close to the 10th anniversary day," Governor Nisit Jansomwong said on November 22.

"They are victims of the tsunami and a lot of them lost their loved ones in the waves. I want to be sensitive to their grief."

However, the drill has yet to be officially postponed. The date will be reconsidered in another meeting, which the governor assured would take place as soon as possible.

"Though the timing might not be right, the drill is very important. It is something we must practice so that we are prepared in case of an emergency," Governor Nisit said.

— **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

Officials plead for locals to help reduce coral poaching

By **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

RESIDENTS and tourists must immediately report any signs of coral poaching to officials, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 Chief Tanet Munnoy told the *Gazette* on Nov 22.

"Quick action is necessary to clamp down on corals being stolen from marine national parks, because the criminals behind the work move rapidly," Mr Tanet said. "They have to be fast if the corals are to be taken from the sea and delivered to the mainland."

The department's call for help in cracking down on the marine pilfering came after Andrew Hewett, the owner and manager of The Adventure Club on Phi Phi, posted photographs on Facebook of corals collected in baskets that were left underwater.

In the two baskets found at Hin Moskito were species of *acropora*, *tubestrea* and soft corals suspected



A variety of corals were found in the two baskets. Photo: Andrew Hewett

of being gathered to be sold to aquarium owners.

"This is the first time that I have seen corals in baskets that were not collected for research purposes," Mr Hewett said.

"Without a physical presence [like national park rangers] to monitor activities such as this, and to administer penalties, coral reefs will deteriorate beyond the point of self recuperation."

Mr Tanet acknowledged that coral poaching was an issue.

"I can't deny that there are still people illegally collecting corals in the national parks. However, we have our officers, as well as local networks, who help us remain vigilant. Nonetheless, we could use everyone's help – the more eyes we have, the harder it will be for them to hide," Mr Tanet said.

Those witnessing coral poaching are asked to contact Mr Tanet on his mobile at 076 393-566.

The poaching, however, is only the tip of the pinnacle of problems plaguing the Phi Phi archipelago's shallow-water reefs, said Mr Hewett.

"Phi Phi islands are subject to high [volume] boat traffic coming from the mainland, and speedboats only use anchors as a form of mooring," Mr Hewett said.

"If one speedboat drops its anchor five times in one trip, how long will 100 speedboats a day take to completely destroy the shallow water corals around Phi Phi?"

New top brass vows to maintain Navy's current Rohingya policy

THOUGH there has been a change of top brass at the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command, based in Phuket, the official policy for managing the overwhelming flow of refugees and illegals escaping violence in their home countries remains unchanged.

The recently transferred Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, now Commander of the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command, told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview last week that the exodus of refugees, including Rohingya – and their subsequent expulsion from Thailand – is a vicious cycle that will continue unless a change is made in Myanmar.

"I am well aware that this issue goes around in a circle. We are doing the best we can at our end. We can do only what is permitted under Thai law, the rest is beyond my authority," said V/Adm Sayan.

"Thai government leaders are discussing with the Myanmar government and the United Nations ways to help the refugees and treat them like other Myanmar nationals.

"However, Thailand cannot solve this problem. International leaders must gather and find a solution, otherwise this will continue on endlessly."

V/Adm Sayan vowed to continue in the footsteps of his predecessor by assisting refugees to the best of his abilities, even if they are arrested for illegally landing on Thai soil.

"If naval officers spot refugee boats at sea, we will assist them the best we can by helping them



Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej

continue their journey and by providing food, oil and other necessary provisions," he said.

"However, if they land on our shores we have no choice but to arrest them, as they are breaking the law by illegally entering the country.

"We must also take good care of those that are arrested. Medical services will be provided as they have made a very long sea journey with little food. We will provide them with food while they await deportation."

V/Adm Sayan also assured the *Gazette* that he would pursue cases against anyone suspected of smuggling refugees from Myanmar to Thailand.

"Human trafficking is a huge problem that affects Thailand's reputation. We do not take this issue lightly. If we have evidence against anyone – civilian or official – we will not let them get away," he said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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Reunited after a lifetime apart

British woman tracks down biological mother 54 years later

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A BRITISH national, born to an Aussie mining-site manager and a Thai woman in 1960 and then given up for adoption six months later, was reunited with her birth mother in Phuket after 54 years apart.

Kimberley Ferreira, 54, was able to hold her 79-year-old birth mother, Yoklern Jankaew, in her arms for the first time last week due to the help of many Thai people and a three-month search that took her from Koh Pha Ngan to Phang Nga province, and finally to Phuket.

"I was contacted yesterday [Nov 20] and told that my daughter was coming to see me. I was surprised and confused, as only a few people knew that I had a daughter," said Ms Yoklern.

"But as they gave me more information, I started to believe that it was true."

Ms Ferreira showed up at Ms Yoklern's doorstep with her husband Carlos and documentation proving who she was.



Kimberley Ferreira was able to hold her mother, Yoklern Jankaew.

"I was told [many] years ago by my adoptive parents, who have since passed away, that my real mother was in Thailand. I have wanted to meet her ever since, but I didn't know how to start," Mrs Ferreira said.

Her search began, mistakenly, in Koh Pha Ngan in September.

"I misunderstood, thinking that Pha Ngan and Phang Nga were the same place. I was upset when I realized that I was in the wrong area – I almost lost hope," Mrs

Ferreira explained.

However, Kingkaew Yoopakdee, an employee at the resort in which Mrs Ferreira was staying, stepped up and offered to help.

Ms Kingkaew informed Ms Ferreira that she would need to contact the Takuapa district office herself in order to obtain information about her mother.

"I was informed about a woman who was searching for her mother, Ms Yoklern, in Takuapa. We started searching ourselves, and found out that Ms Yoklern had moved to Phuket," said Cherdchai Pattamayutanon, village headman of Takuapa Moo 5.

Eventually, Mr Cherdchai was able to track down an address for Ms Yoklern.

"They were hugging and crying the whole time they were together," Mr Cherdchai said.

After Ms Yoklern and Ms Ferreira said their tearful hellos, Ms Yoklern told her daughter that she looked like her Australian father, who had left Thailand many years ago.

"The last thing I heard about my daughter was that her adoptive mother was taking her to Kuala Lumpur," Ms Yoklern said.

She explained that she had been working as a maid for an Australian man who was a manager on a mining site off Phang Nga when she became pregnant with his child.

"We had a daughter together, named Tok-Ta. He already had a wife, so I named my brother as the father on the birth certificate," Ms Yoklern said.

When Tok-Ta, now Kimberley Ferreira, turned six months old, Ms Yoklern gave her to a woman named Kim and her husband, who was also working on the mining site.

"Madame Kim [the adoptive mother] and her husband were my friends and were unable to have children. They loved Tok-Ta and promised that they would take very good care of my child," said Ms Yoklern.

"I was uncertain of my future, and knew that she would have a better life and more opportunities with them."



Palat Jantarasopin (front left) presented the complaint to Governor Nisit Jansomwong (front right). Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Beach vendors fearful of police investigation

MORE than 100 out-of-work beach vendors gathered at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday to file a complaint with the governor regarding a land encroachment investigation by the Karon Police.

The vendors presented the letter to Governor Nisit Jansomwong – along with a letter from the Ministry of Interior, dated January 3, 2005, that gave permission for people to operate businesses on Phuket's beaches following the 2004 tsunami.

"Locals were approached by Karon Police officers and questioned about illegal land encroachment from when they were working on the beaches before the National Council for Peace and Order [NCPO] cleanup campaign," said Palat Jantarasopin, leader of the Tourism Service Operators Club.

"The police did not present any documentation explaining the pur-

pose of the investigation or who ordered it. The lack of transparency about the origins of this investigation scares us."

When asked about the allegations, Karon Police Superintendent Natthapakin Kwanchaipruk confirmed on Tuesday that he was aware of the investigation, but was not sure why the vendors filed a complaint to the governor.

"If we believe someone was, or is, breaking the law by encroaching on public land, it is our responsibility to investigate," Col Natthapakin said.

"We will take into account any documentation or evidence proving that the vendors were operating legally at the time."

Gov Nisit told Mr Palat that he would pass on the complaint to the relevant authorities, who would handle it from there.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Sea gypsy child prostitution

Scramble to deal with shroud of silence surrounding drugs abuse, prostitution

By Chutharat Plerin

AFTER being contacted by the *Gazette* on Tuesday, local officials and community leaders are taking action over fears that children at the sea gypsy village in Rawai are entering a downward spiral of drugs and prostitution, with girls as young as 10 reportedly offering sexual services to adults.

Rawai sea gypsy community leader Ngeem Damrongkaset, 69, said he is aware of drug use among children in the community. However, he says there is little he can do to stop it.

"There are people from outside of our community who are trying to get our teenagers involved in drugs," said Mr Ngeem. "They use some people in our community to try to get the kids hooked."

Fear of violent reprisal by the drug dealers is preventing the children involved in drugs, as well as their parents, from reporting the dealers to the police, said Mr Ngeem.

"Even though we know who is dealing drugs in our community, we cannot do much about it," he explained. "We are genuinely concerned about the safety of the children involved, and anyone who gets in the dealers' way."

GRIPPED BY FEAR

The threat of violence is no stranger to villagers, said Mr Ngeem.

"A young girl was reportedly raped by her grandfather in our community," he explained, adding that the threat of violence by the alleged rapist effectively stifled any investigation into the claim.

"About two years ago, the grandmother told me that she had



Mr Ngeem is aware of drug use among children in the community, but feels powerless to stop it.

just found out that the girl had been raped by the grandfather. I asked her to file a complaint to police, but she was too frightened.

"So they are still living together in the same house, but now the grandmother keeps a much closer eye on her granddaughter to make sure she's safe – that's how limited their choices are."

FEEDING THE DEMON

While villagers live on in the shadow of the child-rape allegation, there is a growing fear that many other children are getting hooked on drugs and turning to prostitution to feed their addiction, said Alin Hadsaithong, an Urak Lawoi elder in the village.

Mr Alin said that he has become very concerned about children in the village being drawn

into the dark underworld of prostitution and crime – but feels powerless to prevent it.

"It seems like many of the young Moken sea gypsies who live on the west side of the pier [apart from the sea gypsy village on the east side] are involved in prostitution."

"I do not have clear details about this. Nobody really talks to me about it, but the children gather at the end of the pier at about 5pm and stay there until very late."

"Men of all ages are often seen walking or riding their motorbikes up to the end of the pier and picking up girls and riding back to shore. They return a short time later and drop the young girls off."

"I have heard that these girls are not forced or groomed into prostitution, but are choosing to do it to get money," he said.

Mr Alin believes that the night-

mare began when some of the youngsters saw sea gypsy widows turn to prostitution for money to feed their families.

"It's no secret that's how prostitution started at the end of the pier. Then young girls, some as young as 10 years old, saw this and wanted to do the same so that they could get money – and some of those youngsters are using the money to buy drugs," he said.

"I don't want to report them to the police – they need help, not to be arrested," he said.

HUMAN SECURITY

Pimporn Khorsantiwichai, director of the Phuket Office of Social Development and Human Security, said that she had not received any reports of child prostitution or drug abuse by youths at the sea

gypsy village.

"But now we have, and we will certainly look into it," she said.

Regarding the fears of drug use and prostitution among the young girls, Ms Pimporn said, "We have to talk with a lot of villagers to address the issue. Each family has a different set of problems."

Ms Pimporn explained that working on such issues with the sea gypsy community was delicate.

"If the community does not help us by providing information, we will have a tough time helping them," she said. "If they shut us out, we cannot do much about it."

However, Ms Pimporn also said that the issue was of real concern.

"If there is child prostitution taking place in the community, it must be stopped," she stated.

Ms Pimporn has already raised the issue with Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos, who on Monday told the *Gazette* that the problem of drug use and alleged child prostitution in his ambit was brought to his attention only weeks ago.

"Officials are now investigating all the claims, including the alleged child-rape. It is a sensitive issue, but the victims must be helped," he said.

Mayor Aroon has called for relevant government agencies to meet in order to discuss how the investigation is to proceed.

"It is a very sensitive issue. We have tried talking to the villagers, but we did not get much information from them. They don't really want to talk to outsiders about it."

"Some of these people do not want help. They just want to live without any interference. However, we will try our best. The sooner we stop this, the better for the children and for the community."

Ma-ann denies national report of illegal businesses on beach land

VENDORS have not resumed operations on public-beach land confirmed the president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) on Monday.

A national news story on November 23 reported that a group of defiant beach vendors, including restaurant operators and masseuses, had returned to the sands of Cherng Talay to re-start their businesses for the yearly influx of tourists to the island.

"I am aware of the news. However, the beach businesses pictured in the story are legally operating on private land," said Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay OrBorTor.

"I checked to make sure – since they are very close to public land – and they are in fact doing nothing illegal."

However, Mr Ma-ann did ad-



Businesses were cleared off Surin Beach earlier this year. Photo: Gazette file

mit that he has had to rein in some vendors trying to move their businesses back onto public land.

"The most recent incident was just two weeks ago. I had to tell vendors who were trying to set up their drink stall on the beach to leave," he said.

Mr Ma-ann said that there would be municipal officers patrolling

Surin and Bang Tao beach to watch out for any vendors who might try to reclaim space on the sand.

"If they find someone attempting to encroach on the land, the officers will report it to me immediately. I will then go to the site and order the vendors to leave," he said.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*



2bn baht in hidden assets found in top cop's homes

PRIME Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has proclaimed a series of high-profile arrests of national-level top brass police officers as being part of a long-awaited reform of the Royal Thai Police.

During raids last week, police discovered secret underground vaults at the home of former Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) Commander Pongpat Chayaphan, containing assets worth more than 2 billion baht.

Lt Gen Pongpat was suspended from service after being charged with several crimes, including Lese Majeste, a police source said on November 23.

Inside the vaults owned by Gen Pongpat, police found ancient Buddha images, golden postage stamps, rare paintings, ivory and a large number of Thai and US banknotes, reported *The Nation*.

National police chief Gen Somyot Poompanmoung said that the police were extending their probe into the corruption scandal



Gen Pongpat (in white) was taken into custody this week. Photo: The Nation

and believed that more hidden items would be found.

When asked why former Royal Thai Police chiefs had not been aware of wrongdoing on such a large scale, Gen Somyot said that he could not read the minds of previous police chiefs. However,

he vowed to arrest any wrongdoers, regardless of their ranks.

Apart from the 11 houses owned by Gen Pongpat, raids were also conducted at four other locations – including the homes of former CIB deputy chief Kowit Wongrungraj and former Crime

Suppression Division (CSD) officer Col Akkharawut Limrat.

Col Akkharawut was found dead on November 20. Police suspect that it was a suicide.

Col Kowit acted as the right-hand man of Gen Pongpat in their quests for money, CSD Commander Akkharadej Phimolsri said at a press conference this week.

The arraignment document seeking to detain Gen Pongpat, Col Kowit, former Marine Police Commander Bunseub Phraithuen and Col Akkharawut, said that the officers had demanded money from officers seeking promotions. Each position allegedly cost between 3mn baht and 5mn baht.

Two crime-fighting agencies – the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) and the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) – have been assigned to investigate the connection between the arrests and a contraband petrol trade that may have been used to back insurgents in the Deep South.

AROUND THE nation

Teen's death might be due to diet pills

A 19-YEAR-OLD freshman girl who died of shock last Sunday may not have died from taking female hormone pills, used to enhance the size of breasts or glutathione, skin-whitening, pills.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) spokesperson Prapon Angtragoon first said on Monday that the victim could have died from a concentrated glutathione injection, which can lead to broncho-constriction and result in shock, reported *The Nation*.

However, he suspects that sibutramine in diet pills might have been the real killer, as the victim had aortic stenosis. Sibutramine can cause broncho-constriction in a person with this disease.

Further examination is needed before a conclusion can be made, he said.

Police hunt for distributors of anti-NCPO documents

DEPUTY Defence Minister and Army chief Udomdej Sitabut said he has instructed intelligence officials to locate those behind the distribution of leaflets attacking the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), as a way of preventing anti-coup protests from worsening.

"Whoever is involved will be tracked down and action will be taken," said Mr Udomdej.

NCPO spokesman Col Winthai Suvari criticized the people behind the distribution of anti-NCPO leaflets at Democracy Monument early Monday morning as littering and distorting the truth.

"The distribution of the leaflets is not a constructive act and the



An anti-coup protester is detained by police. Photos: The Nation

message in the leaflets is a distortion of the truth and discrimination," Col Winthai said.

"Their action does not benefit society, and it shows that whoever did this does not understand the circumstances surrounding the country."

Missing man from Sierra Leone found, shows no signs of Ebola

IMMIGRATION Police have located a Sierra Leone man who failed to report for Ebola monitoring as he was about to fly out of Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Samuel Sesay, 31, is now with officials at the airport's disease control checkpoint, pending repatriation, reported *The Nation*.


The check-up showed the 31-year-old man, who came to Thailand on November 13 from Ebola-hit Sierra Leone, had no fever and was healthy. He was fined 2,000 baht for failing to report to health officials, as required.

In a bid to prevent an outbreak of the deadly disease in Thailand, the ministry requires all people travelling from Ebola-affected countries, including Sierra Leone,

to provide details on their health condition to the ministry every day for 21 days.



"There have been eight people on our observation list. Of them, only this man has lost touch with us," the ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary Wachira Pengjuntr said on Monday.



In related news, the Public Health Ministry and 13 related agencies and organizations held an Ebola drill at Chon Buri's U Tapao Naval Base on Monday, during a scenario in which a 150-passenger aircraft discovered that three persons had suspected Ebola symptoms. The drill ran from the emergency landing, personnel preparation, patient screening and quarantine facility.



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Thailand's choice

FIRST PERSON

POLITICAL turbulence in Thailand has taken its toll on the economy. But in the immediate aftermath of the military coup on May 22, I met many Thai and British business people who were optimistic that business confidence would quickly return to the marketplace and that the economy would come out of its slump.

On a less optimistic note, some of the longer-serving members of the British business community in Thailand predicted that proposals to amend the Foreign Business Act (FBA) in a way unhelpful for foreign investment would be taken out of the cupboard, having previously been stored away in 2007.

It looks as if the business people were right on both counts. Confidence has returned, although the economy has not recovered as quickly as many wished. And the proposed amendments to the FBA are back. If they go through, the chance of improvement in the economy becomes less likely.

The FBA restricts foreign investment in Thailand, particularly in the service sector where it limits foreign ownership to 49%. As a result, international investors use arrangements such as preferential shares to retain control of the business, and with it, the high value inherent in the business' technology, training programs, and brand integrity.

It seems there is a wish by some to redefine what constitutes a "foreign" business under the terms of the FBA. The effect would be to prevent the use of preferential shares by foreign investors to control their business. Just as in 2007, this is a cause for concern amongst international investors in Thailand, the foreign Chambers of Commerce and the many Thais who believe in liber-



Mark Kent has been British ambassador to Thailand since August 2012. Prior to that he spent a year learning Thai at universities and language schools in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen. He is also an alumnus of the King Prajadhipok's Institute course in Politics and Governance. Mark comes

from Lincolnshire. He has a degree in Law from the University of Oxford and postgraduate qualifications in European Law and Economics from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles and Business Administration from the Open University. He has language qualifications in Thai, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch.

alizing the economy.

But what is more, like many others, I am not clear why such a change is being proposed now.

Thailand aspires to become a high-income country, and rightly so. Thai Ministers talk of making Thailand a hub for trade in South-east Asia. These are plans to commend, and British companies have much to offer in partnership: clever technology, robust project management experience; and world-class creativity.

These are the ingredients that Thailand seeks to move up the value chain. They are also the things that international companies offer through foreign direct investment.

Foreign investors now have real choices as they decide where to base their money, technology and jobs in Southeast Asia. Thailand's neighbors in ASEAN are making their economies increasingly attractive by lifting restrictions.

In contrast, the proposed changes to the FBA may well make Thailand a less attractive

place to invest. Foreign investors are unlikely to risk their technology and brand reputation if they no longer have control over how these will be used.

The proposed changes to the FBA may also hit those already invested, potentially thousands of foreign companies, employing 100,000s, if not millions of Thais.

Existing investors may well decide to hold back investment plans at a time when the Thai authorities want to stimulate growth. Some may even choose to disinvest for fear of expropriation.

This in turn may lead companies to seek compensation under international trade and investment obligations that Thailand has undertaken.

So, Thailand faces a choice. It can choose to seize the initiative again, make itself the most attractive destination for foreign investment, and increase the chance of moving up the value chain, to the benefit of its people.

Or it can choose a different path.



Before you dig into your favorite raw fish dish, whether it is a plate of salmon sashimi or a bowl of koi pla, think about the risks and decide if you really want to take the plunge. Photo: Yumi Kimura

Deadly little worm

A cautionary tale about some of our favorite Asian dishes, and how they can go from delicious to deadly in a matter of bites and a few short hours

I AM surprised that the Department of Disease Control does not inform the public of or educate it about the dangers of eating raw foods.

There is a disease, called gnathostomiasis, caused by a nasty little worm that is ingested by eating raw or partially cooked foods, particularly freshwater fish and crustaceans, but also eels, frogs, birds and reptiles.

All these foods in Thailand should be thoroughly cooked. I contracted the disease a couple of years ago from eating raw freshwater fish and/or crab.

I was lucky because it appeared visibly under the skin of my foot. Lucky, because once it breaks through the gut wall it can move around the body very fast – from one side of the body to the other – overnight and mostly unseen.

It is a nasty little worm for many reasons. It is nasty because if it enters the eye it causes blindness; if it enters the brain it causes huge damage to the brain function, which could result in death; and if

Island View

By Andrew Whitecross

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

it enters the spinal cord, it's fatal.

Paralysis can take hold within four days, and death within two weeks.

It is most common in Thailand and Japan, and is caused by eating dishes such as *koi pla* (a raw fish in spicy salad dish from Thailand), *goi ca son* (a raw fish dish from Vietnam) and sashimi and sushi (Japan).

However, thorough cooking kills the larvae.

There are other ways to eat it raw, but safely, such as by freezing it at 20 degrees Celsius for at least five days, marinating it in vinegar for at least six hours or by marinating it in soy sauce for at least 12 hours.

So, if you want to eat raw food, safely, make sure it's frozen for a week before you eat it.

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

What are, if any, the penalties for driving without a licence plate?

I WAS driving along Thepkasattri Road recently and I encountered within the space of three minutes three motor vehicles without licence plates fitted on the back. One of the vehicles was a van carrying passengers to the airport.

I see this quite often these days. Is it legal for a vehicle to be driven on a public road with only one license plate fitted to the front?

If it is not legal, what are the police doing about it?

And if they're not doing anything about it, where can another driver report this so that the report will be accepted and pursued?

GB,
Thalang

Lt Col Rungrit Rattanapagdee,
chief of the Phuket City Traf-

fic Police, replies:

Driving a vehicle that is not fitted with appropriate plates can result in a fine of up to 1,000 baht.

However, unless such vehicles are right in front of us or pass through a checkpoint, it is hard to catch them because the vehicle is not bearing any information that allows us to track them down.

We need something, even a description of any commercial information painted on the vehicle, so police can go after the driver.

If you see any such vehicle, please report it to the nearest police station. Phuket City Police Station is on Chumphon Road in Phuket Town.

Terayout Prasertpol, chief of
the Phuket Land Transport

Office, replies:

By law, every vehicle must have licence plates fitted to both the front and the back at all times while the vehicle is being driven on public roads.

This is so that vehicles – and their registered owners – can be identified if something happens.

Any of our officers who see vehicles without licence plates usually fine the owner 500 baht, although the law states that the fine can be up to 1,000 baht.

Motorists can report such vehicles directly to us by calling 076-220791 or by email to nongda461@hotmail.com [Note: This has been confirmed as the email address for PLTO – Editor]

Please let us know the name of the company or any other infor-



All vehicles must be fitted with proper licence plates. Photo: Gazette file

mation that helps describe the vehicle so we can follow up on it.

If it is a commercial vehicle, then the company's name, logo and possibly contact details are usually posted on the van.

If this is so, we will also issue a formal warning to the company to make sure that they ensure that all their vehicles carry license plates front and back.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Bad timing

THE announcement of plans to conduct a full-scale tsunami evacuation drill in Phuket on Christmas Day was a surprise, given that the next day marks the 10th anniversary of the most horrific loss of life and devastation in the island's recorded history.

Thankfully, the inevitable complaints about the timing have been lodged, and hopefully it is not too late to reschedule the exercises for a more appropriate time.

It is unlikely that officials set the date completely unaware of the sensitivities surrounding the day, as thousands affected by the tsunami are expected to join the island in remembering those who died in the waves a decade ago.

It is more likely that officials hoped to wiggle into the spotlight and give media reports a positive spin as journalists from countries around the world prepare to cover the 10th anniversary.

Already, the *Gazette* has been contacted by several journalists searching for either leads for survivors' stories or contacts to explain the details of the tsunami warning system – which took years to become fully functional.

In addition to remembering the tragedy and attempting to understand how the region has changed since, the question the world will be asking is a fair one: will we be ready next time?

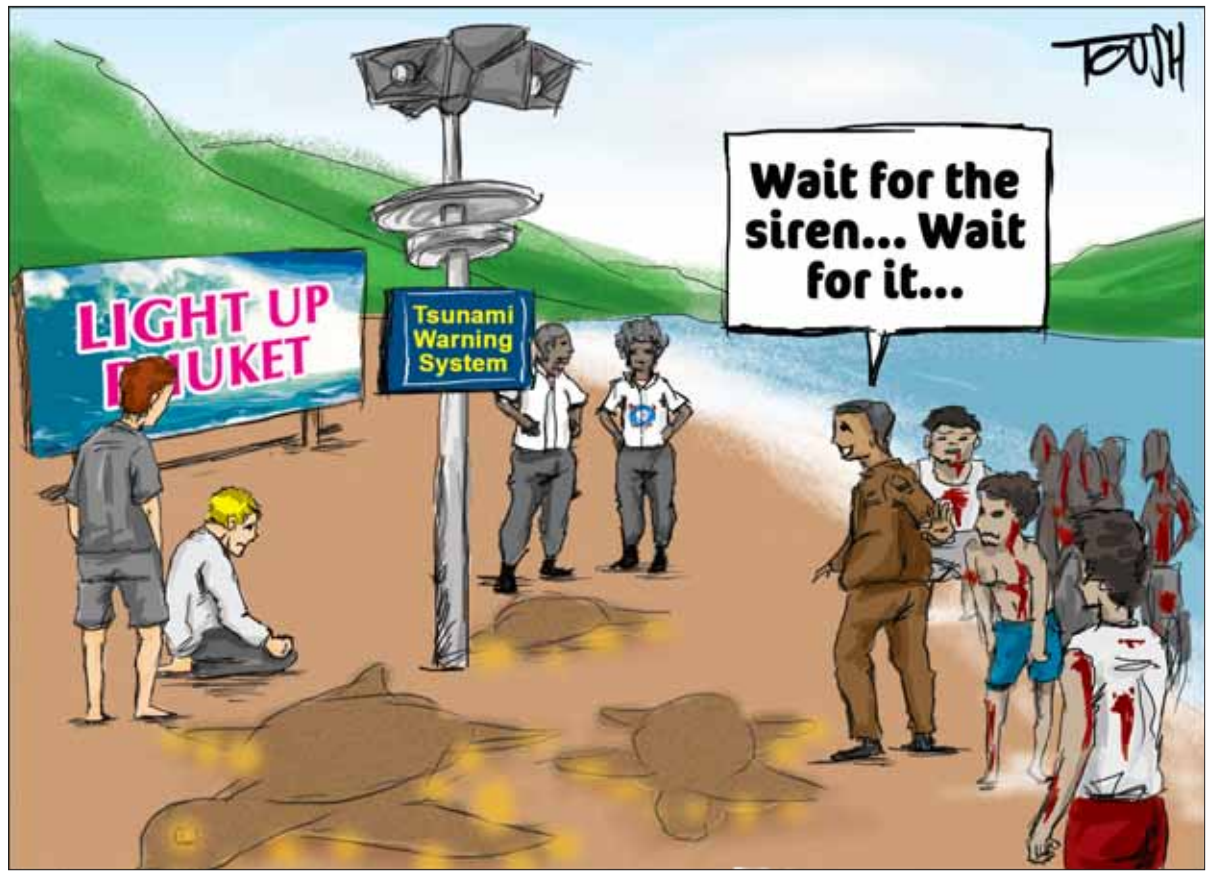
It is important for Phuket – the international media's sweet-heart Thai isle – to show the world how prepared Thailand is. There have been plenty of publicized setbacks, from warning buoys going missing in the Indian Ocean to thieves stealing copper wiring from the warning towers. Nonetheless, officials have persisted, and though there have been no flawless evacuation drills – there has been an upward trend of improvement.

But to force survivors, who might be returning to the island for the first time, to witness any actions that could invoke such vivid images of that devastating day is going too far, and sadly does not promote the island, but makes its governance seem overwhelmingly insensitive. Governor Nisit Jansomwong should be praised for showing some respect by reconsidering the date of the drills.

There is no reason to subject survivors, who may never again return to Phuket, to the sounds of practice sirens – which sound alarmingly similar to the real thing – or the realistic “victims” in Halloween-style makeup being attended to by medics.

Statistically speaking, these drills are more important for those of us who spend our lives day in and day out on the island. We need to know not only how to react, but how to help tourists also make it to safety.

Having this drill so close to the 10th anniversary does nothing to improve the safety of those here and might very likely backfire as a media stunt. With this in mind, we hope that the government chooses to be more sensitive toward those who have lost so much, and perhaps answer the world's question about whether or not we are ready a week or two later.



Buildings are gone, but rubbish is not

Much has been said about the cleanup of the beaches.

It started well, but it seems that demolishing illegal buildings was the easy part.

Now, all over the island, there are piles of rubble and rubbish. The hard part is finishing the job.

Someone needs to go around and arrange a major cleanup.

Ao Por is a major tour starting point, with hundreds of tourists departing from there each day.

Drive down the road, if you can. It is blocked by buses, potholed and there is a dirty fish factory with rubbish all along the front. The grass is a meter high and there are piles of demolished houses everywhere.

This is not the way to present a gateway to the beautiful islands.

Confused Kevin
Phuket

Not the only one with unwanted messages

Re: *Gazette online, Opinion: Dealing with unwanted phone messages, November 19*

I had exactly the same problem with my DTAC SIM card.

It took a visit to their service center in Phuket Town to stop the offending company sending 3-baht SMS messages twice a day.

At the time, I was using a Thai iMobile phone, of which I'd foolishly clicked one of the pre-installed game apps.

These companies must be making millions of baht every day with this type of scam!

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Officials making decisions should talk first

Re: *Gazette online, Beach-umbrella ban remains, confirms*

Letters to the Editor

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

Phuket Governor, November 22

Really? They're not legal on Monday, legal on Wednesday and now not legal?

Do the people making these decisions even know each other?

How many people have the authority to do, or not do, the same thing?

How about the same fate for jet-skis? Legal one day, and all illegal the next!

James Fischer
Facebook

About time the Rawai gangs get cleared out

Re: *Gazette online, Police hunt for Phuket teen motorbike gang after two men assaulted, robbed, November 20*

Hallelujah! This kind of crime has been going on for years in secluded areas of Rawai. That's the reason I sold my house in that area. Usually they target foreigners, not Thai nationals.

It's about time Phuket police do something about this.

Heinz
Gazette forum

Why not ban tourists from the beach?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket beach town leaders shine light on umbrella rumor, November 18*

Why don't the authorities just go ahead and ban tourists from the beaches?

That way, there would be no more problems with beach vendors, jet-skis, parasailers,

masseuses, beach chairs or drowning.

It's such a simple solution, I don't know why they haven't thought of it before.

Discouraged
Gazette forum

Saddened by a coral-killing conundrum

Re: *Gazette online, Coral poachers pounce on Phi Phi, south of Phuket, November 24*

This saddens me. People don't understand the impact poaching and destroying coral has on the eco-system.

I've noticed firsthand that the coral and the number of sea creatures are quickly dwindling since my first dive three years ago.

What takes years to create and flourish is being destroyed in minutes.

Abigail McLaughlin
Facebook

Only talking will never make the roads safer

Re: *Gazette online, Opinion: Remember, Phuket, it's a long road ahead to road safety, November 23*

Talk will never fix this problem. Until the traffic police actually have the will to consistently enforce regulations, the carnage will continue.

I am continually frustrated as I see a so-called policeman standing like a stone watching traffic go straight through red lights, motorcyclists going the wrong way without helmets or riding on the footpath, lines and lines of double or triple-parked cars and motorists travelling at excessive speeds.

Frustrated
Gazette forum

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Managing Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli
News Manager: Chris Husted

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
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Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

November 23-30, 6:30am-3pm. Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2014

A week-long carnival of multi-sport fun and tri-related activities for you to enjoy at Laguna Phuket. Now that the 21st Laguna Phuket Triathlon is over, join us for the 2nd Challenge Laguna Phuket (Nov 30). Challenge Laguna Phuket is part of the globally expanding Challenge Family.

The is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's "Phuket Today" show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired six daily on True Visions and all local cable networks).

November 29, 3:30pm-midnight. Rhythm of Sound

Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa will host a special performance by up-and-coming DJs, including Jaxx Da Fishworks from Japan, DJ EvinKing from China, Thailand natives Krissada Funk & Funky Gangster, Oatawa and Kolor One, DJ Sunzone, Space Monkey and the Trio-IMBYU, as part of the global entertainment platform RLife LIVE. Party until the clock strikes midnight and make this November 29th unforgettable.

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's "Phuket Today" show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired six times daily on True Visions).

November 29, 7-11am. Thanyapura Junior Challenge Triathlon 2014

As part of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2014, which will attract about 2,000 adult participants, the Thanyapura Junior Challenge will be hosted by Thanyapura Phuket, at our world-class sports training center located



just a 15-minute drive from Laguna Phuket.

This fun-filled youth triathlon provides a unique opportunity for participating children to experience the superior sporting facilities at Thanyapura, including a 50-meter Olympic-standard outdoor pool and 500m-cushioned all-weather athletics track. A spectacular bike route also skirts the scenic foothills of a nearby national park on quiet, safe back roads.

The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to sponsor this signature Thanyapura event.

November 29, 8.30pm-2am. Cool Party at Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort

Make your weekend special with a stay at the luxurious Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort and enjoy our "Cool Party Package" from November 28-30, with outstanding rates starting

from THB 9,175* per person. *(rates are applicable to a minimum of 2 persons)

"Cool Party Package" benefits include: 2 nights stay for 2 persons sharing a Superior room, inclusive of daily breakfast, Thai Airways round-trip air ticket (Bangkok-Krabi) Economy class RBD W (availability limited).

Free access to the Saturday Night Party with Bie Sukrit Wisetkaew's mini concert and four hot DJs spinning tracks: Fred Jungo, KC, Neil Thorpe and special guest DJ debut Natalie Glebova.

At 8:30pm is the party warm-up, followed at 9pm by the mini concert by Bie The Star, and then a disco party with popular DJs from 10pm-2am.

Walk-in party goers can enjoy the Saturday Night Party for just THB 350 per person including one free standard drink. Dress Code: Chic Gold.

For more information, please contact 023-562888, or visit www.royalorchidholidays.com.

December 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

December 6, 10am-noon. Free 2-hour seminar – Cracking the Secrets to Online Wealth With Social Media

This course takes even the most green internet user through an amazing insight into how easy the world of online marketing can be.

We explore the one secret common to all success, and how to quickly and simply duplicate that for your own success. We will show you everything you need to know to be making money within 24 hours – online with your own business from home.

This is for everyone, as long

as you have access to a computer and know what the internet is, you are qualified! Also useful for existing business owners. Seminar is in English.

For more information, contact Simon at 095-085 3355, or phuketonlineMarketing-school@gmail.com

December 8-9. Shanghai Real Estate Expo 2014

The best and most influential real estate expo will showcase overseas real estate, property, investment opportunities and projects to Chinese investors at the Shanghai Super Brand Mall.

With organizing experience of many years, Our Expo is to help you reach more rich Chinese property buyers and network you with local property agents who may become your allies in bringing you more leads and sales. For more information, visit: chinarealestateshow.com

December 16-18, 10:30am-11:30pm. Asia Superyacht Rendezvous 2014

Phuket will welcome Superyachts, their owners, captains and VIP guests to the 14th Asia Superyacht Rendezvous for three days of excitement, from December 16-18. Once the first night's formalities are concluded, the majestic *Silolona* will host an opening cocktail party.

With two days of friendly yet competitive "Superyacht Races", principal sponsor Feadship will host the "Challenge" during the second night's fun, where participants are to construct model boats to race. Kata Rocks will again be the spectacular host venue where all shore events will take place, culminating with the opulent gala dinner.

The annual Superyacht Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and the "Phuket Today" show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions).

Ziegler & Brown Balcony Barbecue



Best selling International Award Winning range of Ziegler & Brown barbecue grills from Australia. Now available in Thailand. Portable or on a trolley. Easy to use and clean. 5 year warranty. Grill, roast or smoke. Delivery countrywide.

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YOUR Phuket

Thanyapura welcomes Mrs Kobkarn

Thanyapura management recently welcomed Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports, for a site inspection of the complex.



From left: Nathaphat Asavathanachart, marketing communications manager; Klaus Hebben, Thanyapura founder; Philipp Graf Von Hardenberg, president and CEO; Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports; Troy De Haas, director of sales; and Sudanong Samantararat, director of human resources. Photo: Supplied

Triple “A” Phuket crowned PIST champs

Triple “A” Phuket were crowned the victors of the Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST), held November 19-22. The event was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show.



Kanjana Sriboonsom, the Phuket Gazette's events manager (front left), presents the trophies to the PIST champs. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Dusit Thani Laguna celebrates 27th anniversary



Led by the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's Resident Manager Benjamin Perera (center), the anniversary included a morning blessing ritual, followed by a gala-dinner reception and awards ceremony for 54 long-serving resort staff. Photo: Supplied

G-1 Land holds condo grand opening

G-1 Land recently held a grand opening for its new condominium property, The Regent Bangtao, with a total of 151 units, including a lobby, lounge, seven shops, a restaurant, gym and spa.



From left: Nussuchaya Maneepaisan; Vijittra Maneepaisan; Rlee Pisut, general manager of G-1 Land; Phra Phromvachirayani, Yannawa Temple Abbot and a committee member of the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand; and Satien and Aphissara Yueg-Ngern, owners of G-1 Land. Photo Kanjana Sriboonsom

Gazette teams take part in Phuket Triathlon

As proud sponsors of the event, the Phuket Gazette had two teams taking part for the first time in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, held on November 23.



Overall, the ladies' Team Phuket Gazette took 46th place, but did well in the women's category, coming 2nd out of a total of seven teams. Photo: Supplied



Team Phuket Today took 21st place in the overall standings and achieved a stunning 16th place in the men's category – out of a total of 50 teams. Photo: Supplied

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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November 22 - 28, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY FOR SALE of the week



See page 16

PROPERTY FOR RENT of the week

Offices / Showrooms Available For Rent



See page 18

JOB of the week

CHERNG TALAY LAYAN

Established villa development with
panoramic views is seeking
qualified professionals.

See page 21

BOAT of the week



See page 25

HOT Promotion – Gazette **CLASSIFIEDS**

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Properties For Sale

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

KAMALA

Large 4 bed house, 3 bath, guest WC, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

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

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.

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@phuketandamanrealestate.com

KATHU GOLF CONDO

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

SEAVIEW HOUSE

3-bd Rawai, 640sqm land, 2 floors, perfect seaview on loft top, BBQ area on loft top 11 sqm. Tel: 088-168 5032. Email: info@thenetworkproperty.com

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

RAWAI VIP VILLAS WITH PARK

Unique project with Private Park. 300m from Rawai Beach. Pool villas from 7.9 million baht. 4 villas left! WebBest selling villas in Rawai. Tel: 085-575 3300, 092-979 7899 (English & Thai). Email: 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 A. Tubpud Phang Nga and A. Panom Su ratthani



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

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).

ENTERTAINMENT PALACE

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

FREEHOLD POOL VILLA

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

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.

ONE SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

3km from Laguna Phuket, 3 beds, 2 bath, baht 3.5 mn Contact Nan 081-367 8967.

KATA OCEAN VIEW

1 bedroom, fully furnished, 91sqm, sea view. Best price in complex: Only 60,000 baht/sqm; 5.5 million baht total. Tel: 095-037 9680, 089-617 2312, 076-288872, 076-341045.

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

3 BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146 sq wah (584 sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. For sale by owner. Contact for more photos and info. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai). Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.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.

Condo for Rent
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,
Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

ขายอพาร์ทเมนท์และบ้านพร้อมที่ดิน

For Sale Apartment
6 floors 20 rooms
41.7 wah. 166.8 Sqm.
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167 wah. 699 Sqm.

ขายที่ดิน หลังสนามกอล์ฟ
15-2-73 rai
25,095 m2
Land for sale (Kathu)

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

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

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. 12.9MM. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

Properties For Rent

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment, studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.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

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrisspalmer56@gmail.com For further information, please see our website at pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm

CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

The Base, downtown Phuket. 34 sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished, security, fitness. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The point near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

1-2BD APARTMENTS IN NAI HARN

Apartments in Saiyuan Buri for long and short term (Rawai / Nai harn). Tel: 084-020 8776 (English). Email: rental@thairenthome.com www.thairenthome.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon living room, kitchen, furnished house, car park. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

APARTMENT IN SURIN FOR RENT

1 bedroom, furnished with balcony. Long or short term 18,000 a month. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-537 2549 (English & Thai). Email: Malin@vertigo-phuket.com www.suringate.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL

The White House @ Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina is available for holiday rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai). Email: pen@mindproperties.net www.mindproperties.net

NICE BUNGALOW RAWAI

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

POOL VILLA FOR NEW YEAR

Nai Harn Samakee, 3 bedroom, pool, good condition, 150,000 baht / month. Tel: 093-741 3735. Email: phuket.hello@gmail.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: highstylecondominium@gmail.com

2-BED BEACH CONDOS NAI HARN

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

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

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

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

KATA BEACH APARTMENT

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

CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

54sqm 1 B/R in Patong near Simon Cabaret. Long-term rent (min 5 month) 20,000b/month. Security, big swimming pool, call Mr Finn Tel: 083-104 6599.

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: neiln5nh6@gmail.com

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

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

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.

Offices / Showrooms Available For Rent

40, 80/120sq. meter units available.

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Entrance to Laguna Phuket

Contact Khun Nong for details or visit our website
m: 087 266 8400 e: plazadelmar@gmail.com
www.plazadelmar.nphuket.com

**1,2,3-BED & POOL PENTHOUSES**

Apartments and pool penthouses for holiday rental. Two beaches & town 3-minute walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

KATA NOI, 1 & 2 BED SEAVIEW

Beach 3-minute walk. Immaculate, new, 1 and 2-bed condo & pool penthouse. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR NEW YEAR

Nai Harn Samakee, 3 bedroom, pool, good condition, 150,000 baht / month. Tel: 093-741 3735. Email: phuket.hello@gmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

KATA SEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT

Long-term rental, more than 6 months. Nov - Apr 38,000 baht/month. May - Oct 28,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-282 3724. Email: keywest_aloha@hotmail.com

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Tel: 076-273555 Ext 402 Mobile: 081-970 8381

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

MARKETING MANAGER

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

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).

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

EUROPEAN CHEFS

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

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.

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: ritolouisedobson@hotmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales rep at a holiday ownership company, based in Phuket. Tremendous potential for huge earnings. Legal working status will be arranged. Please send your resume to: rbv@royalperspective.com

ENTHUSIASTIC STAFF WANTED

Enthusiastic, fit, sociable, snorkelling trainer & safety person required for speedboat tours. Thai or foreign with the correct qualifications. Excellent English a must. Send photo with CV. Excellent pay for right person. Tel: 076-289044, 086-011 5340 (English & Thai). Email: workforsimba@gmail.com

FRONT OFFICE GIRL WANTED

Patong area, Thai National, good English, hotel experience. Start from 25K. Tel: 085-694 6463 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

OFFICE ADMIN - REAL ESTATE

Live Phuket, 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

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

WRITER AND PHUKET LOVER

We are building a new online travel guide (Phuket) and we are looking for writer(s) to feed our site. The candidate: Lives in Phuket; Loves Phuket and the Thai culture; Is an English native writer; Has writing experience and loves writing. Ready for the challenge? Please send us your motivation letter and reference. Email: sunray69@gmail.com

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

CHINESE STAFF NEEDED

A Chinese person with reasonable English skills for marketing department of a yacht charter company. Tel: 087-384 2743.

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

SECRETARY

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

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 Nuch. For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

HOTEL RECEPTION

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

PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

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

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

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!

BB PHUKET NEEDS YOU!

A unique, luxury hospitality project, located on the tranquil eastern shores of Phuket, invites you to become a part of our team.

If you:

- Have a passion for high-end hospitality
- Have some experience in the hospitality industry
- Have a pleasant, service-minded personality
- Have a good command of English

We'd like to get to know you better!

Competitive compensation and benefit packages and guaranteed service fees for all successful applicants.

Contact us on jobs@bbphuket.com

Open office event every day except Sundays, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Beach Projects, 51/9 Moo 5, Chalermpriak 9 Rd., T. Rassada, A. Mueang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.

CHERNG TALAY / LAYAN

Established villa development with panoramic views is seeking qualified professionals.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SALES / PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Highly motivated, outgoing personality
- Good command of the English language
- Ability to interact with villa owners
- Thai national, 25-35 years of age

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting degree
- Minimum 3 years' experience in similar position
- Basic knowledge of the English language
- Thai national, 23-35 years of age

Salary to commensurate with experience
Interested individuals to send resume with recent photo to:
layanproperty@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish-speaking 20-30 years old staff wanted. Send your CV & photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

EXECUTIVE CHEF WANTED

A Popular Hotel in central Patong requires an executive chef. Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position, and be able to undertake the full management of a busy kitchen. Languages required: Thai / English. Salary is negotiable, dependent on experience and ability. Tel: 089-208 8557. Email: nealeave ry@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Fundraising Officer who will manage Soi Dog's donor database and send emails to supporters around the world, working closely with other members of the fundraising team. The position requires excellent attention to detail. Applicants should be reliable, consistent, comfortable with computers, fairly competent at writing in English, and love cats and dogs. Tel: 093-678 4406 (English & Thai). To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to belinda@soidog.org by Friday 28 November 2014

EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED

Native English Speaking Customer Service Agent needed for E-commerce Fashion Retailer. Work Permit. High Salary. 5-day Work Week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-282759.



TIGER MUAY THAI & MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Vacant Positions

1. Reservations / แผนกรับรอง
2. Food & Beverage Service and Kitchen / แผนกอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม แผนกครัว
3. Engineering / แผนกช่าง
4. Gear Store / แผนกช่าง
5. Accounting / แผนกบัญชี
6. Receptionist / แผนกต้อนรับ

Benefits/สวัสดิการ

Annual Bonus/โบนัสประจำปี
Annual Increment/ปรับเงินเดือนประจำปี
Group Life & Health Insurance/ประกันชีวิตและประกันสุขภาพกลุ่ม
Uniform/ชุดพนักงาน
Social Security/สวัสดิการประกันสังคม
Duty Meal/อาหารกลางวัน
Public Holiday 13 days/วันหยุดประจำปี 13 วัน
Staff Party /งานเลี้ยงพนักงานประจำปี

Contact / ติดต่อ 076-367071-2

If interested, applicants are invited to walk in with their resumes - which should indicate qualifications and experience - as well as a transcript and expected salary and photo, or email them to:

dee@tigermuaythai.com / ake@tigermuaythai.com

Live in Patong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)

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!**

Live in Karon?

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



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

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Business Opportunities

EXCELLENT WELL ESTABLISHED

Business for sale with TAT licences, 45 bikes, 4 rental rooms, good location, annual turnover, 2MB year. 2.3MB or close offer. Chalong. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

PATONG STEAKHOUSE

Top-ranking and location for sale w/all fixtures, furniture. Tel: 081-970 7007.

BANGLA ROAD BAR FOR SALE



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

BAR SOI TIGER FOR SALE

2nd row in from the front, over 2 years contract 4.5m for details Tel: 081-728 2682 (English). Email: carljeffery123@hotmail.co.uk

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

In Patong, European and Thai restaurant, 50 seats. 550,000. Tel: 081-495 4761.

MINI MART PATONG BEACH

Busy location, good daily customers, 250,000baht. Tel: 089-469 4105 (Thai), 089-890 9899 (English).

GRAPHIC AND DESIGN COMPANY

Swiss company is looking for a joint venture or cooperation with a Phuket or Thailand-based graphic and design company. Business area: visualization for real estate projects / architecture. Tel: +41 076-349 7177 (English). Please mail me at: bau.managerzuerich@gmail.com

RAWAI RESTAURANT URGENT SALE

Area 3,800sqm. Reduce from 1.5 MB to 980,000, yearly rent 200,000baht. Includes 2 houses. Tel: 089-646 7176. Email: big_redchili@yahoo.com

INVESTOR / PARTNER / SALE

I have 6 rai chanote title. Flat land. Waterfront. Email: pktthai1@gmail.com

TOUR DESK FOR RENT

Very good place, frequented corner. Tel: 087-554 6872. Email: bookpatong01@gmail.com

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

PREMIUM BARS FOR SALE

Fully furnished and equipped, top locations, turn-key ready. Price from 500,000 baht to 9 million baht. Contact "G" call 083-645 2846 (English). Email: guenter.riedl@gmail.com

RESORT

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

RESTAURANT FOR RENT-PATONG



250sqm, fully equipped and furnished with license, on Sai Nam Yen Road, close to Sai Nam Yen Plaza. Tel: 086-268 3963.

KARON RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Well-established restaurant in prime location on Karon's main street for sale. In operation since 2002. Reason for sale - owner's relocation. Tel: 082-800 8717 (English), 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Email: a.tszyu@gmail.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

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

3 SHOP HOUSES FOR SALE



Including 12 completely furnished rental rooms. Call 081-979 6215.

PRINT MACHINES & BUSINESS

Advertising business for sale. 1 Roland VP540i (print & cut), 1 Fuji Xerox (print size max A3 & 300 gr paper), cold lamination machine, portfolio design (customers), furnishes, with all stock, desk, furniture, etc. Notime-wasters. Tel: 083-392 7017 (English & Thai). Email: Jerome-patong@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

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

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified baht

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

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

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

PROMOTION PRICE
Your Ad on PGTV

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box: 1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

NATIVE TEACHER OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION IN PHUKET

I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok. Phone Mr Reece (02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

..... (Headline)	
.....	
.....	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

Business Products & Services



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

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

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

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.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

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

VISA SERVICES

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

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai).

Fitness Equipment

ASHTANGA YOGA SHALA

Mysore style, lead and beginner's classes. Personal approach and professional adjustment. Tel: 080-698 0813 (English). Email: sofialin kova@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pages/Ashtanga-Yoga-Shala-Phuket/637555173029986

Miscellaneous Wanted

A/C NEEDED 35 SQM ROOM

Only very good or better used air-conditioner for 35sqm office. Tel: 090-165 8266 (English & Thai). Email: mjlucarelli@yahoo.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

Pool Tables

BAR CONTENTS – URGENT SALE

1 pool table, 50 bar stools, 15 fans, 4x42" LG TVs, 2-door fridge, sound system, 10 concrete tables, 4 timber top tables, shelving all new or as new. Tel: 087-282 7407 (English).

STYLISH POOL TABLES

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

Lost & Found



MISSING

Ezra Jansen came to Phuket, Thailand in June 2014. His family had not heard from him since.

Name : Ezra Jansen
Age : 31 years old
Nationality : South African
Hair color : Black, more light brown
Eyes color : Light green sometimes light brown changes with the weather

Identifying Characteristics:
: Two scars on the left or right arm, not so sure now which arm, other scars are very faint from childhood
Education : Electrical Mechanical Engineer

If anyone knows where he is or if Ezra Jansen sees this, please contact us at: jansen@telkomsa.net or telephone number : +00127 21 3922742 Cape Town South Africa

South African Embassy Bangkok: 02-659 2900

Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 160,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 170,000 baht.

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

Computer

IMAC

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

IMAC 21.5" (2010)

Intel Core i3 3.2Ghz/4GB MACBOOK PRO 15" (2009) Intel Core 2 Duo 2.8Ghz/4GB 18,000 Baht. Tel: 076-510 143.

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.

Education

LEARN ENGLISH

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



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

Motorbikes

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

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage
SINCE 1997

Please visit our website for more used power & sail listings:
www.leemarine.com

Feature Boat

► Pershing 72 1,200,000 Euro	► Riviera M370 4,500,000 THB NEW LISTING
► Vitec 72 \$825,000 USD	► Targa 32 \$340,000 USD
► Fairline Targa 62 GT 682,000 Euro	► Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 190,000 Euro
► Fusion 40 \$298,000 Euro	► Fountaine Pajot Belize 43 \$350,000 USD
► Morgan 60 \$349,000 USD	

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

leemarine.com

CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH

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

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.Boatshedphuket.com

BOAT INSURANCE
LBI
Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

- Boat insurance quotations from different insurers
- Competitive rates
- Comprehensive coverage
- All other types of insurance provided

Contact Khun Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane at our office
Phuket Boat Lagoon
paew@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: +66 76 273 385
www.lambertbrothers.co.th

STINGRAY CATAMARAN RIB

2012 Stingray Predator RIB for sale. 6.3m length with 2 engines (Suzuki 4 strokes 90HP each 120hours). Fully registered. Including a lot of accessories like Garmin HD GPS system, sonar, GARMIN radar, radio... This Stingray RIB hull was built in South Africa under stringent certification and is commonly used there in rescue and border protection. The stability and deck space is second to none. Price 1,420,000 baht. 085-917 7155 (English & Thai). Email: poloyaux@gmail.com

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

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

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 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: davidcrammond@msn.com

BENETEAU OCEANIS 370 (1991)

Diesel 29hp Perkins Perama Diesel. Many recent upgrades. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

BAVARIA 390 LAGOON (1990)

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

FRASER 41 (1988)

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

DECK HAND

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

2008 BAYLINER 190

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

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With high season now upon us, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com is always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for competitively priced, quality boats. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

VOLVO PENTA 380HP



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

VESSEL "SANITY"



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

NEW KARNIC 2052

Deep V Hull, Hydraulic steering, Bimini, Stereo & marine heads. Special low season price, includes launching trolley. Below cost at only 649,950 THB inc VAT. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

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

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: boats@andamanboat sales.com

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



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

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword



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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. SYNTHESIS: *shinysets* 10. SQUEAMISH: *quashesme* 12. INTO: *noti* 13. REPAST: *re.-past* 14. BARONET: *notbare* 15. ABAPTABLE: *abadplate* 17. PIRATICAL: *racialtip* 18. TENABLE: *ten-able* 19. VASSAL: *Va.-lass[rev]* 20. PLAID: *pali* 23. TABLEWARE: *table-wear* 25. BAKEHOUSE: *bake-house* 26. REED: *deer[rev]* 27. ANOTHER: *hertan* 29. NAIYANG: *gainany* 32. ULTIMATUM: *tumultiam* 34. LATEMODEL: *ledmaleto* 35. EVIDENT: *E-idvent* 36. RETIRE: *re.-tire* 37. BLOC: *B-L-O/C* 38. CREDULOUS: *C-rudesoul* 39. EASYCHAIR: *easy-chair*

Down: 1. ASPIRANT: *spartani* 2. UNATTAINABLE: *U.N.-atintable* 3. ASSEMBLE: *blesmea* 4. ESCAPE: *E-paces* 5. ISOTOPE: *iesospot* 6. LUMBERJACK: *lumber-jack* 7. PARROTS: *par-rots* 8. CHATELAINE: *inachalet(E)* 11. IONIC: *l-icon* 16. TABLET: *T-table* 19. VIE: *V-i.e.* 21. LOUDANDCLEAR: *dacouldlearn* 22. THEISM: *the-is-m* 23. TURBULENCE: *bluntclue-E* 24. ANNOTATION: *anationnot* 25. BAR: *bar* 28. HUMORIST: *moishurt* 29. NOTARISE: *not-arise* 30. GOLFCART: *logcraft* 31. IMPETUS: *imsetup* 33. THINE: *inthe* 34. LATHER: *lat-H-er*

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Muay Thai Luncheon


Senior representatives of leading sports associations representing the Thai martial art of Muay Thai were honored at a luncheon hosted by the Tongkah restaurant at Rang Hill last week.



L to R: Mr and Mrs Tan Chye Long; Ms Jidapha Suthavari; Kachorn Prowsree, vice president & treasurer - International Federation of Muay Thai Amateurs; Dr Suda Tapsuwan; John Magee, Phuket Gazette; Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan, secretary-general of the World Muay Thai Council (WMC); Dato' Shahnaz; and Stephen Fox, president of the WMC. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

Protecting marine life

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) held a special forum recently to focus on threats to Phuket's marine tourism industry and some strategies to protect it.



O.B. Wetzell, a long-term Phuket expat and member of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, addresses the panel, which included special guest speaker Ric O'Barry from the Dolphin Project and the award-winning documentary, *The Cove*. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Young at heart



Staff of Phuket property developer The Attitude Club recently celebrated the birthday of Kanokpan 'Kwan' Pranveerapaiboon (center), their managing director, who turned 42 years old earlier this month. Photo: Supplied

Central's decade of shopping

Central Festival Phuket, the island's most popular lifestyle mall and shopping destination, celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 21 with a 'Wonders of Thailand' extravaganza.



From left: Chinese Vice Consul General Wang Huijuan, head of the new Phuket Consular Office; Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Central Festival Phuket's general manager; and Lertvit Pumitipak, Central Group's senior vice president. Photo: Nick Davies





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Words from the wise

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

— Dr Seuss

"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."

— Scott Adams

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Artificial production of shiny sets possible (9)
10. Quashes? I'm maybe easily sickened (9)
12. Keen on? Not I, perhaps (4)
13. About former meal (6)
14. Peer? Not bare, perhaps! (7)
15. A bad plate might be flexible (9)
17. Racial tip off buccannery (9)
18. Number up to being defensible (7)
19. Virginia lass back as humble dependent (6)
20. Pal, I arranged a Thai anti-inflammatory herb (4)
23. Serving dishes put forward wear out (9)
25. Use oven, provide accommodation, in bread factory (9)
26. Animal returns for grass (4)
27. Her tan came from part of a flower (6)
29. Gain any movement in a Phuket beach? (3,4)
32. Tumult I am getting from final proposal (9)
34. Led male to different car of recent manufacture (4,5)
35. Note, I'd vent unreservedly the obvious (7)
36. Concerning fatigue, go to bed! (6)
37. Blessed Liberal officer commanding a group of nations (4)
38. Caught rude soul becoming gullible (9)
39. Simple, preside over in upholstered seating (4,5)

Down

1. Spartan, I could be ambitious (8)
2. United Nations a taintable organisation, not within reach (12)
3. Bless me, a strange get together! (8)
4. Note, paces off to get away (6)
5. Fission i.e., so spot almost all the same elements (8)
6. Burden with slang, elevate forestry worker (10)
7. Repeats mechanically equal footing goes bad (7)
8. In a chalet out East find a hostess (10)
11. One I can badly in a Greek column (5)
16. Timetable arranged for pill (6)
19. Strive against, that is (3)

21. Maybe Da could learn and be easily understood (4,3,5)
22. Belief in God is inside them (6)
23. Possible blunter Church of England causes storminess (10)
24. A nation not disturbed by literary comment (10)
25. Exclude the pub (3)
28. Mo is hurt deciphering the joker (8)
29. Not a stand to make document legal (8)
30. Possibly log craft as vehicle on course (4,4)
31. I'm set up carefully for momentum (7)
33. In the process, it's yours of old (5)
34. Bubbles later round hotel (6)

Medium

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

Hard

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

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

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Keep the lines of communication open, and avoid dwelling on the past too much. Adopting an open

and forgiving approach can pave the way for some positive vibes to enter your orbit. Indeed, if you're keen to make progress, it would be a shame to let an old grudge hold you back. Some of your anxieties could use a challenge too.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



The potential for a difficult conversation may hang over social interactions. Then again, you might find yourself

preferring to be with more serious-minded friends. However, shortly after midweek you can benefit from dipping into your inner spiritual well and nurturing yourself with some alone time. You could gain some valuable insights.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Be careful what you commit to, and if in doubt, get a friend or trusted adviser to give you their take

on things. A conversation with such a person could inspire you, or help you to clarify some key targets. Meanwhile, a social focus gets stronger as the week unfolds and can keep you busy with events, whether for business or pleasure, and connect you with interesting people.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Go easy this week as a potential blind spot could put you at a disadvantage. It will help to be

cautious so as to avoid a tumble. However, if you're also keen to make progress with a goal or personal ambition, this can be a fabulous time to research your options and gather inspiration for the adventure that lies ahead.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



It can be hard to accept limitations or to be told what you can or can't do. So, your challenge this week may be to find

constructive ways to overcome rather than rebel. Although any form of escapism may be appealing, you'll find that arranging your schedule to include more fun and relaxation might prove better.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



The Mercury-Saturn conjunction may coincide with someone's stubborn mood, which could scupper

things if you were hoping for their support. However, once Mercury edges into Sagittarius on Friday, you'll find that this opposition can melt away, and pooling resources, skills and talents makes more sense. The weekend could even see a love adventure emerge.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Be patient with complications at work or delays in your day-to-day affairs. If you can be, the week ahead

could be more amenable and productive. People will seem only too willing to lend a helping hand where necessary, including your romantic partner, if you're hitched, making this a good time to collaborate with others on projects and plans.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Avoid overreacting or speaking before you've really thought something through, as this week's align-

ments suggests it's better to rise above an initially provocative comment. Meanwhile, you're likely to be a mine of information and inspiration, and keen to share what you know. However, where one sensitive issue is concerned, do trust and follow your own instincts.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



Whether you're at home or travelling, delays can get in the way of plans. Curb any tendency to force issues and

opt instead to go with the flow. As Mercury speeds into Sagittarius, a sense of fun can revive and ideas for a short break with a loved one, or to make the most of your talents will arise. You'll certainly be more open to any seasonal celebrations.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



You may find it hard to keep an open mind where a key matter is concerned, but it can be to your benefit

to be cautious. With your ruler Mercury conjoining with stern Saturn early this week, this will see you being exceptionally thorough. However, if there is someone on your astral radar that you like, a more homely kind of date could appeal.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



This can be one of those weeks when if you want something done right, you should do it yourself. Others,

in spite of good intentions, may not be able to deliver to meet your expectations. However, the lineup of planets clustering in Sagittarius also prompts you to mean what you say and say what you mean. Love entering competitions? Go for it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



The week ahead may get off to a slow start, but then your inner engines are likely to roar back into

life from midweek onwards as the pace speeds up. However, you might be tempted to make one or two impulsive purchases. If you have money to spend you could even think about buying a time saving device or a useful new gadget.

A fresh bouquet on the block

By Maciek Klimowicz

INTRODUCING a new product to the market is no easy task. Even more so when the market is Thailand and the product is wine. The tougher the task, the greater the satisfaction though, as is the case with Riesling & Co, the young wolves among Thai wine importers.

People love risk takers – the daring ones, the bold – and Riesling & Co are indeed in this category. After all, one of the core rules when investing is not to put all your eggs in one basket, and yet this is exactly what the founders of the company did – filling their initial portfolio with only one kind of wine, the German Riesling.

Why only Riesling?

“We simply liked this wine, and we wanted to do something different,” says Worasin Pintong, the company’s co-founder and business development manager.

However, the reasons behind their choice are more complex and well thought out. When money and precious time are at stake, each decision has to be carefully considered, and if you’re betting it all on just one horse, it better be the right one. How did Riesling & Co find the winner?

“If you look around and analyze the market, you will see that Riesling is coming up. We figured it will be the same in Thailand, so we decided to be the first ones to bring it here,” explains Mr Worasin.

“In Thailand, people still drink a lot of red wine, out of every 10 bottles we sell to hotels, eight are red, but it will change just like it did in other places.”

“In Japan, for example, just a few years ago red wines dominated the market, and now, it’s divided



Riesling grapes growing in Wehlener Sonnenuhr – part of the Mosel wine region in Saxony, Germany. Riesling wines are rapidly gaining popularity among Thailand’s wine connoisseurs. Photo: Paul Asman and Jill Lenoble

50/50 between the reds and the whites,” he adds.

German Riesling, famous for its lightness, freshness and diversity, is a heaven-sent complement to Thai cuisine, despite still being relatively unknown to the Thai public. One of Riesling & Co’s initial tasks is to familiarize people with this variety.

“German Riesling is not well-known here, so we have a lot of educating to do to introduce Thai people to these wines. But once we get them to try it, they like it,”

explains Mr Worasin.

He realizes that since Rieslings are still relatively new to Thailand, the challenge also comes with a

German Riesling, famous for its lightness, freshness and diversity is a heaven-made match for Thai cuisine, despite still being relatively unknown to the Thai public

distinct advantage.

“Rieslings are not easy to find in Thailand, which means we have a unique product.”

Luckily for Riesling & Co and for wine lovers in Thailand,

Rieslings are rapidly gaining popularity, and some of the company’s wines are already available in the best Bangkok restaurants and hotels, including Nahm, the first restaurant in Thailand to be awarded a Michelin star, as well as Siam Kempinsky Hotel. Now, they are on their way to Phuket with the help of Claude Baltes,

general manager at Sunsuri Phuket and Riesling & Co’s representative on the island.

Mr Baltes explains why he decided to bring these particular wines to Phuket: “There is always

a niche market for quality products at good value for money that are superior to most, if not to all of their competitors. In addition to this, Riesling is one of the best, if not the best, wines to enjoy with Thai food and seafood.”

Still, except for cold, business calculation, the whole venture is built upon a crucial ingredient of any successful enterprise – passion.

“Wine is our passion in the first place; we love sharing it with friends and we enjoy meeting new people through our passion. We do not sell table wines or high volumes of inexpensive wines. Our wines are made by passionate, boutique winemakers,” says Mr Baltes.

The same idea of finding passionate, boutique winemakers was part of Riesling & Co’s latest portfolio expansion. The company’s team visited a number of wineries in France earlier this year, and the first French bottles from Riesling & Co’s stable hit the Thai market just one month ago. Already, a few labels have sold out.

“Instead of focusing on the big, well-known regions, we focus on places from which there is still little wine available in Thailand. We work with small wineries, most of them producing less than 100,000 bottles per year,” explains Mr Worasin.

“Our wineries are small, the wines are not famous but are of great quality. The customers don’t pay for the label but for the quality of wine inside the bottle.”

All this is great news for Phuket’s wine lovers. More choice, more diversity and more wine-focused events are always welcome. With a new player in town, things will only get more exciting.

FTI urges gov’t to lure SMEs with concessions

THE Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) urged the government on Monday to offer attractive concessions to help bring small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) out from “underground”, and into the formal tax system.

FTI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree explained at a seminar called “Reform Industry: Reform Thailand”, held by Krungthep Turakit and the Office of Industrial Economics, that of the country’s 2.7 million SMEs, only 600,000 were registered and only about 300,000 paid any taxes. He said if the government wanted to change this it needed to offer special tax rates to lure these businesses to register in the formal system.

“As a former SME [operator] myself, I propose that SMEs must come up ‘above the ground’. Now they are hiding from everything, including taxes,” he said.

The government could offer SMEs an income-tax rate of 5-10%, compared with the current 20% corporate rate. In return, it would gain extra income from value-added tax as SMEs join the official tax system, said the FTI chief.

Mr Supant said he was glad Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha had included SME promotion on his national agenda, since a strong SME sector would help pull up the economy.

SMEs’ contribution to the gross domestic product has fallen to 37% from a high of more than 40% in the past.

Meanwhile, in his keynote speech to the seminar, Industry Minister Chakramon Phasukavanich said Thailand’s industrial sector, thanks to its past successes, was still “number one” in Asean, but it was losing its luster in the eyes of foreign investors. – *The Nation*



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Printing away our problems

The global habit of printing more currency to alleviate debt pressure

Finance

By David Mayes

JUST as it seems that the United States' money printing program is finally ending, other major players are taking steps to continue pumping money into the global economy.

The prevailing theory for central bankers around the globe seems to include avoiding the less desirable part of the business cycle, which has been around throughout history, at all costs. What does this mean for those who have been hoping for interest rate increases? Are they going to be in a negative real-return environment forever?

As China slashes interest rates, they are hoping to offset falling demand around the world with a fresh injection of cash into their own economy in the hope that Chinese consumers will finally begin to awaken. Given centuries of being one of the most frugal cultures in the world, it is hard to imagine an overnight shift to reckless consumerism. That said, people are people regardless of culture, language, or religion. If they see those around them living better lives, it may just spur them to keep up with the "Joneses" – or rather keep up with the "Wangs".

It will take time for there to be

a real shift though, and the chances that Chinese consumerism will cure the world economy of all of its woes any time soon are pretty slim. Eventually, yes, but not in the short term.

Europe may also begin injecting cash into the global money supply. Since the world economy is more interconnected than ever, it is as if all this central banking activity is nothing more than an inflationary shell game. Inflation is, after all, the only way to really get rid of massive debt problems, and the world as a whole still has one.

It is not being suggested that this is all one big conspiracy. Mr Burns is not sitting in his office hatching a plan for world domination based on debasing the major fiat currencies of the world. However, each central bank acts in the interests of its own economy, and the end result seems to be that they take turns printing us out of the big mess that developed before the crash of 2008.

The world economy is still sadly on life support. The sooner it is accepted and a real cyclical crash-and-recover cycle is allowed to happen, the sooner the world can get back to normal, and retirees can go back to living off safe fixed-interest vehicles, which are normally available to them.

The sad side effect of this

The sad side effect of this printing money shell game is that interest rates remain low and so retirees shift into asset classes that are too dangerous.



Central banks take are taking turns to print us out of the mess created after the 2008 crash. Photo: Alexey Kudenko

printing money shell-game is that interest rates remain low and so retirees shift into asset classes that are too dangerous. The longer the various central banks keep the world economy on life support, the more dangerous these asset classes become.

American Economist Paul Volcker made a very courageous move in his day that had people burning effigies of him in the street. In the end, history proved him to

be a hero. Unfortunately, in today's world, the US – despite being the most important economy globally – is no longer as prominent a leader of the world economy.

The old saying that the US sneezes and the rest of the world catches a cold is no longer true. The US is slowly tightening while Europe and China are beginning to loosen. The net effect will be more cash injected into the world economy and further debasement

of fiat currencies. The can is simply being kicked further down the road again.

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

Thailand strives for increased ICT ranking

THE availability of fourth-generation spectrum licences and the country's move to promote a "digital economy" are key factors driving the country's International Telecommunication Union (ITU) development ranking up further, according to a senior official of the ITU.

Thailand's ranking for development of information and communications technology jumped to 81st last year from 91st in 2012, according to the ITU's "Measuring the Information Society Report".

In ITU use, Thailand was ranked number one.

Ioane Koroivuki, regional director of the ITU office for Asia and the Pacific, said that this improvement reflected the auction held by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) in late 2012 for licences to provide third-generation cellular service on the 2.1-gigahertz spectrum.

Since then, the three licence winners have competed fiercely to provide 3G ser-

vices nationwide.

The country's ICT development ranking could rise again this year, when it is expected to licence the 4G spectrum bands.

The government's push for a "digital economy" would also play a major role in propelling the country's ICT development ranking ever higher, he added.

According to the ITU report, which identifies key ICT developments and tracks the cost and affordability of ICT

services, Denmark replaced long-time front-runner South Korea, which followed very closely.

The report's core feature is the ICT Development Index (IDI), which ranks countries' performance with regard to ICT infrastructure, use and skills.

The IDI has three sub-indices – access, use and skills – for 166 economies. Almost all improved their IDI values last year, but differences in ICT uptake and use persist.

– *The Nation*

PM urges reduced energy imports

THE proportion of Thailand's gross domestic product allocated for energy imports must be reduced, according to the prime minister, but this should be done through practical research.

Speaking at the "Thailand Energy Awards", General Prayut Chan-o-cha said the country continued to face difficulties, particularly in the energy sector, which affects the costs of production.

He said energy-policy restructuring might take some

time to gain wide acceptance, but its goals of stability and sustainability might be achieved more quickly if everyone helps conserve energy.

At present, energy sources worth about 1.4 billion baht or 1.2% of GDP are imported annually, and more usage of alternative energy could help lower that figure, he said.

Prayut insisted that his regime would not give its approval for projects that would increase the burden on business operators and investors, but only areas that

enhance energy stability.

The government will undertake its duties with fairness, he said, urging against the use of the courts to wage battles that could result in damage to the nation and delay its progress. Such disputes may need to be discussed and the antagonists to take a step back, he added.

He urged energy-related agencies to take the 10-year Energy Development Plan into consideration for mutual benefits that balance the needs of businesses and people.

– *The Nation*



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Shifting toward Thalang



Across the Land

By Amy Koh

THALANG district begins at Sarasin Bridge – the gateway to Phuket – and stretches to just past Heroines' Monument in the Tah Reua subdistrict. This includes both the northwest and northeast sections of the island, from Surin to Ao Por subdistricts. Thalang is geographically the biggest district of the three in Phuket – 252 square kilometers in size.

What does Thalang have to offer its residents? Well, in the last two years, quite a bit has been happening in the area, with many new businesses deciding to call it home.

It is also the district currently undergoing the most changes to its landscape.

Tesco Thalang was established on Thepkasattri Road in the area about two years ago, and came as a relief to the residents of Thalang and northern Phuket, as they finally had a place where they could shop for groceries, go to the bank and enjoy a meal without having to drive 45 minutes to the nearest supermarket in

Phuket Town.

Currently under construction across the road from Tesco is a Makro hypermarket, which is expected to open its doors on December 3. Another new addition in the coming weeks will be HomePro, a home improvement store offering everything from building and home refurbishing materials, to gardening tools and home entertainment systems.

Even with all that is happening in Thalang, there are still many green areas to be seen while driving to or from the airport, offering unadulterated views of rubber and pineapple plantations. Sadly, this may not be the case in a couple of years... so enjoy the view.

Another exciting shopping option – learned from a reliable source – will be a high-end community mall belonging to Central Group next to Boat Avenue in Cherno Talay. This project is expected to come to fruition

within the next two years. Last, but not least, don't forget Villa Market, which has been open for more than six months in the Boat Avenue shopping center.

Thalang also plays host to the Phuket International Academy (PIA), an excellent international school situated on the extensive Thanyapura campus. It offers everything from nursery programs to an IB Diploma program. Thanyapura is an excellent sports complex, boasting some of the world's top sports coaches and facilities. It was recently the training center of choice for Maria



Thalang has many cultural events, including the annual Heroines' Memorial Fair. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Sharapova, who came to prepare for the WTA Finals in October, to be held in Singapore.

For golfers and yachters, Thalang also touts three international gold courses and two marinas, where yachts can be berthed all year long.

Most importantly, the Phuket International Airport is within easy reach in the north of Thalang district, with all sorts of international and domestic flight options.

It is no surprise that property

developers are jumping on the Thalang bandwagon. In recent years, the amount of housing options has increased dramatically for local residents now living and working in the area.

We are also starting to see a rising number of local expatriates looking to move from the south and Kathu to Thalang.

The shift seems to be due to multiple factors, one of which being the island's growing traffic congestion problems.

Even with all that is happening in Thalang, there are still many green areas to be seen while driving to or from the airport, offering unadulterated views of rubber and pineapple plantations. Sadly, this may not be the case in a couple of years, but, for the time being, it's still there – so enjoy the view.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel and Voelkers Phuket. For more information visit: www.engelvolkers.com/th

Bangkok retail market growing, Collier research center discovers

GREATER Bangkok's retail market is still growing even though the economy has not yet fully recovered, according to Collier International Thailand Research.

About 196,000 square meters of retail space was added during the first nine months of this year, taking the total to 6,794,600sqm.

Surachet Kongcheep, associate director of research, said community malls were still the main players, making up 47% of the 53,200sqm of new retail space supplied in the third quarter. More than 393,390sqm is scheduled to be completed this quarter.

More than 4 million square meters or 59% of existing retail space, as of the third quarter, comprised shopping malls and community malls, representing the second-largest market share with an area of 905,980sqm or 13%.

Superstore malls rank third at 12% or 816,950sqm. Community malls replaced superstore malls in second place after many community malls were added to the market in the past few years compared with few superstore malls.

New supply scheduled to be



A perspective of Central WestGate in Bang Yai, one of the new shopping centers set to open next year. Photo: The Nation

completed this quarter amounts to 393,390sqm, with 190,500sqm of shopping malls and 182,900sqm of community malls.

The occupancy rate in all areas last quarter remained similar to the previous quarter, but the rate in the city area increased more than in other locations because of some brand name and luxury shops.

Demand from all international and Thai shops will remain strong from this quarter to next year, so the average occupancy rate in the retail business will grow 3-5 percentage points next year,

especially in the city.

Although the economic situation last quarter still had not fully recovered, it was better than the first half.

The main retail developers are now focusing more on other cities across the country, especially in some border provinces and main cities in each region.

Many superstore malls and specialty stores are popping up in border provinces, while some shopping malls are being developed or expanded in main cities, Mr Surachet said. – *The Nation*

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Amari Residence stands apart

By Maciek Klimowicz

JUST when you think that it's simply impossible to develop Patong further, there comes a company that does just that. And in the case of Amari Phuket, it's done with style. The Amari Residences complex, rising quickly over Patong Bay, is set to take the game up a notch.

"Amari Residences are the only luxury residences in the highly-developed Patong area," says Avirud Diskul, a property consultant at Knight Frank, the consultancy firm representing the Amari brand. Indeed, walking around the complex, one gets a feeling of being high above the rest.

Located on a hillside just south of Patong Bay, Amari Residences will comprise 184 units on 18 rai of land. The development is divided into three phases.

"Phase one and two consist of 148 units, of which 118 are one bedroom and only 30 are two bedrooms," explains Mr Avirud. "One-bedroom units are sized between 44 and 52 square meters, costing from 10 to 12 million baht, while the two bedroom units measure from 92 to 102sqm and are priced between 20 and 23mn baht," he explains.

All are furnished with exclusive furniture packages from Chanint Living.

The first two phases are aimed at investors who are interested in entering



Located on a hillside just south of Patong Bay, Amari Residences will comprise 184 units on 18 rai of land with 70 per cent of the project being sold already. Photo: Supplied

into a long-term investment program.

"The investment program runs for 15 years and offers three years of guaranteed 6% return, after which it will be based on actual revenue, expected to reach between 6% and 8%," says Mr Avirud.

The owners will also have the right to stay at their properties for 60 days a year,

The first two phases are aimed at investors who are interested in entering into a long-term investment program

with all hotel services included.

"On top of that, they will receive a 20% discount on all food and beverage and spa services,"

adds Mr Avirud.

Phase three of the development will be a non-investment option of exclusive residences, with one-bedroom units measuring from 70 to 77sqm priced at about

17mn baht, and the two-bedroom residences of 140sqm costing about 35mn baht.

"Seventy per cent of the whole project has been sold already," says Mr Avirud.

A quick glance at the show units reveals what future owners can expect. Spacious interiors, tasteful design and impressive views are what sets Amari Residences apart.

"These are low-rise buildings focused on providing maximum privacy and a sizeable, uncluttered living space," says Mr Avirud.

What the buyers will also receive in exchange for their investment is access to the projects amenities, including a club house, located on top of the development which offers a 270-degree sea view, as well as a pool bar and restaurant with all-day dining.

Amari Residences will be offering full hotel services to guests, such as a 24-hour concierge service and a number of transportation options that include an electric buggy to move around the property, valet parking and an hourly shuttle bus to the Jungceylon shopping center.

Factor in the stunning views from the hill, as well as lush green foliage surrounding the property, and you get a Patong development that stands out from the crowd – in a good way.

When completed in December 2015, Amari Residences will be something that Patong can be proud of.

Property firms launch more projects to boost diminishing presales

SOME leading property firms posted lower presale values in the first 10 months of this year than in the same period last year, blamed on a drop in purchasing power in the first half of 2014.

As a result, firms are pulling out the stops to shore up sales in the remaining months, according to a survey by *The Nation*.

Pruksa Real Estate reported presales of 32.33 billion baht in the first 10 months, down 7.2% year on year. The company's full-year presales target is 42bn baht.

Sansiri only managed 8bn baht in presales in the 10-month period, down 78%.

However, some firms did manage higher presales.

AP (Thailand), Supalai and Property Perfect posted increases, which were attributed to strong marketing campaigns and project launches in locations that were in demand.

"Our presales dropped in the first half of this year, when the country was in political turmoil, but now the market is recovering," Pruksa President and Chief Executive Officer Thongma Vijitpongpan said.

"As a result, we believe that our presales will achieve the full-year target of 42bn baht."

Sansiri president Srettha Thavisin said that the company cut its presale target early this year.

However, the company has a backlog that will generate

revenue through 2016.

"We do not need to boost our presales this year, but we need to boost our revenue and net profit," Mr Srettha said.

According to a survey by the Government Housing Banks Real Estate Information Centre, the first 10 months of this year saw 350 residential projects launched comprising 94,200 units, down 11.16% and 14.36% respectively from the same period of last year.

Though several firms saw presales dip below targets in the first 10 months, leading developers plan to launch 121 residential projects worth more than 156bn baht in the final two months of the year, according to *The Nation's* survey.

Supalai plans to launch 11 projects worth 13bn baht this quarter. Land & Houses plans eight, worth 11.66bn baht. Four will be detached-housing projects and the rest condominiums.

Pruksa Real Estate plans 34 launches worth 30bn baht, 28 of which will be low-rise projects – detached houses, townhouses and duplexes – and the other six will be condominiums.

"We decided to launch more projects in the last quarter of the year when we saw demand strongly recovering in August and September," said Prasert Taedullayasatit, Pruksa managing director for condominiums.

– *The Nation*



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Tale of a mundane giant

Books

By James Eckardt

THE great American writer John Updike died in 2009 at the age of 76, book critic Adam Begley is first off the mark with a biography *Updike* (Harper, New York, 2014, 558pp).

Carlos Baker faithfully chronicled every deep-sea fishing and big-game hunting trip, as well as the famous war exploits of Ernest Hemingway, along with copious interviews with his friends and family.

John Updike, in contrast, did little but sit in his room and write every morning.

Adam Begley is a literary biographer who does little but sit in his room and write every morning too. He does not track down multiple sources – he lives in England – but depends heavily on Updike's own 1989 memoir, *Self Consciousness*.

Despite the paucity of interviews, he is a solid literary critic, adept at analyzing Updike's work and relating it to the real events in his life.

These events can be summed up in a paragraph: John Updike grew up in the idyllic small town of Shillington, Pennsylvania, and

made a traumatic move to the family farmhouse during his high school years.

He succeeded brilliantly at Harvard and Oxford, married his wife Mary and wrote columns for *The New Yorker* for two years before settling permanently in the Massachusetts suburbs, where he had four children and developed his legendary narrative voice.

Limpid, agile, sensual, intimate and as meticulous as a Vermeer painting, Updike's prose style has reigned over American literature for half a century. In his Harry Angstrom tetralogy – *Rabbit, Run, Rabbit Redux, Rabbit is Rich and Rabbit at Rest* – he delineated every aspect of his country's progress from the 1950s through the 1980s. Had he written nothing else, he could claim greatness. Yet he was the author of 59 other books: 23 novels, 14 story collections and a steady stream of poetry, essays and literary and art criticism.

He was a Christian believer, a Lutheran churchgoer and disciple of the religious thinkers Soren Kierkegaard and Karl Barth.

He was also an avid adulterer whose erotic playground was provided by a dozen couples he

socialized with during his first marriage. He played tennis, golf, volleyball, touch football and poker while bedding his friends' wives. He feared death.

Begley quotes Updike: "To give myself brightness and air, I read Karl Barth and fell in love with other men's wives."

All but two of the couples wound up divorced.

In his memoir, Updike describes their parties in the late sixties: "At moments of suburban relaxation, in our circle of semi-bohemian homes, we smoked pot, wore dashikis and love beads and frugged ourselves into a lather while the Beatles and Janis Joplin sang away on the hi-fi set."

The details of Updike's affairs might be of salacious interest, but Begley ignores them, describing only one romance that nearly wrecked his marriage to Mary Updike in 1962 and a second that did in 1974.

Updike married the other woman, Martha, moved to a new town and lived quietly, though he and his second wife travelled extensively until his death.

Begley's relentless focus is on the work: the teenage Updike and his parents in *Of the Farm and The Centaur*, the family man of *Couples and The Maples Stories*, the elderly thinker of Roger's *Version and Toward the End of Time*. Updike's stated goal was "to give the mundane its beautiful due".

Of Updike, Begley observes: "He began by writing down what had happened to him, at home, next door, down the street, 'the drab normalities of a Pennsylvania boyhood'. This became both his method and, for a time, his credo. His stated aim was to 'realize... the shape, complexity, diffidence and tremor of actuality.' But the accurate transcription of surface detail wasn't enough; in the service of



Begley focuses relentlessly on the author's work, ignoring the salacious details about Updike's affairs with his friends' wives. Photo: Supplied

his 'relentless domestic realism', he dug deeper, mining the lode of family life, the lives of his friends and acquaintances, for buried nuggets of serviceable material. No one was spared this ritual excavation, not his parents, not his two wives, not his four

children."

Through all the passages of his life, Updike reported doggedly to his writing desk.

Receiving a death sentence of stage four lung cancer, he wrote poetry about his own mortality until the end.

Limpid, agile, sensual, intimate and meticulous as a Vermeer painting, Updike's prose style has reigned over American literature for half a century... he delineated every aspect of his country's progress from the 1950s through the 1980s /

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Para-normal skies part II



By Somchai Huasaikul

PICKING up from where we left off last with “Up in the Air”, lets jump into the effect the southwesterly monsoon-season weather has on paramotoring...

“The weather isn’t perfect every day, but when the skies clear the visibility is amazing,” explained Sky Club Asia co-owner Paul Derstoff, adding that safety was of paramount importance and that weather conditions had to be monitored closely at all times of the year.

Paul sees a great deal of growth opportunity for the sport here on the island.

“The sport is new to Phuket, and a community will form with our help. We see big potential for Phuket residents taking up this sport as a way of experiencing something new and fun,” he said.

To many casual observers, paramotoring appears dangerous, but Paul and co-owner Mark Silverberg insisted that it is much safer than it looks.

“Most people are just not aware how low and slow a paramotor can truly fly. This type of flight is more like surfing is to sailing. Pilots can enjoy the air just one meter above the ground. If you are coming to visit us at the AirPark by motor scooter, I would say that drive is hugely more dangerous than the flight,” Paul said with a laugh.

“The only major safety variable is the weather. We fly only in the best conditions, usually early morning and late afternoon. All of



The only major safety variable is weather, forcing the club to only take to the air in the best of conditions.

our equipment meets and exceeds all EU safety norms and our pilots have years of experience flying in different countries.

Essentially, what we are flying is a big parachute that is designed to glide, even without the motor. Sometimes we turn off the motor in flight just to enjoy the sensation of gliding like a bird through the air,” Paul said.

Because of their configurations, paramotors are sometimes referred to as “butt fans” by some

enthusiasts.

“We fly ‘low and slow’, so we feel the winds more than a conventional airplane. In order to get the best out of the day for flying, our time windows are usually from sunrise to about 10am, and from 4pm to sunset. We don’t fly unless the wind conditions are absolutely safe,” Paul said.

So far, so good for Paul and Mark, who have more than 700 and 3,500 hours of incident-free flying time, respectively.

The team is now preparing for the coming high season, when flight conditions are normally fine and there is more potential to find new pilots on the island.

“We have eight training paramotors. These are fully registered and insured aircraft in Thailand. We currently operate with two instructors in Phuket and two in Hua Hin, but will have more as the high season starts,” he said.

One of the biggest misconceptions about paramotoring among the

general public is that there are no rules and regulations, and you can go up and do whatever you want, explained the Sky Club owners.

“Actually, there are rules and regulations to follow. You don’t need to file a flight plan, but you do need a pilot’s licence and airworthiness certificate for your equipment. There are also rules about the airspace and where you can fly,” Paul said.

The licensing process can be completed in under two-week’s time, and foreigners are allowed to own paramotor assemblies in Thailand.

However, there is still a great deal of room to maneuver and one can fly to a maximum altitude of 1,000 feet anywhere in Phuket, apart from the 10 nautical mile restriction zone around Phuket Airport.

For those who take a test flight and want to get more involved, Sky Club Asia has instructors ready to teach foreigners in English as well as Spanish, French and German.

The company is also a dealer for a full range of equipment, including the aptly named “Xcitor trike” developed by the German-based firm Fresh Breeze.

“Paramotor has evolved from its roots in paragliding and is now actually more of a powered paraglider. Many years of further development has made it one of the safest forms of flying and is great fun for everyone,” Paul said.

Adding to the safety is a ballistic rescue parachute that can lower the paramotor to a safe landing in case of an emergency above 100 feet.

For people who want to experience their first feel of paramotoring and have no experience, Sky Club Asia now offers 20-minute introduction training flights with certified instructors for 4,600 baht. Full courses are available for 30,000 baht.

ASEAN needs fully integrated aviation sector: report

MYANMAR has yet to conclude visa free-tree travel agreements with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Visa-free travel and limited supply of services to certain destinations within ASEAN are some of the challenges faced in order to fully integrate the aviation sector of the regional bloc, according to a recent regional report by McKinsey Global Institute (MGI).

Integration remains a work in progress, and while there have been some improvements in ease of travel between ASEAN countries for their citizens, several barriers remain standing, said the report.

“The more ambitious target of an ASEAN single visa will likely take some time to accomplish,” said the MGI report.

There are also barriers on the supply side as domestic routes are open only to national carriers, the report added.

ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Air Services and the ASEAN Multilateral Agree-

ment on the Full Liberalization of Passenger Air Services allow air carriers to serve any international route within ASEAN. However, these agreements do not apply to domestic routes and have yet to be ratified by all ASEAN members, the report added.

This is still short of the progress made by Europe toward an “open skies” model.

These restrictions prevent Southeast Asian flag carriers from achieving the type of pan-regional economies of scale that have made European low-cost airlines successful.

There are also restrictions on bilateral traffic rights between major cities and a lack of common standards across the region for systems such as air traffic control and engineering.

Additionally, some ASEAN carriers have posted “heavy losses” in recent years.

“Consolidation, either within the region or with other international airlines, may be the longer-term end game,” the report said.

— Brunei Times

ASEAN Member Countries



National identity is closely linked to the airline industry. Image: Astore International

History in the making

By Chris Husted

TO SAY that the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, at just 14 years old, is soaked in history would be an understatement. As spectators look out across the bay from Kata Rocks this December 16-18, one boat sure to catch the eye is SY *Sunshine*, built as the “third sister” of the original *Sunshine*, floated 114 years ago.

Sunshine is – and was – a two-masted gaff-rigged schooner. In layman’s terms, with eight sails in full bloom running with the wind, she’s a beautiful phoenix soaring above the waves.

Launched in Myanmar in 2003, *Sunshine* was more than three years in the making before her 80 tons saw water and bore east through the Mergui Archipelago on her maiden voyage to make Phuket her first port of call.

Sunshine measures 31 meters over the deck, has a beam of 5.6m and a draft of 3.4m. Her total sail area is a mesmerizing 5,296 square feet.

The hull and rig are exactly faithful to the original 1900 design, with the owners’ choosing Myanmar Shipyards in Yangon to recreate her classic sleek lines. This location was chosen as it is where they found the most talented shipwrights who still maintained the same creative ship-building skills of their forefathers of the 20th century.

The interior is hand crafted from teak and rosewood, but differs only slightly from the original layout to allow for required modern safety standards, such as the four watertight bulkheads.

The ship was built under strict supervision of a Lloyd’s surveyor,



The stunning *Sunshine* will bring a century of sailing heritage to the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous. Photo: Kevin Miller

to the exacting standards of Lloyd’s Survey of Steel & Wood specifications. The deck is laid down in long thick lengths of solid teak planks over the steel beams, and caulked with cotton in the traditional method. The masts and spars are all Sitka Spruce and the standing rigging is galvanized steel.

One look at *Sunshine* today will surely invoke images of the sailing greats of yesteryear. But there’s history, and then there’s history in the making. Joining *Sunshine* on the start line during the Rendezvous’ two days of racing, and in the glorious sail-past parade, will be SY *Escapade*.

The 37.5m all-aluminum, fast-cruising sloop was launched August 29 this year, built by the prominent New Zealand shipyard Fitzroy Yachts. Last week, she was anchored off Penang, en route to join the Rendezvous fleet.

Today’s *Sunshine* is a beautifully haunting replica of the first of her kind. The sleek *Escapade* is among the last of hers – Fitzroy Yachts closed its doors in April when *Escapade* was shipped to Auckland for completion.

Escapade is the first yacht of her size to feature solid carbon aerofoil rigging, meaning continuous rigging and reduced wind

resistance. Hauling a gross tonnage of 191 tonnes, she features fixed keel and draws a four-meter draft – all intended to deliver top performance in regattas.

As described in Design Unlimited’s own report of the boat’s interior, “The subtle underlying tones within the final Design Unlimited style were carefully selected as the backdrop to enhance the exoticism of the Malaysian touches. The final result was achieved using traditional materials including hand-woven Songket silk panels, hand-crafted teak carvings and a Merbau timber floor which darkens naturally over time.

Many people shy away from such promotion verbiage, yet the photos available of the interior are plain testament to the description – and the boat’s beauty – and plainly show that luxury and precise attention to detail were high on the design team’s list. Class, it seems, is bound only by imagination.

Adding to the eclectic mix on the start line at the Rendezvous will be *Northern Sun*. If any boat’s looks can deliver the impression of the very definition of “sturdy”, *Northern Sun* has it in spades.

The huge yacht’s humble beginnings began in 1976, when she was launched as a working vessel for the Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute of Japan.

However, an exacting refit in 2007 ushered in new life for her as the ultimate luxury cruiser. *Northern Sun* has a vast range of some 10,000 nautical miles at her cruising speed of 10.5 knots, and she has an “ice-strengthened” hull, making her a true ocean-going adventurer.

At 50m long, *Northern Sun* will make the perfect backdrop playing a major role in this year’s Rendezvous as “Start Boat” for the racing events, with the likes of *Sunshine*, *Escapade* and the Phenisi yachts’ *Silolona* and *Si Datu Bua*, and ultra-modern motoryachts, sailing past.

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous may be only 14 years old, but the Phuket event – sponsored since inception by Dutch master shipbuilders Feadship – is surely already making history.

For more information about the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, visit Asia-Superyacht-Rendezvous.com

Douce cat on Tahitian prowl



Douce France has left Phuket waters and is back to Tahiti. Photo: Supplied

SUPERYACHT catamaran *Douce France* has left Phuket waters and is back to Tahiti after eight years of extensive cruising in the Asia-Pacific area.

The 42-meter catamaran, known as “The Gentle Giant”, is available for charter through Asia Pacific Superyachts Tahiti for any destination in French Polynesia now through May 2015, reports Etienne Boutin.

A familiar sight in Phuket, Bali or less-travelled areas in the

Andaman Sea or Indonesia’s Raja Ampat, the stunning Van Petheghem/Lauriot Prevost design accommodates up to 12 guests in full luxury. Her low draft of 2.5 meters allows visits to the most remote places in French Polynesia.

“Sleek, sophisticated, sexy and incredibly fast, she combines spaciousness, cleanliness and culinary excellence with the charms of a traditional sailing boat and the stability of a catamaran,” said Mr Boutin. – *Phuket Gazette*

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Whale shark sightings are already being made this season at Koh Haa, so best to grab your kit and book a ferry to Koh Lanta. Photo: Casper Douma / Nature2experience

Weekend in Koh Lanta

Finding mantas and whale sharks south of Phuket

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE world knows of the Similan Islands and the spectacular diving that can still be had there. However, deep in southern Thailand, Hin Daeng, Hin Muang and Koh Haa are perhaps the Andaman's best-kept diving secrets.

Located about 100km southeast of Phuket, out of reach for most day-trip operators, Hin Daeng and Hin Muang manage to avoid most international attention.

The distance leaves those in Phuket with two options: take a liveaboard... or change base camp. However, anyone with non-divers in tow really has only one option – and it turns out to be a great one.

Grab the daily morning ferry from Rassada Pier in Phuket to Koh Lanta, situate yourself in a nice boutique resort and book with Andaman Dive Adventure – the owners, manager and staff have been kicking around the island long enough to ensure some of the best diving in the region.

Why go through the effort of taking a long weekend away from Phuket? That's what I've been wanting to tell you for the last 161 words – mega fauna.



Giant manta rays have once again descended on Hin Daeng and Hin Muang. Photo: Per Akerlund

The kind of mega fauna that divers in 7mm wetsuits dream about while mindlessly doing buoyancy drills at the bottom of cold, murky lakes in Europe: giant manta rays and whale sharks.

"What you do is go down the line at Hin Muang and the manta

is just sitting there. It's about 4-5 meters [wing span]," Lee Johnson, operational manager at Andaman Dive Adventure, explains over the phone. "Today, at Hin Daeng they had four, two at the same time."

Okay, maybe you're crazy and

the majestic grace and soul-searching eyes of a giant manta ray isn't what you want.

"In the last four days, there have been two sightings of whale sharks at Koh Haa," Lee says, clearly starting to rub it in.

These are of course the kind

of comments that ruin a friendship. Last weekend, when I was diving in Koh Haa, we came up empty handed. Now, it's hard to find a dozen "legitimate" excuses to give the boss that will put me back on Koh Lanta in the next 48 hours.

Luckily, I have time – you have time – we all have time.

"Normally, the mantas go away at about New Year. But last year, we had mantas until April. We also had a whale shark at Koh Haa for two months – it was like a resident whale shark," Lee says.

Even if you strike out on sighting these majestic creatures – which clearly does happen – the long boat trip out to Hin Daeng (Red Rock) isn't wasted. The site is a stunning pinnacle capped with thick groves of vibrant red, pink and purple soft corals and Hin Muang (Purple Rock – seeing the trend?) is nothing to scoff at either.

The shallows around Koh Haa, a much shorter boat ride from Koh Lanta, provide snorkelling opportunities for non-divers eager to see reef sharks, and is also home to the dive site "The Cathedral". Surfacing within the mammoth cavern and seeing the cave walls framing the stunning sapphire-blue water glowing with tropical sunlight below, will make you forget that you came all this way for anything else – well, almost.

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Italian duo dominate LPT

By Gazette editors

ITALIAN'S Massimo Cigana and Alberto Casadei made history together at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) yesterday as they crossed the finish line as one and became LPT's first dual champions in the annual event's 21-year history.

Cigana, who won in 2008, 2010 and 2011, also became the triathlon's first four-time champion, and once again carved his name into the race's history books.

"We ran together the last lap, so we decided to cross the finish line together. The weather is sweltering today so it was difficult, especially on the run leg, but it's great to win together [as we are] representing Venice, Italy, the same city we are from," said Cigana.

Both Cigana (swim 29:25, bike 1:18:44, run 43:46) and Casadei (swim 25:03, bike 1:22:05, run 44:43) finished in 2:33:57. In third place, Australia's Mitchell Robins crossed the line in 2:34:14.

In the women's field, Parys Edwards of Great Britain, who recently won gold at the 2013 ITU World Championships in London, finished in first place.

Edwards finished in 2:54:53 (swim 34:24,



For the first time, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon had dual champions. Photo: Supplied

bike 1:29:16, run 48:37), followed by Australian Belinda Granger (2:58:51). Granger made her 12th LPT appearance and bid farewell to her professional career as a triathlete at this year's Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest.

Third in the women's field was

Germany's Katja Rabe at 2:59:35.

Cigana and Casadei are both looking forward to the Challenge Laguna Phuket to be held next Sunday.

"We think we are in good shape, and we will fight for the best results possible at the

Laguna Phuket Triathlon		
Men		
1. Massimo Cigana		02:33:57
2. Alberto Casadei		02:33:57
3. Mitchell Robins		02:34:14
4. Casey Munro		02:37:35
5. Fredrik Croneborg		02:37:59
Women		
1. Parys Edwards		02:54:53
2. Belinda Granger		02:58:51
3. Katja Rabe		02:59:35
4. Carole Fuchs		03:04:29
5. Leanne Szeto		03:05:05

Challenge Laguna Phuket next week," Cigana said.

Casadei agreed: "It's amazing to run together and race together here in Phuket... I am very proud to win with him and represent Italy," he said. "It'd be really great if we could win CLP together next week!"

Long live the beloved liver

By Craig Burton

OUR bodies are constantly waging battle to detoxify themselves of foreign entities that enter the system through exposure to pollution, chemicals in processed food, as well as through pathogens and by-products of metabolism.

The main organ involved in the breakdown of toxins is the liver. Let's look at 10 of the most important questions about the liver, and how they address how harmful a diseased liver is to the body, how a healthy liver can make you a healthier person and what you will experience – and what you should do – during a liver detox.

WHAT DOES THE LIVER DO?

The liver carries out more than 500 functions, but the following are five of the most important.

Detoxification: The liver detoxifies the blood of metabolic waste products like ammonia, drugs, alcohol, chemicals and matter such as dead cells and microorganisms.

Digestion aid: The liver secretes bile that aids in the digestion of food.

Metabolism: The liver metabolizes major carbohydrates, proteins and fats. For example, it helps control blood-sugar levels by converting excess glucose in the bloodstream to glycogen – stored energy – and back for use when needed.

Vitamin and mineral storage: The liver provides storage for numerous vitamins and minerals like A, D, E, K, B12, folate, iron, potassium, copper and zinc.

Hormone breakdown: The liver processes testosterone and insulin.

WHAT CAUSES LIVER DISEASE?

The liver can be damaged in a variety of ways. One of them is through inflammation, which is also known as hepatitis. Hepatitis results from damage to the liver by sugar, pathogens, trans fats, alcohol consumption, use of drugs and ingestion of chemicals.

The liver can also be damaged through lack of either bile or blood flow. Bile and blood flow can both be obstructed by gall stones, which can cause scarring and a build-up of toxins in the bloodstream.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LIVER DISEASE?

The main symptoms of liver disease are jaundice – yellow discoloration of the skin – weakness and fatigue, loss of appetite leading to weight loss, nausea and vomiting, stool discoloration and a distended abdomen.

HOW CAN A LIVER DETOX HELP ME LOSE WEIGHT?

A well functioning liver boosts metabolism, and better metabolism means less food will be stored as fat and more fat will be burned as energy. Also, by reducing toxins in the body, you reduce inflammation and "false fat" or excess water weight will disappear.

WHAT OTHER BENEFITS COME FROM A CLEAN LIVER?

Having a cleaner liver will result in better digestion. With better diges-

tion comes better health, as you will not be "what you eat" but "what you assimilate". Your body will also be better prepared to break down and remove potentially harmful toxins from the body. Lastly, you will have clearer skin as a result of a healthy, happy liver.

HOW WILL I FEEL DURING A LIVER DETOX?

Just a fair warning: as the body detoxifies you could experience a "healing crisis", which can result in flu-like symptoms such as headaches, joint and muscle pain, body aches, sore throat, sweating, chills and nausea. These generally last a few days at the most. They can be reduced by drinking lots of water and getting plenty of rest. Also, light exercise such as yoga, stretching and walking, as well as deep breathing, can help lessen the pain of uncomfortable side effects. As a precaution, be careful to limit the intake of detox herbs and supplements.

WHAT SHOULD I EAT DURING A LIVER DETOX?

An ideal diet would feature local and organic vegetables at the top of the list, including juices. Raw or lightly steamed vegetables should be the basis of a liver-detox diet. You can also include some free-range meats like fish, chicken as well as eggs. Add some good fats, such as those found in avocados, coconut oil, olives, olive oil, hemp, soaked nuts and sprouted seeds.

Be sure to choose organic, low-fructose fruits like berries



Light exercise such as yoga and stretching can help alleviate the side effects of a liver cleanse. Photo: LocalFitness.com.au

and kiwi fruit, and include some whole, non-gluten grains like brown rice and quinoa.

WHAT SHOULD I AVOID DURING A LIVER DETOX?

Take care to avoid processed foods, trans fats, sugar, alcohol, recreational drugs, red meat and processed flour products like bread and pasta.

WHAT HERBS AND SUPPLEMENTS HELP THE DETOX?

Herbs such as milk thistle, artichoke, dandelion and burdock, and supplements of antioxidants like Vitamins A, C, E, Alpha Lipoic Acid, B vitamins, Methionine/S-adenosylmethionine (SAMe) and MSM will help support the

body during a liver detox.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD/CAN YOU DO A LIVER DETOX?

Our livers are under constant attack from toxins, so my belief is that you should do your best to eat clean regularly and take care to keep toxins at a minimum. Perhaps a few times a year, it would be smart to elect a stricter liver detox regiment, and throw in some supplements.

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

Big guns load for King's Cup

By Chris Husted

NEIL Pryde's *Hi-Fi* and Frank Pong's *Jelik*, both out of Hong Kong, are lined up to go head to head in the leading racing division of the King's Cup Regatta 2014, which begins in earnest on Monday.

Looking to cause an upset are Karl Kwok's *Team Beau Geste* and Ahern, Bailey, Wilmer's *Oi!*, both from Australia.

Fellow Aussie Ray Roberts, who won the fiercely contested IRC Zero class with his OneSails Racing team last year, at latest report will not be back to defend his title.

Paul Winkelmann's *Island Fling* will take on Kevin Whitcraft of Thailand's *Wan Ma Rang* in the IRC 1 class, with Alexey Takhovski of Russia on *Lero3* and Norhafisam bin Ahmad of Malaysia on *Uranus* rounding out the field.

But all eyes will be on the IRC 2 class, where Bill Bremner's *Foxy Lady VI* will take on Roland Dane's *Jessandra II*.

Foxy Lady scored a two-second win in the last race at Samui earlier this year to be crowned the 2013/14 Asian Yachting Grand Prix (AYGP) Yacht and Skipper of the Year.

The crew are on a record regatta winning streak, and dominated Phuket Raceweek in July,

carding four straight wins in the IRC 1 Racing class, bringing their winning streak to eight regattas in a row.

Jessandra II, skippered by Roland Dane, principal of Red Bull Racing Australia, won the Audi Australian IRC Championship in 2012 and remained unbeaten in competition, until they arrived in Asia.

Phuket's resident Firefly sports catamaran fleet are expected to provide some excellent close racing, as nearly all the entrants are regular racers in the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) race series, which concluded just last week. The skippers and crews are all familiar with the racing condition of their competitors' boats, and the skills of the crews they are racing against.

In the Multihulls – Racing class, five of the six entrants are regular ACYC racers, including Mark Horwood on *Adrenalin*, Henry Kaye on *Sweet Chariot*, Alan Carwardine on Asia Catamarans *Hurricane*, Kirill Stashevskiy on *Galeforce* and the pairing of Mick Coleman and John Coffin on *Java*.

To date, Phuket's resident Kaye has raced in every King's Cup since the regatta was inaugurated 28 years ago.

The only "outsider" in the class fleet is Radab Kanjanavanit on *Cedar Swan*, though Radab has



Skippered by Neil Pryde, *Hi-Fi* will go up against fellow Hong Kong-based yacht *Jelik*. Photo: King's Cup Regatta

raced in so many King's Cup regattas local sailors are considering calling him a "local".

Proving that the King's Cup is not just for professional crews, this year 23 boats are entered in the Bareboat Charter Class, with 12 entries skippered by Russians. Other countries represented in the class include Japan, China, Netherlands and Germany, together highlighting the international flavor of the event.

The regatta got underway with

official sail measurement opening yesterday to be followed by the opening party at the Kata Beach Resort on Sunday night.

Inaugurated in 1987 to celebrate the 60th birthday of HM the King, the event has been held every year since. Under Royal Patronage, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta is organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association

of Thailand, the Royal Thai Navy and Phuket Province.

Sponsors of the 2014 Phuket King's Cup Regatta include Kata Group Resorts Thailand; PTT Global Chemical; FINCA de MALPICA by Siam Winery; Haadthip PLC; and Sunsail.

This event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationwide 'Phuket Today' show, which broadcasts daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59.

Thailand crushes at Asian Beach Games

THAILAND closed the final day of the 4th Asian Beach Games in Phuket on November 23 with two more gold medals in the beach sepak takraw to be crowned official Games champions for the second time with a haul of 56 gold, 37 silver and 33 bronze medals.

Defending champions China placed second overall, with 16 gold, 11 silver and 21 bronze medals. Third place went to South Korea, with 9 gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze medals, while Iran (9-14-8) and Vietnam (8-12-10) finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

On the final day of competition, Thailand won gold in both the men's and the women's regu beach sepak takraw.

Iran won gold in the men's team kabaddi final, while India claimed gold in the women's event.

Indonesia's men's beach volleyball squad won gold for their nation, as Kazakhstan won the women's beach volleyball title.

On Saturday, a clean sweep of three gold medals in beach athletics and the in-form Muay Thai fighters helped Thailand maintain their stranglehold on the medal stakes.

Talented Thitima Muangjan, the triple jump bronze medalist at the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010, made the country proud by producing an impressive jump of 5.52 meters to hand Thailand the day's first gold in the women's long jump event.

National sprinters Phatsorn Jaksuninkorn and Nongnuch Sanrat, who helped Thailand win the 4x100m relay at the Guangzhou Games, gave the country the second gold in the women's 4x60m relay in 29.97 seconds. The men's relay



Thai athletes earned the title of Asian Beach Games champs for the second time, securing 126 medals in total, 56 of which were gold. Photos: Asian Beach Games

team, strengthened by the presence of SEA Games triple gold medalist Jirapong Meenapra, gave the hosts the third gold with a time of 27.17 seconds.

Thailand's fourth gold on Saturday came from the women's handball team, which downed Taiwan 17-12, 13-12 in the final showdown.

Muay Thai, which had 16 gold medals up for grabs on Saturday, kicked off the finals with the hosts capturing the first three gold medals through Rattanaphon Hanphan

in the women's 48kg light flyweight, Suepphong Phromduea in the men's 48kg light flyweight and Armon Phonkratok in the men's 61kg flyweight events.

A total of 57.73 million baht will be paid out to all Thai medalists, their coaches and the sports associations they represent.

The National Sports Development Fund stands to pay out a total of 39.3mn baht to Thai athletes who won medals at the games: 200,000 baht to each gold medalist, 100,000 baht to each silver medalist and 50,000 baht



Thailand took first place in beach sepak takraw with eight gold medals.

to each bronze medalist.

Meanwhile, Thai sports associations whose athletes won medals are to receive a total of 11.79mn and coaches of Thai medalists will receive payouts totaling 6.64mn baht.

Each Thai sports association whose athletes won medals will receive 30 per cent of the prize money the athletes will receive, while coaches for individual players and for the team events with up to six athletes will each receive 20 per cent of the prize money to be given to the athletes. Coaches for the individual players and for the team events with more than seven athletes will receive 10 per cent of the prize money that the athletes will be given. – *Phuket Gazette*

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